



St. John's Annual Report 2017



January 28th, 2018

St. Johns' Church
78 Green Hill Road, Washington, CT 06793

Thus says the Lord:
Set up for yourself road marks, Place for yourself
guideposts; Direct your mind to the highway;
Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the
ancient paths, and find rest for your souls.
The Lord our God will tell us the way in which we
should walk and the thing that we should
do...where the good way lies...

Jeremiah 31:21, 6:16, 42:3

**Saint John's Episcopal Church
Washington, Connecticut**



ANNUAL MEETING

January 28, 2018



AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

TREASURER'S REPORT

PRESENTATION OF THE 2018 BUDGET

REPORT ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

OTHER REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds

Altar Guild

Music Program

St. Elizabeth Guild

2017 Food Festival

2017 Bazaar

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JANUARY 22, 2017

The Reverend Susan McCone opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting marks the 223st year of St. John's Church in Washington, Connecticut.

The meeting was well attended with 34 qualified voting members present.

The Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were accepted.

The slate of officers and Vestry members was presented. There being no nominations from the floor, the Clerk of the Vestry cast one vote for the unanimous acceptance of nominations. The vote was seconded and the slate was elected as presented.

The members elected to the Vestry are as follows:

David Gillespie and Susan McFeely for 2-year terms as Wardens.

Joan Beattie: Clerk

Wendy Parkin: Treasurer

Tom Daniels: Assisting Treasurer

Class of 2018:

Rebecca Lambert, Darcy Campbell, Tom Daniels (1 year of unexpired term)

Class of 2019:

Natalie Dyer, Andris Kalnins, Marlene Smith

Class of 2020:

Holly Flor, Hunter Brown, Wendy Parkin.

The Treasurer's Report for 2016 and the proposed budget for 2017 were presented as approved by the Vestry. These were available in printed form in the Annual Report along with charts showing the allocation of the projected income and expenses for 2017. Mr. Daniels thanked the staff for their help in preparing the report. He also thanked Ms. McFeely for the record results of the bazaar. Pledges and the bazaar are the parish's greatest source of income.

Mother Susan thanked the budget committee for their meticulous vetting of the budget line by line. Cuts have been made to Parish Life, Christian Education, and salaries. However, the cost of the new Organist-Choir Master will be substantial. Also, postage is a major expense. She also explained that the Diocese requires that the parish pay at least 10% of its unrestricted income to the Diocese. Mother Susan called special attention to various aspects of Parish Life, and thanked all. She called attention to the various reports in the Annual Report. She also said that the Church School is difficult to maintain but that she is loathe to suspend it.

Ms. McFeely spoke about the St. Elizabeth Guild, saying that help is needed in identifying people who need help.

Mother Susan concluded the meeting, saying that it has been an amazing year and thanked the parish for the privilege of serving as Rector.

Following a prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Beattie

Joan M. Beattie, Clerk of the Vestry

NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY FOR 2018

The Vestry presents the following nominations for members of the Vestry to begin serving as of February 2018.

Class of 2021

Rebecca Bent, Darcy Campbell, Charles Dubow

For a term of 3 years

REBECCA BENT

Rebecca and her husband Ted moved to Washington in 1988 when their son, Max was born. She received a BA from Simmons College, attended Williams College her senior year and later attended Harvard Business School's AMP program. Rebecca's political career included positions as chief of staff for two US Senators and serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Energy and Associate Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Commerce. After leaving government, Rebecca acquired and upgraded FM radio properties before founding a healthcare programming network. More recently, Rebecca has been raising capital for hedge funds. At St. John's, she is a lay reader and chaliceist. She has also served on the Alter Guild and is dutiful about orchestrating the annual Bazaar Preview party feast

DARCY CAMPBELL

Darcy Campbell was born and raised in Washington. She is also one of those increasingly rare "cradle Episcopalians" and a second generation member of St. John's. She was married at St. John's (as was her brother and were her parents, Harry and Darby Wright, who continue to be pledging members of St. John's), and her sons Quintin and Spencer -- the third generation of Wright-Campbell's at St. John's -- were baptized here and continue to be faithful pillars of the Church School. Darcy received a B.A. from Springfield College, a M. A. in Special Education from the American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts, and has completed a 6th year degree at Southern Connecticut State University in Educational Leadership. Darcy has been a Special Ed teacher at New Milford High School for over 15 years, and currently is the Chair of the Special Education Department at Schaghticoke Middle School in New Milford.

CHARLES DUBOW

Charles Dubow is an author. His two novels, *Indiscretion* and *Girl in the Moonlight*, were published by William Morrow, an imprint of HarperCollins. A founding editor of Forbes.com, he was educated at Wesleyan University and New York University. A native Manhattanite, he moved full-time to Washington, Ct., in 2014, with his wife Melinda, who works at Corcoran in New York City and Klemm Real Estate, and their two children, William, a freshman at Grinnell College in Iowa, and Lally, a fourth-former at Kent School.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan McFeely, Wendy Parkin, Sarah Lee Martin

The Nominating Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2017

Operating income for 2017 was \$508,164 and expenses totaled \$519,384, leaving a deficit of \$11,220 as of December 31. Delinquencies on the payment of 2017 pledges, as well as a shortfall in the anticipated payments of pledges in arrears for prior years, largely accounted for the deficit.

There was an unanticipated (\$14,000) increase in the costs associated with the Music Program, reflecting the need to hire additional assistance for the Organist Choir Master from February through November, and a \$5,000 increase in labor costs resulting from floods, leaks and other unexpected maintenance events in the Parish House and Church.

Once again, the bright spot in the financial picture was supplied by the Bazaar. Through the tireless efforts of a large cadre of wonderful volunteers, the Bazaar produced a record income of \$131,770; an increase of \$9,357 over 2016. The net income, as of 12/31/17, increased by 67,828, also represented an increase over 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Darling Parkin



Treasurer

A NOTE FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Bishop Ian's memorable comment – "Church doesn't end on Sunday" – during his 2017 visit to St. John's has stayed with us as we have worked to prepare the Church's budget for 2018.

The Budget for 2018 has been prepared based on estimated pledge income of \$190,000. To date pledges received total approximately \$170,000. Expenses have been reduced substantially wherever possible.

The proposed budget for 2018 seeks to cover reasonably anticipated expenses for 2018 and create a surplus at year end. Without the active participation of every member of the congregation in the declaration and fulfillment of pledges, reaching that goal will not be possible.

For those who have already submitted their pledges for 2018, several have increased the amount of their pledges; and together with a total of 7 new first-time pledgers, have added over \$20,000 to the projected 2018 pledged income. In addition, this year – which positively affects the monthly cash-flow – an increased number of pledgers have elected to schedule monthly credit card payments.

There is still a gap in the pledge income goal for 2018, which easily can be closed if those who have not yet pledged do their part to support the Church's mission. Once we know that there is sufficient pledged income to fulfill our financial obligations to staff and vendors (for fuel, utilities, plowing, etc.) for 2018, we can focus on the real work of being a Church in today's world: enriching and deepening our spiritual life together and serving the wider community as we are all called to do.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Coleman, Wendy Parkin, Andris Kalnins, Sarah Lee Martin

The Budget Committee

Thank you to all who have made pledges to support St. John's Church in 2018

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Adams
Mr. Francis Arcaro & Mr. James Booth
Mr. & Mrs. William Bardel
Dr. & Mrs. Jay Bauer
Ms. Joan M. Beattie
Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Bent
Ms. Lisa M. Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Daly
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas T. Daniels
Mrs. Mary Davis
Mr. Michael Del Nin & Mr. Sean Krebs
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Di Fabrizio
Ms Sophie. Sutton-Drubner & Mr. Jeffrey Drubner
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Dubow
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dulack
Mrs. Natalie Dyer
Mr. & Mrs. Dyer-Benson
Ms. Ashleigh Fernandez
Ms. Holly Flor & Capt. Rudy Mangels
Ms. Anne Fuchs
Mr. & Mrs. David Gillespie
Mrs. Wallace H. Gray
Ms. Diana Hardee
Mr. & Mrs. Nikko Hayes
Mr. Steven James & Mr. David Lewandowski
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Keating
Ms. Brigitte Kleine & Mr. Robert Micheletto
Ms. Barbara Kohn
Mr. Henry Kunhardt
Miss Tillie Page Laird
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Littlefield
Mr. & Mrs. William Luers
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Magee
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Markert
Ms. Sarah Lee Martin & Mr. Andris Kalnins
Ms. Susan McFeely
Ms. Julia Metcalf
Ms. Katharine Michie
Mrs. Wendy Darling Parkin
Ms. Kirsten Peckerman
Mr. Rodney Pleasants
Mr. Alexander Purves
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Smith
Mr. & Mrs. John Strawbridge
Dr. Ann Belford Ulanov
Ms. Hedda Von Goeben
Mr. Richard Wallgren & Mr. Martin K. Rook
Ms. Carol Ward
Mr. Robert P. Wessely & The Rev. Susan J. McCone
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Witt
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wright

As of January 26, 2018

2018 PROJECTED BUDGET

| <u>Account Name</u> | <u>2018 Budget</u> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Pledge | \$190,000.00 |
| Payments of 2012-2016 Pledges in Arrears | \$10,000.00 |
| Plate and Non-Pledge Restricted & Unrestricted | \$60,000.00 |
| Bazaar | \$125,000.00 |
| Other Special Fundraising Events | \$26,850.00 |
| Other Miscellaneous Income (1) | \$48,500.00 |
| Endowment Fund | \$28,500.00 |
| Liturgical Supplies and Flowers | \$10,000.00 |
| Pension Group Contribution (2) | \$61,320.00 |
| Total Income | \$560,170.00 |
| Education (3) | \$1,000.00 |
| Clergy & Music (4) | \$183,845.00 |
| Financial Services (5) | \$9,250.00 |
| Fund Raising Expense Accounts | \$68,500.00 |
| Liturgical Supplies and Flowers | \$16,500.00 |
| Maintenance (6) | \$44,000.00 |
| Outreach (7) | \$34,250.00 |
| Parish Administration (8) | \$67,500.00 |
| Parish Life (9) | \$19,500.00 |
| Property Insurance & Taxes | \$10,750.00 |
| Utilities | \$38,500.00 |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$493,595.00</u> |
| Difference | \$66,575 |

(1) Includes Church/Parish Hall rentals, Hospitality Income, Memorial Fees & Contributions and Bequests, & Hull Management Fee

(2) The Church will be reimbursed up to 70% of the Rector's salary for the period of her short-term disability leave which is expected to last approximately three months.

(3) Includes Church School Director compensation; Child Care; Church School Supplies; Adult Forum; and Library.

(4) Includes Clergy and OCM compensation, pension, professional dues and continuing education; Sheet music; Paid musicians; Organ/Piano upkeep; and Supply Organist.

(5) Includes Accountant; Bank Fees; and Credit Card Merchant Fees

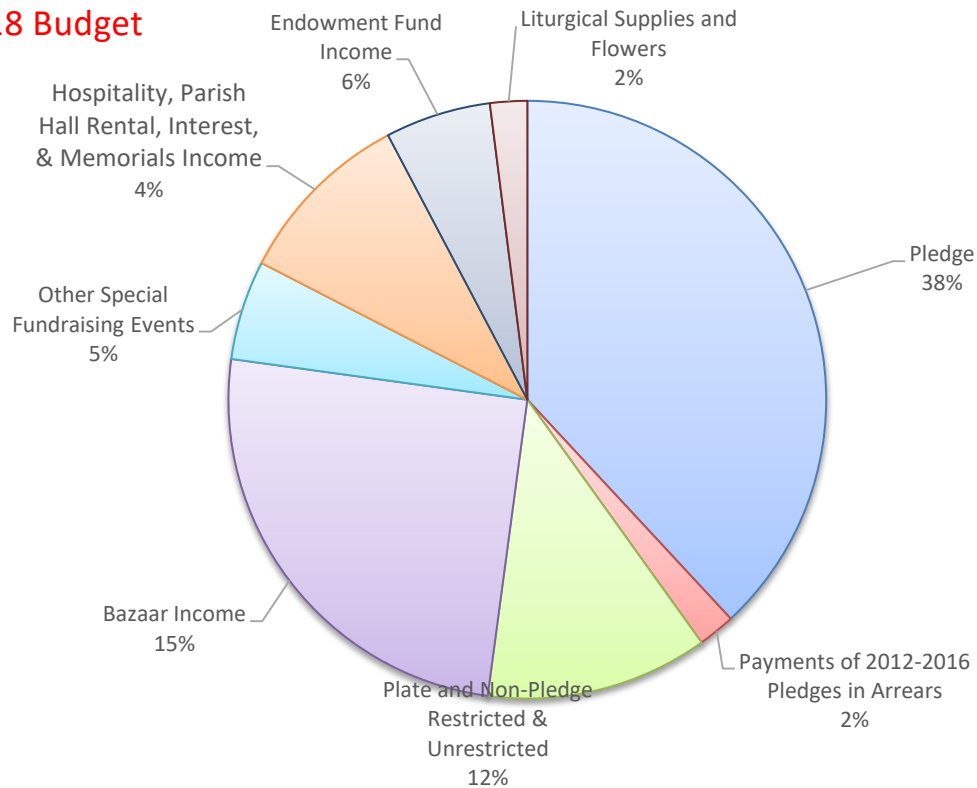
(6) Includes Alarm, Electrical, Grounds Maintenance, General Maintenance, Pest Control, HVAC, Davis Hollow Maintenance, and Sexton's compensation

(7) Includes Diocesan Pledge for Outreach, Contributions to St. John's Fund and other community organizations, and outreach supplies.

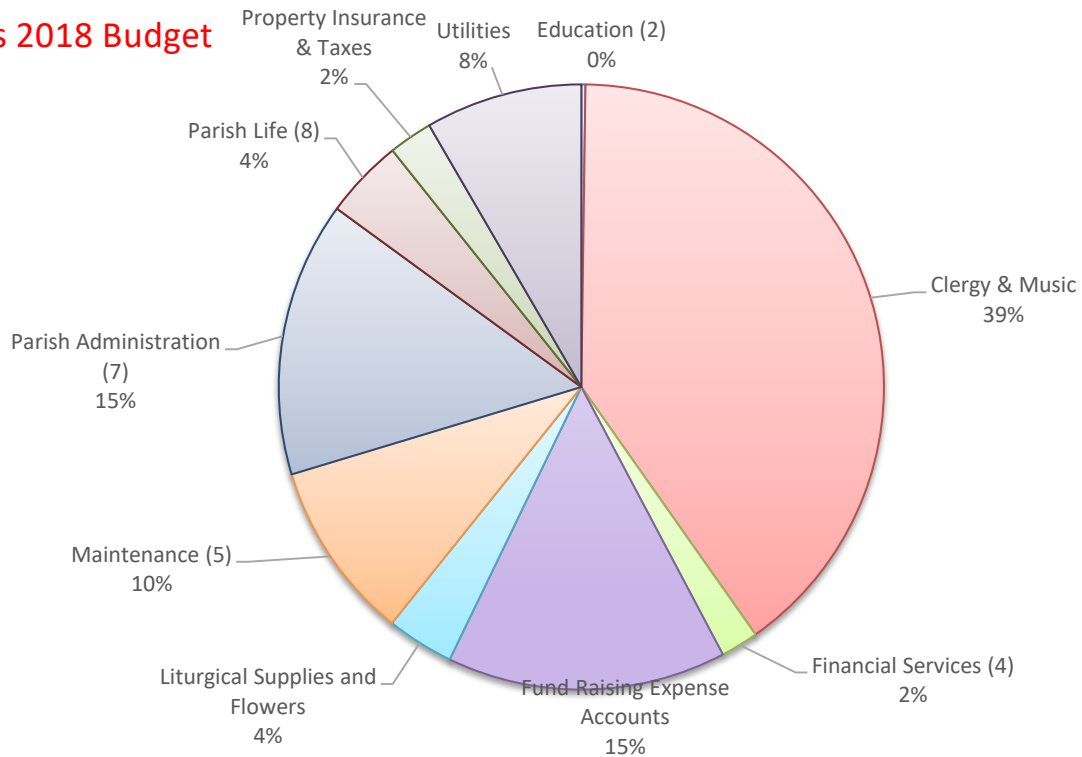
(8) Includes Parish Administrator and bookkeeper compensation; office supplies and equipment, postage; advertising and signage.

(9) Includes Hospitality; Stewardship; and Vestry.

Income 2018 Budget

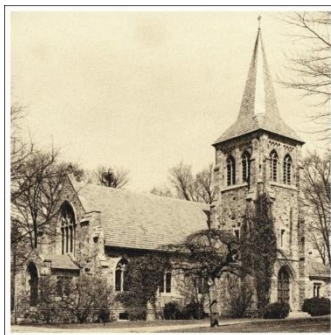
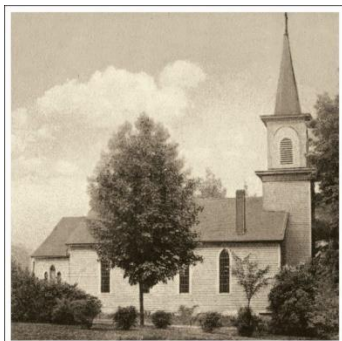


Expenses 2018 Budget



As of January 26, 2018

REPORT ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR 2017



2017 was a year of progress. Additional dollars were raised and significant work was accomplished. To date, the Foundation has received \$1,401,504 in gifts and grants for the restoration project.

GIVE LOCAL CHALLENGE

The St. John's Foundation finished the Give Local Challenge in April at the top of the leaderboard, receiving \$118,719 in individual donations, plus \$3,000 in prize money, and \$14,622 in bonus dollars for a total of **\$136,341**.

NORTHWEST CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION awarded the Foundation \$10,000 to be applied to the restoration of the Church windows. A major fundraising effort will be launched in the spring to begin the process of repairing the windows on the South side. It is estimated that the cost of that work will be \$126,470.



Plans to raise that money will focus on a broad appeal to the wider parish and Washington communities to purchase a single "pane" or an entire window with gifts ranging from \$250 to \$50,000.

NEXT STEPS

Extensive masonry and stone work still remains to be done in order to restore the exterior walls of the Church. It is estimated that this work will cost approximately \$500,000-\$600,00. The work that needs to be done includes removing all loose flagstone and biological growth, as well as all painted masonry coating, residual chemical sealants; cutting out old and deteriorated mortar joints to a minimum depth of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, or back to sound, solid back-up material (not to exceed 1 inch depth); and re-pointing all mortar joints found to be open, shelled, cracked, damaged, deteriorated or otherwise defective. It is estimated that at least 15% of all joints will require re-pointing at the front and side entrances to the Church (Narthex and Vestibule), and that all cracked, damaged and deteriorating stones need to be replaced with new stone that matches existing surrounding stone.

THANK YOU

Our special thanks to all those who have made a significant contribution to the restoration of the historic Rossiter Church. To date, \$1,401,504 has been received or pledged toward our goal of \$2,500,000.

Our thanks also to the members of the Restoration and Advisory Committees who have provided support in many ways, including their generous financial contributions to the project:

Restoration Committee

Anne. H. Van Ingen, Katherine Mowbray Michie, *Honorary Chairs*
Edward S. Bent, Hunter Brown, Thomas Hollinger,
Susan & Philip Markert,
Jean Solomon, Solomon & Sofford, LLC, *Project Manager*
Daniel Rothbart, Architectural Preservation Studio, *Project Architects in formation*

Advisory Committee

Mary Davis, David Gillespie, *Co-Chairs*. Thomas Hollinger, *Advisor*
Julie & Robert Bailey, William Bardel, Jean Blanchard, Lisa Coleman, Michael Del Nin,
Natalie Dyer, Victoria Elliot, Nancy Evans, Holly Flor & Rudy Mangels, Anne Sutherland Fuchs,
Toni & James Goodale, Jane Whitney, Judy & Douglas Hamilton,
Audrey & Kenneth Hecken, Kathy & John Kehoe, Carolyn Klemm, Barbara & Gene Kohn,
Tillie Page Laird, Sarah Lee Martin, Adriana & Robert Mnuchin, Nancy & John Novogrod,
Cynthia Oneglia & Dan Whalen, Kirsten Peckerman, Rodney Pleasants, Abbey Darer Rosenwald,
Joanna Seitz, Marlene Smith, Sophie Sutton-Drubner, Richard Wallgren

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT FOR 2017

BUILDINGS

THE CHURCH:

Thanks to the generous contributors to the Capital Campaign, the complete restoration of the slate roof was completed by March 2017, and dedicated at a special service on October 29 following a brunch in the Parish Hall. A bagpiper led the procession from the Parish House, through a torrential downpour, into the dry protection under the new eaves where The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson blessed the roof with prayers and clouds of incense.

The slate from the original roof has been broken down into coasters and cheese platters, which were sold at the Food Fest and Bazaar, so that friends and parishioners can now enjoy sharing a bit of St. John's history with friends and family. The remaining bits of slate have been crushed into gravel, which will be used for the walkway in the new Memorial Garden, which hopefully will be installed in 2018.



After the completion of the roof, the restoration focus shifted to the ramp and stairs at the porch entrance to the Church. The cement was crumbling, and the railings were no longer secure, requiring the stairs and ramp to be completely replaced.

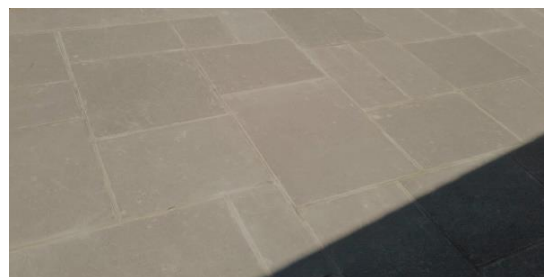


In addition to the roof restoration, and sidewalk and ramp repair, other safety issues required attention in 2017. An inspection by the Fire Marshall indicated that new exterior emergency lighting, emergency exit signs and fire extinguishers be installed. A return visit from the Fire Marshall certified that the Church was fully compliant with all regulations.

At the end of the year, a leak in the Church's basement revealed a significant issue with the septic system. Temporary repairs were made so the bathroom is operable. The larger issue will be addressed in the spring, when the ground is thawed enough to allow a full assessment of the problem and needed repair.

THE PARISH HOUSE:

While the Parish House's exterior repair and repainting was completed in July 2016, (thanks to an anonymous gift from a generous parishioner), several leaks in the roof began to appear during the year in the main hall and in the bathrooms. Despite attempts to patch the roof, it finally became clear that the entire roof of the Parish House had to be completely replaced; that work was completed just before the big rains in the first week of November.



The front patio, and the stairs and ramp on the side entrance, like their counterparts at the Church, were crumbling and unsafe. The front patio, stairs and the side stairs, walkway and ramp were replaced and work was completed by late August.

The Fire Marshall's inspection required exit lights to be repaired and outdated fire extinguishers replaced.

There were multiple incidents of fire and smoke alarms going off at all hours. Thankfully, there was no fire or smoke. We continue to deal with the various reasons these alarms were triggered, and the complications and disruptive effects these alarms cause with connected services, such as the phone service.

THE RECTORY:

The Rectory managed to survive the year without any major incidents. Some minor repairs to the furnace were required, and the roof over the kitchen and around the chimney was replaced in May to prevent further leaks.

GROUNDS:

In the late summer, it was discovered that the main water line that runs between the Rectory and the Church was leaking (more like gushing!) water, requiring the entire line to be excavated and repaired, and the driveway to be partially repaved.

Snow plowing and every-other-week mowing is done by Domus VI who are reliable and responsive to special requests. The ordinary "grooming" of the property -- plantings, weeding, sweeping, edging, watering etc. -- is largely done by outside contractors that are engaged on an "as needed" basis.

Plans are underway to install a Memorial Garden, designed by parishioner Julia Metcalf. Some funds have been raised, but before installation can begin, approximately \$40,000 in additional funds is needed. In addition to the landscaping and planting, the project includes removing the shed, (which is already assisting in that work itself by falling down!), extending the Cottage garage to provide additional and much needed storage space.



Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Dubow", written over a light-colored background.

Charles Dubow

LITURGICAL REPORT FOR 2017

In 2017 the following services were held at St. John's Church:

Sunday Eucharists: 85

Weekday Eucharists: (including Ash Wednesday): 3

Private Eucharists: (at homes or in hospitals): 2

Daily Offices – Weekday: 3, Sunday 9

Other Services including Stations of the Cross, Blessing of the Animals, etc: 12

Burials: 3

Baptisms: 2

Marriages: 2

Attendance at all services: 4,068

In September 2017 St. John's instituted a monthly Family Service, at the request of some of our new parishioners, during which the youngest worshippers actively participate as readers and greeters. The Family Services typically include Holy Communion, hymns accompanied by Nathan Lively at the organ, readings by the youngest parishioners and short homilies by Mthr. Susan. The services are a lively, somewhat relaxed, but perfectly orthodox, with the liturgy following the Book of Common Prayer. The service attracts a regular and loyal attendance of young people, parents and friends.

The Clergy participating at these services during the course of the year included:

The Rev. Paul Christopherson

The Rev. John M. Gilpin

The Rev. Paul Jacobson

The Rev. Carol Hoidra

The Rev. Susan J. McCone

The Rev. Bevan Stanley

The Rev. Sherry Hardwick Thomas

The Licensed Chalciers and Lay Readers for 2017 were:

Frank Arcaro (Reader)

Joan M. Beattie (Chalice/Reader)

Rosalind Benedict (Reader)

Rebecca Bent (Chalice/Reader)

Jean R. Blanchard (Chalice/Reader)

James Booth (Chalice/Reader)

Hunter Brown (Reader)

Sara Coles (Reader)

Thomas T. Daniels (Chalice/Reader)

Holly Flor (Reader)

Thomas H. Hollinger (Chalice/Reader)

Mary Jo Keating (Chalice/Reader)

Tillie Page Laird (Chalice)

John A. Magee (Chalice/Reader)

Marlene Smith (Chalice/Reader)

Robert P. Wessely (Chalice/Reader)

Our many thanks to Isobel Moore, who in 2017 became the Administrator for Liturgy, largely to assist the Organist Choir Master. She is responsible not only for the production of the weekly service bulletin, but also for the coordination of the Lay Liturgical Assistants, Clergy, Altar Guild, Greeters.

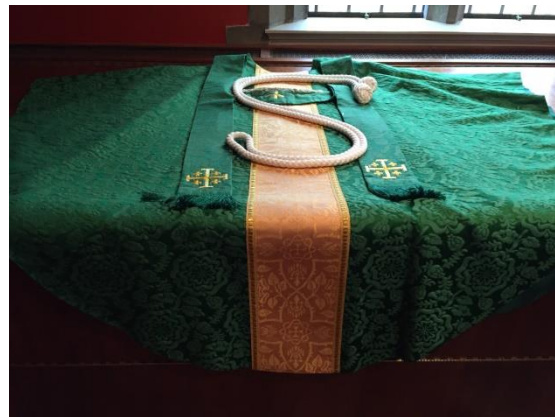
ALTAR GUILD REPORT FOR 2017

Members of the Altar Guild perform an essential service, working quietly behind the scenes to prepare the Church not only for the regular Sunday services but also for all the additional services during Lent and Holy Week, and the festival days of Easter, Pentecost and Christmas, as well as the occasional special service such as a wedding, funeral or baptism. In 2017, members of the Altar Guild served at three funerals and two baptisms.

In 2017 we welcomed Charles Dubow to the Altar Guild. He joined long-term members Joanne Bauer, Camille Gillespie, Diana Hardee, Susie Magee, Sarah Lee Martin, Ginny Reynolds and Martin Rook who served under the direction of MB Witt.

At the close of the year, MB Witt retired from the Altar Guild and as its Director after serving in that capacity for four years – one year beyond the 3-year term she had agreed to serve. We are so grateful to MB for her dedication to this ministry. We also thank retiring members Diana Hardee and Ginny Reynolds for their many, many years of service.

We would happily welcome new members to the Altar Guild. The work is not difficult, nor does it require a huge time commitment. Most members serve just one Sunday each month, setting the Altar with the finest Fair Linen, brass candlesticks with beeswax candles, silver Chalice and Paten, and crystal Cruets filled with water and wine – just as in our own homes we might prepare for a dinner party using our best linens, china, silver and crystal. And after the service, we clean up – we “do the dishes for God.” We work as a team, helping one another, and will gladly train new members.



Respectfully submitted,

Isobel Moore

Isobel Moore, Administrator for Liturgy

MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2017

It is said that *“music reaches the soul when words cannot and that the combination of words and music can move into the very core of humanity.”* As a Parish, St. John’s seeks to support music as a special ministry, recognizing it most importantly as enriching the worship experience.

In 2017, the Music Program continued to meet the Parish’s high expectations with the contributions of the dedicated Choir on Sundays, and an exciting Concert Series Program, which featured artists that undeniably met “exceptional expectations.”

The 2017 Concert Series opened on June 11th with Christopher Johnson, pianist, with a performance of works by Chopin, Gershwin and Rachmaninoff.

On September 17th, the Series offered a truly unique musical experience with the Ensemble Chaconne, performing a program of works by the leading composers of the 16th century written to accompany Shakespeare’s celebrated plays, such as “Go from My Window” from Hamlet, “The Full Fathom Five” from The Tempest, “The Witches’ Dances” from Macbeth, “Greensleeves” from The Merry Wives of Windsor and many more.



The grand finale of the Concert Series on October 15th featured The Escher Quartet, resident artists of the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, who were invited back by universal demand. The Quartet captivated the 2017 Concert Series’ audience with its musical mastery, presenting a program of works by Haydn, Adès and Beethoven.

Last year the Music Program supplemented its participation at regular Sunday worship services with several additional special services...each of which truly embodied the spirit of reaching out to, and engaging with, the greater local community.



In June and October, St. John’s offered Celtic Evensongs, celebrating the seasons of spring and autumn. On each occasion, guests enjoyed a unique service that featured alluring strains of a Celtic Harp, Fiddle, Highland Pipes and mystical Celtic music. Enthusiastically attended by almost 100 guests, these services were two of the most memorable worship experiences of the year.

In December, the traditional Festival of Lessons and Carols featured music and readings ranging from the 17th Century to present day. The well-attended event offered everyone a chance to sing their favorite carols and celebrate life together in the greater Washington community.

St. John's is extremely fortunate to have immediately been able to secure the services of the very talented, accomplished, and experienced Organist Choir Master -- Nathan Lively -- who assumed the position of Organist Choir Master, following Mark Johnson's resignation as Organist and Choirmaster, citing versions of ill health, effective November 30th.

St. John's is blessed to have Nathan "on board." He has already substantially contributed to the prospect of an enhanced Music Program. He has faced the need to rebuild the Choir with vigor and has already begun assembly of a Music Committee, as well as planning for a 2018 Concert Series that plays such an important role in St. John's overall mission.

A musical prodigy, Nathan began his musical studies at age six and was playing in church by age seven. Already a nationally recognized and much sought-after musician, he is an active soloist performer, educator and collaborative artist. He was hailed by the Chicago Tribune in 2015 as one of the nation's leading young organists. Nathan is known for his imaginative programming, revitalization of obscure pieces, and fiery playing. He is among a group of talented, collaborative and innovative young musicians who are raising the bar of church music in Connecticut.

2017 Choir members: Hunter Brown, Isabella Dubow, Robert Coles, Laura Daly, Laura Evans, Jonathan Hall, Jordan Lee, Rudy Mangels, Anne Ranson, and Monte Stone.

ST. ELIZABETH GUILD REPORT FOR 2017

In addition to its core yearly community outreach efforts, this year the St. Elizabeth Guild expanded its program to include hurricane relief assistance and contributions to the newly opened Warren Food Bank.

Throughout the year, St. John's partnered with Covenant to Care, a local organization focused on needy children.

At Easter, the Easter Basket project created 24 baskets filled with goodies and toys.

In August, generous parishioners filled 29 backpacks with back-to-school essentials, (books, crayons, pencils, coloring books), and of course...backpacks.

In November, working with the Town of Washington, the Guild baked two dozen pies for the Town's Thanksgiving baskets. The pie boxes were decorated by the youngest worshippers before the new Saturday 4:30 pm Family Service, and presented by them at the Altar for blessing at the Offertory.

In December, friends and parishioners donated toys, books, stuffed animals, coloring books and all sorts of fun "under-the-tree" goodies that, once again, helped make many children's Christmas mornings special.

Every Month, a growing group of people (averaging between 12-28), attend the Parson's Table Lunch, on the first Wednesday of every month in the Parish House, enjoying good food and fellowship.



In 2017, the Guild increased its local "give back to the community," when the new Warren Food Bank opened in the summer. Parishioners and friends made an astoundingly positive and generous response. The foyer of the Parish Hall and side entrance of the Church were overflowing with donations, which significantly restocked the nearly empty shelves of the Food Bank. This will be an ongoing effort in 2018.

2017 was a year of several and severe natural tragedies, to which friends and parishioners responded with donations of over \$2,000 to a Hurricane Relief Assistance program devoted to the most affected areas of Florida and Texas

The St. Elizabeth Guild's biggest project is the Food Festival, a portion of the proceeds going to the SJ Emergency Fund, which is administered by the Town. *See the separate report on the Food Festival on page 20.*

In addition to the wider community, the Guild is considering how to better serve the St. John's community itself, especially the increasing needs of our parishioners, many of whom are aging and requirements for assistance increasing, including rides to Church services and events, marketing, pharmacy runs, doctor visits, etc. If you'd like to be involved in helping participate in this effort, or have ideas, please contact the Parish Office.



BAZAAR 2017

2017 marked the 28th anniversary of St. John's Holiday Bazaar. In the past few years, the Bazaar has evolved into a three-day event opening with the Preview Party on Friday night, continuing with all-day shopping on Saturday and concluding on Sunday with a final opportunity to buy the perfect holiday gift.

This year the Bazaar returned to its regular place on the social calendar, the first weekend in December, and the theme of "An Old-fashioned Country Christmas" inspired our designers to decorate the tent and Parish Hall in shades of red, green and cream, and a profusion of country check ribbons, evergreen trees and wreaths.

The Preview Party proved as popular as ever attracting several hundred guests to socialize and spend, spend, spend, snapping up seasonal goodies and comestibles in the Larder; the perfect designer outfit complete with finishing touches of jewelry, bags and scarves in the Couture Boutique; and items of furniture, objets d'art and table top goods in the Marketplace. Jane Whitney made her brilliantly successful debut as an auctioneer at the Live Auction coaxing more than \$20,000 out of people's pockets. The Silent Auction which included a tempting variety of dinners, shows, and experiences brought in a further \$13,150.

The event is now so big that once again a large tent was erected in the parking lot to house the seven outside vendors who contributed to the success of this year's Bazaar. In addition to four returning vendors, Catch All Living, Che Bellissimo, Indo-Chic and J. McLaughlin, whose beautiful and eclectic merchandise has a dedicated following here in Litchfield County, the Bazaar attracted three new vendors, Ed-It New York, the Melody Rodgers Collection and Sequin. The feedback from all the outside vendors was very positive – they love the event, they love the people, and they look forward to being invited back to St. John's in the future.

On Saturday evening, a celebratory dinner honoring Kenneth and Audrey Hecken and their fifty-plus years of generosity and service to the greater Washington community was held in the Parish Library which was transformed into a winter wonderland of silver, blue and white, lit by soft candlelight. The dinner menu, which featured a first course of lobster bisque and an entrée of tenderloin filet, was prepared entirely in-house by our talented resident cooks.

The Bazaar continues to be a major source of the funds that are used in support of the mission and operation of the Church. To date the 2017 St. John's Holiday Bazaar has grossed in excess of \$131,000, with a net income, after expenses, of more than \$67,000, a record in every category. As always, our thanks go out to the many, many volunteers and friends of St. John's who give of their time, talents and treasures to make this event such a success – we couldn't do it without you!

Respectfully submitted,

Isobel Moore

2017 Bazaar Administrator



REPORT ON THE FOOD FEST FOR 2017

This year, Mother Nature was very cooperative and we had a great day for the Food Fest. In addition to the fun, food and fellowship, the event raised \$1,500 for the St. John's Emergency Fund.

While some of our usual vendors could not make it this year because of conflicts with the Saturday Farmer's Market in the Depot, some of them were generous enough to place an ad in the Food Fest program for a fee equal to a table booth fee.

This year, we welcomed a new vendor, The Bridgewater Cafe, whose mac and cheese station was a tremendous. They generously donated all of their proceeds to the St. John's Fund. The Peruvian roast pork bar-b-q continued to be a hit.

The pony rides and petting zoo were highlights for the children, and everyone enjoyed the blue grass band

Once again, the spirit and energy of our volunteers during set up, the event itself and take down was a major

contributor to our success.

Our thanks go to:

Joan Beattie, Hunter Brown, Lisa Coleman, Sara and Bob Coles, Laura Daly, Tom Daniels, Mary Davis, Charles and Isabella Dubow, Ashley Fernandez,, Bob and Sally Futh, Jonathan Hall, Diana Hardee, Tom Hollinger, Andris Kalnins, Kirsten Knutson, Tillie Page Laird, John and Susie Magee, Sarah Lee Martin, Susan McFeely and MB Witt.

The volunteers were, as always, supported and sustained by an incomparable staff, especially -- Pia,

Sarah, and Wesley -- who worked behind the scenes for weeks and on the day as well attending to the myriad of logistical details that set the stage for the miracle: ordering supplies, creating invitations, signs, e-blasts, advertisements, labels, tracking dinner reservations, wrapping up the mystery bottles of wine, and communicating with all of you.

Most of all, thanks to Laura Daly, who chaired the Food Fest this year; and added to her thanks:

"I thank all who helped me make the Food Fest a success. It was a lot of hard work, but the efforts of the volunteers made it run without a hitch. I also want to thank Susan, Robert, Sarah, Wesley and Pia for making this event easy for me to manage."

The day came to a celebratory close with an old-fashioned classic clambake provided by Tilden's, with a "tur" option for the "land lubbers" among us, enjoyed by 70 parishioners and friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Daly

Laura Daly, Chair





ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT



St. John's understands its Mission as an obligation to respond creatively and faithfully to the emerging and evolving needs of the parish, the wider Episcopal church, and the community of Washington.

St. John's Mission is to fulfill its commitment in its word and actions by...

- responding to the needs of those around us with our hearts and hands and financial resources;
- striving for justice and peace among all people and respecting the dignity of every human being;
- providing a spiritual home for all who join us in worship in keeping with the Anglican tradition according to the Book of Common Prayer;
- serving Christ in all people, loving our neighbors as ourselves;

St. John's understands its Mission as an authentic expression of its unique gifts which together define its spirituality identity as community of faith, specifically

- its instinct for an open and inclusive hospitality, extending God's welcome in broad and diverse ways;
- its deep and long-standing commitment to music as an important and integral expression of worship;
- its diverse intellectual resources

DRAFT CALENDAR THROUGH JUNE 2018 (subject to change)

JANUARY

January 21 Vestry Meeting
January 28 Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY

February 7 Parson's Table
February 13 "Fat Tuesday Brunch"
February 14 **ASH WEDNESDAY: EVENING LITURGY**
February 18 The First Sunday in Lent
February 19 President's Day: Office Closed
February 24 Family Service at 5:00 pm
February 24 "Pizza Makes the World Go Round" Bazaar Auction Event
February 25 The Second Sunday in Lent
February 25 Vestry Meeting

MARCH

March 4 The Third Sunday in Lent
March 7 Parson's Table Hosted by the Vestry
March 11 The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 18 The Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 18 Vestry Meeting
March 25 **PALM SUNDAY**
March 28 **TENNEBRAE**
March 29 **TRIDUUM: MAUNDY THURSDAY, FOOTWASHING, SEDER SUPPER**
March 30 **TRIDUUM: GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY**
March 30 The First Night of Passover
March 31 **TRIDUUM: HOLY SATURDAY – THE GREAT VIGIL**
March 31 "Litchfield Distillery" Bazaar Auction Event

APRIL

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| April 1 | RESURRECTION SUNDAY |
| April 4 | Parson's Table hosted by the Hospitality Group |
| April 20 | "Skeet Shooting" Bazaar Auction Event |
| April 22 | Vestry Meeting |
| April 22 | "My Fair Lady" Bazaar Auction Event |
| April 24 | Give Local Fundraising Drive |
| April 25 | Give Local Fundraising Drive |
| April 29 | "Ine's Indonesian Fest" Bazaar Auction Event |
| TBD | "Fried Chicken for Dummies" Bazaar Auction Event |

MAY

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| May 2 | Parson's Table hosted by St. Elizabeth's Guild |
| May 5 | "Off to the Races" Bazaar Auction Event |
| May 14 - 16 | Clergy Conference |
| May 20 | Vestry Meeting |

JUNE

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|---------|-----------------------------------|
| June 6 | Parson's Table hosted by Greeters |
| TBD | Washington Community Day |
| June 24 | Vestry Meeting |

NOTES

NOTES



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S PARISH

CLERGY

The Rev. Susan McCone, *Rector*

STAFF

Nathan Lively, *Interim Organist Choirmasters*

Pia Gandt, *Parish Administrator*

Isobel Moore, *Administrator for Liturgy*

Joan Burgess, *Capital Campaign Administrator*

Sarah Eyre, *Finance Director*

OFFICE HOURS AND EMERGENCIES

The Parish Office is open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Should you wish to make an appointment to see Mother Susan, please call the Parish Office, during normal office hours. If there is a pastoral emergency, please call either the Parish Office at 860-868-2527 or the Rectory (860-868-9741).

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