



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

2014

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



ANNUAL MEETING

January 25, 2015



AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

REVIEW OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT 2014

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET 2015

STEWARDSHIP REPORT 2015

REPORTS

- Report of the Altar Guild for 2014
- Report of the Bazaar for 2014
- Report of the Food Festival 2014
- Buildings and Grounds Report for 2014
- Report of the Church School Director for 2014
- Report of the Flower Committee for 2014
- Report of the Hospitality Committee for 2014
- Liturgical Report for 2014
- Report of the Music Director for 2014
- Report of the St. Elizabeth Guild for 2014

STATE OF THE CHURCH

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JANUARY 26, 2014

The Reverend Susan McCone opened the meeting with a prayer.

This Annual meeting marks the 220th year of St. John's Church in Washington, Connecticut.

The meeting was well attended with 45 qualified voting members present.

The Minutes of the 2013 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:

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;
Gael Hammer to a three-year term as Delegate to Convention;
Elizabeth Duus O'Connor to a three-year term as Delegate to Convention.

The Treasurer's Report for 2013 and the proposed budget for 2014 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 2014. Mr. Daniels reported that as Treasurer he believed the budget to be reasonable. He commented further on the shortfall in pledges made and received and on the bequest received at the end of the year. He answered questions on the Church's community service and its contribution to the Diocese's outreach ministry through our assessment. Mother Susan commented on the importance of the income from renting out the Parish Hall, noting that the price that St. John's charges is competitive with our local venues.

Mr. Hollinger reported on the Stewardship Campaign, noting that there is a need to increase pledge income. He also asked that parishioners consider including a bequest to St. John's in their wills and, if they do so, they should advise the Church of their intention.

Mother Susan called special attention to several aspects of Parish Life, especially the wonderful things being done in the Church School and the work being undertaken by the Buildings and Grounds Committee. She thanked all those who have worked so hard this year, especially the Altar Guild, the Vestry, the Hospitality Committee, and Choir. A motion thanking Isobel for all she does was passed enthusiastically.

Mother Susan then presented Russ Elgin with a prayer book, thanking him for his years of service to St. John's, and Helen Gray with a set of Episcopal prayer beads, thanking her for her service as Warden.

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 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Beattie

Joan M. Beattie

Clerk of the Vestry

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2015

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

Hunter Brown	For a new 2-year term as Warden
Joan Beattie	For a 1-year term as Clerk
Thomas Daniels	For a 1-year term as Treasurer
Pamela Moffet	For a new 3-year term as Member
Rebecca Lambert Bent	For a new 3-year term as Member
Susan McFeely	For a new 3-year term as Member

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.

PAMELA MOFFET

Pamela Moffett grew up in New Jersey and is a graduate of the University of North Carolina. She has had a home in Litchfield for over 20 years as a weekender for many years and as a full time resident since 2008. Pam had a long career in the fashion industry retiring from Bloomingdales as the Director of Product Development for women's apparel. An active member of St John's for the past several years, Pam served as chair of the Holiday Bazaar in 2011 and 2012. She currently serves as the Executive Director of Hollister House Garden in Washington.

REBECCA LAMBERT

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

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 two dogs, a yellow lab named Tulip and a retriever/chow/corgi mix named Max. Susan has served as chair of the Holiday Bazaar in 2013 and 2014 and will continue in that role in 2015. 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.

Respectfully submitted:

The Nominating Committee

REPORT OF THE TREASURER FOR 2014

Operating Income in 2014 totaled \$537,603 and expenses totaled \$548,346. The Vestry had budgeted a \$11,372 deficit for 2014, anticipating that income from plate contributions, legacies and memorial gifts, difficult to determine in advance, would reduce that deficit during the course of the year. While the Bazaar produced record income for the second year in a row and memorials exceeded the projected level, plate contributions were 30% less than what had been projected. That fact, as well as substantial increases over projected expenses relating to organ repair, general repairs and maintenance of buildings, grounds maintenance and fuel resulted in an actual deficit of \$10,743 for the year.

The budget for 2015, projects total income of \$526,000, with a conservative estimate of Bazaar and other non-pledge income. The \$220,000 projected income from pledges seems reasonable, with actual pledges received to date in excess of \$207,500 and some additional pledges still anticipated. Expenses are projected to be \$540,000, including a long-overdue increase in compensation to our staff, with a projected operating deficit of \$14,230.

With a bit more generosity, careful monitoring of expenses and a little penny-pinching we hope to break even this year.

Respectfully submitted,

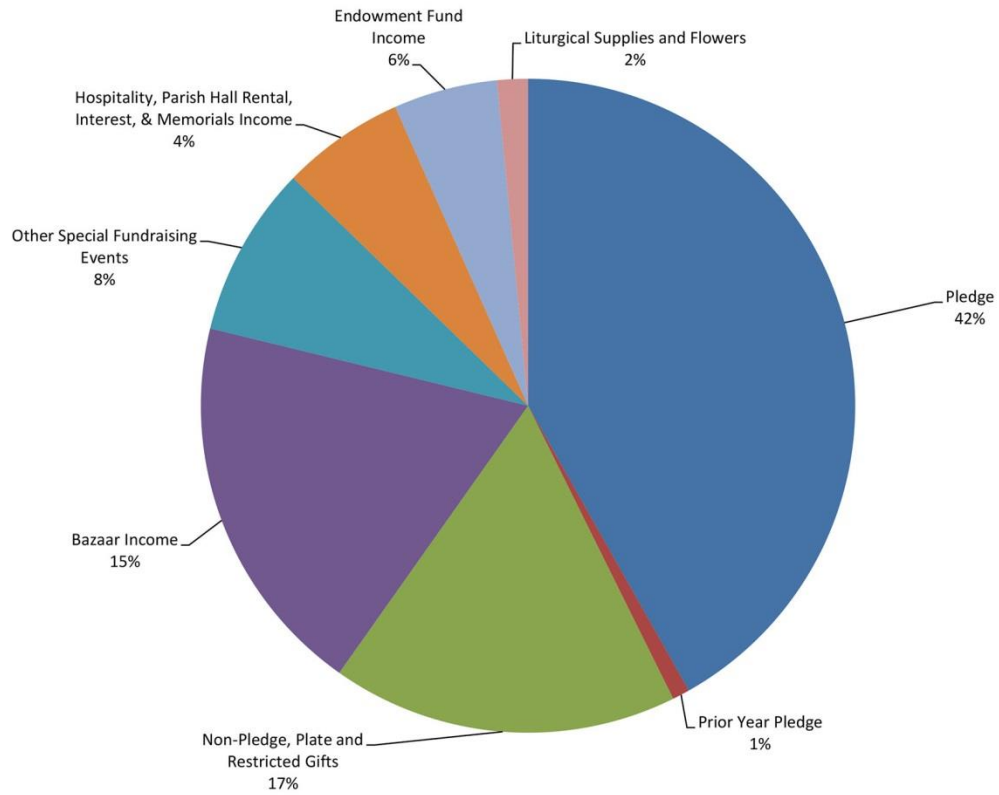
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas T. Daniels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Thomas T. Daniels

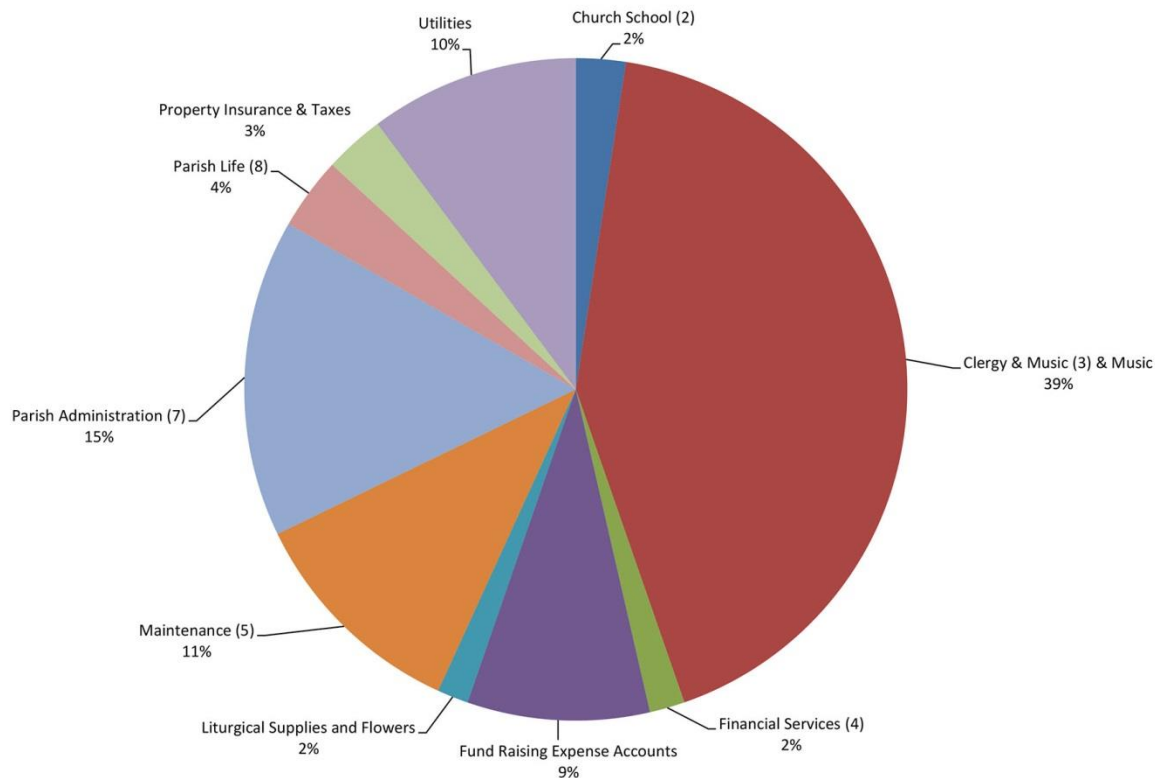
Treasurer

January 23, 2014

Income 2015



Expenses 2015



2015 APPROVED BUDGET

<u>Account Name</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>
Pledge	\$220,000.00	\$233,195.00
Prior Year Pledge	\$4,500.00	\$0.00
Non-Pledge, Plate and Restricted Gifts	\$90,000.00	\$80,032.00
Bazaar	\$100,000.00	\$112,051.00
Other Special Fundraising Events	\$44,500.00	\$49,067.00
Other Miscellaneous Income	\$32,000.00	\$28,539.00
Endowment Fund	\$27,000.00	\$26,787.00
Liturgical Supplies and Flowers	\$8,000.00	\$7,932.00
Total Income	\$526,000.00	\$537,603.00
Church School (2)	\$12,000.00	\$10,416.00
Clergy & Music (3)	\$209,080.00	\$194,037.00
Financial Services (4)	\$8,500.00	\$7,479.00
Fund Raising Expense Accounts	\$44,000.00	\$75,859.00
Liturgical Supplies and Flowers	\$7,500.00	\$7,665.00
Maintenance (5)	\$54,400.00	\$63,546.00
Outreach (6)	\$45,500.00	\$45,037.00
Parish Administration (7)	\$76,750.00	\$62,589.00
Parish Life (8)	\$17,500.00	\$19,890.00
Property Insurance & Taxes	\$14,500.00	\$12,021.00
Utilities	\$50,500.00	\$49,307.00
Total Expenses	\$540,230.00	\$547,846.00
Difference	-\$14,230.00	-\$10,243.00

(1) Includes 2013 receipts

(2) Includes Church School Director compensation and continuing education; Child Care; Church School Supplies; and Adult Forum.

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

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

(5) Includes Alarm, Electrical, Grounds Maintenance, General Maintenance, Pest Control, HVAC, Sexton and Davis Hollow Maintenance

(6) Includes Diocesan Pledge for Outreach, Contributions to Others and Community Outreach

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

(8) Includes Hospitality; Stewardship; Library; Vestry; and Library.

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE FOR 2014

Thanks to your generosity and commitment, St. John's has maintained a strong stewardship campaign at or above \$200,000 per year for the past three years. In keeping with that trend, and in light of the very busy outlook for the coming year, we have set our stewardship goal at \$220,000 for 2015. We distributed pledge packets to 149 individuals and/or families who show significant engagements with the Church. As of January 27, 2015, 77 people have responded and pledged approximately \$207,000.

Additionally, this year a few new innovations were implemented. We added the ability to make a pledge through the Church website; we refined the graphs and data detailing the weekly cost of services in to demonstrate where our pledge dollars are spent; and the foundations for new innovations for the 2016 campaign have been laid to make renewing your pledge easier and more convenient.

As has been mentioned in prior reports, the amount raised by the stewardship campaign accounts for approximately 40% of the total operating budget for the church. The remaining 60% comes through our fundraising efforts such as the Bazaar, Summer Food Festival, the Concert Series, and fees received for the use of the Parish Hall for receptions and group activities. If each family who has pledged for the 2015 year increased their pledge by a dollar a day (\$7 a week!), the stewardship campaign would account for approximately 60% of the total operating budget for the church. Because increasing the number of families pledging or increasing the dollar amounts pledged by each family would have such a dramatic impact on our budget, highlighting our motivations for stewardship, increasing the convenience of making the pledge, and improving prior years' efforts in explaining the expenses covered by our stewardship campaign were the main focus of this year's efforts.

With that in mind, if you have not yet made a pledge for 2015, 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 2015, please call the Parish Office and arrange for a time to speak with Mother Susan, or email stjohnschurch@snet.net.

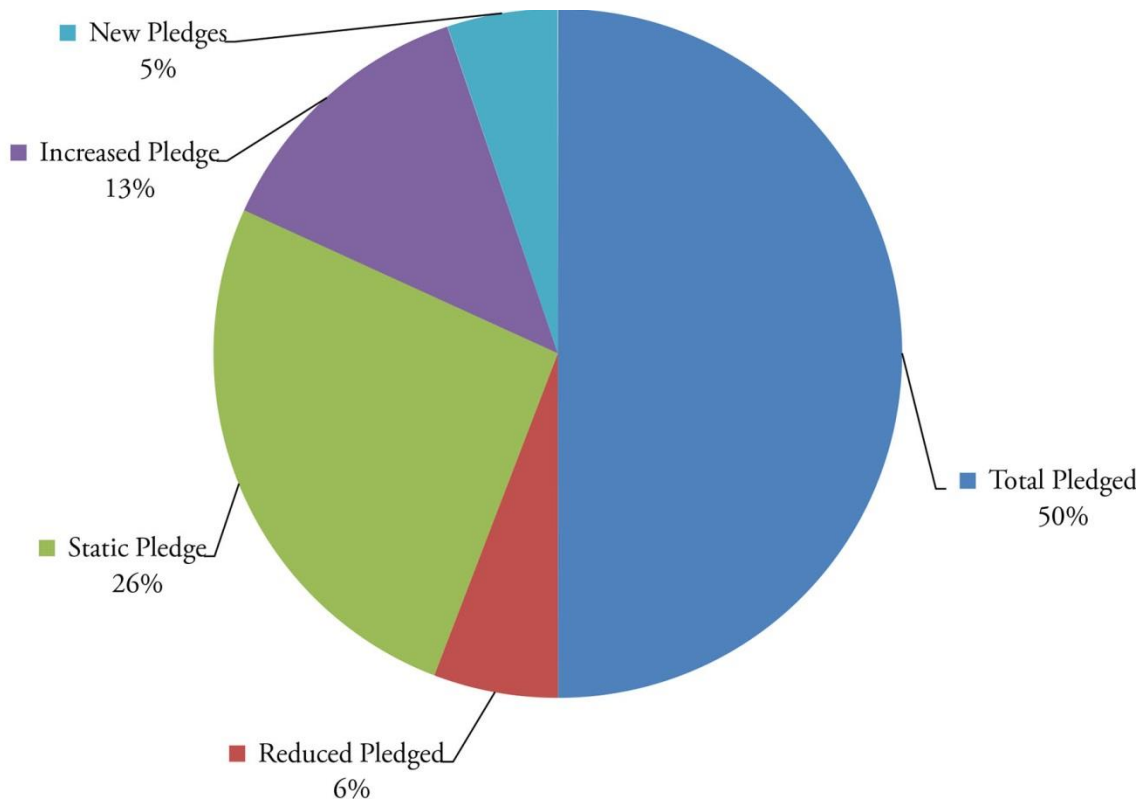
Respectfully submitted,



Peter Harrison

Stewardship Chair

2015 PLEDGE STATUS REPORT AS AT JANUARY 23, 2015



Total Pledges	77	\$207,877.07
New Pledges	8	\$9,712.00
Increased Pledges	20	\$75,626.07
Static Pledges	40	\$113,210.00
Reduced Pledges	9	\$9,712.00

Thank you to all who have made pledges to support St. John's Church in 2015

Ms. Mary Elizabeth Adams
Mr. Francis E. Arcaro
Mr. & Mrs. William Bardel
Dr. & Mrs. Jay Bauer
Ms. Joan M. Beattie
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Beattie
Ms. Flora Biddle
Ms. Lisa M. Coleman
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
Ms. Janet D. Chenery
Ms. Kathleen A. Clynes
Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Coles, Jr.
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
Ms. Emily FitzHugh
Ms. Holly Flor & Capt. Rudy Mangels
Mr. William E. Fore
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Futh, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. David Gillespie
Mr. James Goodale
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. Derek Hughes
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Jackson
Mr. Steven James & Mr. David Lewandowski
Mr. Andris Kalnins & Ms. Sarah Lee Martin
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Keating
Miss Louise W. King
Ms. Kirsten Knutson
Miss Tillie Page Laird
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Magee
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Markert
Ms. Susan McFeely
Ms. Katharine Michie
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur F. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. John Millington
Mr. & Mrs. Slade Mills
Mr. & Mrs. J. T. Mitchell
Ms. Pamela Moffett.
Mrs. Wendy Darling Parkin
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
Mrs. Barbara B. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Smith
Ms. Caroline Reid Sorell
Mr. & Mrs. Lee C. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. John Strawbridge
Ms. Sophie Sutton-Drubner
Ms. Nancy Tafuri
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 of January 23, 2015

REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD FOR 2014

Sunday morning, when you come to Church for the 8 or the 10 o'clock service, everything is ready. The table has been set, the linens pressed, the candles lit, the silver and brass gleaming, the flowers have been arranged. The Eucharistic table is ready for the feast to begin.



The Altar Guild is the group that works behind the scenes to prepare each week for the services, whether it is for the Eucharist, a wedding, a funeral, a baptism, Lessons and Carols, Maundy Thursday...whatever that week brings, we are ready. Everything we do has a purpose and adds immeasurably to the beauty of our worship. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve on the Altar Guild. It teaches us reverence, holiness and humility. But, when you get right down to it, it's "washing dishes for God," as one Altar Guild Director told me. It's not rocket science but it *is* important.

This year Mother Susan has challenged us to shake things up; to come up with some new ways of doing things that are more in keeping with our modern lives yet still maintain our high standards. We began by making set-up diagrams for both services and, while we still have the manual for reference — we have condensed the manual into easy-to-read checklists for both set-up and clean-up. An Altar Guild member can come to work whenever it is convenient as long as the set-up is complete one half-hour before the service. We hope to implement a simpler schedule for the polishing as well.

"Washington in Bloom," our spring fund raiser for candles, linens and all the bibs and bobs we need is going to return, in a re-imagined form. Stay tuned...

2014 was a very busy year, and it is with gratitude that I thank our tireless and devoted Altar Guild members. A few members retired this past year, and we thank them for their many years of service and look forward to adding some new members to our core.

The members of the Altar Guild in 2014:

Kate Harrison
Diana Hardee
Caroline Sorrell

Martin K Rook
Virginia Reynolds
Sally Taylor

MB Witt
Donett Aaby
Camille Gillespie

Respectfully submitted,

MB Witt

¶Director

REPORT OF THE ST. JOHN'S BAZAAR FOR 2014

2013 was 2014 was another record year for the St. John's Holiday Bazaar. Currently in its 25th year, the Bazaar weekend kicked off on Friday night with its traditional and festive Gala Preview Party. 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 attic treasures, goodies and gifts for all. Thanks to the creative genius of our Honorary Chair, Rod Pleasants, and with the aid of designer Chris Zaima, the Parish Hall was transformed into a magical palace of billowing streams of green and gold silks leading into Santa's winter-white workshop surrounded by dangling snowflakes...definitely a sight to behold!

The mood was merry as guests strolled

through the Street of Shops, bought little gold boxes filled with gift certificates off of the Mystery Gift Tree, admired the creative efforts of Wallace Gray and his band of garden elves in the Gazebo, looked for Manolo's and Chanel in the Couture Boutique while ultimately deciding which basket to bid on in the Silent Auction. The layout was expanded this year to support a second open bar out under the front sidewalk tent which allowed guests to walk around, mingle and listen to wonderful cabaret and Christmas melodies played by David Grausman at the piano. The evening ended with the Live Auction under the direction of Bill Fore and his melodious voice which once again generated record sales amidst the gaiety of the evening.



On Saturday, dealers and eager shoppers started lining up at the doors before 9:00 a.m. hoping for early entry and bargain sales. Our indomitable group of volunteers took up their stations



preparing for the mad rush of early birds, while behind the scenes, our Bistro crew put the finishing touches on the Bistro lunch which was served from 12-2:00 p.m. While the day closed at 3:00 p.m., the Silent Auction remained open this year for the fireside Holiday Cabaret evening which started at 5:30 p.m. A new addition to the Bazaar weekend festivities was Santa's workshop, which was open all day for children and parents who wished to decorate cookies and stockings for Christmas or purchase a special gift for a family member, friend or teacher.

We finished up the weekend Bazaar on Sunday with churchgoers and last minute shoppers, buyers who were arranging pickups, and closed the doors to our magical and mystical wonderland at 2:00 p.m., with welcomed sighs of relief upon completion and smiles of hopeful financial success.

Overall, the Bazaar was another huge success, with revenues of \$109,981. The Live and Silent Auctions together grossed \$29,700, and increase of over \$5,000 from 2013; the Couture Boutique exceeded its own stunning 2013 results with over \$9,000 in sales; general merchandise sales exceeded \$42,000; underwriting sponsorship (\$10,450) was more than double the amount contributed in 2013; and, last but not least, thanks to the tireless efforts of Gael Hammer, revenues from Advertising in the Bazaar program broke all previous records at \$4,750.



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...it was a joy and a privilege to work with all of you.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. McFeely

Bazaar Chair



REPORT OF THE FOOD FESTIVAL FOR 2014

Thanks to dozens of volunteers, a lot of hard work, and perfect weather, the Market and dinner netted a record amount for the St. John's Emergency Fund - at least 80% over 2013's net.

A random sampling of visitors proved that our eye-catching new vendor layout, more red signs along Route 47, and the easy-to-see children's petting zoo and food court brought many new families to the Market. A prominent article with color photographs in the August *Litchfield County Times* magazine, a bigger mailing to all residents of both Washingtons, New Preston, and Marble Dale, and Susan's appearance on CBS's "Better Connecticut" show helped as well. We estimate that at least 400 people came, probably more.



We gained four new vendors whose total sales exceeded those of the vendors they replaced. Three repeat vendors more than doubled their 2013 sales, and the overall total increased by 10%. The best news is that they all want to return this year. We also have some possible new vendors in the pipeline.

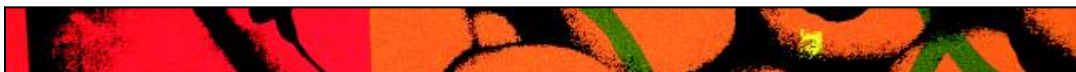
The Italian Festa, beautifully organized by Susan, was a huge success thanks to the addition of the Patron's Cocktail and underwriters. The Big Green Pizza Truck, parked in front of the church, provided pizzas and salad, followed by gelato and espresso, to 81 diners seated at tables within a green lattice fenced area crowned by little lights. The income from the Festa was up 26% from last year's dinner.

This would not have been possible without the help of my committee - Posy Benedict, Jean Blanchard, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Helen Gray, Kate Harrison, Audrey Hecken, and M.B. Witt, and the many volunteers who worked so well as a team. We look forward to 2015's Festival on Saturday, August 8th.....mark your calendars!

Tillie Page Laird

Tillie Page Laird

Chair



REPORT ON BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS FOR 2014

This year, a number of building and maintenance issues began to be addressed which will continue into 2015 and beyond. Early capital contributions to a restoration effort for the Church building and the Rectory have permitted us to begin work. We foresee a series of improvements over the long term, some of which are visible now. It is appropriate to mention here that gifts for capital improvements are not the same as annual pledges for normal operating expenses. Your annual pledges are essential to funding the day-to-day operation of the Church. Gifts for capital improvements such as restoration work are separate from yearly pledges for operations.

Windows: In the Church building, many of the stained glass windows near the altar and all in the sacristy have been restored and replaced by Lamb Studios (\$91,000 to date). We hope to continue their excellent work as soon as funds become available. Grates for the Church window wells are being made and should be installed in the spring (\$30,000).



Boiler: Total replacement of the Church boiler (\$32,000) has been contracted thanks to an anonymous donor. Work on that project should be finished by the end of the month.

Roof: A survey of the Church's roof needs to be completed. An initial look reveals repairs are needed in the areas where the steeple base meets the main structure. There are minor leaks in the Lady's Chapel which could be repaired once the windows there have been restored. However, at this time, the roof's entire replacement does not appear necessary. Repairs have been made to eliminate leaks which threatened parts of the Mowbray mural behind the altar. More work is to be done there commensurate with re-pointing of the building's stonework

The Rectory's heating and hot water system have been completely replaced and the exterior of the house is gradually being refinished. The speed with which the scraping and repainting can be done is dependent on the weather. Dampness, not temperature, slows the process. We are hoping for completion of all the exterior and foundation work (\$180,000) by early summer. The roof of the Rectory is in satisfactory condition and we do not foresee a need for any work there over the near term.

While restoration work on the Parish House is necessary, it is not a primary focus now. There are structural flaws, rotten window sills, obvious exterior painting and drainage issues which need work. Drainage has been improved around the building with the removal of shrubbery and stunted trees at its rear. Dampness at the front has been eliminated with the removal of dense ground cover.

Drainage over the entire campus is a major problem which requires re-grading and the re-positioning of drains to eliminate water pooling against the Church, the Parish House and the cottage.

As mentioned above, capital improvements made to date have been funded by the generous contributions of parishioners prior to the commencement of a formal capital campaign. Major tasks such as the re-pointing of the stonework on the Church, roof repairs, further work on the windows and drainage will require much larger commitments of funds from a number of sources. We anticipate the institution of a formal public campaign in late summer 2015 which will address these needs.

As to maintenance expenses: fuel costs were 6% higher in 2014 (\$27,885) than the year before; outlays for plowing, salting and mowing were 96% higher (\$3,440); and costs for Spring and Fall clean-up (\$1,675) -- (handled by volunteers in prior years) and repair of air-conditioning equipment in the Parish House (\$1,427) were three times what had been budgeted (\$1,000).

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude the research and fine work done by Phil Markert and the considerable effort on the buildings and grounds freely given by Sumner Jenkins over the past several months. We also want to thank Wallace Gray for all his work and counsel on the grounds. Finally, we are grateful to the volunteers who staged a massive clean-up of the grounds around the Church and the Rectory in preparation for the Summer Food Festival.

Respectfully submitted,

Hunter Brown



Warden

Tom Hollinger



Warden

REPORT OF THE CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTOR FOR 2014

Given the realities of all the other commitments that are a major part of young people's lives today -- athletic teams, social activities, family travel, lessons of every sort -- Church School faces a real challenge...not just at St. John's, not just in Washington, CT, but everywhere.

In 2014, I've conducted roughly ten "live" classes with two to four children in attendance at each. Early in 2014, Mthr. Susan and Sumner conducted a survey among parents and found that the alternative to "live" Church school, the way of the future, if you will, might be "online" Church School, providing lessons based on the Gospel (a kid-friendly story version coupled that relates the message to them, their life experience). We began this program in Spring of 2014 sending lessons and accompanying materials (puzzles, pictures to be colored) by email to parents. Overarching themes from the lessons included feelings; being mad without being mean, being aware of teasing and sticking up for kids who need their help, appreciating our families, learning how to be a 21st century follower of Jesus by making good choices and doing what's right.

While this may be a "user-friendly" way of providing basic Christian education, it doesn't offer an opportunity for the children to develop "church friendships" which is an important part of belonging to a community of faith; and, unfortunately, I don't have a chance to teach them about the Episcopal Church, and bring the Bible stories with "awe-inspiring" activities and creative art projects.

In early 2014, we instituted a "young person's service" at the 10:00 service on the 4th Sunday of every month, with our younger parishioners serving as greeters, readers, and acolytes...But, once again, erratic attendance has proved to be a challenge.



Mthr. Susan has consulted with parents and the "team" (Mthr. Susan, Sumner and I) have met several times to plan other ways of attracting children in the Washington area to St. John's. The BOO Fest and the Winter Wonderland were two results. And although those who participated were enthusiastic and urged us to continue both events, attendance in each case were modest, although each event did attract children from outside of St. John's. Sadly, no children participated in the decorating of pie boxes at Thanksgiving time.

We will continue to look for ways to bring young families with children to St. John's. Meanwhile, I will continue to provide our young people with interesting and thought-provoking lessons via e-blasts.

Respectfully submitted, JJ Heath-Robinson,

Jennifer Heath Robinson

Church School Director

REPORT OF THE FLOWER COMMITTEE FOR 2014

In addition to the weekly flowers for the Altars, we had a busy year with several funerals and one large wedding. I do not know what I would have done without my great team: Alex Purves, Annette McDonald, Lee Reese, Susie Markert, Veronique Dulack and extra helpers Barbara Blake, Marlene Smith, Susan McFeely and Helen and Carla Gray. What a group! Always with smiles and never complaints, except me.

Getting the flowers for the Garden of Gethsemane for Easter and extra branches turned out to be an adventure due to a tire puncture on Mimi Kelly's car right on 28th Street. Mimi handled the setback like a professional. The "palm trees" turned out well; the palm trees were created by Lee Reese and Susan McFeely while Alex did the Altar.

Annette McDonald has retired from our Committee; we are very indebted to her for her constancy and hard work and appreciate everything she has done.

My thanks again to all the Committee members and the special helpers for making this year such a successful one.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wallace H. Gray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "W" and "G".

Wallace H. Gray, Chair



REPORT OF THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE FOR 2014

Thanks to all members of the Hospitality Committee who every week make our Coffee Hours after the ten a.m. service a welcoming, friendly and delicious occasion. We welcome new members to our committee – it is a once-a-quarter task, with the emphasis on providing warm, easy and welcoming finger food – nothing elaborates. Please be sure to invite visitors in Church on Sunday to come join us in the Parish House for Coffee Hour.

Members of the Hospitality Committee for 2014 were:

Rebecca Bent	Tillie Page Laird
Véronique Dulack	Susie Markert
Lili Dyer	Drika Purves
Natalie Dyer	Alec Purves
Emily Fitzhugh	Chris Smith
Bob Futh	Marlene Smith
Sally Futh	MB Witt
Gael Hammer	Mary Davis
Diana Hardee	Susan McFeely
Audrey Hecken	Kirsten Knutson

Respectfully submitted:

Sally Futh

Hospitality Committee Chair

LITURGICAL REPORT FOR 2014

In 2014, according to the entries in the Register of Church Services the following services were held at St. John's Church:

Sunday Eucharists: 99, attendance 3,554

Average Sunday attendance 78

Weekday Eucharists: (including Ash Wednesday): 19, attendance 266

Private Eucharists: (at homes or hospitals): 6, attendance 18

Daily Offices – Weekday: 22, attendance 103

Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent: 1, attendance 163

Burials: 3

Baptisms: 1

Marriages: 1

Attendance at all services: 4,826

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 Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas

The Rev. John M. Gilpin

The Rev. Sherry Hardwick-Thomas

The Rev. Carol Hoidra

The Rev. Dr. Paul A. Jacobson

The Rev. Susan J. McCone

The Rev. Dr. David K. McIntosh

The Rev. Max A. Myers

The Rev. Sarah Randall

The Rev. Dr. E. Bevan Stanley

The Rev. Carolyn L. Stockwell

The Rev. Roger B. White

The Rev. Robert Woodroffe

The lay person licensed to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor in 2014 was Joan M. Beattie.

The licensed Chalice Bearers and Lay Readers for 2014 were:

Joan M. Beattie (Chalice/Reader)

Rosalind Benedict (Reader)

Rebecca Bent (Chalice/Reader)

Jean R. Blanchard (Chalice/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 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC FOR 2014

It is with great pleasure that I write this report on the Music Program at St. John's Church. I was honored to begin serving St. John's on February 6, 2014, a Thursday Choir rehearsal. It was through the hard work of the Choir, Mthr. Susan, and the parish that my transition was almost



seamless. I can honestly say that I have not experienced so smooth a transition into a new position in my career. The St. John's Choir has been a pleasure to work with since my first day. The Choir is augmented by four section leaders, who comprise a backbone around which the rest of the ensemble is built. It was with great sadness that I accepted the resignation of Monte Stone as bass section leader this past October. The decision about how to fill that vacancy is still being deliberated.

The St. John's Choir leads the congregation at each 10am Mass and other special services from September through the end of May. In addition to the regular Sunday 10am Mass, the Choir led the following liturgies: Ash Wednesday for the Imposition of Ashes and Mass; Maundy Thursday Mass and Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar; The Good Friday Liturgy; The Easter Vigil and the First Mass of Easter; an Evensong on the Feast of All Souls, the Annual Advent Lessons and Carols service offered to the Litchfield Deanery, and the First Mass of Christmas (Christmas Eve). Additionally, the Choir hosted a very successful Parson's Table luncheon during the summer. As you can read, this is far more than just a Sunday morning Choir. The members, both volunteer and staff, give much of themselves to this vital cog in the wheel that is St. John's.

It has been the my hope, as well as Mthr. Susan's, that the Children's Chorus, begun in 2013, might continue in some form, though this has proved a challenge. With the ever increasing demands placed on the weekend time of children, it has not been possible for them to commit to any sort of regular rehearsal, or even a seasonal rehearsal, schedule.

The organ continues to be a concern. Without becoming too technical, the instrument has issues that stem from both its construction and its installation. During the winter we often hear it whistling. This happens, primarily, when the air becomes cold and dry. The wood chests, on which the pipes are placed, shrink just enough to create a small fissure when the wind line joins the chest. The escaping air then "whistles." An issue with the electrical supply to the console, which had been building for a number of years, finally came to a head on Advent I. As I was playing the introduction to the chorale sung during Communion, the light over the music desk went out, two beats later the pedalboard light went out, then two beats later the power to the console failed. Needless to say, both the Choir and I were surprised. When the organ maintenance company arrived the console failed again (a good thing) and they were able to determine that the controller unit was failing. The unit was replaced just before Christmas, and since the organ has started and run reliably.

It is my honor to serve this parish, and to work with Mthr. Susan, Pia, Jorge, and Sarah.

REPORT OF THE ST. ELIZABETH GUILD FOR 2014

This year the St. Elizabeth Guild has focused its work on specific programs which occur throughout the annual calendar.

Food collection and delivery goes on constantly, and Veronique Dulack takes the collected food to its destination every month.



In Lent, we are responsible for Easter Baskets and work in cooperation with Family Services. This year we created 34 Easter baskets.

In August, we organize the Back-to-School Backpacks. This year we assembled 23 Backpacks.

In November, we work with the Town of Washington to provide the pies for the Town's Thanksgiving baskets. This year we made over a dozen pies. I am particularly grateful to Kate Harrison, who again organized the effort this past year as she has done for the past two. Diana Hardee and I had a very enjoyable time being her helpers.

In December, we organize the Mitten Tree for which members of St. John's donate toys for children (this year a record 56!!!), who might otherwise have a very sparse Christmas. We are all indebted to Marlene Smith's dedication to fulfilling the wishes of children.



St. John's has a presence at Community Day **in June**, and the Guild is grateful for those who step in to take an hour or so at the table. It isn't always easy to staff the table with members of the Guild because they are involved in other areas on the same day. Thanks go to Sumner Jenkins for helping us out last June.

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

We would be happy to have a larger committee. **Come and join us!** As you can see, there are things to do almost every single month of the year and we would love your help. At present we are small and only a very few members are able to be helpful consistently because of their other commitments.

Respectfully submitted:

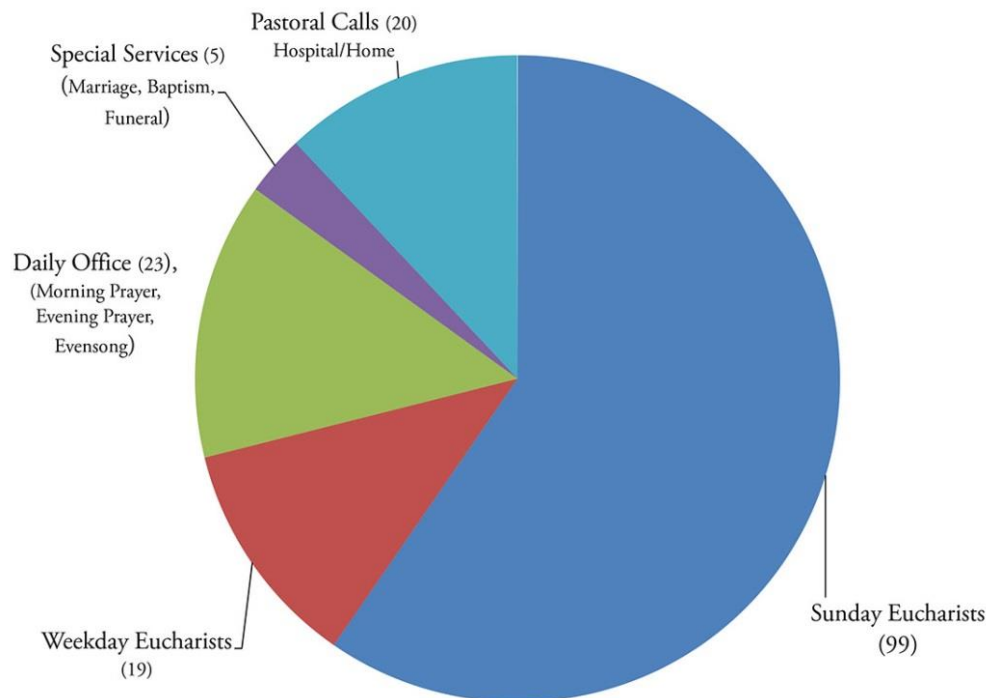
Helen F. Gray, Chair; Gael Hammer, Kate Harrison, Lily Dyer, Marlene Smith, Posy Benedict, Richard Wallgren, Sally Taylor, Susie Markert, Véronique Dulack

STATE OF THE CHURCH

2014 WAS A YEAR OF CONSTANCY...

In Worship:

We gathered as a congregation for a total of 146 services (see below) attended by 4,826 fellow worshippers. Our weekly attendance continued to be robust with Average Sunday Attendance of 78, above the national average of 75. We welcomed 10 new adult members with 4 children into the St. John's community.



In Spiritual Formation:

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

Our 2014 Lenten program was intense with Morning and Evening Prayer throughout the week; Friday Eucharist's followed by a Soup Supper; a Quiet Day led by Sister Sarah Randall; Stations of the Cross; an Icon writing Retreat taught by iconographer Susan Schleck; Dick Reese's course on Dante's *Paradiso*; and from Palm Sunday through Easter morning a full Holy Week -- a service of Tennebrae on Wednesday and the Triduum; the Maundy Thursday liturgy including a Foot-washing and Stripping of the Altar; the Watch at the Altar of Repose Thursday night through Friday morning; a community Seder which included out Jewish friends; the Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday; and the Great Vigil on Saturday evening with the lighting of the New Fire.

In Service to the Community:

For the second straight year we made record contributions to the SJ Emergency Fund of over \$5,000 from the proceeds of the Bridge Lunch, the Summer Food Festival, Washington in Bloom and the Bazaar.

The St. Elizabeth's Guild encouraged the congregation to create 34 Easter Baskets, fill 23 Back-to-School Backpacks, make a dozen pumpkin pies for the Town's Thanksgiving baskets and fulfill the Christmas wishes of 56 children with gifts from the Mitten Tree – all to the benefit of deserving children and families through our partnerships with Covenant to Care and local municipal agencies.

We continued to open our doors to neighbors, fellow parishioners, and friends from the Salem Covenant and Roman Catholic churches at Parson's Table lunches on the first Wednesday of every month, except July and August.

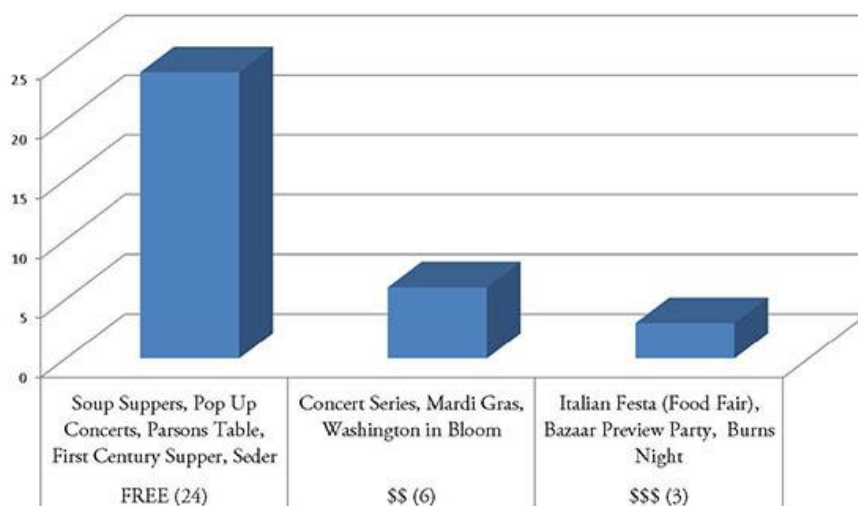
Once again, in August and in September, the Parish Hall served as the host site for Conversations on the Green, living out our mission purpose to advance education on a community-wide basis in a different way.

The Concert Series fulfilled our mission of offering high-quality music to the broader community and enabled us able to generate sufficient revenues to sustain the Series as well as support our music program generally.

In Service to the Community:

A community of faith is formed by breaking bread together – in worship with Communion at the Alta, as well as in fellowship with one another around other kinds of tables. In worship, one seeks a balance between Word and music, between liturgical form and theological substance. In fellowship one seeks a balance between events that reflect the diverse interests, style and means of the community as a whole, between events which are essentially free, some which are modestly priced, hopefully covering their costs, and a few which are more costly providing important cash flow at critical times in the year (especially January – February, mid-to-late summer and at the end of the year).

This year St. John's hosted 24 free dinners serving 293 people, 6 moderately priced events attracting 168 people, and 3 somewhat more expensive dinners entertaining 309 people.



In Stewardship:

The Stewardship Committee has continued its efforts to educate the wider congregation about what it takes “to be church” in today's world in terms of the commitment of time, talent and treasure that is needed from parishioners.

This year we have been especially blessed by unexpected and generous gifts from individuals, some not directly affiliated with St. John's, given in gratitude for the Church's and Clergy's services at important moments in their lives. These gifts have literally been “manna from heaven,” arriving providentially when we truly needed them.

The Finance Committee to some extent morphed into a Capital Campaign Committee as we entered the “quiet phase” of fund raising necessary to restore the Church's historic buildings. To date, through the great generosity of four lead donors and commitments from members of the Vestry, we have received nearly \$500,000 in cash and pledges which have allowed us to commit to the critical restoration work on the foundation and exterior of the Rectory; and we have begun work on the Church: one-third of the windows have been replaced (the ones at the north end of the Church which in many cases were broken and/or would not close); the 60-some-year-old boiler (which has failed five times in the last month !!) is being replaced next week; the dilapidated window grates around the Church are being replaced in the spring; and the Church doors have been repaired and restored to their original “Episcopal red.”

2014 WAS ALSO A YEAR OF CHALLENGE...

Continued efforts to deepen and broaden the spirituality that undergirds and informs our worship (*e.g.*, through the discipline of Morning and Evening Prayer and a Quiet Day during Lent, the Icon writing course, etc.) have not borne fruit as abundantly as I had hoped., but they have had definite appeal to a small group of devoted people. I continue to hope that a broader audience will become engaged in these pursuits in 2015, but, in the meantime, where two or three are gathered...

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 every parishioner's time and attention...even on Sundays. This trend has a particular reality for the Church School program.

In 2014, Church School under the leadership of JJ Robinson continued to deal with the week-to-week uncertainties of fluctuating and unpredictable attendance...Often there were simply no children in the Church School. Please read JJ's report. It is insightful -- encouraging as well sobering. We are extremely fortunate to have someone of JJ's intuitive understanding and love of children, her exceptional creativity, educational skills and dedication...and that despite the frustrations... someone who remains committed to finding new and effective ways to offer the youngest members of our parish the religious formation that we believe is important and from which they may draw strength in the future.

...And 2014 HAS BEEN A YEAR OF SOME CHANGES

It's an increasing ubiquitous (and to me, usually irritating) modern mantra to follow a description of a difficult or complicated situation or event with the dismissive or evasive phrase...“But, it's all good...” It is always difficult to adjust to changes in an institutional setting, especially when it comes to changes in staff...but in terms of the changes at St. John's this year, I can truly say, “It's all good.” Sumner Jenkins' arrival at the beginning of February 2014 was truly a Godsend in so many ways, including his many contributions beyond the organ bench, as a full colleague ready to offer his irenic spirit, pastoral concern, energy, knowledge of the liturgy, computer, web and cooking skills, as well as his oversight of some of the restoration projects, especially the Church boiler and the organ. The St. John's Choir, under his direction, is cohesive, engaged and sounding better than ever.

Changes in the office staff have given us an opportunity to reevaluate the work that is to be done and who most sensibly should do it. Pia Gandt assumed the role of Parish Administrator in the midst of Bazaar frenzy. She never lost a beat or her good humor, and is on her way to unraveling the uncharted mysteries of St. John's filing system, as well as procedures and protocols unique to the Episcopal Church. Sarah Eyre, has kept a steady hand on the financial rudder, simplifying systems and improving reporting programs...and Jorge Artieda has managed to accommodate everything and everyone with good humor, great loyalty and undiminished energy...I am grateful beyond words for their dedication and support.

I am also grateful to the Vestry and all the Lay Leaders of this Church who increasingly are assuming real ownership of the areas for which they have answered the call to serve. I hope you will take time to read their reports. What it takes to be “church” in today's culture needs more than what one or two, or even a handful of people can make happen; it needs all of us working together and for those of you who contribute your time and talent and resources – time and time again – I am profoundly grateful.

Finally, I am most grateful to all of you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you as your Rector... and always to God for his grace in sustaining me as I seek to live out my priestly vows in this place.

God willing, 2015 will be a time of deepening spirituality, continued growth, consolidation of our gains, and greater focus on how we can engage our friends in other faith communities in fellowship and worship.

In faith,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan J. McCone +". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

The Rev. Susan J. McCone, Rector

DRAFT CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL 2015 (subject to change)

FEBRUARY

February 2	The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
February 3	Start of Iconography Class (Feb 3- Feb 6)
February 4	Parson's Table luncheon
February 7	Robert Burn's Night
February 15	Interfaith Sunday 8:00 am: Holy Eucharist 10:00 am: Interfaith Morning Prayer with Imam, Dr. Kareem Addeeb, homilist – Reception Brunch to follow
February 15	Vestry Meeting
February 16	Office closed in observance of Presidents' Day
February 17	Mardi Gras
February 18	Ash Wednesday
February 22	The First Sunday in Lent
February 27	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study

MARCH

March 4	Parson's Table
March 6	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study
March 8	Daylight Saving Time begins
March 13	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study
March 15	The Fourth Sunday in Lent: "Laetare" Sunday
March 16	Vestry Meeting
March 20	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study
March 27	Holy Eucharist followed by Soup Supper and Lenten Study
March 29	Palm Sunday with the Rev. Elaine Farmer, Anglican Diocese of Canberra, Church of Australia

APRIL

- April 1 Wednesday in Holy Week: Tenebrae
- April 2 Maundy Thursday: Triduum Sacrum Part I
- April 3 Good Friday: Triduum Sacrum Part II
- April 4 Holy Saturday: Triduum Sacrum Part III: The Great Vigil and the First Mass of Easter
- April 5 The Sunday of the Resurrection followed by Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt
- April 16 Vestry Meeting
- April 19 Concert Series: The Yale Whiffenpoofs

NOTES



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S PARISH

CLERGY

The Rev. Susan McCone, *Rector*
The Rev. Carolyn Stockwell, *Assisting Deacon*

STAFF

Sumner Jenkins, *Director of Music*
Pia Gandt, *Parish Administrator*
Jorge Artieda, *Sexton*
J.J. Robinson, *Church School Director*

VESTRY

Hunter Brown and Thomas Hollinger (*Wardens*),
Joan M. Beattie (*Clerk*), Thomas T. Daniels (*Treasurer*)
Class of 2015
Rebecca Bent, John A. Magee, Pamela L. Moffett
Class of 2016
Robert Futh, Helen F. Gray, Peter J. Harrison
Class of 2017
James S. Bauer, Thomas T. Daniels, David Gillespie

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).

voice: 860-868-2527
stjohnschurch@snet.net

facsimile: 860-868-2823
www.stjohnswashington.org

78 Green Hill Road, P.O. Box 1278, Washington, CT 06793