



**THE ANNUAL REPORT
of
Saint John's Episcopal Church
Washington, Connecticut**

2013

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



ANNUAL MEETING

January 26, 2014



AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

MINUTES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

REVIEW OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT 2013

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET 2014

STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2014

REPORTS

Report of the Altar Guild for 2013
Report of the Bazaar for 2013
Buildings and Grounds Report for 2013
Report of the Church School Director for 2013
Report of the Flower Committee for 2013
Report of the Hospitality Committee for 2013
Liturgical Report for 2013
Report of the Organist Choirmaster for 2013
Report of the St. Elizabeth Guild for 2013

STATE OF THE CHURCH

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JANUARY 27, 2013

The Reverend Susan McCone opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting marks the 219th year of St. John's Church in Washington, Connecticut.

The meeting was well attended, with 42 qualified voting members present.

The Minutes of the 2012 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 the nominations. The vote was seconded and the slate was elected as presented.

The members elected to the vestry are as follows:

Helen F. Gray to a new two-year term as Warden;
Joan M. Beattie to a one-year term as Clerk of the Vestry;
Thomas T. Daniels to a one-year term as Treasurer;
Robert Futh to a new three-year term as a member;
Thomas Hollinger to a new three-year term as a member;
Peter J. Harrison to a three-year term as a Vestry member;
Thomas T. Daniels to fill a one-year unexpired term on the Vestry.

The Treasurer's Report for 2012 and the proposed budget for 2013 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 2013. Mr. Daniels said that, as Treasurer, he believed the budget to be reasonable. He commented further on the shortfall in pledges made and received and in bequests. He answered questions on property tax and insurance. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Mother McCone thanked Helen Gray and Tom Hollinger for their work as the Stewardship Committee, and she also thanked members of the Parish who spoke at the services. Thanking those who have pledged, she noted that after the Annual Report was printed four additional pledges were received and three more promised, for a total number of 94, an all-time high. If outstanding pledges come in the total amount pledged could reach \$240,000. Mother McCone thanked the members of the Parish for their generosity.

Mother McCone made special note of several aspects of Parish life: the wonderful things being done in the Church School; the growth of the Music Committee; and the special events planned by the Outreach Committee for this year. She also made note of the average Sunday attendance as reported by the Episcopal Church. St. John's ASA is above the national average of 75. Furthermore, St. John's is above the average in pledges reported by the Diocese of Connecticut.

She called attention to the section in the Annual Report entitled "That Was the Year That Was" and the projected schedule of events, including the Sarum Conference.

Reports of the various committees of the parish for 2012 as well as a report from the Organist–Choirmaster are included in the Annual Report. Copies of the updated Parish Directory, the Music Calendar through June 2013, and Mother McCone’s course on the Eucharist were made available.

Mrs. Gray made a motion to commend Mrs. Moore, Ms. Eyre, and Mother McCone for the magnificent job done on St. John’s Annual Meeting booklet and asked that the commendation be recorded in the Minutes of the Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Following a prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Joan M. Beattie

Clerk of the Vestry.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2014

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominations for Officers and new members of the Vestry to serve in the coming year:

Thomas Hollinger	To a new two-year term as Warden
Hunter Brown	To a one-year term as Warden to fulfill an unexpired term
Joan M. Beattie	To a one-year term as Clerk of the Vestry
Thomas T. Daniels	To a one-year term as Treasurer
James Bauer	To a new three-year term as a member of the Vestry, class of 2017
Thomas T. Daniels	To a new three-year term as a member of the Vestry, class of 2017
David Gillespie	To a second three-year term as a member of the Vestry, class of 2017
Helen F. Gray	To a two-year term to fulfill Thomas Hollinger's unexpired term on the Vestry, class of 2016
John A. Magee	To a one-year term to fulfill Hunter Brown's unexpired term on the Vestry, class of 2015
Vacant – TBD	To a three-year term as Delegate to Convention
Vacant – TBD	To a three-year term as Delegate to Convention
Vacant – TBD	To a three-year term as Alternate Delegate to Convention
Vacant – TBD	To a three-year term as Alternate Delegate to Convention

THOMAS H. HOLLINGER

Tom currently serves as the Associate Director of Planned Giving and Leadership Gifts at The Gunnery in Washington. He has been at the school since 1988. Previously he served as the Gunnery's Director of Development. Tom is a graduate of South Kent School, holds a BA in History, from Kenyon College, and a MA in American Studies, from Fairfield University; he also spent time at The American University of Beirut. Prior to coming to the Gunnery, he taught at the Grier School in Pennsylvania where he served as Chair of The History Department, College Counselor, Senior Master and Chair of the Faculty Executive Committee. In addition to his teaching in the areas of history, religion, and ethics, Tom has been involved in children's theater and also co-teaches The Gunn Scholar program with the school archivist, Paula Gibson Krimsky. Tom is past chair of the Commission for School Advancement of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools, and sits on the town of Washington's Historic Commission. In addition to his service on the Vestry, Tom is the Stewardship Chair at St. John's and also serves as a Lay Reader and Chalice Bearer. In his free time Tom enjoys "plein air" painting, gardening, and reading. Tom and his wife, Kathy Coe, live in Washington. Kathy has taught at Washington Montessori for 23 years. They have two sons, Philip and Charles.

HUNTER BROWN

Hunter is a graduate of Suffield Academy, Suffield, CT and Union College, Schenectady, NY. He was a junior Foreign Service officer with the Department of State in Viet-Nam from 1967 through 1970 after which he worked in International Banking from 1971 until 1989. Subsequently, he was with the Paley Center for Media in NYC until his retirement in 2008. Hunter and his wife, Tillie, became part-time residents of Washington, CT in 1982 and have

lived here full-time since 2008. Hunter joined St. John's Episcopal Church in late 2009 and became a member of the Church choir in October 2010. He also serves as a lay reader. He has been a regular Vestry member for the past two years.

JOAN M. BEATTIE

Joan Beattie lives in Warren with her two dogs, a golden retriever and a standard poodle. She retired as head of the English Department at Kent School but continues as the editor of the Kent Quarterly. At St. John's she serves as both a Chalice Bearer and Lay Reader. She is also one of a team of greeters who welcome visitors to our Sunday worship services. Joan is invaluable to the St. John's Holiday Bazaar as a cashier who staffs the front desk during the Preview Party and throughout the weekend. She is a contributor to the Adult Christian Education program at St. John's, offering seminars on subjects ranging from the 1611 King James Version of the Bible to the development of the Anglican Church through James and Charles I – the latter is a topic planned for late spring 2014. Joan is always on call to help with special projects in the Parish Office.

THOMAS T. DANIELS

Tom and his wife Betty have lived in Washington for twenty eight years. Both of their children graduated from the Taft School. Tom has served previously on the Vestry three times as well as on the Finance Committee for several years. He has served as Treasurer at St. John's for the past five years. Twice a governor of the Washington Club, he is past president of VNA Northwest and the Laurel Bank Fishing Club and is Membership Chair of the Washington Rod and Gun Club. A music aficionado, Tom is a member of the St. John's Music Committee and Treasurer of the Washington Friends of Music. In addition to his responsibilities as Treasurer and a member of the Vestry, Tom also serves as a Chalice Bearer and Lay Reader.

JAMES S. BAUER

James Bauer – more familiarly known as Jay – attended Tufts University from 1978–1982 and earned a BA in Anthropology whilst also engaging in Pre-Medical Studies. He then studied at Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Dental Medicine from 1982–1986. He completed his General Practice Residency at Danbury Hospital from 1986–1987 and continued to work as an Attending Dentist with new residents at the hospital from 1987 to 1991. In 1988, he opened his own dental practice located at 40 Main Street North, Woodbury, Connecticut, where he continues to operate as a solo dental practitioner. He and his wife, Joanne, whom he met in Dental School, were married at Trinity Church, Newtown, Connecticut, in 1986. Joanne works with Jay as a hygienist in their Woodbury office. The couple has two sons, Jay and Jordan. Their elder son, Jay, graduated from The Gunnery in 2008 and went on to obtain a BA in Mathematical Economics from Colgate in 2012. He is presently studying for his Masters in Analytics at Bentley University. Their younger son, Jordan, is a junior at The Gunnery and is showing great interest in becoming a dentist! Dr. Bauer is a regular attendee at the 8 o'clock service at St. John's Church and will be familiar to other parishioners who witnessed his skills as a bar tender at the 2013 Holiday Bazaar Preview Party.

DAVID GILLESPIE

After brief stints in Los Angeles and Chicago, David has been engaged in the practice of law in New York City for many years, where he is a partner in the firm of Norton Rose Fulbright. Several years ago, he took a holiday from legal practice to join Arthur Andersen and Andersen Corporate Finance but then returned to legal practice after Andersen's unexpected demise. David spent many years (perhaps too many) in higher education, attending college at Wesleyan

University, where he majored in philosophy. He spent four years of graduate study with the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago, where he studied under a variety of colorful figures, including Saul Bellow and David Grene. He was brought back to earth by attending law school at Georgetown, where he met Camille, his wife of 31 years. Their daughter Elizabeth, a Bowdoin graduate, works in New York in the financial consulting business at Ernst & Young, and their son John, a graduate of Franklin & Marshall, works in New York in the movie business. Their pet cockatoo, Beaky, enjoys unwinding in the country and travels back and forth between New York and Connecticut. David has previously served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin in Times Square.

HELEN F. GRAY

Helen was born in New York City and attended the Oldfields School and Vassar College. “Every summer that I can remember was spent in Washington where my parents rented houses until finally buying the Trowbridge house on the Roxbury Road in 1939.” An active member of St. John’s since she and her husband, Wallace, returned to Washington in 1967, she has served previously both on the Vestry and as a Warden, as well as a member of the Seminarian Support Group, the Outreach Committee and also the Choir. Always interested in education, Helen was prominent in the Washington Montessori School when its home was the basement of St. John’s Church and served as its second chair. She was also chairman of the Board of Trustees of Oldfields School in Maryland. She and Wallace have been married for 50+ years and have one daughter, Carla. Helen’s brother, John, was a postulant for Holy Orders from St. John’s and is now a retired priest who lives in Princeton, New Jersey. Helen serves as a Chalice Bearer and Lay Reader and is also called upon to arrange flowers in the Church for special occasions such as Easter and Christmas. She is stepping down as Warden and standing instead as a regular Vestry member in order to devote more time to the St. Elizabeth Guild, formerly the Outreach Committee, which she now chairs.

JOHN MAGEE

John was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He is a graduate of the Berkshire School and Dartmouth College and holds a master’s degree in English from Middlebury College. He was a member of the faculty of the Lawrenceville School for ten years before joining the business world at Discount Corporation of New York; while at Discount Corporation he served as Assistant Corporate Secretary and as Managing Director of Discount Corporation of New York (London) Ltd. After eighteen years with Discount, John joined Aubrey G. Lanston, Inc. as Senior Vice President and Sales Manager. He finished his business career with Legg Mason Wood Walker, Inc. In 2005 John returned to teaching at the Taft School where he is a member of the English Department and a lacrosse coach. He loves golf and fly-fishing. He and his wife Susie have four grown daughters and nine grandchildren and live in Bethlehem.

Respectfully submitted:

The Nominating Committee

REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR 2013

Operating Income in 2013 totaled \$478,374 and expenses totaled \$477,846. The Vestry had budgeted a \$13,600 deficit for 2013, anticipating that income from legacies, fees for Parish House usage, and the Concert Series, difficult to determine in advance, would reduce that deficit during the course of the year. As a result of good control over expenses, an increase in actual pledge income, a year-end bequest, and record proceeds from the 2013 Bazaar, the year closed with an operating surplus of \$528.

The budget for 2014 projects total income of \$504,000. The \$220,000 projected pledge income seems reasonable, with actual pledges made to date in excess of \$216,000, and some additional pledges still anticipated. Expenses are projected to be \$515,000, including an allowance of \$10,000 for capital maintenance, with a projected operating deficit of \$11,000. Hopefully the outcome this year will be as favorable as last.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas T. Daniels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "T" and "D".

Thomas T. Daniels

January 23, 2014

2014 APPROVED BUDGET

INCOME

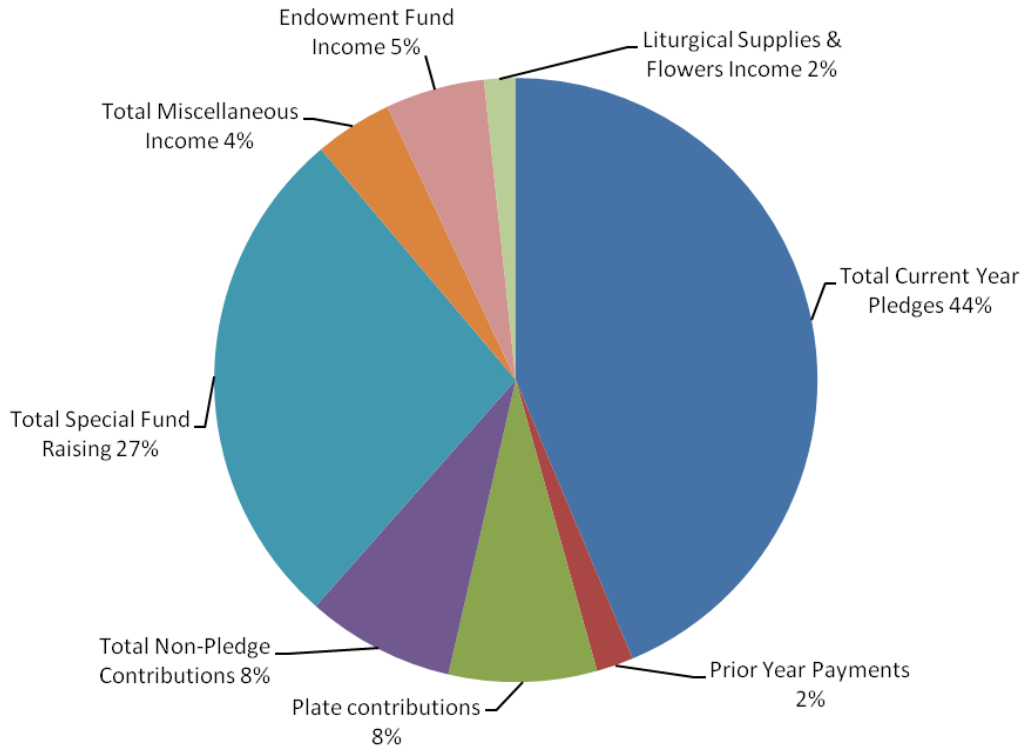
<u>Account Name</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>2013 Actual</u>
Pledges	\$220,000	\$220,808
Prior Year Payments	\$10,000	\$4,270
Plate contributions	\$40,000	\$27,386
Non-Pledge Contributions ⁽¹⁾	\$40,000	\$117,729
Total Special Fund Raising ⁽²⁾	\$137,500	\$142,644
Total Miscellaneous Income ⁽³⁾	\$21,000	\$37,828
Endowment Fund Income	\$26,778	\$26,932
Total Liturgical Supplies & Flowers Income	\$8,500	\$7,145
Total Income	\$503,778	\$478,374 ⁽⁴⁾

EXPENSES

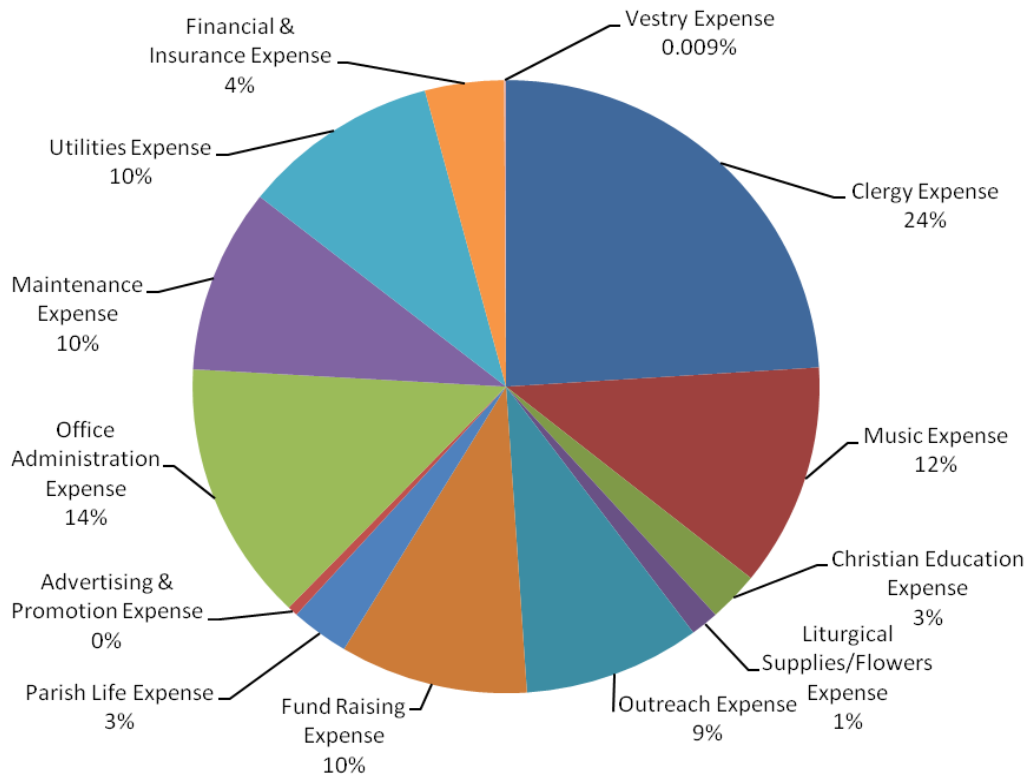
Contributions	\$5,000	\$2,184
Clergy	\$123,596	\$120,684
Music ⁽⁵⁾	\$60,432	\$62,853
Christian Education ⁽⁶⁾	\$13,500	\$8,799
Liturgical Supplies/Flowers	\$7,500	\$7,701
Outreach ⁽⁷⁾	\$42,000	\$32,534
Fund Raising	\$50,000	\$65,038
Parish Life ⁽⁸⁾	\$15,500	\$8,928
Advertising & Promotion	\$2,750	\$1,217
Office	\$22,600	\$19,200
Parish Administration ⁽⁹⁾	\$48,000	\$42,825
Maintenance	\$50,100	\$42,105
Utilities	\$52,500	\$46,144
Financial ⁽¹⁰⁾	\$6,500	\$2,809
Insurance	\$14,500	\$13,909
Vestry	\$500	\$915
Total Expenses	\$514,978	\$477,846
Difference	-\$11,200	\$528

- (1) *Includes amounts received in 2013 as restricted gifts and contributions to the Capital Campaign.*
- (2) *Includes Bazaar, Bookstore, Bridge Luncheon, Concert Series, Summer Food Festival, St. Elizabeth's Guild, Washington in Bloom and additional special events.*
- (3) *Includes Memorial Gifts*
- (4) *Does NOT include the amounts received in 2013 designated for the Capital Campaign and held in the Custodial Account (see note 1 above.)*
- (5) *Includes OCM search, compensation, pension, professional dues and continuing education; Sheet music; Paid musicians; Organ/Piano upkeep, and Supply Organist.*
- (6) *Includes Church School Director compensation; Child Care; Church School Supplies, Adult Forum and Library.*
- (7) *Includes Diocesan Pledge; Contributions to other community service projects.*
- (8) *Includes Hospitality and Stewardship.*
- (9) *Includes Parish Administrator compensation and Bookkeeper compensation.*
- (10) *Includes Accountant; Bank Fees, and Credit Card Merchant Fees*

Income 2014



Expenses 2014



REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE FOR 2014

2014 is the 210th anniversary of St. John's official founding as a parish in 1794. To mark this milestone, we set an ambitious goal of \$220,000 for our stewardship efforts and asked people to consider a 15% increase in their pledge amount. We distributed pledge packets to 166 individuals and/or families who show significant engagements with the Church. As of 24 January 2014, 77 people have responded, of whom 6 are people who have not pledged before.

Stewardship efforts in each of the last three years have been encouraging – thanks to your commitment and generosity, each year has reflected an increase over the prior year: \$198,868 in 2012, \$220,000 in 2013, and, to date, \$217,682 for 2014.

As significantly as pledging has grown in the last three years, pledge income in 2014, even if fully collected, will cover only 44% of the total operating budget for 2014. The rest of what it takes to do “church” at St. John's will need to be earned through fundraising efforts such as the Bazaar, Summer Food Festival, Washington in Bloom, the Concert Series, fees received for the use of the Parish Hall for receptions and group activities...and then, hopefully, augmented by occasional and unanticipated additional donations, memorial gifts and bequests.

In an effort to help understand the importance of making a pledge, this year our stewardship materials sought to demonstrate what Sunday's services “cost.” All the components that together create a sense of the “beauty of holiness” that elevates our worship – clergy, musicians, flowers, candles, linens, wafers, wine and bulletins – come at a price of \$5,904 for the two services (that is $\frac{1}{52}$ of the budget items related to the services.)

Many of you give generously all year long of your time and talents to the work of St. John's. However, it is your specific financial pledge that is critical to the Church's ability to develop a realistic budget, and to make a responsible plan for the work we hope to accomplish in the coming year. If your primary way of giving to St. John's is your generous contribution of your time and talent, an additional token financial pledge would allow us to reach our goal of 100% participation, an important symbol of the Parish's commitment. While a regular gift in the plate in lieu of a pledge is gratefully received, and a helpful addition to the funds available to meet unexpected expenses, it does not allow the Vestry to devise a solid financial plan upon which the Church can rely in making its commitments to staff and programs.

With that in mind, if you have not yet made a pledge for 2014, there is still time. If there is further information that you would like to have before you commit yourself to the financial support of St. John's for 2014, please call the Parish Office and arrange for a time to speak with Mother Susan.

Respectfully submitted,

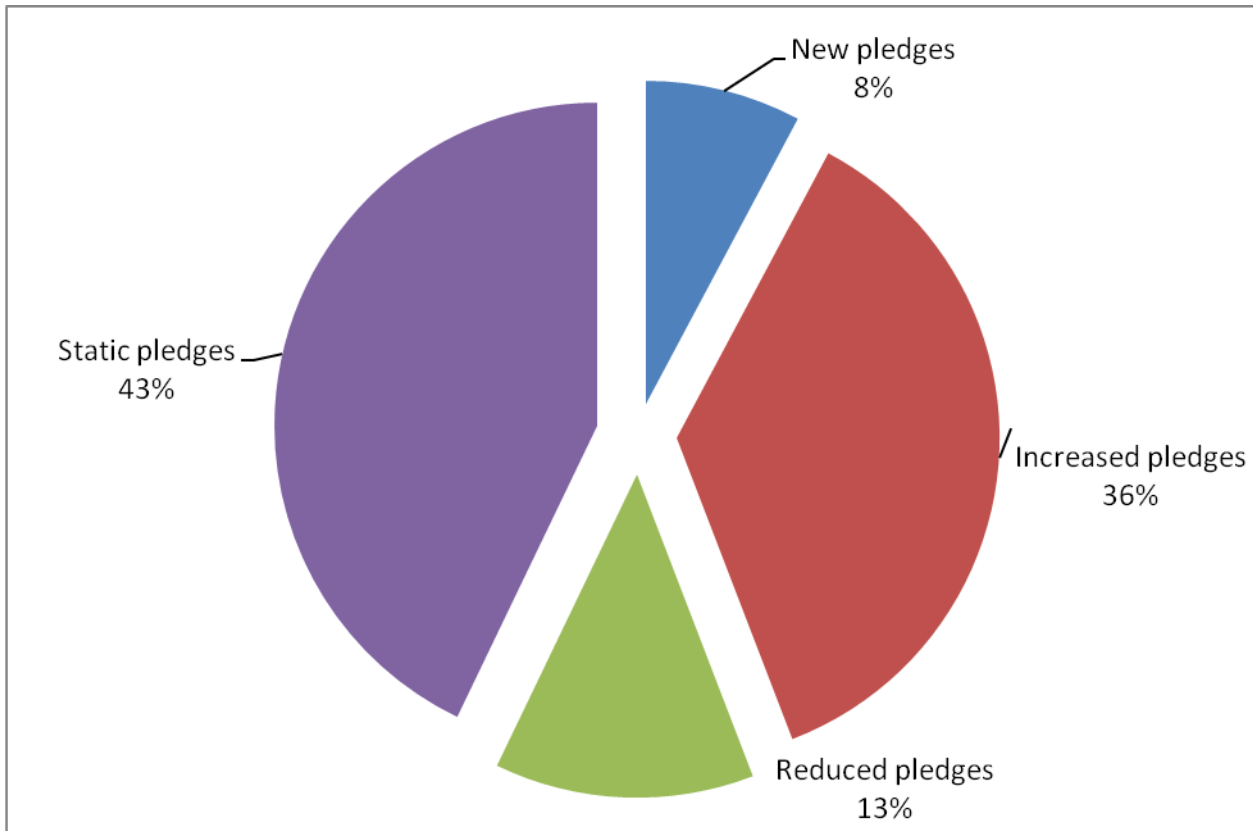


Thomas H. Hollinger
Stewardship Chair



Helen F. Gray
Stewardship Committee Member

2014 PLEDGE STATUS REPORT AS AT JANUARY 24, 2014



6	New Pledges	\$14,450
28	Increased Pledges	\$74,769
33	Static Pledges	\$95,360
10	Reduced Pledges	\$33,103
77		\$217,682

Thank you to all who have made pledges to support St. John's Church in 2014

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Adams
Mr. Francis E. Arcaro
Mr. & Mrs. William Bardel
Dr. & Mrs. Jay Bauer
Ms. Joan M. Beattie
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Beattie
Mr. & Mrs. Williston Benedict
Mr. Nick Benson & Ms. Natalie Dyer
Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Bent
Mr. & Mrs. John Treacy Beyer
Mr. & Mrs. George M. Blake
Ms. Jean Blanchard
Mr. James R. Booth
Mr. Hunter Brown
Mr. Paul Cappuccio & Mr. Matthew M. Shea
Mr. Todd B. Catlin
Ms. Janet D. Chenery
Ms. Kathleen A. Clynes
Mr. Jay C. Coles
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Coles, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. P. L. Cornell
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Daly
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas T. Daniels
Mr. & Mrs. William A. Davidson
Mrs. Mary Graham Davis
Mr. Michael Del Nin & Mr. Sean Krebs
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dulack
Mrs. Natalie Dyer
Mr. W. Russ Elgin
Ms. Emily FitzHugh
Ms. Holly Flor & Capt. Rudy Mangels
Mr. William E. Fore
Mrs. Anne Fuchs
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Futh, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. David Gillespie
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace H. Gray
Ms. Diana Hardee
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Harrison
Mr. & Mrs. Nikko Hayes
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth A. Hecken
Ms. Ann Hodgman
Mr. Thomas H. Hollinger
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jackson
Mr. Steven James & Mr. David Lewandowski
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Keating
Miss Louise W. King
Ms. Kirsten Knutson
Miss Tillie Page Laird
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Magee
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Markert
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur F. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. John Millington
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Mitchell
Ms. Pamela Moffett
Mr. Thomas J. Pearsall, Jr.
Ms. Kirsten M. Peckerman
Ms. Dagmar Pfanzelter
Mr. Ronald Potter
Mr. & Mrs. Alexander Purves
Mr. Greg Anrig & Ms. Jeanne Reid
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reynolds
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Rickart
Ms. Sally Ryan
Mrs. Barbara B. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Smith
Ms. Caroline Reid Sorell
Mr. & Mrs. Lee C. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. John Strawbridge
Ms. Nancy Tafuri
Mr. & Mrs. William Turner
Dr. Ann Belford Ulanov
Mr. Richard Wallgren & Mr. Martin K. Rook
Ms. Carol M. Ward
Mr. Robert P. Wessely & The Rev. Susan J. McCone
Ms. Zemma Mastin White
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Witt
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wright

As at January 24, 2014

REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD FOR 2013

The members of the Altar Guild have worked tirelessly, especially most recently, during the Advent and Christmas seasons. In addition to the regular Sunday services, there are funerals, baptisms, and weddings, as well as services of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Lessons and Carols, Friday evening Eucharists during Lent, Holy Week services, and this year, the special services during the Sarum Conference in October.

Each week the members of The Altar Guild assist the priest by preparing for the celebration of the liturgies. The tasks are mostly accomplished behind the scenes and involve preparing the vestments, paraments (Altar hangings), linens, candles, wine, wafers, silver and brass according to what is required for the particular liturgical season and/or day.

In addition to the work which supports the Church's worship, there are two annual "Cleaning and Polishing Days", when the Guild meets together to polish all silver and brass to make them sparkle for Christmas and Easter.



A major addition to the Altar Guild's efforts this year was the revival of a fundraising event, *Washington in Bloom*. It was a big success. Everyone who participated had a lot of fun in the preparations and at the event. Many people from the community came to shop and to enjoy a fine lunch with friends. Chris Zaima created the wonderful decorations and large floral arrangements. Wallace Gray contributed the lovely floral centerpieces for each lunch table. Laura Daly donated the proceeds from her hat sales, and many parishioners found garden antiques and supplies to donate for sale. The event earned in excess of \$11,000 and netted over \$4,400 to help defray Altar Guild costs...a great beginning for a new event.

This year we welcomed two new members to the Altar Guild: Sally Ryan and Donett Aaby. We hope to add one more member to fill the open spot for the 10 o'clock service.

The members of the 2013 Altar Guild are:

Donett Aaby
Camille Gillespie
Diana Hardee
Kate Harrison
Susan Magee
Wendy Panikker

Dagmar Pfanzelter
Martin K. Rook
Sally Ryan
Caroline Reid Sorell
Virginia Reynolds
MB Witt

Respectfully submitted:

Caroline Reid Sorell

Director

REPORT OF THE ST. JOHN'S BAZAAR FOR 2013



2013 was a year of change for the St. John's Bazaar...new chair, new committee, and new direction. What started as a two-day event turned into a three-day holiday weekend of Shopping, Epicurean Delights, Decorating Insights, Gift Wrapping, and Live and Silent Auctions.

The 24th Annual Bazaar kicked off with the traditional and festive Gala Preview Party on Friday night. Guests flocked into the Parish Hall after being greeted with glasses of wine at the front entrance and immediately found themselves in a Christmas wonderland filled to the brim with goodies and gifts for all. The mood was merry as people strolled through the Street of Shops, bought little gold boxes from the Mystery Gift Tree filled with gift certificates from local retailers, admired our Designer Vignettes outfitted with generous donations from parishioners and items from the showrooms of some of our "Designers of Distinction", and then stopped for added refreshments at our "Open Bar" on the patio while listening to wonderful cabaret melodies played by Nancy Winston at the piano. In the interim, opening bids started on the Silent Auction, the Couture Boutique was in full swing as jewelry and clothing flew off the racks, and our Live Auction generated record sales amidst the gaiety of the evening.



On Saturday, dealers and eager shoppers started lining up at the door by 8:45 a.m. hoping for early entry and bargain sales. The Mystery Gift Tree was restocked with amaryllis and paper whites, and our indomitable group of volunteers took up their stations preparing for the mad rush of early-birds. Behind the scenes, our Bistro crew served coffee and donuts while putting the finishing touches to the Bistro lunch, which I do need to mention, sold out within 1½ hours, and determined shoppers continued their hunt for a Picasso original and Manolo Blahniks. The Silent Auction closed at 3:00 p.m. and we all scrambled to set up for the Fireside Holiday Fête at 4:30 p.m. While this was a new addition to the Bazaar weekend festivities, we felt it was a wonderful opportunity for the general public and weekenders who couldn't make it to the Preview Party to view our vendors' wares, visit with some of our designers to view their



vignettes in the quiet of the late afternoon, engage in conversation with our authors...Nina Campbell, who shared her decorating secrets from her new book "Interiors"; and Carolyne Roehm, who demonstrated the art of the perfectly-wrapped gift from her book "Presentations: A Passion for Gift Wrapping"...all while sipping on homemade eggnog from Arethusa Farm and nibbling on freshly baked Christmas cookies with David Grausman's carols and seasonal music playing in the background. The weekend Bazaar finished on Sunday with last minute shoppers, buyers

who were arranging plans for pickup, and, then, we closed our doors at 2:00 p.m. accompanied by welcome sighs of relief from all our wonderful volunteers along with smiles of hopeful financial success.

Overall, it was the most successful Bazaar to date: net proceeds after expenses exceed \$66,000. Some of the highlights: ticket sales exceeded \$18,500, an increase of over \$7,000 from 2012; the Live Auction raised over \$16,000, an increase of \$4,000 from 2012; the Couture Boutique earned over \$9,000; general merchandise sales exceeded \$35,000. While underwriting sponsorship was down from 2012, at the end of the day merchandise and advertising sales, the Silent Auction, the Mystery Gift Tree and the Bistro more than made up for that decrease.

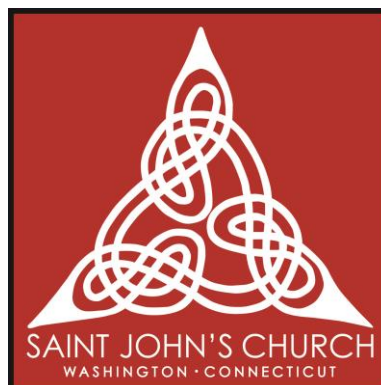


A very special thank you goes to all of the St. John's parishioners and Church staff who helped to make the Bazaar such a success...it is because of your generous donations – from attic treasures and couture chic to endless hours of time, energy and commitment – that we are able to continue this special tradition. As Pamela Moffett so gracefully stated last year, it was a joy and a privilege to work with all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. McFeely

Bazaar Chair



REPORT ON BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS FOR 2013

Despite the fact that there are several capital maintenance issues that need to be addressed...some more urgently than others...there were not adequate funds available to undertake any of them in 2013. Some isolated issues relating to the Church boiler initially identified by an insurance inspector (and then explored in greater depth by Phil Markert as part of his “survey” of the campus on behalf of the Finance Committee) as requiring immediate attention were addressed, specifically: a substantial leak from the Church boiler was repaired and the boiler and pipes, which did not appear to have been cleaned in “several years” according to the technician, were cleaned. It was determined that the other issues relating to the Church boiler, including a more thorough cleaning, were best deferred to warmer weather.

The boiler and furnace in the Rectory are also worrisome and will be assessed in the first part of 2014. The furnace, boiler and hot water heater are old, inefficient and, at least with respect to the hot water heater, inadequate; various retro fitted tanks have been added to the system along the way and connected through a maze of pipes and wires which are difficult to impossible to follow.

A leak at the back of the west end of the Church was threatening the Mowbray paintings and Mr. Markert alleviated the problem by installing a system that lifts the paintings away from the wall and locks them in place.

Fuel costs were significantly more in 2013 (\$26,305) than in 2012 (\$16,000).

Costs in excess of \$2,000 were incurred for electrical work that was done in the Church and Parish House during the course of the year.

Our plowing and salting costs for 2013 (\$1,750+) were nearly double what they had been in 2012.

Although we had a very productive Spring Parish Clean-Up with parishioners doing major work on the gardens along the Church and stone walls adjacent to the Rectory, and despite the fact that mowing costs were reduced by moving to an every-other week mowing schedule, we incurred substantial grounds maintenance expenses (\$7,141+) attributable to the cost of hauling away accumulated debris (\$1,300+) that had been deposited improperly behind the storage shed next to the Cottage rather than being disposed of on a regular basis, fertilizing and reseeding parts of the lawn that had been neglected for a few seasons, and relighting the tree in front of the Church, removing and replacing dead lights on over half of the tree. A gift of 30 rhododendron bushes secured by Wallace Gray greatly improved the look of the garden bordering the driveway between the Church and the Rectory.



Other maintenance issues that need to be addressed soon are: replacement of the covers over the nine window wells around the Church (the current ones are decayed, warped, useless and, in some cases, hazardous) for which we have secured three estimates ranging from \$19,000 to \$36,000; and the repainting of the Rectory, which has reached “eyesore status” and, on a practical level, means that there are

substantial

amounts of exposed wood, some of which has already rotted causing moldings to fall off, especially around the garage and patio areas. Because the repainting would involve the removal of lead-based paint, estimates range from \$28,000 to in excess of \$65,000. The imprecision of the estimates reflects the fact that contractors cannot determine precisely how much wood will need to be replaced until they actually begin the scraping.



Mr. Markert and Mr. Bent together are undertaking to make a list of regular maintenance issues that need to be addressed weekly, monthly and seasonally so that, initially, we can assess whether the tasks can be managed by the current staff.

Respectfully submitted:

Bob Futh

Building and Grounds

REPORT OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR 2013

Church School ran the full calendar year, including during the summer months.

Attendance ran anywhere from 2 to 12 children – about 3 to 5 kids each week on average. We approached learning about our Church and faith through art, music, drama, movement, cooking, storytelling and stewardship.

The children learned some Old Testament stories: Noah's Ark (we built an ark!); the story of Moses found in the river (we painted a paper river); and the story of the grapes from Canaan (a simulation of "Survivor").

We "witnessed" some of the miracles Jesus performed: calming the storm – we built a cardboard boat, got in it, simulated a storm with water bottle mist, flickering lights and a thundering poster board, and took turns being Jesus calming the storm. We used the same "set" to reenact Jesus' "walk on water."

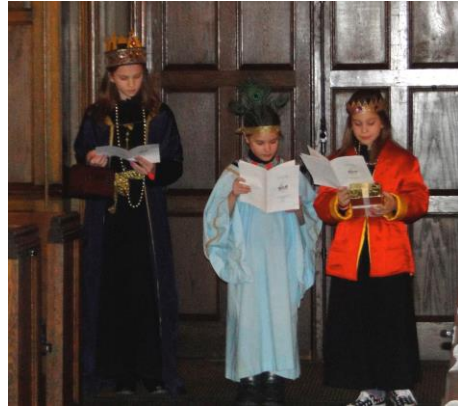
We set up a "wedding reception" with tables, plates and "wine glasses," and attended the wedding at Cana where we eavesdropped on a conversation and watched how Jesus turned water into wine! ("Welch's", of course!)

We knew about the birth of Jesus, and his death, but what did we know about in-between? So we learned about Jesus as a boy with his parents and in the Temple, being baptized, and finding his disciples. We did this through stories and pictures and even made Jesus his own Facebook page (to which 8 year old Samantha Hawley remarked, "JJ, you DO know they didn't have technology back then?")

We also made and played board games that taught the kids about Advent and the 10 Commandments.

We used watercolors to make visual prayers for things we are grateful for, to ask Jesus to guide us in our lives and in school, and to give thanks for his guidance and love.

We continued our explorations of "what's what" and "who's who" in the Church; from the Altar, chalice, Eucharist, and Sacristy, to Baptism and Communion, and from acolyte and crucifer, to priest and Bishop.



We had a beautiful Christmas Eve Service and this year, we had the first ever “Epiphany Pageant” on January 4th. If you missed that, you missed an off-Broadway rendition featuring incredible narrators, Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, three stylish wise men, an inn keeper, King Herod and a real live angel! The kids sang beautifully and were proud as peacocks! This was thanks to a lot of work and dedication of the children, the parents, Ann Hodgman, Kathie Clynes, and, of course, Alan!

And finally, we have begun to design a Children’s Service – as a regular matter, it will be the fourth Sunday of the month, the first “premiering” on Sunday, February 23rd at 10AM.

In a nutshell...

- ✦ They learned that they belong to Christ and are welcome in Christ’s church.
- ✦ They came to know The Lord’s Prayer, The Creed, the Eucharistic responses and other parts of the service from memory.
- ✦ They built a memory bank of memorable shared experiences from which they may draw when they are older.
- ✦ They came to see the beauty of music and art as expressions of praise and feel it enrich their experience
- ✦ They heard stories from the Bible read and interpreted; and with hope, they will in time begin to see Church as a place where God may speak and listen to them.
- ✦ They participated in Holy Communion and/or witness Holy Baptism and understand that these are “Blessed Sacraments”.
- ✦ They discovered that they are valued as persons by God and by parish members at Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Heath Robinson

Church School Director

REPORT OF THE FLOWER COMMITTEE FOR 2013

The Flower Committee of the Altar Guild arranges flowers every Sunday of the year. During Advent and Lent, the Altar has only greens, but particular care is taken to use favorite colors and/or particular flowers on those Sundays when a family or individual is remembered

The special occasions of Christmas, Easter and Rogation Sunday require additional helpers in order to decorate the whole Church. The Chapel is turned into the Garden of Gethsemane for Maundy Thursday, and the High Altar, bare throughout Holy Week, is decorated during the day on Holy Saturday and revealed in a blaze of light at The Great Vigil.



Anyone interested in joining the arrangers should get in touch with Wallace Gray; we are always in need of extra help at special services but also to fulfill our obligation to do flowers every Sunday during the year.

I am grateful to the “regulars” who do their respective months: Lee Reese, Susie Markert, Alec Purves, Annette McDonald, and Wallace Gray. Many thanks also go to those willing to help at those times during the year when the church requires a greater effort: Barbara Blake, Véronique Dulack, Marlene Smith, Carla Gray, Lili Dyer, Helen Gray and always including those who are on hand every month.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wallace H. Gray". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Wallace H. Gray
Chairman

REPORT OF THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE FOR 2013

Thanks to all the Church members who every week make our coffee hour in the Library after the ten o'clock service a welcoming and friendly occasion, and a delicious break. And special thanks to Drika Purves who took on this task for so many years before me and to Jorge for his help with set-up. We would welcome any additional hosts so that we can make it a once-in-a-quarter-year task with the emphasis on warm and welcoming, not extravagant presentation. And please be sure to invite guests in church to come over to the parish house.

Members of the Hospitality Committee for 2013 were:

Rebecca Bent	Tillie Page Laird
Véronique Dulack	Susie Markert
Lili Dyer	Val Materne
Natalie Dyer	Pam Moffett
Emily Fitzhugh	Drika Purves
Bill Fore	Alec Purves
Bob Futh	Lee Reese
Sally Futh	Chris Smith
Gael Hammer	Marlene Smith
Diana Hardee	Caroline Reid Sorell
Audrey Hecken	MB Witt
Kirsten Knutson	

Respectfully submitted:

Sally Futh

Hospitality Committee Chair

LITURGICAL REPORT FOR 2013

In 2013, according to the entries in the Register of Church Services the following services were held at St. John's Church:

Sunday Eucharists: 101, attendance 3,268.

Average Sunday attendance 74.

Weekday Eucharists: (including Ash Wednesday): 9, attendance 322

Private Eucharists: (at homes or hospitals): 10, attendance 27

Daily Offices – Weekday: 36, attendance 462

Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent: 1, attendance 90

Burials: 5, attendance 239

Baptisms: 7

Marriages: 1

Attendance at all services: 4,860

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

The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens

The Rev. Canon John Andrew

The Rev. Canon Jeremy Davies

The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas

The Rev. John M. Gilpin

The Rev. Carol Hoidra

The Rev. Dr. Paul A. Jacobson

The Rev. Stephen B. Klots

The Rev. Susan J. McCone

The Rev. Dr. David K. McIntosh

The Rev. Max A. Myers

The Rev. Alan C. Murchie

The Rev. Amy L. Reichman

The Very Rev. Dr. Jane Shaw

The Rev. Dr. E. Bevan Stanley

The Rev. Carolyn L. Stockwell

The Rev. Christopher L. Webber

The Rev. Hal Weidman

The Rev. Roger B. White

The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore

The lay person licensed to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor in 2013 was Joan M. Beattie.

The licensed Chalice Bearers and Lay Readers for 2013 were:

Joan M. Beattie (Chalice/Reader)

Rosalind Benedict (Reader)

Rebecca Bent (Chalice/Reader)

Jean R. Blanchard (Reader)

James Booth (Reader)

Hunter Brown (Reader)

Sara Coles (Reader)

Thomas T. Daniels (Chalice/Reader)

W. Russ Elgin (Chalice/Reader)

Holly Flor (Reader)

Helen F. Gray (Chalice)

Gael Hammer (Reader)

Ann Hodgman (Reader)

Thomas H. Hollinger (Chalice/Reader)

Mary Jo Keating (Chalice/Reader)

Tillie Page Laird (Chalice)

John A. Magee (Chalice/Reader)

Marlene Smith (Chalice/Reader)

Caroline Reid Sorell (Reader)

Robert P. Wessely (Chalice/Reader)

REPORT OF THE ORGANIST CHOIRMASTER FOR 2013

Highlights of 2013 included a packed house for the St. John's Choir Concert; new choral evening liturgies, including Solemn Evensong for All Saints and contemplative liturgies in the style of Iona and Taizé; and a revived Epiphany Pageant with our Children's Chorus.

CHOIRS

Adult Choir The St. John's Choir grew to nineteen members in 2013, and celebrated that growth with a splendid full-length concert that featured Vivaldi's *Gloria*, together with music by Brahms, Mendelssohn, Tallis and Byrd. The concert ended with a set of classic spirituals and was received with enthusiasm in a packed Parish Hall. The choir sang newly-designed evening liturgies in the style of two contemplative communities: the Scottish Iona and French Taizé. For these liturgies, the choir was joined by flutist Courtenay Hardy and by string players from the Fairfield University Orchestra. Finally, new this year, the choir supplemented their usual anthem work with the singing of the *Kyrie Eleison* throughout Lent, including settings by Byrd, Haydn and Mendelssohn.

Children's Chorus The Children's Chorus appeared regularly throughout the year, continuing to meet on Sundays after the service and on occasional Saturday afternoons. A core group of seven young singers were joined regularly by additional young members of our congregation, swelling to ten for a joyous and memorable Pageant that told the story of the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Savior, and which was punctuated frequently with rousing solos from the gifted cast.



CONCERTS

St. John's Concert Series The Concert Series in 2013 was an artistic and financial success, ending the year with a budget surplus, and drawing many hundreds to St. John's for great choral, instrumental and chamber music in both the Church and Parish Hall. The Series included musicians from the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Opus 3's The Knights, and The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, all leading to an impressive finale featuring the renowned Borealis Wind Quintet.

Pop-Up Concerts The occasional Pop-Up series continued to draw enthusiastic crowds, with attendance numbers rivaling those of the main series. Performers included flutist Courtenay Hardy, vocalists Jordan Rose Lee and Laura Evans, organist Alan Murchie, and The St. John's Choir.

NEW VENTURES

Finally, 2013 witnessed promising new musical ventures that featured the entire community, including congregational singing of Gregorian Chant throughout the summer, and a *cappella* singing of congregational canticles in Lent.

Respectfully submitted:

Alan Murchie

Organist Choirmaster

REPORT OF THE ST. ELIZABETH GUILD FOR 2013

The Outreach Committee was renamed the St. Elizabeth Guild, in honor of the patron saint of good works, and in keeping with the Episcopal Church's evolving feeling that "outreach" has condescending connotations. The Food Collection for local food pantries continues to be a major ongoing initiative of the Guild. The food, contributed by members of the congregation, is distributed, once a month on average, to the Torrington and Woodbury food pantries.

In 2013, the Guild followed the calendar of St. John's specific community service initiatives which it had established in 2012.

In December: the *Christmas Angel Tree* was again chaired by Marlene Smith in cooperation with Family Services of Greater Waterbury, gathering an abundance of toys and clothing for 31 young children at the Therapeutic Child Care Center.



In March–April: the first *Easter Basket* project, also in collaboration with the Family Services of Waterbury, was chaired by Richard Wallgren and 29 baskets overflowing with gifts and goodies were packed and wrapped in cellophane.



In August: the second *Back-to-School Backpack* project, in collaboration with the Covenant to Care for Children based in Bloomfield, CT (www.covenanttocare.org) met with huge enthusiasm and 19 backpacks were filled with books, and a great variety of required school supplies were delivered.

In November: the *Thanksgiving Pie project* has become a Saint John's tradition. Under the direction of Kate Harrison, quantities of fresh pumpkin pies were made and delivered to Washington Town Hall in boxes decorated by JJ Robinson and the children of the Church School.



The Guild's sponsorship of the Bridge Luncheon (May) and the Summer Food Festival (August) helped to make this year's contribution to the SJ Emergency Fund a record amount of nearly \$5,000. The SJ Emergency Fund is maintained and dispersed by the Town of Washington to local families faced with emergency financial needs.

The Guild continues to be committed to its mission of meeting the immediate needs of parishioners and the local community, as well as continuing to look for new and innovative ways to broaden that mission. Everyone's participation is welcome. Members of the Committee are Posy Benedict, Véronique Dulack (Chair), Helen Gray, Kate Harrison, Marlene Smith, and Richard Wallgren.

Respectfully submitted:

Véronique Dulack

The St. Elizabeth Guild Chair



STATE OF THE CHURCH

2013 WAS A YEAR OF PROGRESS, CHALLENGE AND CHANGE...

PROGRESS:

We welcomed 4 new members and families into our congregation and attendance continued to be robust with the Average Sunday Attendance at 74.4 (the national average is 75.)

We made record contributions to the SJ Emergency Fund of nearly \$5,000 from the proceeds of the Bridge Lunch, the Summer Food Festival, Sarum Eucharist's plate collections, and the Bazaar.

We created 29 Easter Baskets, filled 19 Back-to-School Backpacks, made quantities of pumpkin pie for the Town's Thanksgiving baskets and fulfilled the Christmas wishes of 31 children with gifts from the Angel Tree — all to the benefit of deserving children and families through our partnerships with Covenant to Care and local municipal agencies.



We opened our doors to anyone who wished to come and have lunch with us at Parson's Table lunches on the first Wednesday of every month, except August...

We served as the host site for the new Washington Conversations on the Green on two occasions, living out our mission purpose to advance education on a community-wide basis in a different way.

We hosted the second international Sarum Conference which drew clergy and Anglican musicians from literally around the world, and earned kudos from everyone who attended for our hospitality. Members of the Parish who attended any of the services found them moving and educational.

The Concert Series fulfilled our mission of offering high-quality music to the broader community. With the help of the Pop-Up Concerts, we were able to generate sufficient revenues to sustain the Series as well as support our music program generally.

Church School under the leadership of JJ Robinson continued to deal with the week-to-week uncertainties of fluctuating and unpredictable attendance...but despite those frustrations it is clear that those who do come are learning in a creative, interactive and educational environment.

The Children's Chorus under Alan Murchie's direction continued to expand their repertoire and delight parishioners each time they sang, especially on Palm Sunday, Easter Day, at the Blessing of the Animals, and on Christmas Eve.

The Monday Morning Group, an informal gathering in the Rector's office, became a source of inspiration and information on a wide-range of topics for those who regularly participated, the discussion taking us wherever the spirit moves, often far afield from the starting point of the prior Sunday's readings.

CHALLENGES:

Efforts to deepen and broaden the spirituality that undergirds and informs our worship (through the discipline of Morning and Evening Prayer during Lent, sessions on the Spirituality of the Ordinary, Quiet days, Adult Forums, etc) have appealed to a small group of devoted people. The hope is that a broader audience will become engaged in these pursuits in 2014, but where two or three are gathered...

The Vestry and the Finance Committee have begun to focus on the pressing need to identify and address substantial long-deferred maintenance issues that can only be funded by a separate appeal for major contributions to a capital campaign. We are blessed by the generosity of one parishioner who has made a grant of \$100,000 to that capital campaign, challenging two other parishioners to meet his challenge. That challenge has already been partially met by another parishioner who has pledged another \$100,000.

The Vestry and Stewardship Committee spent a great deal of time this past year considering how to educate the wider congregation about what it takes "to be church" today in terms of the commitment of time, talent and treasure needed from parishioners. Both secular and church cultures have changed significantly in the last decade. Those changes mean that the church, for many, is no longer a priority in their lives that it once was, spiritually, financially and otherwise. Many things compete for people's time and attention...even on Sundays.

St. John's has many devoted parishioners which are its bedrock foundation, but our congregation is increasingly diverse, transient and, to some extent, seasonal. We have always been a congregation of "locals" and "weekenders" which has made us a richly diverse community, but now we are also a congregation of snowbirds who fly south in the winter, staying for not just a few weeks but for several months, and other shorebirds who fly to the beach and elsewhere for the summer.

TRANSITION and CHANGE:

Transition and change, even minor, are always difficult to navigate in any community, but especially, it seems, in a church community. 2013 has been a year of some changes at St. John's – mostly subtle, a matter of style more than substance, but changes none the less.

Stalwart parishioners who, for years, have assumed major leadership roles – providing coffee hour, organizing the Bazaar, serving on the Flower Committee and Altar Guild, organizing the Greeters, and chairing other standing committees – are beginning to feel that it is time to "pass the baton" to the next generation – a good and healthy thing in the long view. We have been favored with many parishioners from that "next generation" of leaders who have already responded to the call to serve in a variety of capacities. But many in that next generation are still involved in time-consuming careers, often including significant travel during the week, and/or

are deeply involved in their children's sports and social activities, and have a variety of other responsibilities to other organizations and charities to which they also have commitments. So, transitions and changes in leadership will continue to evolve and affect the way work gets done at St. John's.

A priest whose work I admire and whose writing is always thought provoking has said that churches, especially during times of natural transition and change, can be the most "unchristian" of places...a disquieting thought but, more and more, I realize one that has the ring of prophetic truth, even here in this wonderful place. I'm not sure why...my mother would have said that it is because the devil always works harder when he senses he is losing out to our desire to be good...Maybe...but, maybe it's because we want our church to be a private, familiar "club" with membership confined to the people we already know, and everything we do and say frozen as it exists in our mind as having "always been done." Maybe it is because we don't like doing things differently from the way we remember "always having done" them and positively hate not doing something we have grown accustomed to doing.

This reaction against change rears its head time and time again in the life of every parish. It is not unique to St. John's. People will be going about doing God's work: worshiping, serving the community in a variety of ways, learning about Scripture and building community. Then, a tradition will be tweaked; a piece of furniture moved; the bulletin format changed and an acknowledgment inadvertently dropped in the process. The clamor is like what must have accompanied the tearing down of Solomon's Temple. Parishioners will threaten to leave the community over the temporary shift from Rite I to Rite II during the summer or a slight adjustment in the liturgical order. We get so hung up on, and feel such anger over the details of change, that "we fail to recognize God's presence among us, and the devil of division reigns once more."^[1]

And why is that? Is it because it might mean we would have to reexamine long held beliefs and habits which – in the light reflected in new faces and in different ways of doing things – suggest that there might be something better and truer than our old ways of thinking and doing? Is it because it might challenge us to do more, make a bigger contribution of our time and talent...and, yes, maybe even treasure...and we want to feel justified in feeling that we have done enough; we don't want to feel obligated to do anything more; or, maybe we want to feel okay about doing less?

"I suppose that the root of our grievance and criticism is fear, fear of what is different, fear of change, fear of the new, fear of the disturbance of our world. If we let this fear reign in our lives, however, we certainly will miss the coming of Christ. If we know God, we must know that Christ won't come in any comfortable or expected way. We can bet that the Holy One will break the rules.

"I suppose that the only thing we can expect is the unexpected. Jesus was not one for following the rules. He changed everything. He had little respect for social customs, cultural conventions or religious traditions. He was not one to mince words...." The majority of those who saw and heard Jesus chose to focus on his challenges to the traditional, to what he did that was different from what they expected or from the way something had always been done, and in doing so, they missed his message.

“If we are to anticipate the coming of Christ in spirit and truth, then we must open ourselves to the existence of the un-familiar, the unexpected. We must learn to see beyond custom and tradition to the message of the one who speaks, to the motivation, the meaning. We must ask ourselves, in every encounter, “Is God trying to tell me something here? If so, what might that message be?”^[2]

So, maybe when these less pleasant aspects of “community” raise their head at St. John’s I should shrug off my concern and, instead, feel that maybe it is a sign that we are making progress as a community of faith...that we are making deeper connections between our spirituality and our worship, that we are achieving a better balance between form and substance, that we are gaining a broader understanding of our faith traditions and the nature of our mission as a church in today’s world...and that the devil’s just restless, casting about for tiny fissures into which he can insinuate his mischief, unsettling our peace.

But, since I am not very good at shrugging off things that concern me, and I am not so sure about this devil thing, I will instead continue to thank God for the good and loving, faithful and devoted people of St. John’s, and to pray that God will open our hearts to embrace all who would be with us on this journey of faith, that God will open our minds to understand how to integrate and enrich the best of our time-tested ways of doing things with new insights and ideas that will help us do everything better; and that God will open the eyes of those who strive to be faithful to see what this community of faith is called by God to be in this ever more needy and broken world. I believe that although St. John’s, compared to mega-churches, may be “small,” and although it is nestled in a somewhat idyllic rural setting, God sees the many faithful souls here at St. John’s and he sees, too, the diverse and unique gifts you all bring to our communal life. I believe that each of us and all of us together are called to try to be all that God wishes us to be....and I believe with all my heart that St. John’s can be a beacon at the top of this small hill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan J. McCone +". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Susan J. McCone, Rector

Notes:

^[1] The Rev. Kate Moorehead, *Between Two Worlds*, (Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 2003), pp. 55–56.

^[2] *Ibid.*

DRAFT CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL 2014 (subject to change)

FEBRUARY

February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
February 2 at 11 a.m.	Farewell reception for retiring Organist Choir Master, Alan Murchie
February 5 at 12:30 p.m.	Parson's Table luncheon
February 16 at 11:20 a.m.	Vestry Meeting
February 17	Office closed in observance of Presidents' Day
February 23 at 5:00 p.m.	Inaugural organ recital by Organist Choir Master, Sumner Jenkins
February 28	"Blizzard Sale"

MARCH

March 1	"Blizzard Sale"
March 2 at 5 p.m.	St. John's Concert Series 2014: Musicians from the NY Philharmonic Orchestra
March 4	Mardi Gras
March 5	Ash Wednesday
March 9	The First Sunday in Lent
March 9 at 2 a.m.	Daylight Saving Time begins
March 14 at 5:30 p.m.	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study
March 16 at 11:20 a.m.	Vestry Meeting
March 21 at 5:30 p.m.	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study
March 28 at 5:30 p.m.	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study
March 30	The Fourth Sunday in Lent: "Laetare" Sunday
March 30 at 11:15 a.m.	Adult Forum: Dante's "Paradiso" with Richard Reese

APRIL

April 2 at 12:30 p.m.	Parson's Table luncheon
April 4 at 5:30 p.m.	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study
April 6 at 11:15 a.m.	Adult Forum: Dante's "Paradiso" with Richard Reese
April 11 at 5:30 p.m.	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study
April 13	Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday
April 16	Wednesday in Holy Week: Tenebrae
April 17	Maundy Thursday: Triduum Sacrum Part I Agape Meal and Community Seder Supper
April 18	Good Friday: Triduum Sacrum Part II
April 19	Holy Saturday: Triduum Sacrum Part III: The Great Vigil
April 20	The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day
April 27 at 11:20 a.m.	Vestry Meeting

Note:

Dates for the Lenten Quiet Day, Morning and Evening Prayer during Lent, Evensong and additional Adult Forum, etc. TBD.

NOTES



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S PARISH

CLERGY

The Rev. Susan McCone, *Rector*
The Rev. Canon John Andrew, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Carolyn Stockwell, *Assisting Deacon*

STAFF

The Rev. Alan C. Murchie, *Organist and Choir Master*
Isobel M. Moore, *Parish Administrator*
Jorge Artieda, *Sexton*
J.J. Robinson, *Church School Director*
Laura Hughes, *Nursery Care*

VESTRY

W. Russ Elgin and Helen F. Gray (*Wardens*),
Joan M. Beattie (*Clerk*), Thomas T. Daniels (*Treasurer*)
Class of 2014
David Gillespie, John A. Magee and Thomas T. Daniels
Class of 2015
Rebecca Bent, Hunter Brown, Pamela L. Moffett
Class of 2016
Robert Futh, Peter J. Harrison, Thomas H. Hollinger

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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