

“Church doesn’t end on Sunday...”



“...it is everything we do every day, Monday through Sunday!”

St. John's Annual Report for 2016

Held on January 22, 2017

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



ANNUAL MEETING

January 22, 2017



AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

PRESENTATION OF THE SLATE FOR ELECTION TO THE VESTRY

ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2016

PRESENTATION OF THE 2017 BUDGET

REPORT OF THE PLEDGE APPEAL FOR 2017

REPORT OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

OTHER REPORTS

Buildings and Grounds for 2016
Liturgical Report for 2016
Altar Guild for 2016
Flower Committee for 2016
Music Program for 2016
Church School for 2016
Hospitality Committee for 2016
St. Elizabeth Guild for 2016
2016 Food Festival
2016 Bazaar

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JANUARY 24, 2016

The Reverend Susan McCone opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting marks the 222nd year of St. John's Church in Washington, Connecticut.

The meeting was well attended with 35 qualified voting members present.

The Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were accepted. There were suggestions that the Minutes be distributed ahead of time. Mother Susan said that because volunteers do most of the work preparing materials for the meeting it is difficult to distribute materials in advance.

The slate of Officers and Vestry members was presented. There were no nominations from the floor, and the Clerk of the Vestry cast one vote for the unanimous acceptance of the nominations. The motion was seconded, accepted and passed. The following Officers and members of the Vestry were elected as presented:

Thomas Hollinger for a new 2-year term as Warden

Peter Harrison for a 1-year term as Treasurer

Andris Kalnins for a new 3-year term as Member

Natalie Dyer for a new 3-year term as Member

Darcy Campbell for a 2-year term to fill an unexpired term

Wendy Parkin for a 1-year term as Clerk of the Vestry

Joan M. Beattie for a 1-year term as Assisting Clerk of the Vestry

Mother Susan thanked Helen Gray for her long service on the Vestry and as Warden, and thanked Bob Futh for his long service on the Vestry.

The Treasurer's Report for 2015 and the proposed budget for 2016 were approved as presented. These were available in printed form in the Annual Report along with charts showing the allocation of the projected income and expenses for 2016. Mr. Daniels thanked the staff for their help in preparing the report.

Mr. Harrison spoke about Stewardship and urged people to complete paying their pledges for 2015.

Mother Susan called special attention to various aspects of Parish Life, and thanked all those who have worked so hard this year. Mother Susan called attention to the various reports in the Annual Report that was distributed, especially the report on the Capital Campaign and the Buildings and Grounds report.

A motion was made to thank Mother Susan for all she does for St. John's Church. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Following a prayer, the meeting was adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Beattie

Joan M. Beattie, Clerk of the Vestry

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY FOR 2017

The Vestry presents the following nominations for Officers and new members of the Vestry to begin serving as of February 2017.

David Gillespie and Susan McFeely

For a 2-year terms as Wardens

Joan Beattie; Clerk

Wendy Parkin, Treasurer; **Tom Daniels**, Assisting Treasurer

Vestry

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

HOLLY FLOR

Holly was born in New York City, and is a graduate of the University of California. She and her husband, Rudy Mangels, have had a home in Roxbury, Connecticut for nearly forty years. Holly worked in advertising for twenty-five years and currently manages family properties and investments. She and Rudy have two children, Bradaigh Flor and the late Matthew Flor. Holly and Rudy were married, at Saint John's, as was Bradaigh, and have been communicants for nearly forty years. She previously served on the Vestry of St. John's and has been a two term past Warden. Her other community involvements include service as a Trustee and Board member of New Milford Hospital and Trustee of the Gunn Memorial Library and Museum. She has also served on the Parent boards of the Groton School and Princeton University, the Alumnae Foundation Board of the University of California and on the Board of Rumsey Hall School. Rudy is a former Navy pilot and retired American Airlines Captain and has sung in the Saint John's Choir and for many years.

DAVID GILLESPIE

David spent many (probably too many) years in school, graduating from Wesleyan with a major in philosophy, a Master's degree from the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, and a law degree from Georgetown. He is now a partner at the firm of Norton Rose Fulbright, and has been practicing law for more years than he will admit. His wife of 34 years is Camille, and his children, Elizabeth and John participated in the youth group at St. John's. For many years he attended St. Mary the Virgin in New York, where he also served on the Board of Trustees. He has been attending St. John's since 1998, where he has served on the vestry and our current Capital Campaign.

SUSAN MCFEELY

Susan was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland. She is a graduate of The Roland Park Country School, Stratford College and attended Parsons School of Design in New York. Susan worked on Wall Street for 35 years where she was an Executive Director in the Investment Banking Department of UBS Securities LLC until her retirement in 2012. She maintained residences in New York and Litchfield and served as a member of the Board of her Coop for six years. She is now a fulltime resident of Litchfield with her ever-hungry yellow lab named Tulip. Susan is a member of the Litchfield Country Club, the Historic District Commission of Litchfield and is an active supporter of many Litchfield County charities. In her spare time, she enjoys walking Tulip in White Memorial, playing paddle tennis and bridge, wooden jigsaw puzzles, and the New York Times Crosswords.

WENDY PARKIN

Wendy Darling Parkin, graduated from Stanford University in 1965, with a BA in History. She was the youngest female to receive certification as a registered representative of the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange in the State of California in 1967. Following positions in management in financially related enterprises, she established Wendy Darling Financial Management in 1980 and has since solved problems in asset allocation, personal investment management, corporate risk assessment and abatement, tax planning and real estate management for a variety of clients operating in international business, medicine and technology. She and her husband, Fred Parkin, have two children, Kathryn and James, and split their time living in San Francisco in winter and summer and Litchfield in fall and spring.

MARLENE SMITH

Marlene Smith, wife of Christopher Smith, is a mother and grandmother, and a 41 year resident of Washington, CT. She graduated from Keuka College with a BA, and subsequently received a Master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Southern CT State University. A former social worker in the town of Washington and retired Marriage and Family therapist at Wellspring and The Kent School, she is currently a board member at Susan B. Anthony Project. Smith is rejoining the Vestry once again at St. John's, where she is currently a Reader and Chaliceist, as well as a St. Elizabeth Guild member. Prior to her return, she served as President and Co-Chair for the Capital Campaign.

Respectfully submitted:

The Nominating Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2016

Operating income in 2016 totaled \$447,100 and expenses totaled \$503,737 . The Vestry had budgeted a \$14,000 deficit for the year, but anticipated that some additional income from plate contributions, legacies and memorial gifts, while difficult to determine in advance, would eliminate the deficit during the course of the year.

Unfortunately, we received no legacies in 2016 (in comparison in 2015 we received \$80,000 in legacy gifts), plate contributions did not reach the projected goal, and several 2016 pledges (\$13,500) remained unfulfilled at year end, including two substantial pledges which were outstanding at the time of the parishioner's death during 2016. However, the Bazaar produced record gross (\$126,000) and net (\$80,000) incomes for the fourth year in a row. That fact, plus an opening surplus of \$22,227 carried over from 2015, \$6,350 in non-pledge receivables, and \$15,632 in income received in the first two weeks of 2017 attributable to 2016, helped reduce the actual year-end deficit to \$12,528.

The 2017 budget projects total income of \$ 509,000 with conservative estimates of Bazaar and other non-pledge income, and all discretionary expenses cut basically to the bone. The \$235,000 projected income from restricted, and unrestricted pledges combined seems reasonable considering actual pledges received to date total \$221,000, with additional pledges still anticipated. Expenses are estimated to be \$527,000 projecting an operating deficit of \$17,500.

As always there are a lot of moving parts to income and expenses during the course of the year. With careful monitoring of progress and performance as the year unfolds, we hope to further reduce, if not eliminate, the projected deficit.

Respectfully submitted,



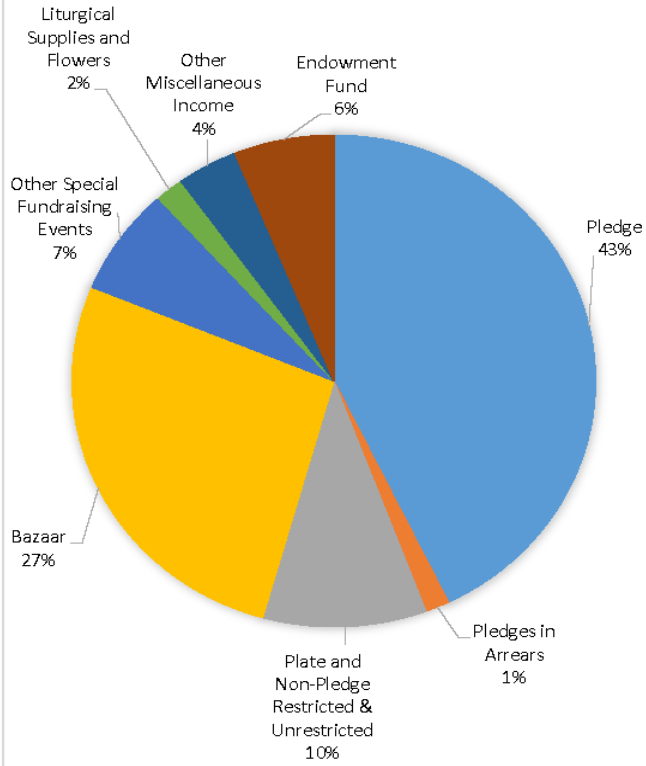
Thomas T. Daniels, Treasurer

A NOTE FROM THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

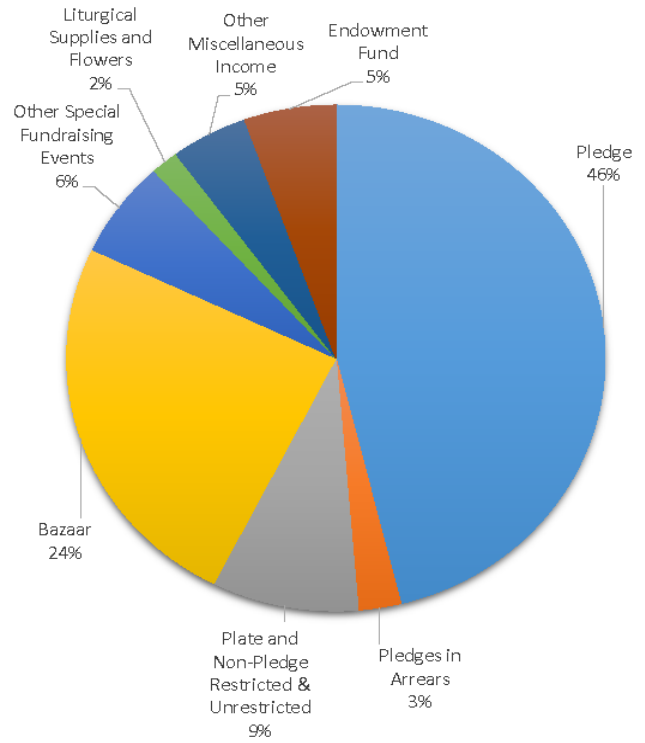
Bishop Ian's memorable comment – "Church doesn't end on Sunday" – during his recent visit to St. John's and our meeting with him as members of the Vestry and Budget Committee has stayed with us as we have worked to prepare the Church's budget for 2017.

With that sense of mission in mind, please note on the following charts that the following line items in the 2017 budget have been reduced from 2016 levels: maintenance (3%, salary); education (1%, Church School); fundraising expenses (4%); parish life (3%, hospitality). The following line items were projected to continue at 2016 levels: clergy salary; outreach; insurance; liturgical supplies and flowers. The following line items were increased to reflect the indicated rise in costs: administration (1%, postage and salaries); utilities (2%); and music (4%, OCM salary).

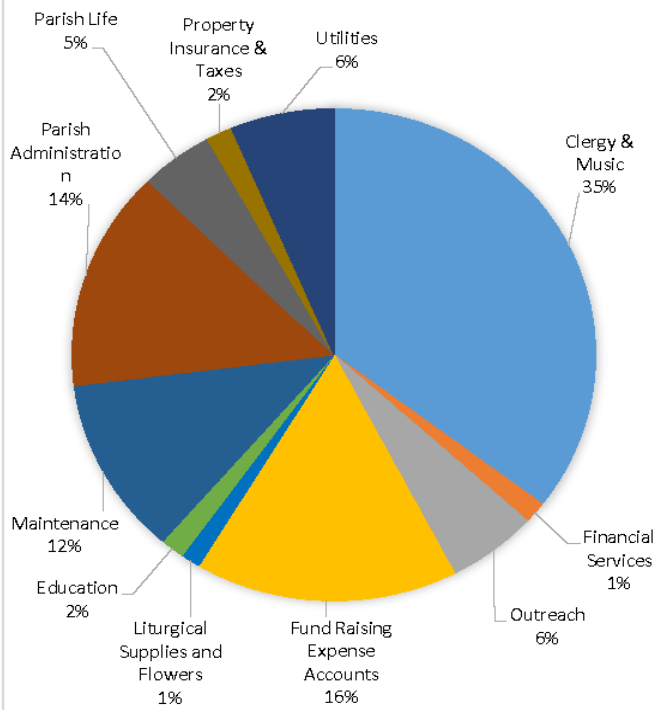
2016 ACTUAL INCOME



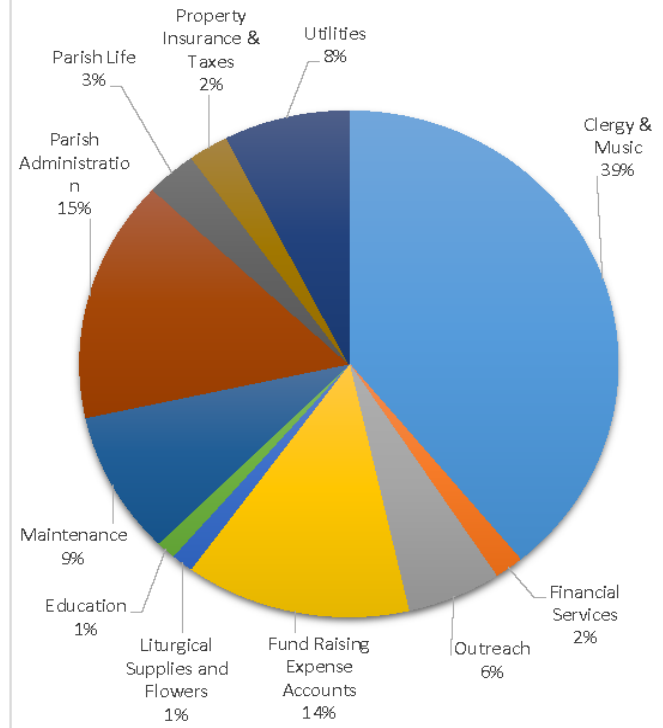
2017 PROJECTED INCOME



2016 ACTUAL EXPENSES



2017 PROJECTED EXPENSES



2017 PROJECTED BUDGET

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>
Pledge (1)	235,000
Payments of 2012-2015 Pledges in Arrears (2)	13,000
Plate and Non-Pledge Restricted & Unrestricted	45,000
Bazaar (3)	125,000
Other Special Fundraising Events (4)	31,500
Other Miscellaneous Income (5)	23,500
Endowment Fund	28,000
Liturgical Supplies and Flowers	8,500
Total Income	509,500
Education (6)	6,250
Clergy & Music (7)	205,780
Financial Services (8)	9,250
Fund Raising Expense Accounts (9)	71,350
Liturgical Supplies and Flowers	7,000
Maintenance (10)	47,950
Outreach (11)	29,750
Parish Administration (12)	81,500
Parish Life (13)	16,000
Property Insurance & Taxes	12,700
Utilities	39,500
Total Expenses	527,030
Difference	(17,530)

(1) Restricted and Unrestricted

(2) \$13,522 in 2011-2015 pledges remain unpaid from persons who have confirmed their intention to pay. An additional \$14,069 in 2016 pledges are still outstanding and being carried forward. We anticipate collecting some of the arrearage in 2017, but not all.

(3) Includes \$5819 in 2016 Bazaar receipts to be received in January 2017.

(4) Includes receipts for the Concert Series, Food Fest, Bridge Luncheon and Bookstore

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

(6) Includes Church School Director compensation; Church School supplies; adult forum; and Library.

(7) Includes Clergy and OCM compensation, pension, professional dues and continuing education; sheet music; paid musicians; organ/piano upkeep; and supply organists.

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

(9) Includes Bazaar, Concert Series, Food Fest and Bridge Luncheon expenses.

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

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

(12) Includes Parish Administrator and Bookkeeper compensation; Office supplies and Equipment, Postage; advertising and signage.

(13) Includes Hospitality; Stewardship; and Vestry.

REPORT ON THE PLEDGE APPEAL FOR 2016

The combined distractions of the election and an early Bazaar combined to make our Annual Pledge Appeal very late. As of January 20th, 57 people have responded and pledged approximately \$222,000, but we still have work to do to meet our goal of \$235,000 for 2017.

The good news is that those who have submitted their pledges have increased the annual amount of their pledge by a total of \$47,000. This year it was easier to pledge online and more pledgers elected to schedule a monthly credit card payment.

The pledge appeal theme this year, “Church doesn’t end on Sunday,” emphasized the importance of “commitment” – to the Church as a place of worship and spiritual enrichment, and to its mission to serve the larger community in a variety of ways. We distributed 150 pledge packets to prospective pledgers who have demonstrated significant engagement with the Church. The packets included a personalized letter from Mother Susan, accompanied by illustrated information on how pledge dollars are allocated. Our hope is that with an understanding of what it costs to sustain the Church in today’s world, as well as to maintain our standard of worship and spiritual life, parishioners will continue to increase their financial support of St. John’s.

There is still a \$13,000 gap in the projected goal for 2017 pledges. If the few who pledged last year but have not yet responded to this year’s appeal do so in the next few weeks we can close that gap. We have every expectation that they will. Once we know that we have sufficient pledged income to fulfill our financial obligations to staff and vendors (for fuel, utilities, plowing etc.) for 2017, 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 called to do.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Coleman, Wendy Parkin, Hunter Brown, Tom Hollinger and Thomas Daniels

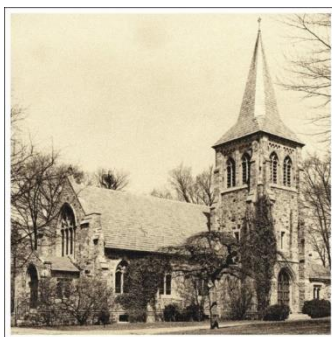
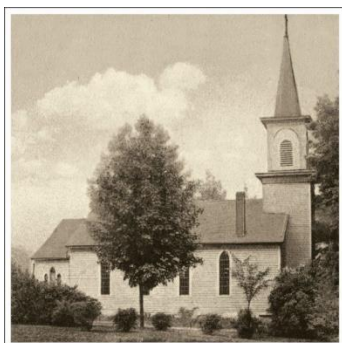
The Budget and Finance Committee

Thank you to all who have made pledges to support St. John's Church in 2017

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Adams
Mr. Francis Arcaro and Mr. James Booth
Mr. & Mrs. William Bardel
Dr. & Mrs. Jay Bauer
Ms. Joan M. Beattie
Mrs. Rosalind Benedict
Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Bent
Mr. & Mrs. John Treacy Beyer
Ms. Flora Biddle
Mr. Hunter Brown & Miss Tillie Page Laird
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Campbell
Ms. Lisa M. Coleman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Coles, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Daly
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas T. Daniels
Mrs. Mary Davis
Mr. Michael Del Nin & Mr. Sean Krebs
Ms. Sophie Sutton-Drubner
Mr. Charles Dubow
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dulack
Mrs. Natalie Dyer
Ms. Ashleigh Fernandez
Ms. Emily Fitzhugh
Ms. Holly Flor & Capt. Rudy Mangels
Mr. William E. Fore
Ms. Ruth M. Forge
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Futh, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. David Gillespie
Mrs. Wallace H. Gray
Ms. Diana Hardee
Mr. and Mrs. Nikko Hayes
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth A. Hecken
Mr. Derek Hughes
Mr. David Ivill and Mr. Vincent Weiner
Mr. Steven James & Mr. David Lewandowski
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Keating
Ms. Brigitte Kleine
Ms. Kirsten Knutson
Ms. Barbara Kohn
Ms. Elizabeth Lacy
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
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur F. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Mitchell
Mrs. Wendy Darling Parkin
Mr. & Mrs. Phillips Payson
Mr. Thomas Pearsall
Ms. Kirsten M. Peckerman
Mr. Ronald Potter
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Purves
Ms. Jeanne Reid & Mr. Greg Anrig
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Rickart
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Smith
Ms. Nancy Tafuri
Dr. Ann Belford Ulanov
Mr. Carter Walker, Jr.
Mr. Richard Wallgren & Mr. Martin K. Rook
Mr. Robert P. Wessely & The Rev. Susan J. McCone
Ms. Zemma Mastin White
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Witt
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wright

As of January 20, 2017

REPORT ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR 2016



REPORT ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR 2016

2016 was a year of great progress on the Capital Campaign...both in terms of dollars raised and actual work accomplished.

Additional contributions from generous parishioners and friends of St. John's, income earned from participation in the Give Local Challenge in May and the performance of *Dear Elizabeth* in September, and a \$50,000 grant received from the Connecticut Trust for Historical Preservation brought the amount raised and pledged to the Capital Campaign in 2016 to \$1,334,111.

GIVE LOCAL CHALLENGE

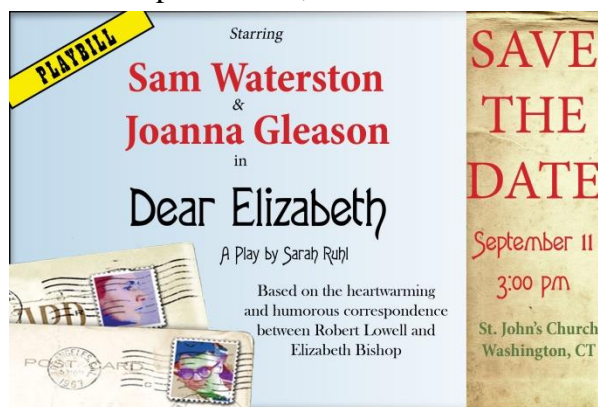
The St. John's Foundation finished the Give Local Challenge at the top of the leaderboard, receiving \$62,150 in individual donations, plus \$3,500 in prize money, and \$7,614 in bonus dollars for a total of \$73,264.

- \$1000 for the most money raised during “kick off” session on May 3rd
- \$500 for the most money raised by an Arts organization between 3 pm – 5pm on May 4th
- \$2000 for the most money raised overall by an organization with an operating budget under \$250,000.



DEAR ELIZABETH

Friends of St. John's came together to enrich the coffers of the Capital Campaign with a benefit performance of *Dear Elizabeth* on September 11, 2016.



Conceived of, organized, produced, and completely underwritten by Adriana Mnuchin, Judy Wallach, Nancy Evans and Ellen McCourt, the one performance only presentation of *Dear Elizabeth*, a play written by Sarah Ruhl, and directed by Dorothy Lyman, was attended by 205 people. The producers, together with 21 generous underwriters, contributed in excess of \$40,000 to the restoration effort, allowing work to replace the slate roof to go forward. (See Buildings and Grounds Report for details of the restoration work completed in 2016 and in progress now.)

NEXT STEPS

A major fundraising effort needs to be mounted for 2017 so the restoration can proceed on the mortar and windows for the Church. It is estimated that the cost of that work will be approximately \$800,000.

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. Another major fundraising event is in the planning stages.

Our special thanks to all those who have made a significant contribution to the restoration of the historic Rossiter Church. To date, \$1,334,111 has been received or pledged toward our goal of \$3,000,000, including \$234,288 raised in 2016 from Give Local (\$73,264), *Dear Elizabeth* (\$50,949) and new pledges and contributions (\$110,075).



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

Restoration Committee

Anne. H. Van Ingen, Katherine Mowbray Michie, *Honorary Chairs*
Edward S. Bent, Hunter Brown, Robert Futh, 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, Dagmar Grimm, 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 2016

BUILDINGS

THE CHURCH:

Most significantly...and visibly...thanks to generous contributions to the Capital Campaign by parishioners and friends of St. John's, work began -- and as of this date, is substantially completed -- on replacing the slate roof of the Church. Although, initially, it had been thought that only 20% of the tiles would need to be replaced, on closer inspection it was clear that 50% were significantly worn or damaged and required replacement. It was determined that rather than picking new tiles, one by one, to match the 50% of the tiles that would remain, it would make more sense from a preservation, aesthetic, labor and financial perspective to replace all of the tiles.

The quantity of slate required resulted in a slight delay in the progress of the work and a consequent extension of the projected date for completion of the project. However, the quarry...the same quarry that supplied the original slate... responded very promptly and by the time new slate arrived at the site, the new insulation, plywood and waterproofing had been completed. When the old slate and underlining were removed it was determined that existing roof decking was in good condition and needed no repair. Work continues to repair the Steeple roofing, installing new copper flashing (very flashy indeed!), and snow guard supports.



The old precast coping stone has been removed, drawings prepared and approved for the new coping stones and fabrication is under way.



There have been several leaks, (most of them relatively minor), in the Church interior during the process, but the organ was de-commissioned by the organ company Foley-Baker (who regularly maintains the organ) and has been "under wraps" (the pipes protected with plastic wrapping) since the project began so hopefully there has been no damage to the organ itself. It will remain protected until the roof installation is complete.

The new schedule for the completion of the project, including site cleaning by April 12, is as follows: Discussions are underway with the architect and contractor regarding the need to have the organ back in service in time for Holy Week services beginning with Palm Sunday on April 9.

All of this work has occurred under the watchful eye and supervision of Jean Solomon, the Project Manager, who has been nothing more than magnificent in her diligence and professionalism, every step of the way. The architect, Carl Rothbart, and his team have been pleasant, attentive and dedicated overseers of every step of the contractor's work, and the contractor, Crocker Architectural, has been diligent...working in cold and snow...and responsive to every request. In the great scheme of construction projects this has not only been relatively easy...but a pleasure.



In addition to the roof restoration work, a fire and burglary alarm system and an audio system were installed in the Church.

THE PARISH HOUSE:

An unexpected and most generous gift from a parishioner, who wishes to remain anonymous, allowed the Parish House exterior to be totally restored and repainted. It had become as unsightly, in many respects, as the Rectory -- rotting window sills and door jambs, peeling paint, and exposed raw wood. While the Church is the soul of the congregation, the Parish House is the heart of St. John's service to the community, and it now projects the care and attention we endeavor to bring to that important part of our mission. A fire and burglary alarm system was installed in the Parish House.

THE RECTORY:

Only minor, incidental repairs were required at the Rectory during the course of the year. The one major project was the installation of a fire and burglary alarm system in the Rectory...as well as in the Church and Parish House. Two overflow refrigerators primarily for Church use were purchased to replace the two that failed.

THE COTTAGE:

Following the departure of the former OCM, the Cottage required substantial cleaning, repair and refurbishment which has been completed.



GROUNDS:

Our snow plowing and every-other-week mowing is done by Domus VI who are reliable and responsive to special requests. Without a steady cadre of volunteers to keep up with the ordinary "grooming" of the property -- plantings, weeding, sweeping, edging, watering etc. -- the work is largely done by outside contractors that are engaged on an "as needed" basis.

Once the construction site around the Church is cleared, there will, no doubt, be some significant grounds work to be done to repair damage done by heavy equipment.

LITURGICAL REPORT FOR 2016

In 2016, according to the entries in the Register of Church Services 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: 1, Sunday 2

Stations of the Cross, Blessing of the Animals, etc: 12

Burials: 2

Baptisms: 3

Marriages: 1

Attendance at all services: 4,007

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

The Rev. Paul Christopherson

The Rev. Dr. Canon Jeremy Davies

The Rev. John M. Gilpin

The Rev. Carol Hoidra

The Rev. Susan J. McCone

The Rev. Sherry Hardwick Thomas

The lay person licensed to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor in 2016 was Joan M. Beattie.

The Licensed Chalice and Lay Readers for 2016 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)

Derek Hughes (Reader)

Mary Jo Keating (Chalice/Reader)

Tillie Page Laird (Chalice)

John A. Magee (Chalice/Reader)

Marlene Smith (Chalice/Reader)

Robert P. Wessely (Chalice/Reader)

ALTAR GUILD REPORT FOR 2016

The Altar Guild had a very good year. Although we said goodbye to Kate Harrison, we welcomed Sarah Lee Martin and Joanne Bauer as new members.

The Liturgy begins and ends with the work of the Altar Guild, but our work is not "housekeeping." It is a true ministry, and each Altar Guild member sees his or her service as a spiritual experience and a way to give back. It's our gift to St. John's and to God.

It is with deep gratitude that I thank all of our dedicated Altar Guild members, some of whom have served for over twenty years. Our current members are: Joanne Bauer, Camille Gillespie, Diana Hardee, Susie Magee, Sarah Lee Martin, Ginny Reynolds, Martin Rook.

The sense of the Altar Guild's ministry is probably best expressed in this prayer which has been said over the years by all those before us who have shared in this work. It remains today on the Bulletin Board in the Sacristy to remind us of our mission and its purpose:

"Dear God, be with us this day as we prepare the sanctuary for your people. Make us humble as your instruments, skilled in your creation, reverent in your service. Help us not to let the form of things blind us to their sacred purpose, or personal concern deafen us to the needs of others." *Amen.*

Respectfully submitted

MB Witt

Altar Guild Director



FLOWER COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2016

With Susan Markert's coordination, the Flower Committee (Lee Reese, Véronique Dulack and Alec Purves) never missed a beat in 2016. With occasional assistance from Loretta Stagen and Chris Zaima, who generously donated their time, the Church looked beautiful every Sunday, as well as at special services throughout the year.

The Garden of Gethsemane once again was a bower of peace and beauty at Easter with masses of white hydrangeas and flowering branches. At Christmas, the Altar told the story of the Magi as interpreted by Chris in a profusion of roses and lemons.



The Flower Committee created the flowers for the funeral of Wallace Gray, their long-time and beloved teacher, mentor and friend. The flower tributes were abundant and beautiful. Wallace would have been very pleased.

MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2016

2016 was a year of transition for the Music Program at St. John's, marked most by the loyalty, good spirit and general commitment of the Choir members. The St. John's Choir continues to elevate our worship every Sunday, deepening a sense of spirituality in the music they offer, moving further into an understanding of their role within the liturgy.

After nearly three years as the Organist Choir Master, Sumner Jenkins left his post to return to his familial and regional roots in Virginia, with a position that offered him the prospect of greater financial benefits. During his tenure here, Sumner brought stability to the Music Program and participated actively in many non-musical aspects of Parish Life. We will miss his southern inspired cooking and huge devotion to baking anything sweet!

Choir membership was also somewhat transitional with one new member, Isabella Dubow, a student at Rumsey Hall, joining our ranks as a First Soprano. Isabella made her debut as a soloist on New Year's Day 2017. Her lovely voice and beautiful interpretation of "The Snow Lay on the Ground" enriched our first worship service of the new year, offering the promise of more beautiful music to come.

The Choir was hugely sad to say good-bye to Kate and Peter Harrison. They, too, decided to return to their Southern roots with Peter's acceptance of a position as an associate in a Chattanooga, Tennessee, law firm. Kate and Peter made a huge contribution to St. John's generally, Peter as a member of the Vestry and Kate as a member of the Altar Guild, and Simon for his ever-smiley face. Monte Stone, also, has taken what we hope will be a short hiatus due to travel distances and job commitments.

The Choir is anchored by a core group of 12 singers who rehearse weekly and several who, because of work, and residence out of town during the week, join us on Sunday mornings. The search continues for a new tenor section leader, as well as the hope that work and family obligations to allow John Laporte to rejoin us. His spirit, his voice, and his wine, Far Niente (!), continue to be missed.

While the Choir continued singing under the able and genial direction of our two Interim Organist Choir Masters, Amy Vinisco and Jon Lafleur, beginning in September much of the focus of the Music Program was on the search for a new Organist Choirmaster. Zemma Mastin White, Jonathan Hall, James Booth and Natalie Dyer agreed to serve on the Search Committee, with Hunter Brown, in his capacity as Warden, serving as an adjunct member.

Initially, we received 22 applications after posting notice of the position online with the Association of Anglican Musicians. From the Committee's initial review of the applications, seven candidates were selected for serious consideration. After Skype interviews, the number of candidates was reduced to four. Any one of these three could have been a suitable OCM, but in the end each situation presented insurmountable complications relating primarily to real estate issues (e.g., the Cottage wasn't large enough, real estate already owned couldn't be sold or rented in time to make acceptance of the position feasible either), and difficulties of spouses adjusting to the realities of a move.

At this date, the Search Committee is in serious discussions with an extremely accomplished organist, with long and deep experience in choral direction and a thorough knowledge of the Anglican/Episcopal musical tradition. Ideally, we hope to have a new OCM installed on the "bench" by the time the organ itself has been unwrapped and reinstalled and in time for Holy Week services in early April.

In the meantime, Mary Rose DiGiovanna, has agreed to serve as our Interim OCM. A graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, Mary Rose brings decades of experience as an organist and choir master in the Episcopal Church, and we are grateful for her professional and good-spirited approach to this position.

The members of the Search Committee have spent an enormous amount of time reading resumes, evaluating candidates in on-site interviews and auditions, and in meetings and discussions among themselves. The congregation owes them a great debt of gratitude for their dedication and commitment to finding an OCM who will live up to this Church's musical tradition, and enliven and expand the Music Program generally. A special thank you to Kathie Clynes and Zemina Mastin White who have consulted with the Interim OCMs on rehearsals and the selection of music for worship, and interfaced with the Choir on those arrangements, and Zemina, in addition for her work in advising the OCM's candidates on the musical preparations for their auditions.

In the midst of all the organizational transition, St. John's Concert Series continued to great success hosting three successful concerts in 2016. The 2016 series opened on April 10th, with The *Yale Russian Chorus*, a renowned choral ensemble now in its 563rd year. Their program included a variety of secular and sacred Slavic and regional choral pieces, including Russian and Eastern European folk songs, from the 12th century onward.



On June 5th, The Galvanized Jazz Band gave a spirited performance followed by an old fashioned bar-b-q on the Rectory lawn. Shifting tempo and musical genres dramatically, on September 18th, Alex Beyer, heralded as a keyboard “sensation” with a “formidable technique” gave an incredible virtuoso piano concert.

The musical highlight of the Series was the final performance of the season on October 23rd, by The Escher String Quartet, resident artists of The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The Escher String Quartet is internationally acclaimed for its profound musical insight and rare tonal beauty. In 2013, the quartet became one of the very few chamber ensembles to be awarded the prestigious Avery Fisher Career Grant renowned choral ensemble now in its 563rd year.



Planning has just begun for a 2017 Concert Series.

The challenges for the Music Program for 2017 are substantial, but with the Choir's continuing commitment and God's grace, the challenges will be met and surmounted.

Choir members: Hunter Brown, Kathie Clynes (*Choir Librarian*), Isabella Dubow, Robert Coles, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Laura Evans, Jonathan Hall, Jordan Lee, Rudy Mangels, Anne Ranson, Monte Stone, Zemina Mastin White.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL FOR 2016

This year we continued to explore ways to shape the Church School program in a way that responded to the realities of our younger parishioner's lives: what they should be learning in terms of a basic formation in religion, ethics and the Episcopal tradition of worship; and what is reasonable to expect from a Church School Director on a weekly basis in terms of numbers and ages of Church School attendees.

In the early Spring, we convened a meeting of parents and interested members of the Parish to get their ideas and insights. We attempted to implement their suggestions: we sent out a survey to parents asking what they wanted their children to learn; what sort of program would appeal to them; what the likelihood was of their regular attendance and the possible frequency of attendance; and what, if any, special programs -- field trips, social gatherings or outings, service projects -- would be of interest. *Of the 20 plus families to whom the survey was addressed, we received only 1 response.*

JJ Robinson, our valiant but increasingly discouraged, Church School Director devised a program of weekly virtual classes which involved sending a fully developed lesson by email to each family with Church School age members every week, and then preparing and staffing one "live" Church School session on the first Sunday of every month. We received no feedback on the virtual lesson program, and with the exception of one or two occasions during the year, no one came even once a month to the live session.

We understand that young people like to go where there is a critical mass of children. We also know that 10 and 12 year olds cannot be expected to find a program aimed 5-8 year olds appealing or inspiring. And, I know that it is not possible to expect a Church School Director to remain committed to a program where lack of response of any kind sends back a message of disinterest.

The only interest and engagement in worship we are able to see among our younger congregants is a willingness to read and participate in the services at Christmas and Easter. This year, we had 10 young parishioners participate in the 4:30 Family Service on Christmas Eve...some of them infrequent and others totally new attendees. It may be that the most we can hope for is a program centered around Christmas and Easter.

The Vestry voted to continue funding the position of Church School Director for 2017 at a minimal level. JJ and I will be meeting in the next few weeks to see if there is any way forward. The Church, the Vestry and I remain committed to the religious education and formation of our younger parishioners, but it is, frankly, discouraging and depressing that Church and religious education for young people has such a low priority in the world today. When you think that they represent the future of the Church it is frightening.

A mother's recent story about taking her son to church one Sunday says it all: Obviously, neither going to church nor even the most rudimentary religious instruction had been a regular part of the young man's life. So, after sitting down in the pew and settling in, he began looking around. Eventually, he focused on a crucifix hanging on the wall, probably above the pulpit, and turned to his mother, horrified and confused, and asked her, "Mom, why is that man hanging up there?"

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE FOR 2016

Hospitality takes many forms at St. John's: Coffee Hour on Sundays, Parson's Table on the first Wednesday of the month, Soup Suppers on Fridays during Lent, Parish Dinners and Receptions, and on special occasions, such as Mardi Gras and the Highland Feast.

Many thanks to the Coffee Hour Committee, who go above and beyond in their contributions to delicious and delightful Coffee Hours on almost every Sunday of the year.

COFFEE HOUR:

Sally Futh (*Chair*), Penny Bardel, Rebecca Bent, Véronique Dulack, Natalie Dyer, Emily Fitzhugh, Sally and Bob Futh, Diana Hardee, Marlene and Chris Smith, Audrey Hecken, Kirsten Knutson, Tillie Page Laird, Susie Markert, Susan McFeely, MB Witt, Drika and Alec Purves.

New members would be happily welcomed to join the Committee and participate in what is basically a once-a-quarter task, in partnership with someone else. The emphasis is on providing easy finger food with the coffee and tea. Please be sure to invite visitors in Church to join us in the Parish House for Coffee Hour.

THE KREWE:

Sara Coles, MB Witt, Posy Benedict, Hunter Brown and Diana Hardee are the hard-core Krewe members. The Krewe comes together to cook and kibbitz for Soup Suppers, Parson's Tables and special occasions. If you like the fun of cooking, trading recipe ideas and good fun, join us.



ST. ELIZABETH GUILD REPORT FOR 2016

The St. Elizabeth Guild focuses its work on four traditional programs occurring in the course of the year.

Food donations from parishioners and delivery to food banks go on constantly.

In Lent, the Guild works in cooperation with Family Services to create Easter Baskets for children in need. This year 42 Easter baskets were filled.

In August, the Guild spearheaded the Back-to-School Backpack effort. This year donations filled 30 backpacks with all the essentials.

In November, working with the Town of Washington, the Guild baked a dozen pies for the Town's Thanksgiving baskets. Despite Tulip's efforts, (an exceptionally hungry Golden Lab), everyone had a good time making the pies.)

St. John's once again had a presence at the Community Day **in June**, and the Guild is grateful for those who stepped in to take an hour or so at the table.

August is the month for our biggest project: the St. John's Food Festival, a portion of the proceeds from which go to the SJ Emergency Fund which is administered by the Town. A great many members of St. John's are involved and the Guild takes this work very seriously.

In December, the Guild typically contributes presents for children, but this year we were not able to find a community service organization with which to partner.

Our goal for 2017: make more of a difference in the St. John's community itself. We need to find a way to meet the needs of our parishioners, many of whom are getting older, with their needs for assistance likewise getting greater -- rides to Church services and events, marketing, pharmacy runs, doctor visits, etc. We will be working to create an internal network that can respond to these parishioners needs.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan McFeely

Susan McFeely, Chair



BAZAAR 2016

The 2016 Bazaar, in its 27th year, was all about innovation, change and growth. In addition to the change of venue, the Bazaar was held the week before Thanksgiving instead of the week after, as it had been for years.

Kirsten Peckerman, the Honorary Chair, welcomed everyone as they flocked into an exotic Souk, for an evening of holiday magic on November 18th. Thanks to the creative genius of Honorary Chair Emeritus, Rod Pleasants, and designer, Chris Zaima, the concrete parking lot was transformed into a tented red and gold Moroccan fantasy. Guests strolled the Souk, sipped champagne, tasted seasonal savories by Bonnie Manning, explored the Casbah for treasures old and new, bid on the Silent Auction, bought chances for the Raffle, and snatched up designer fashions in the Couture Cottage.

On Saturday, eager shoppers returned before 9:00 a.m. hoping for early bird bargains. An indomitable group of volunteers took up their stations and prepared for the mad rush while the Bistro crew put the “finishing touches on the ever-popular lunch served from 12-2:00 p.m.

The Bazaar continued on Sunday with churchgoers and other last minute shoppers seeking that one additional bargain. The Souk’s tent flaps were finally let down at 3:00pm.

This year Saturday evening was a “thank you” celebration for the Archangels, Angels and Seraphs at a gourmet holiday dinner prepared by renowned Chef Joel Viehland in the Parish Hall. Once again Rod Pleasants’ and Chris Zaima’s magic transformed the Parish Hall into an elegant supper club.

Financially, the Bazaar was a huge success, with a record gross income of \$126,000 (a 10% increase over 2015), and a record net income of \$80,000 (an 8% increase). The Live Auction, under the expert hammer of Frank Delaney, combined with the Silent Auction and raffles, grossed \$38,360 (an increase of 35% over 2015!) Underwriters, Angels and Seraphs together contributed a record \$38,500 (an increase of 6% over 2015).

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. McFeely

Susan McFeely, Chair



FOOD FEST REPORT FOR 2016

The Food Fest this year -- despite the heat and the relatively low turnout (the lesson learned: a governor's warning to stay home beats even the best advance publicity!) -- was a *Miracle* in several ways: we did not get washed out by the forecasted severe thunderstorms; all but one merchant vendor showed up and they all were incredibly generous good sports; and, contrary to fears that we might incur a substantial loss, we actually did slightly better than "break even" and were able to send the SJ Emergency Fund a modest contribution.

But the great *Blessing* was the spirit and energy of many parishioners who worked hard from set-up to break-down throughout the long hot day:

Joan Beattie, Posy Benedict, Hunter Brown, Darcy Campbell, Laura Daly, Tom Daniels, Véronique Dulack, Ashleigh Fernandez, Nikki and Slater Fuchs, Tom Hollinger, Andris Kalnins, Kirsten Knutson, Tillie Page Laird, Jesse MacDonald, Susie Magee, Susie Markert, Sarah Lee Martin, Ginny Reynolds, Elizabeth Stewart, and MB Witt, supported and sustained as always by an incomparable staff, especially -- Pia, Sarah, Jorge and Sumner -- who worked behind the scenes for weeks and on the day as well attending to the myriad details that set the stage for the miracle:

arranging logistics, ordering supplies, creating invitations, signs, eblasts, advertisements, labels, tracking dinner reservations, wrapping up the mystery bottles of wine, and communicating with all of you.



Once again, pigs stole the show: the ever popular pot belly pig who endured the heat and all the children's eager petting with good grace...and Jorge's incredible roast pork Peruvian bar-b-q.

Most of all, thanks to Tillie Page Laird, who has ably and generously chaired the Food Fest for three years, and whose attention to detail is unmatched.

The day came to a celebratory close with the Big Green Pizza Truck once again the centerpiece of the Italian Festa attended by 52 people who, together with 26 generous patrons, contributed to making all the heat and hard work worthwhile.



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 2017 (subject to change)

JANUARY

January 6	“Private Lives” Bazaar Silent Auction Event
January 15	Vestry Meeting
January 22	Annual Meeting
January 28	“Tour of the Met” Bazaar Silent Auction Event

FEBRUARY

February 1	Parson’s Table
February 4	Robert Burn’s Scottish Hunt Dinner
February 11	“Pizza Pizazz” Bazaar Silent Auction Event
February 19	Vestry Meeting
February 20	President’s Day: Office Closed
February 28	Mardi Gras Supper

MARCH

March 1	ASH WEDNESDAY: EVENING LITURGY
March 5	The First Sunday in Lent
March 8	Parson’s Table in collaboration with Salem Covenant Church
March 10	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper
March 12	The Second Sunday in Lent
March 17	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper
March 19	The Third Sunday in Lent
March 19	Vestry Meeting
March 24	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper
March 26	The Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 31	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper

APRIL

April 2	The Fifth Sunday in Lent
April 5	Parson's Table
April 9	PALM SUNDAY
April 10	The First Night of Passover
April 12	TENNEBRAE
April 13	TRIDUUM: MAUNDY THURSDAY, FOOTWASHING, SEDER SUPPER
April 14	TRIDUUM: GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY
April 15	TRIDUUM: HOLY SATURDAY – THE GREAT VIGIL
April 16	RESURRECTION SUNDAY
TBD	“Culinary Silk Road” Bazaar Silent Auction Event

MAY

May 3	Parson's Table
May 15	“Fried Chicken for Dummies” Bazaar Silent Auction Event
May 21	Vestry Meeting
TBD	“Yale Galleries Tour” Bazaar Silent Auction Event

JUNE

June 7	Parson's Table
June 18	Vestry Meeting

NOTES

NOTES



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S PARISH

CLERGY

The Rev. Susan McCone, *Rector*

STAFF

Mary Rose DiGiovanna, Jon Lafleur, Amy Vinisko *Interim Organist Choirmasters*

J.J. Robinson, *Church School Director*

Pia Gandt, *Parish Administrator*

Isobel Moore, *Administrator for Liturgy*

Joan Burgess, *Assisting Administrator*

Sarah Eyre, *Finance Director*

OFFICE HOURS AND EMERGENCIES

The Parish Office is open Monday 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 or the Rectory (860-868-9741).

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