

## Committee Reports for the AGM 2017

### **Acolytes**

It's been an interesting and rewarding year working with the acolytes. We are planning on getting new robes as soon as possible and that is certainly good news. Also, we are planning to have some acolyte training in the near future. Watch out for that!

Below are a couple of notes as reminders:

1. Please show up no later than 9:45 am in order to change and ensure the candles are lit.
2. Due to some recent discipline issues, acolytes are required to sit on the pew next to the sacristy during the first two readings and to go downstairs to Sunday school or sit with their parents during the Sermon. Acolytes will not stay in the sacristy.

Finally, we only have seven current acolytes on the team. If there are other interested children who would like to be on the acolyte team, we would be thrilled to welcome them.

Looking forward to working with you this year!

*Valeria Eiseman*

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild has six members: Zoe Cross, Kay Hollis, Diana Mrongowius, Jeanne Nelson, Karen Onders, Esther Onwubuariri and Valerie Röcker. They are usually scheduled to work in pairs, on a weekly basis. Under the rector's directions, we are responsible for making the preparations for all the church services. Other tasks include the care of the linens, vestments, sacred vessels and candles. We are also responsible for ordering the hosts, wine, candles, linens, vestments, advent wreath, palm crosses etc.

Through the purchase of the palm crosses, we are donating money to the Zulem Trust. This trust gives support to a diocese in Zululand, financing, for example, a soup kitchen and the "Sunday School Project", which works with children to tackle the issues of HIV/AIDS within the context of Christian education.

Also under the auspices of the Altar Guild is the Flower Guild. The Altar Guild relies on memorial contributions and donations to meet any needs. A list of items has been drawn up which could be given by members of the congregation as a suitable memorial or thanksgiving. These items range in price and if you would like to see the list, please ask Valerie Roecker.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Altar Guild members for their devoted and hard work "behind the scenes", for always being prepared to step in and support each other, and for helping to enhance the services at St. Augustine's.

*Valerie Roecker*

### **Book Sale**

We did a lot of sorting out during the last year and, although our offer has been reduced, we still have plenty of interesting books for our customers to browse through. Surprisingly, not all members have visited our downstairs book shop where we have fiction, non-fiction, children's books, DVDs and CDs. To keep account of how long a book has been on the shelf we have introduced a red sticker system but have still not completed the task. (This was suggested by one of our customers.) We opened on the last Saturday of January and intend opening every Saturday until the next Christmas Bazaar when we have a winter break. Life would be easier if we had more volunteers, enabling everyone to take a turn just once a month. i.e. at least 8 people. At present we have (hopefully) 7.

*Wendy Rathgeber & Christine Spethmann*

Last year was characterized by the fact that we once again tried to hold the book sale most weekends. The brunt of the work from March was borne by Christine; as of the end of April Wendy, Lyn and the undersigned were able to join in, with occasional assistance from Monika, and Pat W., Michelle, Francie, and Susanne. In late January, two additional volunteers came on board,

Zoe and Armin, who took over one weekend each in February and March. My sincere apologies, if I have failed to mention other helpers.

The book sale generated a total of €985 over the year, which helps cover some of our annual expenses.

Contrary to my own thoughts towards the end of last year, it is clear that we need to think about a new schedule for the Book Sale. It seems to work best when the Kaffeeklatsch is also held, and of course, when the weather is good.

*Barbara Mueller-Grant*

### **Chalice Bearers**

Thanks to the auspices of Chris, we have continued our period of stability with a dedicated and committed team of 13 Eucharistic Ministers. Of course, if you feel called to our ministry then we are always prepared to welcome new members to our team! Our goal for this year is to, together with the acolytes, provide new robes. We are currently in a situation where the robes are both tired, and of a strange selection of bizarre sizes – which we are looking to improve upon.

*Robert Ramsay*

### **Choir**

For 2016, the choir completed another year of liturgical music with great success. Scheduled Evensong services for the months of January, May, and October all went as planned. In September, (Night of the Churches) the choir commenced the lighter segment of the evening with an ever-popular programme of assorted anthems and well-loved hymn tunes. This was augmented by soloists John Treleaven and Deborah Cole accompanied by Erika LeRoux. The choir completed the evening with a very beautiful service of sung Compline. It was also the third successive year that our choir excelled beyond their own expectations in our 'Sing-along' performance of the Messiah by G.F. Handel on December 3rd. The choir was well supported by outside choristers, with musical direction by Erika LeRoux. We also welcomed some new voices to our choir which continue to participate on a regular basis. Other general service highlights in the year were 'Holy week' leading into Easter Sunday, the 'Nine Lesson's & Carols' followed by the usual traditional Christmas services.

I sincerely wish to thank the choir for their continued efforts, enthusiasm and support. I also wish to thank all soloists who contributed their time and talent throughout the year. Deborah Cole, John Treleaven, Paul Rampinelli and Gehard Le Roux. Many thanks and appreciation must go to three sub-organists who have helped out in emergencies; Sebastian Strohmayr, Patrick Maniura and Rhodri Britton who was a past choir director for St. Augustine's; also Kate Asmanidis as pianist during family services etc. Finally, I wish to express sincere gratitude to Erika Le Roux for her dedication and service as church organist.

*Ivan Williams*

### **Coffee Hour**

Coffee Hour continued to be an important part of our fellowship in 2016, and many people contributed their time and talent to provide delicious treats, as well as serving and cleaning up afterwards. Their efforts are greatly appreciated!

Coffee and tea seemed to appear magically every Sunday morning, but it was actually the quiet and unfailing efforts of Anna Altvater that produced these drinks, along with milk, sugar, and mugs. Anna comes early to put the coffee on, as it takes at least 40 minutes for the percolator to finish brewing. It makes a huge difference to know we can count on Anna! In 2016 we were able to find an affordable and practical source for Fair Trade coffee, which is in keeping with our principles as Christians, to adequately support the producers of the coffee, rather the middlemen. We buy and grind the beans at Globus, which has a grinder that can be set for the coarse grind needed in a percolator. Globus has also graciously allowed us to charge the coffee directly to St. Augustine's, and gives us a 15% discount on our purchases.

Coming into 2017, I would encourage everyone to volunteer to host Coffee.

*Elaine White*

### **Coffee Hour**

I prepared coffee and tea for coffee hour fellowship throughout the year, nothing too exciting to report about that. As I have done it for some years now I kind of know what I am doing, and all went well, there were no complaints as to the taste at least not that I am aware of any. When I was away, which happened a few weeks, Jim White jumped in. A big thank you also to Elaine White who relentlessly made sure that we were stocked well. Our team worked well, and it will continue to do so for the next year so there is no need to fear that we are drying out.

*Anna Altvater*

### **Communications Committee**

The Parish Communications objectives are:

- To communicate to members of congregation and "friends of St. Augustine's" in a timely and comprehensive way.
- To advertise upcoming events to the general public.
- To spread the Good News of God in Christ (Evangelism)
- To facilitate and enhance ecumenical and inter-faith cooperation by mutual information

We do this with the help of:

- our weekly and ad hoc Email announcements (managed by Fr. Chris)
- Our weekly service bulletin (produced by Ashley Cross, with Fr. Chris)
- Our monthly Newsletter (Madeline Bohr, Audrey Shankles/NN, Fr. Chris)
- Our Website (Dorothee Dziewas, Robert Ramsay)
- Facebook (Fr. Chris, Andy Pickersgill)
- Press releases, newspaper and magazine articles (Madeline Bohr, Fr. Chris)
- Newspaper ads, both free and paid, including the Herald Union (Fr. Chris, Christine Spethmann)
- Our Notice Board (Christine, Fr. Chris)
- Event flyers, posters, pamphlets etc. (Ashley, Fundraising groups)
- NEW: our campaign/image video (Youtube) on Website/Facebook (Capital Campaign Committee)
- The Arbeitsgemeinschaft Christlicher Kirchen (ACK) in Wiesbaden and Germany (Dorothee, Fr. Chris)
- Public Relations with the wider community: eg. Presse Club Wiesbaden, Tourist Office, other Church / Choir organisations (Madeline)
- NEW: Establishing a relationship with Tunbridge Wells, Twin-City of Wiesbaden (Madeline, Fr. Chris)

While the whole committee did not meet last year, the individual members and groups (see above) were all busy, implementing our communications plan and ensuring St. Augustine's was visible in the media, and that all our events were advertised. And this is what we will continue to do this year!

*Madeline Bohr, Chris Easthill*

### **Ecumenical/ACK**

As a board member of the Council of Christian Churches (ACK) in Wiesbaden I get to take a very active part in ecumenical affairs, as you can imagine. At the moment the ACK has 15 member churches, all portrayed on the new web site [www.ack-wiesbaden.de](http://www.ack-wiesbaden.de) – do take a look. (Oh, and we're also on facebook now!)

2016 began with a major change on the board that is now headed by Pfarrer Stephan Gras (rk) and Pfarrer Andreas Günther (ev), with Yared Tsehaye (eth.-orth.) and myself completing the panel. We

meet roughly once a month to discuss issues that concern all or some of our member churches, we organize ecumenical events such as „Geist-reich“ which St. Augustine’s hosted in 2016, we deal with requests for assistance from newly founded churches (e. g. an Eritrean Orthodox community) or membership applications from well-known congregations (e. g. the Baptist church) and most of all we try to learn about and from each other, coming from different church traditions and often also different cultural backgrounds.

Apart from this organisational level, ecumenical ties have been established for years by the Women of the Church, who were involved in preparing and celebrating the World Day of Prayer and ecumenical meetings with the alt-katholische Friedenskirche and Stephanusgemeinde.

At the national level, Father Chris is the Anglican/Episcopal delegate to the ACK Germany (and also got elected to their board, there is a pattern there). Finally, together with Christ the King in Frankfurt we are in the process of applying to join the regional ACK for Hessen/Rhein Hessen.

*Dorothee Dziewas*

### **Endowment Fund Committee**

For those of you new to St Augustine’s. What is the Endowment Fund? It was originally set up in 1999 and amended in 2005. The main purpose of the EF is:

„...to provide a vehicle for receiving and managing assets received from individuals or organizations for acquisition, construction, preservation and maintenance of the church building ....“

Put simply, it is a dedicated savings account to finance the preservation and maintenance costs of the building. Without it we would not have been able to start our renovation project, as the first € 50K were provided by the EF after a vote was taken at the 2015 AGM to use some of the funds accordingly.

Anyone can make a donation or bequest to the EF at any time. Our long-term goal is to increase our savings to such an extent that the interest accrued is enough to finance a large part of the church’s outgoing expenses. However, given the current interest rates this remains an unrealistic goal.

In September 2016 our long-standing member and chair of the EFC, Wolf-Dieter Donecker, stepped down after many years of dedicated work in safeguarding the Endowment Fund and establishing wise investments. In addition, another member, Dr. Reiner Merkel, stepped down for health reasons. Thanks to both of them for their long-term commitment and input.

The Endowment Fund Committee members today include:

- Rev. Christopher Easthill
- Jim White – Treasurer and Vestry member (non-voting member)
- Susan Pinnells – Vestry member
- Gabi Marahrens
- Dr. Dieter Bölzing.

The EFC last met on 4.12.2016.

Bank Account (Deutsche Bank BIC: DEUTDEDB510)

Endowment Fund : DE21 5107 0024 0033 8020 01

*Susan Pinnells, (Temporary Chair of EFC)*

### **Facebook**

Our Facebook presence is comprised of two different groups. Our official Facebook page: **St. Augustine of Canterbury, Wiesbaden** is an information distribution portal that is used by Chris to inform and educate the membership and general public about upcoming events, special Church Services and any other notices, such as our Capital Campaign. Facebook users don't have to be a member of our Church to access the information but apart from "Like" -ing our posts or commenting (we don't get many) the intention is to engage with potential new Church members and potentially help with our fundraising.

With reference to the latter our Campaign Video has been viewed by more than 800 people.

The second Group is **St Augustines Congregation** is a closed members group and a place where we can share information, such as photos and generally interact with one another. It is very popular with some members (both former and present) of which there are just over 100 (and three administrators). It's important to respect the sensitivities of our Church association and keep our discourse with one another appropriate. Posts or comments can be removed if deemed inappropriate. Membership will only be granted to present and former members of our Parish.

*Andy Pickersgill*

### **Fine Arts**

The 2016 Fine Arts' concerts and events were all very successful. The ever-popular lunchtime concert series established by Erika Le Roux, (an accomplished Concert pianist) has continued the tradition of concerts on the third Wednesday of each month at [1.pm](#) from May through September, titled 'Erika Le Roux and friends'. Each of these concerts was absolutely outstanding, whether it was piano solo, or with artistes. We sincerely thank Erika for this ongoing and generous commitment in arranging these concerts, well received by the audience with much enthusiasm and appreciation. There were also outside concerts which came to us wishing to use the church building as a venue. March 19th, May 20th, June 3rd and December 18th. This was a Christmas concert which featured our own Tami Jantzi supported by friends. The bells were ringing with the atmosphere of Christmas in the air, with traditional tunes and secular melodies which really set the evening off. At each of these outside concerts, St. Augustine's held the right to retain any profits from the refreshments table. One of the highlights of the year was the second Victoriana concert involving a cast of all church members held on 28th October, featuring soloists: Deborah Cole, Tami Jantzi, John Treleaven and Ivan Williams. Accompanist/soloist was Erika Le Roux and the Master of Ceremony was +Chris Easthill. Roxane Richards was in charge of backstage costume and make up. This was received with great applause. A special thanks must go to all of those unofficial Fine Arts Committee supporters for helping me throughout the year: Jill and Ashley Cross, Jeanne Nelson for all her behind the scenes work, Madeline Bohr, Valeria, Roberto and Alessandro Eiseman, and any of those who spontaneously jumped in to help at the last moment! My sincere appreciation to you all!

*Ivan Williams*

### **Flower Guild**

I took over the Flower Guild duties from Wendy Rathgeber in January 2016.

We are team of 9 ladies these include: Wendy Rathgeber, Barbara Muller-Grant, Colleen Griegel, Jill Cross, Jeanne Nelson, Renate Selkirk, Jillian Süssner and Victoria Clibon.

Our duties include buying and doing the weekly flower arrangements.

We are funded mostly by donations of individuals who wish to commemorate special events of their lives e.g. marriage anniversaries, birthdays, general thanksgiving or even in memory of loved ones by decorating the church with beautiful flowers. The donation is normally printed on our service bulletin every Sunday. During Christmas and Easter we have a collective donation and a representative bouquet.

*Juliana Fiedler*

### **Home Group**

I left home early on Friday evening to drive the 30 Kms to Andy & Lisa's home in Wiesbaden.

My satnav told me I was going to arrive 20 minutes before the Homegroup started so I drove at a quiet, steady speed of 80 kph along the B4 and Autobahn, 45 kph in the town. When I arrived I noticed I had taken a whole 2 minutes longer than the satnav told me when I first set out.

In a way, that's how it is with the Homegroup. We race through life thinking it's important to arrive (whatever we mean by 'arrive') as soon as possible, when if we take our time we discover that the journey is what it's all about. By racing through life at break-neck speed we miss oh-so much of what life, and the Lord has to show us.

The Homegroup gives us an opportunity to slow down and take in the scenery. The scenery? Yes! And the scenery is very beautiful - Wolf-Dieter, Fleur, Debbie, Lisa, Andy, Dorothee, Paul, Maja, Nadine, Theo, Brian – yes, we are the scenery! As we sit at the table on a Friday evening nibbling away at our breadsticks and drinking tea, engaging in conversation on our current study book, we are listening and looking, agreeing and disagreeing, or just quietly taking in other people's contributions while reflecting a life and applying the point to ourselves. At the moment we are reading *Courage to Pray* by Anthony Bloom and Georges LeFebvre, recommended by Maja. Our previous book was *The Good Shepherd* by Kenneth E Bailey, recommended, I think, by Dorothee and, sandwiched between those two, was a single study, suggested by Fleur, on the proclamation, "Vanity, vanity, all is vanity," from the Old Testament book, Ecclesiastes.

We meet about once a fortnight, either on a Friday evening, or a Saturday morning over breakfast. We each commit to buying a copy of the book we agree to study. At the end of the previous meeting we will have decided the next portion of the book to read so, hopefully, we have all come to the meeting with a few thoughts relevant to the subject.

We come from vastly different cultural backgrounds, with a variety of personalities, and diverse church backgrounds. So it is inevitable that we may look at the same picture from different viewpoints. In a sense we are teaching each other about ourselves, and respectfully asking each other to step to one side and try to see this as I see it, which is just a little different to how you see it. In our study last week, we read, "But an encounter does not depend on the truth of only one of the parables to it. The Other (his capital) is equally important.

The God we encounter must be as true as we who seek him." So we are also being gently encouraged to consider how we relate, not just to our neighbour, but also to the Lord.

Thankfully, in the many years the Homegroup has been meeting, there have been no incidents of people throwing breadsticks at each other, except in fun maybe.

We're a friendly bunch, and certainly not a holy huddle of people who want to exclude newcomers. If you think you would like to join us then please do get in contact, either by email or over coffee hour on a Sunday morning. Enjoy the Journey!

*Graham Elliot*

### **Kaffeeklatsch**

In 2016 Kaffeeklatsch continued to be a source of income for St. Augustine's, bringing in €2,270 after expenses; but even more important, it has continued to attract visitors to the church. With the building open on Saturdays, people can see the church, and pick up information and schedules, while also enjoying homemade cakes, coffee and fellowship. Our visitors have included refugees from the nearby American Arms center, who have been welcomed to the church. KK is also a time for members of the congregation to come together just to chat and enjoy each other's company. We usually have a good turn out, which gets even better when good weather allows us to serve outside. Now that spring is almost here, we will be resuming Kaffeeklatsch on March 18. We are always happy to have more volunteers to assist, as well as baking cakes. The Richards and the Whites will continue to organize KK, but we are looking forward to having more teams to be in charge of some Saturdays. We look forward to seeing you at KK again soon!

*Elaine and Jim White, Roxane and John Richards*

### **Lectors**

Thank you to everyone who has read during the year. If you have never read but would like to, please tell me or send an email to the office. Do not wait to be asked as it is not possible to ask everyone individually on a Sunday morning and it is always good to have new readers. We had a training session during the year which I hope built up confidence and inspired those who had never read. If you would like to have a copy of the notes please ask the office.

*June Dewell & Christine Spethmann*

## **Nearly New**

We were in charge of the Nearly New during Kaffeeklatsch. Our little shop was open on Saturdays from 11 to 2, March till November. We sold literally everything, from clothes and shoes via electrical equipment, children's toys, and pictures to all kinds of knick-knacks. We really had nice stuff which was coming in through all kinds of generous donations from our church community as well as the German population. Thanks to everybody for this!

I think we really established a bit of a reputation with regular customers coming in from outside the church, too. As a result we ended up the year markedly above budget, with a special peak being the Christmas Bazaar which had us really busy!

A big thank you to everybody who helped out when either of us was away, especially Francie who jumped in a couple of weeks. We both enjoyed doing it tremendously, and really look forward to another year of working together for our church.

We just would like to add one tiny thing: we are always looking for volunteers to help us out, especially as Francie is leaving us for the us in March. And rest assured: it is great fun to do the Nearly New!

*Anna Altvater & Diana Mrongowius*

## **Outreach Committee**

The Outreach Committee meets approximately four times a year to decide which projects to support through volunteering and/or support from our budget. It is made up of the following members of St Augustine's: John Adam, Deborah Cole (co-chairperson), Fleur Donecker (co-chairperson), Wolf-Dieter Donecker, Dorothee Dziewas, Fr Chris Easthill, Monika Ehrentraut, Isabel Kornrumpf, Justice Onuoha, Theo Patsios, and Lyn-Kateri Visedsuk.

At the moment we support

1. the Wiesbaden Teestube, a refuge for homeless people. This help includes organising and serving a special lunch on Christmas Eve. The Women of the Church organise one or two breakfasts year.

2. We also support refugees in Wiesbaden by helping with translations, finding the money for deposits they need for court cases, and by organising a music evening every few weeks. At present John Adam is looking out for laptops. After the service on 12<sup>th</sup> March the refugees who come to St Augustine's will present their stories.

3. We support Rev Dorothee Hahn in Romania by buying and selling Romanian goods every so often, by sending shoe boxes filled with presents for children at Christmas time, and by sending money.

4. We support Hilfe für Malawi, a German charity which funds projects such as a palliative care clinic in Malawi. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017 a Malawi Day celebration is planned, to be held at St Augustine's. There will be music and Malawian food, among other things.

5. Hildastift care home is also on our list: a small group from St Augustine's visit the residents who can no longer get out. At Christmas Deborah organises carol singing. At the moment Theo is looking for English or American magazines for residents who enjoy practising their English.

6. Right to See project: introduced to St Augustine's some time ago by Andy Pickersgill, this project aims to help people in Gambia with eye problems. We started by collecting glasses that parishioners no longer needed. These are sent to Gambia. At present we are trying to raise money for an eye-testing kit (almost \$3,000). There will be a presentation of the whole project at St Augustine's on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> March.

Our budget this year is €2,000 plus a one-time donation of €300 for a refugee's lawyer's deposit. So far €250 has been allocated to Right to See, €250 reserved for lawyer's deposit, €50 for the two musicians at the music night in February.

*Deborah Cole and Fleur Donecker*

## **Parish Newsletter**

The purpose of the parish newsletter, which is published approx. every 6 weeks and is distributed to

both parishioners, “Friends and our newcomers (as part of the “Newcomer’s Information Package”) is to provide an information platform for events and activities within the Church community, and to inform parishioners of activities outside the Church community in the greater German community. Our regular features are:

- Vestry Minutes (condensed)
- Looking Back
- Parish Life
- Letters to the Editors
- Meet your Vestry
- Capital Campaign
- Pastor’s Picks
- Outreach
- St. A.’s in the News
- Around Wiesbaden
- Upcoming Events

The current Newsletter Team has been on the job now for exactly one year. Thank you for your support, your ideas, your input and your feedback during that time. At this time, due to new work commitments, Audrey will be leaving the team. So, sadly, we need a replacement for her. Her task involved designing the layout, compiling and formatting the newsletter, as well as writing some articles. Please contact us at [newsletter@staugustines.de](mailto:newsletter@staugustines.de) or talk to one of the team if you’re interested in helping.

*The Editorial Team: Chris Easthill, Madeline Bohr, Audrey Shankles*

### **Stamps for Bethel**

A big thank you to all those who bother to collect stamps for Bethel. I send a parcel off every so often, no longer so frequently thanks to e-mail. They are very grateful for them at the home for the handicapped in Bielefeld. We help to provide work for 120 people. There is a box at the back of the church for stamps, in case someone new wishes to help.

*Jill Cross*

### **United Thank Offering (UTO)**

The UTO Spring Ingathering for funding of mission projects takes place during June, when we bring our Blue Boxes to church to be collected. Each time we thank God for the blessings of this life, little ones and big ones, we drop a coin into our family’s Blue Box. We send the collected amount to the UTO office in New York City where it becomes part of a fund within the Episcopal Church which supports mission projects all over the world. The UTO Blue Boxes (and envelopes) are available on the tract rack at the back of the church. We had a very successful campaign in June 2016, as our church membership donated a total of \$289.83.

*Kay Hollis, UTO Coordinator*

### **Ushers**

The St. Augustine Usher Team has provided reliable support of the Church services in 2016, welcoming congregation members and newcomers warmly as well as running the usher routine.

2016 Resignations: Veronica Rejmers and Simon Adegh resigned from the service. We thank Veronica and Simon for their dedicated support of the congregation and the Usher Team.

2016 Volunteers: Monika Ehrentraut, Barbara Mueller-Grant and Collin Clibon volunteered to join the Usher team during the course of 2016. Thank you for strengthening the Usher Team.

Status: We are very happy to welcome Wolf-Dieter Donecker back from his break.

Considering the changes, the current Usher Team presents itself as follows:

1. Collin Clibon
2. June Dewell
3. Eric Dillenberger
4. Wolf-Dieter Donecker
5. Monika Ehrentraut
6. Barbara Mueller-Grant
7. Peter Hellbach
8. Jim Noble
9. Marian Oshyra
10. Lisa Pickersgill
11. Victoria Scheicher
12. Sabine Schubert
13. Jim White

While the current staffing of the Usher Team is adequate for supporting the services, new volunteers are always welcome to join.

*Peter Hellbach*

### **Webmaster**

The new website went online in January of 2016 and apart from a number of initial teething troubles following our extensive redesign we feel that we made the right decision with respect to the software choice. Adding new components to the website is much easier than it was previously and backups have been automated – making the day to day running of the website much easier.

*Robert Ramsay*

### **Web page editor**

In the past year or so I have enjoyed looking after the content of our redesigned web presence – together with Father Chris who is very good at updating pages when and as things change or additional items need posting. Actually, my job is now greatly reduced, because dates and events are automatically updated from the parish calendar. Robert Ramsay is, of course, the technical mind behind all internet things of the parish, and I would like to thank him for his quick help and good ideas. Also, Madeline Bohr has been pointing out news that need advertising, and I encourage everybody who has ideas or news items that concern the web site, to approach me, so we can improve the information available to the public even more. Most recently, a button for PayPal donations has been installed as an option for people visiting the internet site to support our Capital Campaign. We're trying to use the technology as best we can!

*Dorothee Dziewas*

### **Welcome and Integration Report**

It is one of church's most important tasks to welcome newcomers in the parish.

In St. Augustine's this task is mainly tackled by the ushers who give each "new face" a warm welcome and let him or her know that there is a welcome package available with all necessary information on this church as well as a contact list which provides everyone registered with the parish newsletter and weekly announcements.

In the last year newcomers felt welcomed so early that some of them could already be regarded as "nearly new" after a short time, being involved in important church activities and giving a helping hand where needed.

The new female church attendees easily found their way to the Women of the Church events and the smaller or younger ones are connected via the youth group activities or Sunday school.

Nevertheless an open church event for newcomers which serves as an opportunity to have a sightseeing tour around the church and to ask questions to members of the vestry should be scheduled any time soon.

To quote some figures from the parochial report, our church was pleased to welcome 30 newcomers

in 2016 but unfortunately during the same period had to say goodbye to 10 members. On average 97 persons were attending the services, a plus of 10 compared to the previous year.

*Lisa Pickersgill & Heidi Grau-Easthill*

### **Women of the Church**

The Women/Girls of the Church meet on a regular basis for events of cultural awareness and fellowship. Our meetings are open to all female church members and their guests. We do not have a formal membership and it is a good way for newcomers and (old-timers) to get to know others and something about their surroundings. Our get-togethers in 2016 included the following events:

Girls Night Out at Restaurant Thai Banyan	6 <sup>th</sup> February
Planning Meeting for events in 2016	5th March, Parsonage
Movie Night “Brooklyn” and heavy appetizers at the home of Robin Fitch	27th April
Girls Night Out at Restaurant Centro	14th June
Invitations to the “Frauen Sommer Fest” in the Garden of the Rudershausen Family with woman of the Friedenskirche and Ringkirche (Stephanusgemeinde)	30th June
Baby Shower, honouring Shelby Williams	10th July, Parsonage
Evening at the Wiesbadener Weinfest – for all genders	17th August, Weinhaus Hans Lang's stand (Stand N° 112)
Exhibition “Einblicke” (Maja Speranskij) followed by food and drink at Café Degenhardt	7th September
Girls Night Out – Eddie the Eagle – no attendees	22nd November
Girls Night Out, Meditation in Church and joint visit to the Christmas market	5th December

The invitation to our events can be found on St. Augustine’s webpage, newsletter and weekly announcements.

*Heidi Grau-Easthill, Current Coordinator*

*(with support and helping hands from the whole female congregation)*

### **Worship & Music Committee**

The worship committee, made up of those people who are involved in worship (altar guild, LEM, acolyte, lectors, ushers, music etc.), help and advise the Rector in his canonical responsibilities for the “conduct of the worship and the spiritual jurisdiction of the Parish.” The committee met five times in 2016, members are Father Chris (chair), Ashley Cross (bulletin/music), June Dewell (lectors), Fleur Donecker (music), Valeria Eiseman (acolytes), Peter Hellbach (ushers), Erika Le Roux (organist), Robert Ramsay (chalice bearers), Rev. Douglas Robinson (priest associate), Valerie Roecker (altar guild), Christine Spethmann (office/rotas), and Ivan Williams (choirmaster). At each meeting, we review the services of the last few months, plan the upcoming season and special services, and discuss any other issues around worship and the cooperation of the various worship groups and guilds. In addition the Music Section of the Worship Committee met separately to choose the hymns and discuss other issues around the service music.

*Chris Easthill+*