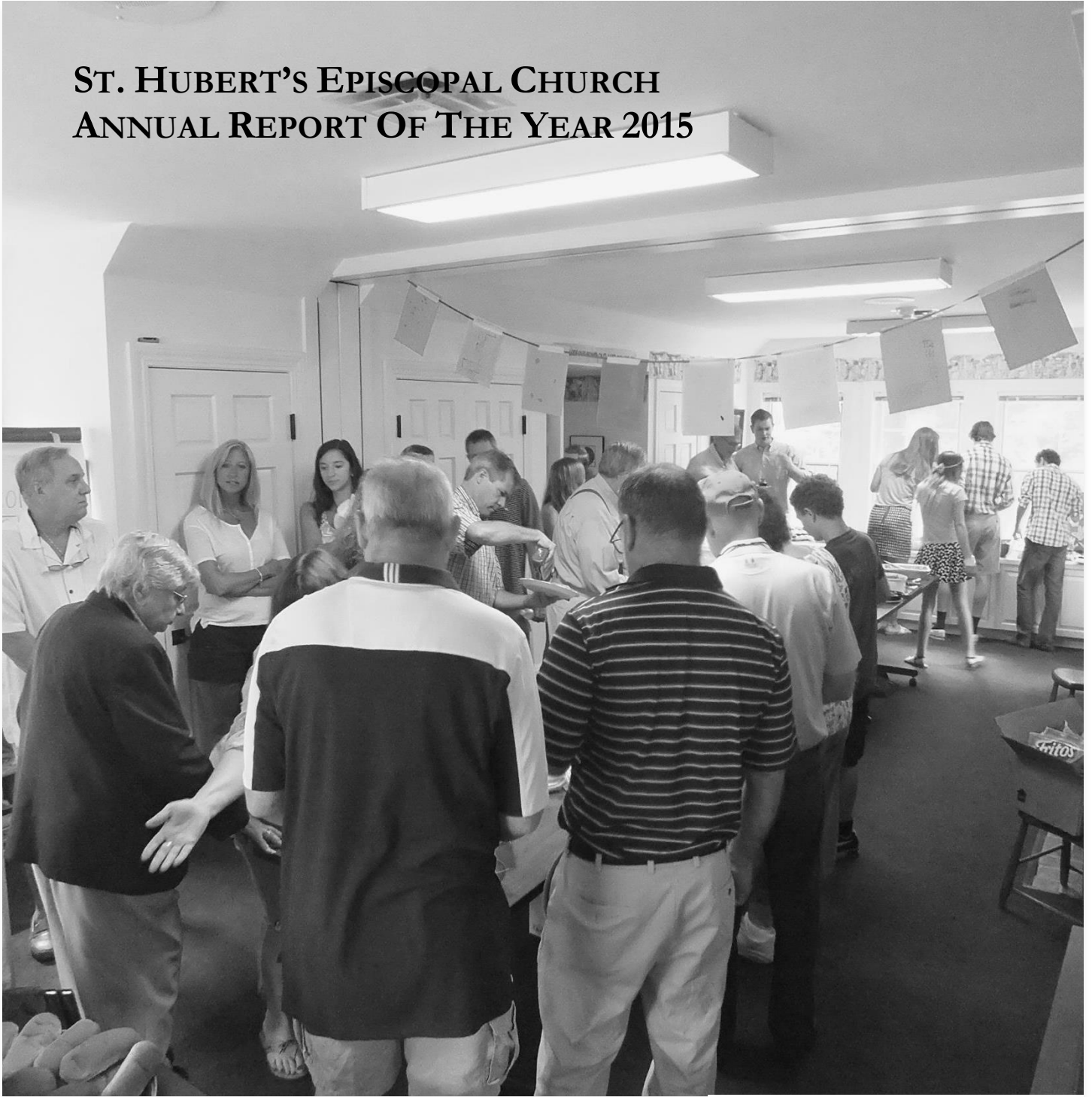


**ST. HUBERT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YEAR 2015**



Annual Summer Picnic, Sunday, June 14

Contents

MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN	4
MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN	5
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS	6
TREASURER'S REPORT - John Murchie.....	7
2016 BUDGET	8
FIVE PILLARS GUIDE US ON OUR FAITH JOURNEY.....	10
COMMITTEE REPORTS	11
ADULT EDUCATION	11
ALTAR GUILD	11
BUILDING	11
CASSEROLES FOR CHRIST	11
GATHERINGS AND HOSPITALITY	12
Appetizers On The Patio	12
Coffee Hour	12
Lake County Captains Game	12
GOLF OUTING	12
GROUNDS.....	12
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	13
MUSIC.....	14
OUTREACH INITIATIVES	15
Caring Tree Collections	15
Cookies for College Students.....	16
St. James Hot Lunch Program	16
Mobile Food Pantry at Sterling Elementary.....	16
Thanksgiving Baskets	17
Tutoring at Maple Elementary	17
PLANNED GIVING – THE RIVER SOCIETY.....	17
STEWARDSHIP	18
SUNDAY SCHOOL	18
WORSHIP.....	18
Epiphany	18
YOUTH GROUP	19
YOUTH SUNDAY.....	19



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parish Family,

2015 marked a year of growth and the realization that God was doing a new thing with us at St. Hubert's as we began to build upon the hopes and dreams expressed in the strategic plan, adopted in the late autumn of 2014. As a congregation, we have arrived at this place several times in our history:

- 1893-Building a summer chapel atop Little Mountain
- 1914-Moving the chapel to Salida Beach
- 1925-Worshipping at summer services on the porch at Hollycroft, the home of Helen Newell Garfield
- 1929-Moving the chapel to Baldwin Road
- 1970-Shifting to a year round congregation
- 197?-Building the rector's office and Evans Room
- 1997-Rebuilding the church
- 2000-Building the outdoor altar
- 2002-Building the storage shed
- 2007-Remodeling the sanctuary, adding spaces, stabilizing the east riverbank
- 2015-Stabilizing the west riverbank and reconstructing the parking lot
- 2015-Schematic drawings presented to assess the feasibility of a capital campaign

Since the congregation has so often lived into the story of prayerful growth, planning, building, hoping and dreaming, we fully met the challenges of the year past, well equipped to pave the way for the time ahead! The addition of Jim Robinson, our new Music Director, has added energy to worship, learn and develop our parish family, all to God's Glory. As we implement the Strategic Plan, we realize that our visions are bearing fruit. Moreover, we are graced with a group of faithful parishioners who work tirelessly to bring to life a new era for St. Hubert's, all built upon the dreams of past generations and hopes for future ones as well!

Our ministry together is also undergirded in Scripture. At the end of the Book of 1 Chronicles, King David prepares to construct the temple in Jerusalem. King David's central message connects with all that was done in 2015, nearly 2500 years later: 'O Lord God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is your own.' (1 Chronicles 29:16).

Like King David, the people of St. Hubert's are also grateful to a loving, abundant God, and realize that building for the future furthers God's plan give us space for our use and to welcome new parishioners. Our plans serve to encounter and celebrate the living God who acts in history at all times. As you read the stories of ministry in 2015, be grateful, prayerful and hopeful for the future! I continue to marvel at the honor and wonder as serving as your priest!

Faithfully,
Dan+



MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Three down, one to go and a busy one it will be I am sure!! Six straight years of service on the Vestry and four years as your Senior Warden. I can safely say they have been very rewarding and enlightening years, and I have had the privilege of working with many different parishioners as Vestry members! I have witnessed much change in our congregation over the past few years, changing faces, younger families and increasing attendance.

Over the years St. Hubert's has grown from a small country, summer Chapel to a year round Church that serves many communities! Generations have come and gone, and now it is our turn to leave our mark on what will be at St. Hubert's in the future. I am reasonably sure in our history as change became evidently needed, much like elections, there was debate and discussion about any changes that have happened as we morphed from a simple one room Sanctuary to where we are today, and where we see the future.

2015 saw much progress in many areas, the "Hopes and Dreams" Capital Campaign has been put in place and will be officially launched today. This Campaign has grown from the seeds of the Strategic Planning meetings to any conversations at Vestry meetings, to some committee meetings with architects and contractors for advice and ideas. We have two wonderful and energetic Campaign Chairs in Jenna Bing and Sheila Black to run the Campaign. We have gone through the first two phases of work with the Episcopal Church Foundation and Maurice Seaton and are now heading off into the actual fundraising portion of the Campaign. Many have put a lot of time and effort into this Campaign; we look forward to the Congregations involvement in the process, input to the designs through communication with the leadership of the Church and in the end, happiness with the end results.

As a part of the initiative we have George Patton's beautiful model of the proposed changes to our physical structure, and prior to that model, much time and effort by Ken Suvada in drawing concepts and creating a video presentation. We have hired an architect and are in consultation with a contractor who will be invited to submit a bid for the project at this stage, and yes there are conversations about alterations to the current plan. We currently "borrow" an organ from the Allen Organ Company, in the hopes we can get a new one at some time. And last but not least, we have a beautiful (if there can be such a thing) parking lot and our beloved riverbank has been stabilized and protected against all but the worst of possible floods! All these pieces are a part of the campaign that currently has a goal of \$750,000.00 with a stretch goal of \$850,000.00.

The year allowed me to joyfully announce one Sunday that we had reached an agreement with one Jim Robinson to be the Music Director at St. Hubert's. We have all noted the enthusiasm he brings to the position, and also the fact that he has attended many of our functions along the way as well. Welcome to the St. Hubert's family Jim, it is our pleasure to have you join us!! He has taken the lead with the Allen Organ Company in trying to secure the new organ for us and having the allow us to use the "loaner" for an extended period of time. We hope to incorporate the new organ into the completion of our capital improvements so that it "fits" into our space without dominating as the current loaner does and the audio portions can be disguised so as not to detract from our appearance in the Sanctuary.

We have a large and growing youth presence at St, Hubert's and parents who are helping form youth groups to help form the relationships that will be for the next generation. And the benefit to that is

that along the way they learn the ways of St. Hubert's and its generosity to community through our outreach initiatives that will hopefully carry into the future for all of us!

As we move into 2016 we look forward to the successful completion of the Capital Campaign, the hope that things will be stable and quiet at St. Hubert's and that we can continue to experience a steady growth.

Faithfully,
Tim Garfield



MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN

The year 2015 was a busy and productive year here at St. Hubert's. I would like to begin this message with the words I ended my message last year. God clearly has a plan for our beautiful little church on the river. I believe we are well on our way to navigating that plan.

This past year has been full. First, we ended our music director interim period. The hiring of Jim Robinson was an incredible Blessing.

Second, the riverbank has been stabilized and parking lot replaced. It turned out great. Third, our front doors have been brought up to code and restored. They are beautiful!

Finally, the vestry has been working diligently on the upcoming capital campaign. We have successfully completed the discernment and feasibility phases. Thank you to all who participated in the surveys Maurice Seaton sent out to everyone. The results have been very helpful for the vestry to discuss and decide on the goals of our campaign. Thank you.

2015 was a great success. I pray that God helps guide us through an even more successful 2016.

Gwynne Sawicki

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

In response to the Strategic Plan of November, 2014, Maurice Seaton, a capital campaign consultant with Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF), was contracted by St. Hubert's vestry to perform a study to discern the wishes of the parish in April, 2015. In May, four focus groups gathered during which more than 60 parishioners shared their hopes, dreams, anxieties, and cautions as conversation on the following proposed projects was facilitated.

Endowment: Repaying the money allocated for the remediation of the 'west bank' which is on the parking lot side of St. Hubert's, and the new parking lot resurfacing;

Building:

- the addition of some 1250 square feet of space on the west side of the building to enlarge the Evans room, and create a new kitchen, meeting, and office space;
- remodeling of the river room to widen it, and shift the sacristy and kitchenette
- a proposed new narthex which would be where the current brick walkway is located for overflow seating, fellowship/gathering space and congregational area;
- a new 'solarium' beyond the rector's office with a view of the Scattering Garden;
- needed adjustments to the roofline, outdoor lighting, foundation and outdoor patio areas to address safety and handicapped accessibility issues;

Music: The purchase of a digital organ along with enhanced audio capabilities, speakers, new wiring;

Outreach Gifts: A gift from the final campaign goal to projects beyond our borders including an earmark to the diocesan camp and conference center, being developed in Wakeman, Ohio.

In early summer, nine requests for proposal were sent to architectural firms and three firms who responded were interviewed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee and by the Wardens. Late in summer, the firm of Tomsik and Tomsik was hired. A group of parishioners consisting of wardens, contractors, design architects, and strategic plan committee members, spread across all age ranges, reviewed and contributed to architectural drawings by Michael Tomsik.

A fund raising case study was prepared with the assistance of Maurice Seaton (ECF) and in December a Feasibility Study was sent to all families either by email or USPS. When Mr. Seaton informed the Vestry of the study outcome in January 2016, he was delighted to say that our response rate was 55%, considered a **strong** response. The results were POSITIVE, revealing that a campaign was very feasible, many were willing to volunteer, the church IS growing and that ECF was very confident that a goal of \$750,000 with a challenge goal of \$825,000 was realistic. The parish wished to use the funds to pay off the west riverbank loan, renovate the building without losing its country charm, and purchase an organ, in that order.

After a prayerful month of thought, Vestry members in February agreed to begin a capital campaign and again contracted with Mr. Seaton and ECF for Campaign Consulting. We are on the brink of that campaign as we celebrate our Annual Meeting on May 1, 2016.

TREASURER'S REPORT - John Murchie

The Operating Fund in 2015 had Total Revenue of \$306,113 which was \$13,280 more than the budget of \$292,833. Significant differences from budget were Collection Plate, over by \$3,025, Donations and Gifts, over by \$1,422, and Transfers from Endowment and Other Funds, over by \$7,644. Total Expenses were \$286,572, which was %5,110 less than the budget of \$291,682. Significant differences from budget were Compensation, over by \$2,754 mainly due to hiring our new Music Director in August, and Building and Grounds, under by \$7,364 caused by repairs and maintenance being held off by the proposed building expansion.

	2015		2014	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
OPERATING FUND				
Revenue				
Pledges	\$188,682	62%	\$177,351	62%
Collection Plate	21,046	7%	23,304	8%
Donations and Gifts	3,422	1%	3,106	1%
Other	1,744	1%	3,989	1%
Transfers from Endowment and Other Funds	91,213	30%	79,039	28%
Total Revenue	<u>\$306,113</u>		<u>\$286,789</u>	
Expense				
Compensation	\$178,541	62%	\$170,921	61%
Diocesan Expense	33,231	12%	32,664	11%
Outreach	8,149	3%	8,969	3%
Worship and Education	8,277	3%	7,503	3%
Administration	32,758	11%	30,036	11%
Building and Grounds	25,616	9%	31,704	11%
Total Expense	<u>\$281,797</u>		<u>\$281,797</u>	
NET EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSE	<u>\$19,541</u>		<u>\$4,992</u>	

OTHER FUNDS	Beginning Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Ending Balance
Endowment	\$1,108,142	(\$7,836)	\$254,048	\$846,258
Ellen Long Endowment	66,483	(1,059)	3,206	62,218
Building	692,461	192,361	48,590	836,232
Gale Endowment	368,536	(5,868)	17,815	344,853
Capital Campaign	0	0	0	0
Memorial	317	400	0	717
Altar Flower	432	2,845	3,025	252
Discretionary	16,187	7,100	9,381	13,906
Outreach	39,288	4,178	7,005	36,461
Kitchen	2,009	40	0	2,049
Riverbank	(5,180)	0	0	(5,180)

Our three Endowment Funds decreased from \$1,543,161 at the end of 2014 to \$1,253,329 at the end of 2015 or a decrease of \$289,832 for the year. We transferred \$200,000 to pay for the West Riverbank and parking Lot project and \$74,069 to the Operating Fund for its expenses. We had a loss on investments of \$76,704, made \$59,942 in income from dividends and interest earned, paid \$1,000 in Endowment Fund operating expenses and transferred \$2,000 repayment of the Riverbank Loan from the Endowment Loan from the 2014 Net Excess Revenue. For the year the Endowment Funds had a net loss of 1.1% compared to a gain of 4.6% in 2014 and 18.2% in 2013.

In 2015, 2014, 2013, and 2012 the East Riverbank Loan of \$70,000 from the Endowment Fund was reduced by the repayments totaling \$68,000 and in 2016 the balance due on the loan in the amount of \$2,000 will be repaid from the Net Excess Revenue for 2015.

2016 BUDGET

The budget process at St. Hubert's begins with the annual stewardship drive. As pledges are counted they are compared to previous years and projections begin to be made. Expense budgets are determined by looking at the current year and determining needed adjustments, plus and minus. By year end the budget committee has a good plan in place and at the January Vestry meeting a budget for the year just begun is formally approved.

For the year 2016, Income is projected to be \$290,405, with 26% coming from our 3 Endowment Funds, and 74% coming from the congregation via pledged income and other contributions. Expenses are budgeted at \$293,606 and can be broken into 6 categories: Worship, Formation, Parish Life, Property, Administration, and Diocesan Expense.

Worship – 31% of the expense budget. Included are:

- Music department salaries and costs
- Wine, wafers and other worship supplies
- Rector's salary (portion)
- Supply clergy

Administration – 15% of the budget. Included are:

- Operations – bank and membership fees, supplies, postage, travel expense, rector professional allowance, copier lease, internet and computer costs
- CPA and Audit
- Ministries Coordinator salary (portion)
- Payroll service, taxes and Bureau of Worker's Comp payments
- Newsletters and Website

Formation – 15% of the budget. Included are:

- Education supplies, Adult, Youth, Children and Intergenerational
- Salaries for Rector (portion), Sunday School Director, and Nursery Nanny.
- Continuing Education for the Rector
- Laity Education for parishioners.

Parish Life – 13% of the budget. Included are:

- Hospitality Costs (picnics, meals, etc)
- Congregational Events (any absorbed costs)
- Salaries for Rector (portion) and Ministries Coordinator (portion)

Property – 14% of the budget. Included are:

- Electricity and telephone
- Insurance
- Repairs and maintenance
- Security
- Landscaping and cleaning supplies
- Landscaping and cleaning personnel
- Snow Removal

Diocesan Support – 12% of the budget. Included are:

- Monthly assessment (based on monthly expenses)

FIVE PILLARS GUIDE US ON OUR FAITH JOURNEY

Our church has had a consistent set of core beliefs which have made St. Hubert's what it is today and are the pillars upon which our future mission is built. Together they spell C-R-O-S-S.

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To be mindful and committed to God's vision for his church.

Our parish family fosters a vibrant commitment to living out the mission of St. Hubert's. Fellowship is the common denominator that drives our events: Coffee hour, Holy Week dinners, educational discussions and semiannual church clean ups.

RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP

To be responsible stewards of God's creation, all that He has given us.

The congregation shepherds its gifts of time, talent and treasure and shares them for the benefit of others. Volunteer work abounds when it comes to maintaining the church building and grounds. The congregation takes pride in its facilities, and their time and talents provide much of the needed cleaning and repair work. An annual Stewardship campaign is held with a large percentage of the parish pledging.

OUTREACH

To manifest the gospel through ministries that reach out to the community and build up God's Church.

The Christian ministry of St. Hubert's is extended to enrich the experience for all. Several programs take place annually, monthly or weekly to provide needed services to the community and our parish family.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

To be prayerful in worship and education.

We encourage our parishioners to strengthen their relationship with Christ and one another. The Book of Common Prayer guides our services. Holy Communion is celebrated on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to participate at the table. Special Feast days are celebrated including All Saints, St. Nicholas and The Feast of the Epiphany. Healing services are held throughout the year.

TRADITIONS

To be models of love, hope and witness.

We build for the future without losing sight of the past. Our congregation worships in the Episcopal tradition. Our church is located on the banks of the East Branch of the Chagrin River, and the river has always played an important role in our church life.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADULT EDUCATION

At St. Hubert's we value learning for all ages. In 2015, we held several Tuesday evening classes on a wide range of topics, coupled with fellowship over a potluck supper. We also took a field trip in the fall to have a private tour of the acclaimed exhibit "Monet to Matisse," at The Cleveland Museum of Art. Thursday morning lectionary classes continue also to be a source of Christian formation, as a group of about 12 parishioners, on average, meet to engage with the lectionary or the group of lessons from Scripture to be used on the upcoming Sunday. All discussions are lively, reflective and engage learners of all ages!

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is responsible for 'setting the table' twice every Sunday and for any other worship service. Guild members Jenna Bing, Jacque Fertick, Frannie Gale, Annie Hitchcock, Mary Katz, Robin Kurtzner, Ann McConnell and Beth Wagar also keep the cupboards stocked with wine and wafers, and clean the chalices, patons and linens.

BUILDING

The following is a brief overview of Building & Grounds

- The three "Garfield" stained glass windows in the rear of the sanctuary were removed for repair and maintenance by Whitney Glass at their studios. The windows returned about two months later.
- Red Sanctuary doors were removed and retrofitted with crash bars, bringing them up to code as directed by the Kirtland Fire Department.
- Masonry block foundation between Rector's office and sanctuary was repaired to prevent water from eroding the block work and entering the crawl space.
- "West Riverbank" Stabilization including west parking lot resurfacing, more efficient parking layout, split rail fencing and lighting restoration was completed.
- Spring and Fall Clean-up Events were held, with church volunteers taking care of patio furniture (in and out of the shed), storm windows (up and down), leaf clean up and spring spruce up.

CASSEROLES FOR CHRIST

Meal deliveries through the Casseroles for Christ ministry were well-received by six families. Chefs fed a couple that were new parents, three families with a member recovering from surgery and two families with a cancer patient going through treatment. These are not one-time meals, but several spread out over a period of time that coincides with recovery. For instance we try to get meals to new parents several times during their first month of parenting a new born. For those recovering from surgery we bring meals until they are up and about. We do our best to coordinate meal delivery to accommodate cancer patients' treatment schedule.

This year three of our chefs became recipients and will be off the volunteer list for quite a while. Therefore I will be asking for volunteers. If you like to cook and can drive, the ministry is not

difficult, and I find it rewarding. Please watch for more info in the bulletin or next “River Views”. If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to ask me. (Roberta Matty)

GATHERINGS AND HOSPITALITY

Appetizers On The Patio

This annual event was held in August, with its theme “A River Runs through It”, an obvious reference to the Chagrin River in our backyard. About 65 people came and brought delicious appetizers and desserts. Some wore fishing gear, others were dressed for an afternoon of punting in a canoe or long boat. Door prizes were water bottles and squirt guns. Needless to say, water fights broke out. The guest of honor was an eagle which glided across the river just before the storm broke. Everyone moved indoors, but the good times continued.(Sheila Black)

Coffee Hour

The “Beans and Banter” Coffee Hour continues to provide a comfortable and friendly venue for the members of St. Hubert’s and any guests to gather for conversation and refreshments after the church service. Church members have been very responsive and generous in providing the “goodies”, while the coffee was provided by the church, having been brewed for the early service and also made available to the later service. Hot tea has been added as a choice this year. We tried a beverage dispenser, but there was not enough response to continue it. Instead, we attempt to provide juice or lemonade as the alternative beverage for the children and adults. The costs of the Coffee Hour are covered by St. Hubert’s and include any special event refreshments. (George and Susan Patton)

Lake County Captains Game

A group of 31 young and old alike from St. Hubert’s attended a Faith Night game on a Friday night in July and watched the Captains bring home a WIN!

GOLF OUTING

On a beautiful day in August, 24 golfers played 18 holes of golf at the incomparable Kirtland Country Club. The cocktail reception was attended by 57 who enjoyed a lovely evening on the West Porch. Over \$4,000 was raised at this event to benefit our Outreach Fund. The Golf Committee would like to thank everyone who golfed, attended, volunteered, donated a basket for the raffle or sponsored a hole.



GROUNDS

Bimonthly care was provided for the scattering garden and Terrace area throughout the 2015 growing season. We lost one small conifer shrub at the entrance to the walkway through the garden likely due to mole damage to the root system.

A donation was made for a soil drench around the Linden tree once in the fall and once again in the spring of 2016 to inhibit insect infestation which discolors the foliage of the plants below during summer months.

In the fall of 2015 plans were made to plant winterberry shrubs and forsythia in the front center of the circle by the road, where old roses were removed because of disease. These were installed in early spring 2016.

Plans were also drawn up to add natural native trees to the west Riverbank, with the addition of some native shrubs. All of these plants will help to establish and anchor the west riverbank area next to the parking lot. This planting will take place through the spring and fall of 2016.

Two additional walnut trees near the back porch and the mailbox were removed in early spring 2016 due to structural damage, posing a threat to surrounding areas of the church should they fall.

Apple trees and other woody plants continue to be maintained and rehabilitated where possible by Dave Allen, arborist and friend of the church.

Plans also continue to keep foliage down on the east riverbank by the back terrace allowing visibility through to the river.

Currently all hands are trying to rid the beds of some particularly nasty weeds: Harry Bittersweet, and garlic mustard, as well as deadhead flower heads from day lily and hosta. If anyone has an interest in joining us, we would welcome your help, making the care of our grounds easier in the years to come. Any parishioners who would be interested please contact Deb Fitzgerald (fitzcom5@gmail.com) Even a few hours a month will help keep things looking neat and tidy for all to enjoy!

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Meister Fitzgerald

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Committee met three times in 2015 with several items on the agendas. One of the first items addressed was the plans for a New Member Luncheon for Fall. Once again there was not enough interest and the event was cancelled. However, new members were plentiful at the Ministries Fair that was held on October 25 after the 8:30 and 10:00 services.

It was unanimously agreed to invite another parishioner to become a member of the committee. Chad Cooper agreed to join us, and he has been a contributing and active member. Visitor forms that are included in the Welcome Bags are seldom returned and this presents a dilemma because the church has no way of contacting people who showed an interest in our church. The committee decided that cards would be available by the Guest Book that would ask for name, address, phone number and e-mail address. We would encourage visitors to fill them out as they sign the book. Changes of personal info (address, phone no. etc.) would be listed in River Views on a regular basis.

Another topic that was discussed is the four Key Entry Points for new membership prospects. They are: Fall—Sunday School, Winter—Christmas Pageant, Spring—Easter and Summer—Vacation Bible School. Greeters and ushers should be aware of these times and encourage visitors to stay for coffee hour and engage them in conversation as well as making introductions to members.

Invitations were distributed to the 2015 Great Smaller Church Conference with guest speaker Mary Parmer. Church members Jenna Bing, Jacque Fertick, Annie Hitchcock, Roberta Matty, Denise Miller and Linda Watson attended and were impressed with the program: Invite • Welcome • Connect. It was decided St. Hubert's does a good job of *Welcome* but could improve on *Invite* and *Connect*. The committee decided to invite people to the annual Blessing of the Animals. Post cards were produced and distributed to Veterinarian offices, friends and hand delivered to people at the Lake FarmPark's Dog Park. Including post cards in bulletins or being hand delivered for special events have been incorporated into the planning schedule. We are hoping to invite a speaker who specializes in the "art of listening" to come to St. Hubert's. The most important way to Connect to newcomers is to LISTEN to what they say.

The Membership Committee is in existence to aid in enhancing the St. Hubert's experience. Please feel free to share your thoughts and opinions with any committee member: Co-chairs Frannie Gale and Roberta Matty, Don and Marcia Anzells, Chad Cooper, Bitty Dorr, Jacque Fertick, Donna Knapp, and Linda Watson. (Roberta Matty)

MUSIC

Who'd imagine going out to Kirtland Hills to play a Thanksgiving service as a favor to the rector and being asked by a couple of people to come back and play all the time, before you'd left that morning! And then being asked again and again although you already had a comfortable position -in a historic old church with a large pipe organ, a very good choir, a brilliant soloist and assistant – where you'd been for more than 30 years... Really. Who would imagine? But there's an answer to why you might eventually say yes in what was recently described in a sermon as "the Kingdom of St. Hubert's." The Gospel calls us to live in the Kingdom of God in the here and now, rather than just in the hereafter. And we know that that's not what we usually do. But once in a great while you find an exception. The kindness and affection everyone shows one another at St. Hubert's, and that everyone has shown me the last eight months, is a taste of the joy of the Gospel for which I have to begin my report by saying thank you. Going to church and being unfailingly uplifted - from the time fond hellos greet you in the parking lot, throughout a truly prayer filled Eucharist with an inspiring message, right through staying longer than you meant to because there were so many people to enjoy being with over coffee – this is not the universal experience of church. If it were, there'd be no empty churches. And it very much is what everyone shares every Sunday on Baldwin Road.

And there's the music... Domingo, Carreras and Pavarotti may have made history as the Three Tenors, but St. Hubert's has the three sopranos! It's a fine line away from boasting when I share with fellow musicians the "you can't believe it" of what talent we have in the chancel every Sunday – our soloist Liz Huff brings an array of musical styles every week, and even made a show-stopping Christmas CD this year, our resident Folk Song composer Anna Wolfe has already written several new pieces for us just in the short time I've been here, Laura Webster, the choral director at Hathaway Brown, brings us both extraordinary musicianship and the beautiful voice that ties the trio of those three voices into the loveliest treble ensemble you can hear in NE Ohio, and on special occasions we've had the addition of Scott Posey, an exceptional baritone and the music director at Lake Catholic. The return of Martha Marsh begins another season of her faithful ability to lend a melodious voice and a strong measure of encouragement to us all. For a small church, it's literally an unbelievable group of musicians to work with.

And the matter of an organ... As I understand it, St. Hubert's original purpose as a seasonal chapel would never have included a pipe organ as a full time church would have in the late 19C – nor,

clearly, did it include a place to put one! More than likely a harmonium (a compact, portable reed organ) would have originally been used. So, in transitioning to a full time congregation there's been a progression of instruments, most recently including an electronic keyboard (essentially an electric piano with one, synthesized organ voice) and, before that, a much larger, self-contained pipe organ (installed outside the chancel because of space constraints). Church organs have developed over that last several centuries for essentially three purposes: to add majesty and beauty to the worship service, to accompany choral and solo singing, and primarily, to enhance congregational singing. With those things in mind, and with the concern shared by Michael and Rita right before me, of very much needing something more than a keyboard to effectively play services I began looking into possibilities for a more permanent organ installation last summer.

That led to exploring the offerings of the companies with the most technically advanced digital electronic organs, instruments designed to reproduce the sound of pipes convincingly enough for them to be indistinguishable from actual, pipe organs. Two companies, Marshall and Ogletree and Allen Organ made convincing enough cases to head out on a shopping adventure that ranged from New York to Pittsburgh, including a visit to a small Huguenot church (believe it or not, still very much in existence - a half block from Bloomingdales, in midtown Manhattan!) which is the same physical size as St. Hubert's. The objective has been to find an instrument in keeping with the quality of liturgical worship, the size and the beauty of a very small and historic church, and to remain within a justifiable cost. In the course of discussions with Allen Organ it came to light that an organ they were replacing in Medina would become available once the new installation was complete. Just before Christmas they were kind enough to let that organ "fall off the truck" as reported from our own pulpit, right on Baldwin Road. We've been fortunate to have it as our "interim" organ (without charge) while we continue exploring possibilities for a permanent installation.

We've made a lot of beautiful music over the last eight months. Highlights have included a full Choral Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, a really fun evening of carols, a new setting of Charles Wood's famous carol King Jesus Hath a Garden, for unaccompanied voices and flute, commissioned and written this year for St. Hubert's, the introduction of Taize chants at communion, expanding from one choral or solo piece to two every Sunday, and what I would have to describe as impressive congregational singing that seems to just get better and better. And we'll be doing even more this year! It's a truly rewarding pleasure to be singing and praying, and enjoying being with each other every week. (Jim Robinson)

OUTREACH INITIATIVES

Caring Tree Collections

Currently St Hubert's "Caring Tree" has three branches. These programs all reach out to help children in Lake County.

- School supplies in July. We help children at Maple Elementary in Painesville by gathering school supplies each year. The items are given to the teachers hand them out as needed. A high percentage of the children attending Maple are on the free lunch program. A family of 4 qualifies if there income is less than 2,600.00 a month gross.
- Christmas caring tree. This program usually helps children in Kirtland have some much deserved Christmas cheer. The names of the families are provided to us from the city of Kirtland. The needs vary from children who have lost their home due to a fire, who are suffering the death of a parent or for any number of reasons. St Hubert's provides each child with a new winter outfit including socks, payless gift card for shoes and hats and

gloves. We also provide one “special” toy. This is a very rewarding program not just for the children – but for everyone who participates.

- Our newest branch is our Summer Book Collection. During the summer months we ask the congregation to be on the lookout for gently used children’s books. These books can be found at garage sales and library sales. Many of us have friends and grandchildren with books they have outgrown. We look for books in English and Spanish. These books are given to Maple Elementary in Painesville. The teachers hand these books out to the children to keep. Owning a book can start a lifelong passion for reading!!

(Linda Watson)

Cookies for College Students

Twice a year, October and April, the congregation is asked to bake cookies to send to our college students. Dan includes a letter to demonstrate the love and support of the congregation to those students who are away from home. In addition, the Sunday school students send Valentine’s to the college young adults in February. In the 2015-16 season, 18 boxes were mailed in both October and April. (Sheryl Smith Weaver)

St. James Hot Lunch Program

ST. Hubert’s SJHLP continues to serve hot and tasty lunches for the less fortunate. We get many compliments on our meals. Many of the SJHLP clients look forward to having the St. Hubert’s Group come and prepare their 5th Sunday meals. The lunch count keeps getting higher; at one time we had up to 137 guests.

It is not only St. Hubert’s that is great but also everyone else that serves on the program.

Our committee’s greatest accomplishments for 2015 include:

1. Planning delicious and high quality meals using commodities furnished by the Cleveland Food Bank.
2. Using the Food Bank commodities helps to keep our out-of-pocket costs low, since we only pay pennies on the dollar for what we receive.
3. Having Al Muller start to say “Grace” in Spanish, which our guests seem to appreciate.
4. Getting more young people involved as volunteers, including girl scouts this year. Our volunteers work very hard and always treat our guests with respect.
5. Making time, when possible, to prepare meals for freezing to be used during the month.

The committee truly appreciates the donations by St. Hubert members of grocery store gift cards to help with the purchase of items not provided.

The committee thanks all who have volunteered and extends a welcome to anyone from the parish family to come and join us in our mission.

Respectfully submitted by Janice A. Cochrac

Mobile Food Pantry at Sterling Elementary

The Mobile Food Pantry at Sterling Elementary School is a partnership with Trinity Cathedral, Fairmount Temple, St. Hubert’s and the Cleveland Food Bank. New leadership both at Trinity and the Cleveland Food Bank has resulted in much better offerings and a smoother operation. Through a federal grant the Cleveland Food Bank has started providing the food at the Mobile Food Pantry. Therefore, individual donations are no longer needed. . Janice Cochrac of St. Hubert’s has started preparing food using the options offered by the Food Bank and serving sample sizes along with recipes during each session of the Mobile Food Pantry. This has been a wonderful addition toward building a partnership with the recipients of the food and as an educational tool for healthy eating.

Community outreach and building relationships with the participants at the Mobile Food Pantry has taken on a new dimension this year. Janice Cochrac, excellent chef and volunteer, offered to help interested people make quilts following their request upon seeing her handiwork when serving culinary samples while waiting for the Food Pantry to open. The Sterling Library, located across the street from the school, offered a space to work twice a month prior to the Food Pantry. Nine women now come together to learn the art of sewing and making a quilt with donated supplies. In addition while waiting to use the sewing machines they have been volunteering to make bow blankets for the transplant patients at the Cleveland Clinic. Good friendships, helping hands, and sharing of ideas and concerns all come together around this project. (Bitty Dorr)

Thanksgiving Baskets

For the second year St. Hubert's worked with our partners at the Mobile Food Pantry to put together 49 Thanksgiving Dinners "in a bag" for the families at Sterling Elementary School. Shopping lists were distributed to everyone wishing to make a donation so that all dinners were similar.

Tutoring at Maple Elementary

Each year St. Hubert's has supported the students at Maple Elementary School in Painesville by providing school supplies and new and gently used books. This year members of St. Hubert's have volunteered to tutor once a week students identified by the Learning Specialist at Maple as needing extra support in reading but not currently qualifying for a federally mandated program. Six members of the congregation have been trained and work with two students on a weekly basis. (Bitty Dorr)

PLANNED GIVING – THE RIVER SOCIETY

Individual Planned Giving, which includes membership in St. Hubert's River Society, remains an important element in the makeup of how we serve our Parish Stewardship objectives. Whether it be through a direct gift, an assignment of life insurance proceeds or through a will provision or other testamentary means, Planned Giving provides the opportunity to honor the present and help assure the long range health of our beloved Parish.

Although donors have the option of remaining anonymous, our River Society currently consists of a modest 14 members. We hope to grow that number going forward by continuing to periodically remind our congregation of the availability and many ways to participate in this important Stewardship option; not in a loud or urgent way, but rather in a way to allow individuals to prayerfully discern for themselves whether this is something for them to do. Information can be obtained from the Planned Giving/River Society brochures which are on the program table outside the entrance to the River Room Sacristy.

At the end of 2015, an important boost to making sources of funds continue to more readily available for giving to such efforts as our River Society occurred. The U.S. Congress passed legislation continuing the allowance of up to \$100,000., in funds to be withdrawn from IRA savings accounts by owners over age 70 ½ on a non-taxable basis if the funds are donated directly from the IRA to charitable organizations such as St. Hubert's. Heretofore, this legislative action had to be renewed annually. The annual renewal requirement has been dropped, making the opportunity and benefit much more secure for the future. If you are under 70 ½, stay healthy and patient.

Requests for further information or questions pertaining to any of the above or other available options to participate in St Hubert's Planned Giving and the River Society can always be directed to Dan, Denise and/or me and, as appropriate, your personal legal/financial advisor.

If you have not already joined in this opportunity to support St. Hubert's through the River Society, I urge you to consider it when the time is right for you, no matter the size or form of what the gift may be. Strong individual participation will help keep the long term prospects for our Church ministry bright.

Stuart H. Theis
River Society Chair

STEWARDSHIP

Using the theme "Thank You!" the 2016 Stewardship Campaign was kicked off on Sunday September 27 with signs lining the walkway stating "thank you" in 19 languages. The campaign encouraged everyone to think about, and write on a post-it note their most thankful thoughts. When the campaign wrapped up on Pledge Sunday, November 1st, 101 parishioners pledged or gifted a total of \$182,964 to St. Hubert's. Thank you for the joyful noise of Fat City Rock N Roll (Jim Hoyt, Harvey Webster, and Ralph Webster with Tonja Schleicher) who entertained, and also to those who gave personal testimonials! Thanks also to Campaign Co-Chairs Mike Greci and Jenna Bing.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In 2015 St. Hubert's began year-round Sunday School. During the summer, Doris Webster took on the weekly teaching beginning with lessons about the Bible and the they made ribbon bookmarks for the children's bibles in Sunday School. Choir member and composer Anna Wolfe helped the children write a song, "Read the Bible," that they performed for the congregation in September. On Welcome Back Sunday, Denise Miller and Doris, with the help of Mary Cay Megyesi started our fall program with "Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was A Kid." Every other week the children visited Mary in her home and learned about Jesus from his mother (Thank you, Mary Anne Grimwade). The children performed the Pageant on Christmas Eve and sang and played jingle bells with handmade jingle bells on cord with Jim Robinson and the Congregation.



WORSHIP

Epiphany

Epiphany occurs on January 6. St. Hubert's celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, January 10, 2016. This is the second year the moving Service of Light took place on Sunday. This has become our "new tradition." Soup was served as well as the Epiphany Cake that contains symbols that represent God's unending love, faith, hope, success and who brings the cake the following year. This year's recipients were Jean Shibley (baby Jesus), Jordan Matty (dime), Robin Kurtzner (gold band), Quinn Sippola (thimble) Ann Poorman (cross), Penny Theis (anchor) and Ellie Sawicki (heart).

For the second year in a row no one claimed the nut which is the symbol for bringing the cake. Hmmmm! The soups were yummy (made by Marcia Anzells, Jan Cochran, Mary Katz and Roberta Matty) and the crock pots were totally cleaned out. Several parishioners decided to take out cups of soup. These were purchased for \$1 with the money going to the Kitchen Fund.

Celebrating Epiphany on a Sunday morning works well. Instead of 20 – 30 people coming out on a cold winter night, we have 75 parishioners participating on a cold winter morning. (Roberta Matty)

YOUTH GROUP

The teen group has done much since its installment in Saint Hubert's. In our first meeting, we decided what we wanted to do, and the results were that we wanted to do service in our community and have fun! We have had several bow blanket making parties at the church and at the Sawicki's house. We have had lots of fun at bowling parties and other events. We started serving the community at St. Hubert's by cooking pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and helping clean up the yard at the spring clean-up. We hope to have a retreat at St. Hubert's in the spring of 2016. We can't wait to see what the next year brings! (Violet Webster)

YOUTH SUNDAY

Youth Sunday is held twice a year at St. Hubert's: in May we honor our graduating high school seniors and in November we focus on Sunday School studies. At these services the youth of St. Hubert's take over, covering all duties from greeters/ushers to giving homilies.

In May of 2015 Liam McIntosh, Cecilia Perez and Jessica Weaver were celebrated as they graduated High School. Eighteen young people participated in the service, and the "Here I Am, Lord" Choir performed *O How I Love Jesus* and *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know* accompanied by Anna Wolfe and her guitar. Youth Sunday in November involved the children teaching the congregation key messages, with movements, they had learned from Mary, mother of Jesus, during Sunday School. The "Here I Am Lord Choir" performed *Nothing is Impossible* and *Big House*. The Sunday School teachers and the parents are always proud of the children's performance as they seem to enjoy sharing their newly learned Bible history and songs.