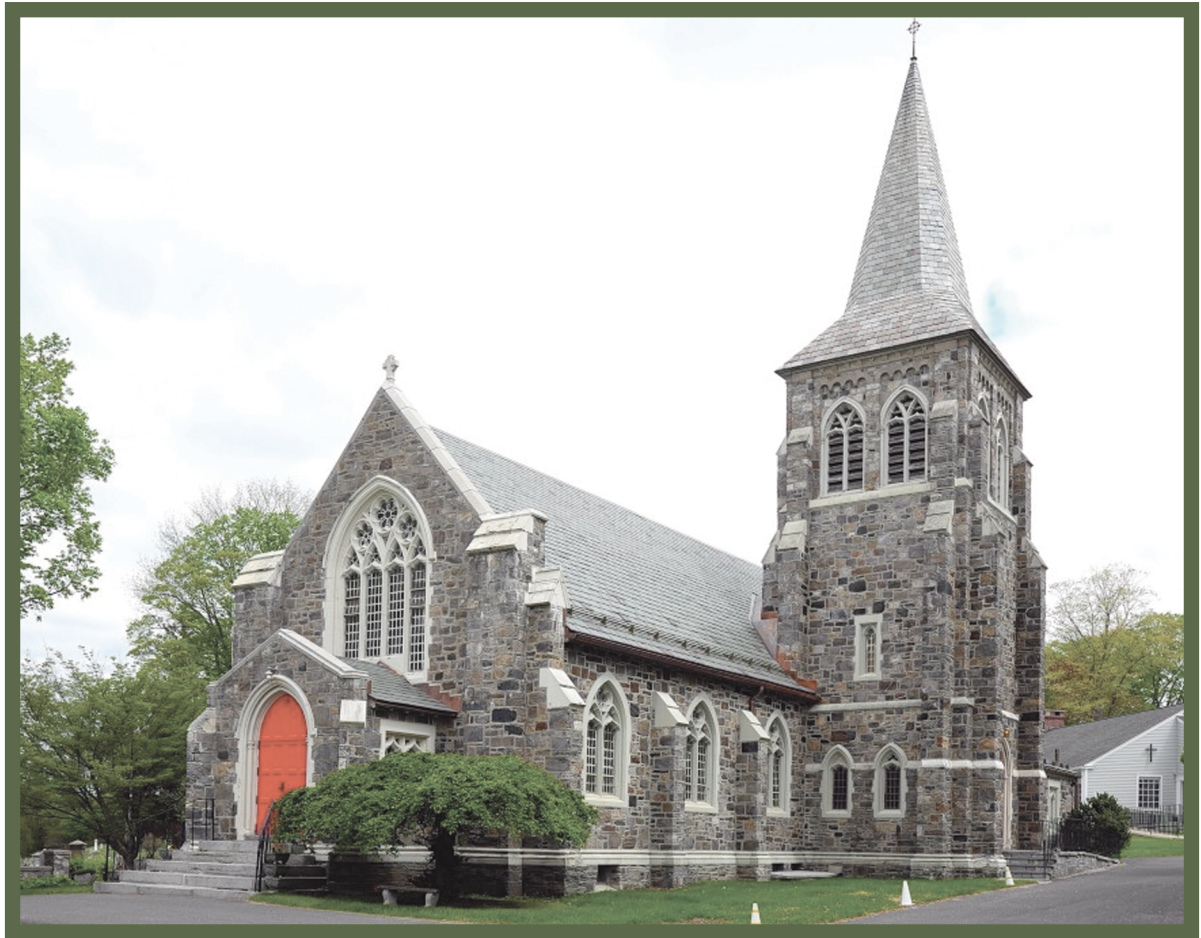


St. John's Episcopal Church



Annual Report 2019

January 26th, 2020

78 Green Hill Rd, Washington, CT 06793



ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you to all who have made pledges to support St. John's Church in 2020

Bill & Penny Bardel
Jay & Joanne Bauer
Joan Beattie
Ted & Rebecca Bent
Darcy & Treacy Beyer
Hunter Brown & Tillie Page Laird
Chris & Darcy Campbell
Joseph Claro & Justin Ormand
Kathy Clynes
Bob & Sara Coles
Arthur Miller & Roberta Connolly
Tim & Laura Daly
Thomas & Betty Daniels
Mary Davis
Larry & Claudia Di Fabrizio
Charles & Melinda Dubow
Thomas & Veronique Dulack
Natalie Dyer
Emily Fitzhugh
Rudy Mangels & Holly Flor
Bob & Sally Futh, Jr.
David & Camille Gillespie
Geoffrey Hahneman
Diana Hardee
Nikko & Anne Hayes
Ken & Audrey Hecken
Tom Hollinger

Douglas Holtquist
Steven James & David Lewandowski
Bert & Mary Jo Keating
Kirsten Knutson
Larry & Constance Littlefield
John & Susan Magee
Andris Kalnins & Sarah Lee Martin
Philip & Susan Markert
Susan McFeely
Jeffery Wacker & Julia Metcalf
Nancy Miller
Rod Pleasants
Alec Purves
Richard & Lee Reese
Robert & Virginia Reynolds
Jill & Marty Sauser
Susan Schultz
Chris & Marlene Smith
Jerry & Suzi Strawbridge
Caroline & Richard Thompson
Ann Ulanov
Hedda Von Goeben
Tom & MB Witt
Harry & Darby Wright

As of 1/23/2020

Saint John's Episcopal Church
Washington, Connecticut

ANNUAL MEETING

January 26, 2020

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES FOR MUTUALITY

APPROVAL OF THE VOTING ROLL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

PRESENTATION OF THE SLATE FOR ELECTION

ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS AND DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

WARDENS' REPORT

PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 BUDGET AND FINANCIALS

OTHER REPORTS

- Altar Guild
- Buildings and Grounds
- Flower Committee
- Greeters
- Hospitality Committee
- Lectors & Eucharistic Minister Committee
- Music Program
- Outreach Committee
- Stewardship
- 2019 Bazaar

QUESTIONS ABOUT REPORTS PRESENTED

STATE OF THE PARISH ADDRESS BY THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

Guidelines for Dialogue

(developed by [VISIONS, Inc](#))

- **“Try on”**
 - Just like shopping for clothes, try on new ideas. You don’t have to buy them and you might learn something.
- **It's okay to disagree**
 - We can love each other as Christians and not hold the same opinion on everything.
- **It is not okay to blame, shame, or attack, self or others**
 - Disagree with ideas, not people. Don’t say “This is a stupid idea, *but . . .*”
- **Practice “self-focus”**
 - Pay attention to what is going on with you. *Speak in “I” statements.*
- **100% responsibility for own learning**
 - What you get out of this experience is up to you.
- **Practice “both/and” thinking**
 - Try holding seemingly contradictory ideas simultaneously. *See if you can use “and” in place of “but.”*
- **Notice both process and content**
 - Be attentive to how things are said as well as what is said. Also notice what may be missing.
- **Be aware of intent and impact**
 - Well intended comments are not always received as such. We need to be mindful of the impact we can have on others. *Say “ouch” when someone says something that hurts, or “wow” when someone says something that surprises you.*
- **Maintain confidentiality**
 - What is said here stays here. *It is not appropriate to tell someone else’s story.*

Annual Parish Meeting

Voting Members

To be a voting member of St. John's, one must be at least 16 years of age or older, active in the parish for a period of time greater than 6 months, receive Communion at least three times in the last year, and support the ministry and mission of the congregation. If your name should be on this list, but is missing, please call the Parish Office. Thank you.

Mary Elizabeth Adams
Penny Bardel
Bill Bardel
James Bauer
Joanne Bauer
Joan Beattie
Edward Bent
Rebecca Lambert Bent
Darcy Beyer
Treacy Beyer
Hunter Brown
Ann M. Burton
Chris Campbell
Darcy Campbell
Shelley Caroe
Joseph Claro
Kevin Clemente
Kathleen Clynes
Kathy Coe
Bob Coles
Sara Coles
Roberta Connolly
Laura Daly
Tim Daly
Betty Daniels
Thomas Daniels
William Davidson
Mary Davis
Michael Del Nin
Sarah DePolo
Claudia Di Fabrizio
Larry Di Fabrizio
Sophia Sutton Drubner
Charles Dubow
Isabella Dubow

Melinda Dubow
Tom Dulack
Veronique Dulack
Natalie Dyer
Lili Dyer
Ashleigh Fernandez
Emily Fitzhugh
Holly Flor
Robert H. Futh
Sally Futh
Camille Gillespie
David Gillespie
Diana Hardee
Anne Hayes
Nikko Hayes
Audrey Hecken
Ken Hecken
Tom Hollinger
Douglas Holtquist
Steven James
Andris Kalnins
Bert Keating
Mary Jo Keating
Thomas Knox
Kirsten Knutson
Henry Kunhardt
Cliff Kye
Tillie Page Laird
David Lewandowski
Constance Littlefield
Lawrence Littlefield
Jesse MacDonald
John Magee
Susie Magee
Rudy Mangels

Philip Markert
Susie Markert
Sarah Lee Martin
Susan McFeely
Julia Metcalf
Nancy Ann Miller
Charles Morgan
Dennis Nash
H. Tomkins O'Connor
Justin Ormand
Kirsten Peckerman
Rod Pleasants
Alec Purves
Lee Reese
Richard Reese
Jeanne Reid
Robert Reynolds
Virginia Reynolds
Jill Sauser
Marty Sauser
Susan Schulman Schultz
Chris Smith
Marlene Smith
Jerry Strawbridge
Suzi Strawbridge
Caroline Thompson
Richard Thompson
Ann Belford Ulanov
Hedda von Goeben
C. Walker, Jr.
Carter Walker, III
MB Witt
Tom Witt
Darby Wright
Harry Wright

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JANUARY 27, 2019

Bishop Keith Whitmore opened the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting marked the 225th year of St. John's Church in Washington, Connecticut.

The meeting was well attended with 52 qualified voting members present.

The Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were unanimously accepted.

The slate of officers, Vestry members and delegates was presented, and the following individuals were elected:

- For a two-year term as Warden: David Gillespie and Susan McFeely
- For a one-year term as Clerk: Joan Beattie
- For a one-year term as Treasurer: Andris Kalnins
- For a one-year term as Assistant Treasurer: Hunter Brown
- For a three-year term on the Vestry: Robert Futh, Larry Littlefield, MB Witt
- Two delegates to the Diocesan Convention were also elected: Sara Coles and Richard Thompson

The proposed budget for 2019 as approved by the Vestry was presented and discussed.

Following the dismissal, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Beattie, Clerk of the Vestry

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS, DIOCESAN DELEGATES AND NEW MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY FOR 2020

Officers

Larry Littlefield, Treasurer
Hunter Brown, Assistant Treasurer
Joan Beattie, Clerk
For one year terms

Diocesan Delegates

Sara Coles
MB Witt
For one year terms

New Members of the Vestry, Class of 2022

Sara Coles
Mary Davis
Andris Kalnins
For three year terms

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Bardel
Ted Bent
Joan Beattie
For the Nominating Committee
January 21, 2020

Sara Coles

Sara Whipple Coles was born and grew up in Washington, DC. She graduated from George Washington University, first with a degree in Classical Humanities & Greek, and later as a Physician Assistant. She had a 30-year career practicing as a Physician Assistant until she retired in 2011.

In 2005, Sara and her husband, Bob, moved to the Northville section of New Milford in order to be closer to both of their families. Sara immediately began to attend St. John's church, where she has been active ever since. Sara and Bob were active choir members from 2008 until 2018, and currently sing occasionally for special services. Sara has been a lector for 15 years, was a regular participant in the Monday discussion group, served as parish representative to the Diocesan Convention and on the Altar Guild for the past year. Last year she resumed her lay religious studies with Education for Ministry, after having begun the program several years ago.

Sara was raised as a Unitarian, was baptized into the Greek Orthodox Church in Athens at age 21, lived in Greece during the 1970's, and was an observant Orthodox Christina for 10 years; she was received into the Episcopal Church in 2009 by Bishop Laura Ahrens.

Sara and Bob both sing with the Kent Singers; Sara also serves on the Boards of both the Kent Singers and the Northville Resident's Association. They live in their 200-year-old house with several cats.

Mary Graham Davis

Mary and her family moved to Washington Depot in 1996. Her husband passed away in 2011. She has an extended family of two sons and three stepsons, and thirteen grandchildren! She has attended St. John's since arriving in Washington.

She grew up on the North Shore of Chicago, graduated from Mount Holyoke College and holds a Master's Degree in International Economics from the Fletcher School (Tufts University). She had an early career in banking and private equity in New York and Sydney and has been an organizational and change management consultant for the past 30 years, now operating her own firm in New York City.

She has significant board experience on the non-profit side as a Chair of the Board of Mount Holyoke College for two terms, President of the Graham-Windham Child and Family Services (New York), elected member of the School Board, Winnetka, Illinois, President of the Mount Holyoke College Alumnae Association, and on the for-profit side as a board member of Jannota, Bray and Associates (Chicago) and NED BioSystems Inc. She currently serves as a senior governance and board consultant for the Association of Governing Boards and Universities (Washington, DC).

She enjoys golf at the Washington Club.

Andris Kalnins

Andris grew up in Windham County, making him a lifelong Connecticut resident. A graduate of the University of Connecticut and the Harvard School of Business, Andris has a longstanding career as a Managing Director of the Chase Manhattan Bank in both the Aerospace and Domestic Institutional Banking Groups. Subsequently, he was a Senior Vice President at Moody's Investor Services from which he just retired. An avid reader of history, Andris also loves to garden and grow organic vegetables. He enjoys golf and hiking and playing fetch with his Norwich Terrier, Chester. While still maintaining a residence in Manhattan where Andris serves as President of the coop Board, Andris and his wife, Sarah Lee, have been part-time residents of Washington since 1998 and were married at St. John's. They are enthusiastically engaged in all aspects of parish life and are also supporters of local conservation organizations.

WARDENS' REPORT

St. John's has been a presence in the Washington community for over 226 years. Although 2019 was a transition year for St. John's, we continued once again to fulfill our primary mission by gathering for over 110 services. We accomplished this, and the many other achievements described by our guilds and committees, through the contributions and steadfastness of our parishioners and other friends of this parish. It was particularly gratifying that we had a number of parishioners step up to lead Morning Prayer on the occasions when we did not have the presence of a priest. We also were privileged to benefit from the presence of a variety of talented supply clergy: Bishop Whitmore, Fr. Woodroffe, Fr. Klots, Fr. Pople, Pastor Krentz-Wie and, last but not least, Fr. Hahneman. We also were visited twice by our Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Douglas, who remarked that in the past year, through no plans of his own, he had become more familiar with St. John's than with any other parish in the State. That attention and our many conversations with Bishop Douglas paid off with the appointment of Fr. Geoff as our new Priest in Charge. As it turns out, we didn't think Fr. Geoff really stood a chance of escaping us, as he was being pursued simultaneously by the wardens to serve as open-ended supply and by Bishop Douglas to accept an appointment as PIC. No doubt, the Holy Spirit was at work!

The general upwards path of the parish over the past year has been tremendous, with increasing participation and attendance numbers, a successful stewardship campaign, a wonderful children's theatrical production, an amazing Bazaar, successful potluck dinners and receptions, various outreach efforts, beautiful flowers, a steadfast Altar Guild and a revived choir and music program, all of which are described in greater detail elsewhere in this report.

On behalf of the entire parish, we would like to thank our dedicated staff and each one of you who have contributed to the reinvigoration of St. John's over the past year. In particular, we would like to thank Hunter Brown and Holly Flor for their service on the vestry. We need to continue to grow in many directions, and we look forward to your prayers, participation and support under the leadership of our new priest, Fr. Geoff, to make 2020 a successful year for St. John's.

Faithfully yours,

David Gillespie, Warden

Susan McFeely, Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2019

Operating Income in 2019 totaled \$307,242 and expenses totaled \$318,316 creating a deficit of \$11,073. The 2019 budget presented at the annual meeting projected a \$66,000 deficit for the year. Pledge income was up \$4,000 over budget and Restricted Funds (not operational) of \$29,000 plus the rental income generated by the Cottage and Parish Hall helped the bottom line. Going forward cost saving steps initiated by the Vestry will reduce ongoing office expenses by an estimated 20%.

The 2020 budget projects total income of \$287,837 which reflects a \$30,000 increase in pledges above 2019. We used a conservative estimate of plate contributions, Bazaar and other non-pledge income, as it is difficult to forecast those items. Additionally, the Endowment Fund Disbursement was reduced from 6.52% (2019) to the recommended amount of 4.5%. Finally, we budgeted only 6 months of cottage rental income; however the Vestry will aggressively look to capitalize on all of our property.

Expenses are estimated to be \$307,603 which is \$11,000 lower than 2019 actuals. Reduction in Clerical and Common Mission Support expenses were the major contributors in lowering expenses as most other costs increased. As we begin the New Year, we are pleased to report we are in good standing with Diocese as all dues have been paid.

The 2020 budget forecast a deficit of \$19,766. We will continue to explore new opportunities to increase revenues and reduce expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Lawrence Littlefield
Treasurer
January 23, 2020

2020 PROJECTED BUDGET

St. John's Church Projected 2020 Income and Expenses

	2020 Projected Budget	
<u>INCOME</u>		<u>NOTES:</u>
Pledge Income	\$192,840.00	
Prepaid Pledges	\$5,750.00	\$5,750 in 2020 pledge was prepaid in 2019, carried forward to 2020
Plate & Non-Pledge Contributions	\$15,000.00	
Fundraising Income & Bazaar Net Income	\$35,000.00	
Rental Income	\$8,400.00	
Endowment Fund Disbursement	\$18,647.00	2020 figure is 4.5% annual disbursement.
Unrestricted Gifts for Operations	\$7,000.00	
Miscellaneous Income	\$5,200.00	Interest Income, Church/Parish Hall Usage Fees, rental and Memorial fees
Total Income	\$287,837.00	
<u>EXPENSE</u>		
Clergy	-\$43,669.00	salary & tax & other clergy & discretionary fund
Music	-\$47,900.00	Music Director, Organist, Sheet Music, Organ & Piano Upkeep, Singers
Parish Life	-\$2,000.00	Adult Forum, Vestry, Library & Hospitality
Outreach	-\$10,000.00	
Common Mission Support	-\$21,773.00	10% of \$217,733
Liturgical Supplies/Flowers		
Altar Flowers	-\$500.00	
Church Decorations	-\$2,000.00	
Liturgical Supplies	-\$1,500.00	
Facility Maintenance	-\$54,640.00	Sexton, Grounds Maintenance (HVAC, Alarm, Mowing/Plowing, Pest, trash) & Repairs
Building Utilities	-\$38,920.00	Phone & Internet, Fuel, Electricity & Water for Church campus
Insurance	-\$12,372.00	Property Insurance, Worker's Comp Insurance
Administrative Expenses		
Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper	-\$54,829.00	office staff (includes payroll tax)
Parish Office Expense	-\$17,500.00	Computer, Printing/Copier Expenses, Office Supplies, Postage, Financial Service Fees, & Advertising/Marketing
Total Expense	-\$307,603.00	
Net Income/(Loss)	(\$19,766.00)	

ALTAR GUILD REPORT FOR 2019

Caroline Thompson

This has been a year of rebuilding for the Altar Guild at St. John's, Washington. We have added three new members, Douglas Holtquist, Richard Thompson, and Sara Coles, which means that we have all services for 8 and 10 am covered. We welcome more members to join us, so that we could return to working in pairs.

Early in Christianity, worship began in homes and evolved to worship in churches as Christians multiplied. By the 4th century, worship services had evolved into formal liturgies specific to the season and particular celebration. Beginning then, and for hundreds of years thereafter, clergy and lay leaders (exclusively male) became responsible for preparing for the services, doing the church housekeeping and caring for the paraphernalia of worship, most of which remains the work of present-day altar guilds. The work goes on quietly behind the scene as members prepare all the elements needed for each service.

A description of the work of the Altar Guild from our Manual says it best:

“Service on the Altar Guild is a sacred ministry undertaken in love and dedication by men and women who are called by God to prepare and tend the places where we worship. The Altar Guild has a special role as the Priest's liturgical partner in making the worship life of the parish run smoothly. The work you do together is an offering of time and talent, and the Church is grateful for your devotion to this important work.”

From time to time, we need new Vestments, Paraments, Eucharistic elements and linens. Parishioners have been generous in donating many of these items, often as a lasting memorial to a loved one. We have a number of items we currently need. Contact the Priest-in-Charge if you would like to make a gift.

Thanks to the members of the Altar Guild:

Joanne G. Bauer
Virginia Reynolds
Sara Coles
Caroline Reid Thompson
Camille Gillespie

Richard Thompson
Douglas Holtquist
MB Witt
Susie Magee
Charles Dubow

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT FOR 2019

Charles Dubow

- Thanks to the generosity of Ginny and Rob Reynolds, the grounds of the campus received the first proper trimming in years.
- We are current with all our service providers, including Mitchell Oil, Berkshire Alarm, etc.
 - Oil: We pay a fixed sum monthly of \$1400 to Mitchell and pay a balloon payment in late December - early January.
 - Our snow/lawn service is a new company. They purchased Domus in the late spring of 2019. They seem to be doing a pretty good job - though we do need to decide if we want to contract with them to shovel the walkways when Jorge is not around and if spring and fall cleanup are items we want to spend the money on next season.
 - In regard to maintenance expenditures for the 2019 year:
 - We updated outdoor flood lights on the Parish House and Rectory
 - We replaced a faucet in the Sacristy
 - We had to spend around \$2100 to fix the AC system
 - And had to fix the refrigerator in the Rectory and stove in Parish House

Looking ahead in 2020

- Two of the top priorities for 2020 are generating rental income from the Rectory and Cottage.
 - There has been agreement that the Rectory should be rented out on an annual basis.
 - There is still discussion about whether the Cottage should be a) rented annually or b) whether it should be placed on AirBNB or VRBO.
 - It is my opinion that we should NOT choose option (b) as that will mean we will need to change and clean the Cottage before and after each rental.
 - Whatever decision we make, we are still required to comply with the rules of the Diocese regarding rental of church property.
 - <https://www.episcopalct.org/Find-Resources/Parish-Administration-and-Finance/Property-Rentals-Sales-and-Encumbrances/Procedures-for-Sales-or-Encumbrances/>
 - We should initiate the process of renting these properties as soon as possible.
- Repair of Church doors:
 - Both the front and side-doors—including the doors themselves and surrounding masonry—are in need of repair. It is unlikely that we will have the funds to fix either of them.
 - Funds for repairs can come only from generous donors. Would it be possible to offer naming rights for the doors by placing a plaque by each door with the names of those who donated?
- Spring clean-up:
 - In an effort to reduce costs and enhance a sense of community, we should organize a spring clean-up day in early-April—Saturday the 4th (or the last weekend in March, 28th)

FLOWER COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2019

Susan Markert

The Flower Guild consists of a wonderful group of talented, dedicated and joyful individuals who willingly cooperate to create floral decorations to enhance our worship. Without them we would not have the beauty that adorns St. John's every week. We welcome anyone who is interested in getting involved with this aspect of St. John's life and service. It is very gratifying, and we have a wonderful group of volunteers who are very supportive and also fun!

This past year the weekly floral arrangements have been varied depending on the time of year, availability of flowers and 'careful spending'. When possible we have sourced our flowers from our own and other parishioners' gardens, being most appreciative of these floral contributions. We look forward to parishioner's continued generosity and we are particularly indebted to the Fuths who always permit us to cut flowers and greens from their properties or provide us with plants.

Additionally, we have been very fortunate to receive donations earmarked for St John's Flower Guild to 'honor' or to 'celebrate' a family member or friend or for a special occasion. We thank those in the congregation who have made such contributions and hopefully we will receive many more! At Christmas and Easter, the congregation gave generously and the St John's Flower Guild decorated for the occasions within the limits of volunteer availability and financial contributions received.

Many thanks to Veronique Dulack, Julia Metcalf, Alec Purves and Lee Reese for their wonderfully positive attitudes and willingness to help all year long. We have been ably assisted by Constance Littlefield and Shelley Caroe, whom we're hoping will become more active participants, time permitting. Thanks also to Susie Magee, MB Witt, Marlene Smith, Barbara Blake, Ginny Reynolds, Rebecca Bent and Hedda von Goebben with both floral arranging and general set up and clean up. This help is especially appreciated on special occasions. Finally, we want to thank Sarah Eyre and Joan Burgess who are always so willing to assist.

GREETERS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2019

Joan Beattie

The first member of St. John's congregation that visitors meet is the Greeter standing at the front door. A warm greeting immediately tells them that this is a welcoming place. In addition to greeting newcomers and giving them a copy of the service bulletin, the Greeters take up the collection, usher congregants to communion, close the front door after everyone has left, pick up bulletins that have been left behind, and count the collection after the service. Members of this group in 2019 were Rebecca and Ted Bent, Charles Dubow, Bob Futh (joined by Sally Futh on busy Sundays), Tillie Page Laird, Constance and Larry Littlefield, Sarah Lee Martin and Andris Kalnins, Lee and Dick Reese, MB Witt, and Darcy Campbell, often joined by Quintin and Spencer. Greeters also serve at special services. We would be delighted to have more Greeters so that people coming in the side door (more and more each Sunday) could also be welcomed. Let me know if you would like to be included in this group.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE FOR 2019

Tillie Page Laird

Thanks to all members of the Hospitality Committee who every week, made our Coffee Hours after the 10:00 service a welcoming and friendly chance to see friends and get to know new visitors. We offer tea, coffee, and in the fall, apple cider, with different kinds of tasty finger food. We also catered receptions after funeral services.

If you see new faces at the services, be sure to introduce yourself and invite them to join us in the Parish House for Coffee Hour.

Members of the Hospitality Committee in 2019 were:

Penny Bardel	Constance Littlefield
Joseph Claro	Susie Markert
Mary Davis	Sarah Lee Martin
Veronique Dulack	Justin Ormand
Natalie Dyer	Lee Reese
Emily Fitzhugh	Chris Smith
Bob Futh	Marlene Smith
Sally Futh	MB Witt
Tillie Page Laird	

MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2019

Hunter Brown

The Music Program at St. John's has seen changes which reflect those in the parish as a whole. They are changes for the better. The choir has benefitted from the welcome presence of Marguerite Mullee as Choir Director. She is returning a measure of stability and unity to the group while promoting its growth in size and quality of music. The choir continues to be committed to excellence in liturgical music, rehearsing on Thursday evenings and before Sunday Services.

The choir members are: Hunter Brown, Donna Castaner, Laura Daly, Douglas Holtquist, Rudy Mangels, Charles Morgan, Justin Ormand and Caroline Reid Thompson.

We welcome additional voices to make a joyful noise and encourage those who are interested to contact Marguerite.

Jon Lafleur has been serving as our organist. All appreciate the excellence of his playing as well as his genial collaboration with our choir director and Father Geoffrey.

This past year, the choir presented a Lenten Meditation with Readings and Music, Pentecost Evensong, and Advent Lessons & Carols during a special morning service. We will continue to schedule choral presentations for the parish and the community.

In years past, our music program has included recitals and concerts performed by outside artists and groups. We will consider planning a concert series when we can assure that income from ticket sales can support the costs.

READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS REPORT FOR 2019

Holly Flor

A steady and dedicated group of parishioners continue to serve as Lectors and Chalice Bearers. We lost the services this year of a long time member of the group with the resignation of Joan Beattie. Her fine reading and devotion will be missed. On the bright side however, we have several new additions with Justine Ormand and Marty Sauser.

This coming year, 2020, Father Hahneman has instituted some changes. First, he lead some training sessions to help us improve our skills, bring more understanding to our task and more life to the scripture readings. The task previously called “Chalice Bearer” or “Chalicer” will be known by its more appropriate name, “Eucharistic Minister” and readers as “Lectors”.

We wish to encourage all to join us in this gratifying effort of delivering scripture to the parish through the gift of reading and assisting with the Eucharist.

2020 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Stewardship Committee, Tom Hollinger, MB Witt and Larry Littlefield.

In the fall of 2019 the Stewardship Committee initiated its work meeting several times after the departure of Bishop Whitmore and before the appointment of Father Hahneman. With the appointment of Father Hahneman as Priest in Charge we were confident that our campaign would be aided by that good news and we began in earnest.

Our initial mailing of pledge packets went to approximately 75 families/individuals, a decrease from prior years as the result of a review of actual voting parish members. In addition, a group of volunteers were assigned to call parishioners. I am pleased to report that as of this writing, we have received 50 pledges totaling \$197,590 which exceeds last year's total of \$159,690. It is, however, just short of our goal of \$200,000. It is important to put that in perspective, in 2018 pledges total \$232,132; however, at that time there were more families on the church rolls. Another example is 2015, 149 pledge packets were mailed with a response of \$207,000 pledge. So despite a decreased number of packets mailed for 2020, the dollars pledged represents strong support from the current parish family. We are profoundly appreciative of all those who have pledged.

A breakdown of the pledges is as follows:

50 pledges for a total of \$197,590
11 new pledges for a total of \$23,700
18 parishioners increased their pledges for a total of \$26,900
7 parishioners decreased their pledges by \$8050
14 parishioners remained at the same level

The committee would like to thank the following volunteers for helping with this year's stewardship drive for St. John's: Penny Bardel, Hunter Brown, Natalie Dyer.

Additionally, we want to thank Sally Futh, Tillie Page Laird, Mary Davis, Susan McFeely, and David Gillespie for their timely suggestions regarding the campaign.

OUTREACH REPORT FOR 2019

Véronique Dulack

2019 was a very successful year for the St Elisabeth Guild thanks to everyone's growing interest, and great generosity and participation. In addition to its yearly *Outreach Calendar* activities, Outreach expanded significantly with the first time ever undertaking of a Music, Theater and Dance summer camp that culminated in two performances of *The Rainy Days and Nights of Mr. and Mrs. Noah* on July 26 and 27. It's the sort of activity that Outreach would like to duplicate in the future.

Contribution to The Washington - Warren Food Bank, which serves the local communities

- The manager of the food bank regularly updates the list of needed supplies depending on the time of year. These updated lists are included in the weekly e-blast. Supplies are picked up every month. Most of the families the food bank serves are households of just one or two people. Smaller jars and containers of nonperishable food are preferred (canned vegetables, fruits and soups, cereals and pasta, pasta sauces condiments, juice, flour). Thanks to a grant, the food bank has recently been able to buy a large freezer, making it possible to receive donations of perishable food as well. Hygiene and cleaning products are also very welcome as these items cannot be purchased with food stamps.

True to the tradition, Saint John's parishioners donated 15 pies to supplement the town's Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

Partnership with *The Covenant to Care for Children*

Covenant to Care for Children is an organization based in Hartford which provides and distributes statewide, essential goods for children from birth up to 18 years old. That mission is fulfilled by partnering with state agencies, faith-based communities and other organizations that share a dedication to improving the lives and futures of at-risk children in CT.

These are children facing poverty-driven issues whose families are among the working poor. Every child's need is identified and reported by a social worker, enabling us to respond directly to the recipient's specific requests.

- **Christmas Angel Tree:** chaired by Marlene Smith

Once again St. John's parish participated in the Angel Tree project in collaboration with Covenant to Care for Children. This year, requests from 25 children were filled by our parishioners. Despite the short time between getting the requests and the Sunday they needed to be returned to church, all requests were filled and my over-flowing station wagon made a delivery to a staff member who would ferry them to Hartford to be distributed.

I am extremely grateful to Sarah for her important help in creating tags at a time when there were many things she had to attend to. Also, Jorge gave me wonderful help with erecting the Angel Tree. Thank you. And thank you to the parishioners who gave generously to these children in need.

- **Easter Baskets:** chaired by Natalie Dyer

In lieu of Easter Baskets, the CCC suggested that donations of hygiene and cleaning products would be more useful to the families they serve. A month before Easter, boxes were placed in the Parish House to collect donations which were most generously provided by parishioners. CCC was extremely grateful for the supplies which they distributed to families in need.

- **Back to School Backpacks:** chaired by Veronique Dulack

In early August a carload of donations was delivered to Covenant to Care for Children who this year requested a wide choice of school supplies needed by children from 10 to 15 years old.

The Back to School Backpacks is one of the most important drives of The Covenant to Care for Children who distribute over 850 backpacks.

"The Rainy Days and Nights of Mr. and Mrs. Noah" Tom Dulack

In the summer of 2019 the church sponsored as a first-time Outreach project for a community that eventually stretched from Naugatuck to Litchfield, a summer arts camp on the church campus that lasted for the first three weeks of July and culminated in an original musical drama entitled "The Rainy Days and Nights of Mr. and Mrs. Noah." We offered three weeks of professional teaching by artists with credits on and off Broadway in NYC as well as with the Los Angeles Opera to name a few virtually free of charge (a nominal fee of 50 dollars covered everything for the three weeks of camp). In the end we assembled a student contingent of 17 performers from ages four-and-a-half to twenty-one! We had two girls from Russia visiting for the summer who despite limited English became leaders of the company. We had a UConn music student playing the church organ for the show, assisted by his mother, a professional musician with cultural roots also in Russia. Dance instruction, singing and acting instruction went on every day for about 6 hours a day, and for the final week of straight rehearsals sometimes much longer. On a weekend in late July when we were competing with shows at the Guntery, at the Congregational Church, and at the town fair in New Milford, we half-filled the church on a Friday night for an invited dress rehearsal and then played the following night to a standing crowd that was over the top in their enthusiasm. This was a huge event for St. John's and had a very positive effect on the community. We introduced an audience that only partly consisted of St John parishioners and impressed all our visitors who continued to express their enthusiasm to us weeks after the event

BAZAAR 2019

2019 Marked the 30th anniversary of the St. John's Bazaar. In the midst of St. John's continuing transition, the Bazaar was a financial success.

Bazaar Income

Angel Tickets	2,000.00
Archangel Tickets	8,000.00
Preview Party Tickets	<u>6,825.00</u>
Total Ticket Income	16,825.00
Donations	570.00
Outside Vendor Income/Fees	1,406.35
General Bazaar Sales / Front Desk	4,217.10
Bistro Sales	222.00
Couture & Jewelry Sales	10,166.00
Greenhouse / Flower Sales	100.00
Larder Sales	1,940.00
Silent Auction	11,320.00
Gross Bazaar Income	46,766.45

Bazaar Expense

Save the Date Mailing	678.22
Bazaar Invitations / Mailing	1,620.50
Advertising and Signage	809.01
Tenting	4,696.25
Bazaar Labor (non-administrative)	890.00
Bazaar Materials/Supplies	2315.8
Total Bazaar Expenses	11,009.78

Net Bazaar Income to date 35,756.67

We would like to thank all of our committee chairs, design team, dedicated parishioners, staff and donors that helped make this event another success.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. McFeely & MB Witt

Co-Chairs

The Report of the Priest-in-Charge

*St. John's is a church in transition, from
a congregation led by a priest and supported by the lay leaders, to
a congregation led by the lay leaders and supported by a priest!*

I borrowed this language from Andy Doyle, the Bishop of Texas, from one of his many books about the changing church of our days. I think it captures a sense of where St. John's is today, indeed where much of the Christian Church is these days. Fewer and fewer congregations in this country can afford the kind of clerical staff and corporate business practices of their parents' churches. But the church of our parents' need not be the model for our generation.

St. John's in Bridgeport, from which I retired in September, was founded in 1748 by seven farming families in the fields between the village of Fairfield and that of Stratford. Clergy were hard to come by in colonial America. One fifth of all those who headed off to be ordained in England, as there were no bishops to ordain them in the colonies, died before they returned. So these seven farming families were not waiting around for a priest to come and found their church. They did it! They purchased the land and buildt the first small wooden church at the corner of Church Street and the King's Highway themselves! For the next 35 years, they had no priest to call their own. They organized Sunday Services, cared for the sick, buried their dead. When an occasional New York priest on holiday, or a missionary from England and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts passed through, children were baptized, couples were married, and Holy Communion was celebrated. Even when that church in Bridgeport secured their first Rector in 1783, they had to share him with two other neighboring congregations.

So that is why I intend to spend much of my time in the year ahead helping to train the lay leaders of this parish to care for themselves and for the community in which we find ourselves. I am holding open Saturday mornings for such training, which will include Lectors, Ushers, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Pastoral Team, Prayer Circle, Property Committee, Youth Leaders, Catechists, Eucharistic Visitors, Altar Flower Deliverers, Worship Leaders, Outreach Team, Fellowship organizers, Vestry Members, Auditors, Choir Members, Eucharistic Ministers (aka chalicers), and so much, much more.

God has given all of us gifts and talents to use in the mission and ministry for God's people. I invite and encourage every member of St. John's to quit any 'jobs' they have in the parish, and to find their 'ministries'! "What in God's Name are you doing here?" Remember, the Christian Church is NOT a spectator sport!

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge

St. John's Parish

Staff

The Reverend Geoffrey Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge
Dr. Marguerite Mullee, *Music Director*
Sarah Eyre, *Parish Administrator*
Joan Burgess, *Campaign Administrator*
Jorge Artieda, *Sexton*

Vestry

David Gillespie, *Warden*; Susan McFeely, *Warden*
Joan M. Beattie, *Clerk*
Hunter Brown, *Assistant Treasurer*

Class of 2020

Hunter Brown, Holly Flor

Class of 2021

Rebecca Lambert Bent, Darcy Campbell, Charles Dubow

Class of 2022

Bob Futh , Larry Littlefield, MB Witt,

Office Hours and Emergencies

The Parish Office is OPEN Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday from 10:00AM to 3:00PM. Not all members of staff work every day, so please call the Parish Office, 860-868-2527, to confirm that the person you wish to see is available. If you have a pastoral issue, please call the Parish Administrator who will arrange for someone to meet your needs.

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

Fax: 860-868-2823
stjohnswashington.org