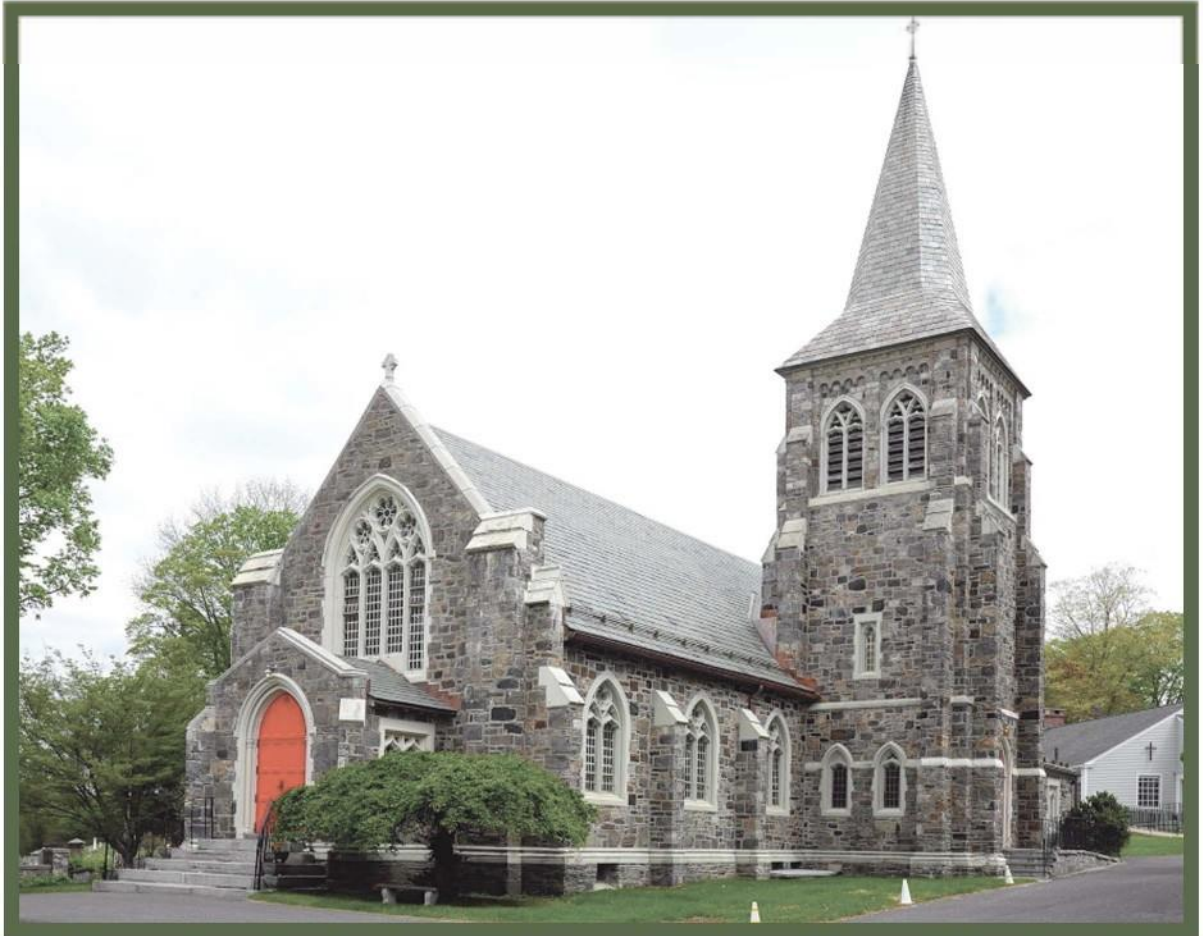


# St. John's Episcopal Church



## Annual Report 2021 January 23rd, 2022

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

# 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 just learn something.

## **It's okay to disagree**

We can love each other as Christians and not hold the same opinion on everything. We disagree with ideas, not people.

## **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.*

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WASHINGTON, CONNECTICUT**

**ANNUAL MEETING  
January 23, 2022**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER**

**REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES FOR MUTUALITY**

**APPROVAL OF THE VOTING ROLL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2021 ANNUAL MEETING**

**PRESENTATION OF THE SLATE FOR ELECTION**

**ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS AND DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES**

**WARDENS' REPORT**

**PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 BUDGET AND FINANCIALS OTHER REPORTS**

**QUESTIONS ABOUT REPORTS PRESENTED**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 2022

### 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 (Spiritual Communion counts), 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  
Nick Benson  
Edward Bent  
Rebecca Lambert Bent  
Darcy Beyer  
Treacy Beyer  
Hunter Brown  
Ann M. Burton  
Joseph Claro  
Chris Campbell  
Darcy Campbell  
Shelley Caroe  
Kathleen Clynes  
Kathy Coe  
Bob Coles  
Sara Coles  
Jay Collins  
Roberta Connolly  
Laura Daly  
Tim Daly  
Betty Daniels  
Thomas Daniels  
Mary Davis  
Claudia Di Fabrizio  
Larry Di Fabrizio  
Sophia Sutton Drubner  
Jeffrey Drubner

Tom Dulack  
Veronique Dulack  
Charles Dubow  
Natalie Dyer  
Lili Dyer  
Ashleigh Fernandez  
Emily Fitzhugh  
Holly Flor  
Robert H. Futh  
Sally Futh  
Camille Gillespie  
David Gillespie  
Johnathan Hall  
Diana Hardee  
Anne Hayes  
Nikko Hayes  
Audrey Hecken  
Ann Hodgman  
Tom Hollinger  
Douglas Holtquist  
Corrine Johnson  
Andris Kalnins  
Bert Keating  
Mary Jo Keating  
Thomas Knox  
Kirsten Knutson  
Henry Kunhardt  
Cliff Kye  
Tillie Page Laird  
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  
Justin Ormand  
Rod Pleasants  
Alec Purves  
Lee Reese  
Richard Reese  
Robert Reynolds  
Virginia Reynolds  
Susanna Salk  
Jill Sauser  
Marty Sauser  
Chris Smith  
Marlene Smith  
Jerry Strawbridge  
Suzi Strawbridge  
Caroline Thompson  
Richard Thompson  
Ann Belford Ulanov  
Carter Walker, III  
MB Witt  
Tom Witt  
Darby Wright  
Harry Wright

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
Washington, Connecticut  
January 24, 2021**

**In attendance via Zoom:**

Penny Bardel, Rebecca Lambert Bent, Hunter Brown, Joseph Claro, Kathleen Clynes, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Thomas Daniels, Mary Davis, Veronique Dulack, Natalie Dyer, Emily Fitzhugh, Robert Futh, Sally Futh, Camille Gillespie, David Gillespie, Geoffrey Hahneman, Andris Kalnins, Tillie Page Laird, Constance Littlefield, Lawrence Littlefield, Sarah Lee Martin, Susan McFeely, Justin Ormand, Alec Purves, Jill Sauser, Marty Sauser, Caroline Thompson, Richard Thompson, MB Witt

Geoff opened the meeting with a prayer and reviewed the guidelines for mutuality.

**Approval of Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting**

The minutes from the 2020 Annual meeting were approved via a show of hands.

**Presentation of Slate for Election (see Annual Reports for a full list of nominations)**

The Nominating Committee thanked the Vestry members in the Class of 2020 who have completed their 3-year terms: Darcy Campbell, Charles Dubow and Rebecca Lambert. Penny Bardel, as a member of the Nominating Committee, proposed that the church return to the former practice of staggered terms for Wardens allowing one new warden to be elected every year.

**Roll-Over of Current Wardens**

Given the effective working relationship and difficulties presented by the pandemic, Penny proposed that David Gillespie serve another 2-year term and Susan McFeely serve for another year. Sara Coles asked about the church's by-law which states that wardens could not serve more than 7 consecutive years. The current roll-over proposal is within this guideline.

The nomination process for 3 new Vestry members (Laura Daly, Joseph Claro, Veronique Dulack) considered the desire to have a broad representation of the parish. Nominees were communicated to the parish via a notice on the church door and via the email-distributed annual meeting document which was sent to parishioners on January 21. Caroline Thompson wanted to review the process of parish notification of nominees as she thought all parishioners should have this information more than 1 week prior to the annual meeting. As this would require a change to the by-laws, Geoff told Caroline that a more formal process would be required to amend the by-laws.

Geoff then asked for a vote on the entire slate of nominees, either by a raised hand, text or within the Zoom chat box.

The entire slate was approved, with 28 ayes and 2 nays.

## **Warden's Report**

David Gillespie thanked the outgoing Vestry members, the Nominating Committee, the quiche makers and thanked Geoff for his dedication in keeping the parish together by continuing to improve upon the live broadcast of Sunday service.

There was one correction in the published Warden's Report – that Joseph Claro, not Justin Ormand, was recently added to the list of VJ's for broadcasting Sunday services. However, it is hoped that Justin will be added to this list soon.

## **Treasurer's and Stewardship Reports**

Lawrence Littlefield reviewed the published financials, the current state of our stewardship drive/pledges.

David Gillespie noted that we have a new accounting firm and the books had been re-done to be more transparent and to be aligned with the Diocese's best practices.

Geoff noted that the budget presented in the Treasurer report will increase once the music program is reinstated, dependent upon the status of the pandemic.

There were no questions raised about the published budget or stewardship.

Although not on the agenda, and not required by the by laws or the Canons (it is the Vestry that approves the budget), it was proposed that the meeting accept the presentation of the financial reports and 2021 budget, and acceptance was unanimously approved.

## **Individual Reports (Music, Outreach, Altar Guild, Hospitality, Readers & Eucharistic Ministers, Flower, Buildings & Grounds)**

Geoff asked if there were any questions relating to the published individual reports. There were none. Veronique Dulack (Outreach) did mention a need for more parishioners to volunteer to make food to bring the parish closer together and increase our contributions to those in need.

## **Report of the Priest-In Charge for 2020**

Beyond the published report, Geoff highlighted that fact that, due to COVID-19, adjustments to keep the parish together are ongoing as Church is even more important during these trying times. Sunday service is now live on both Facebook and YouTube via more sophisticated video equipment. Additionally, Geoff continues to be in communication with those who historically attended the 8AM service. The church remains closed to those not directly involved in the service until the town is out of the red zone.

Geoff was asked if the hymn numbers be included in the Sunday bulletin, and he agreed to add that for future services.

Geoff also talked about an Ash Wednesday (Wednesday, February 17) live-streamed service, with music, to be held at Noon. As for distributing ashes, parishioners could drive through the parking lot to receive them. The method of delivering the ashes is still being worked out to make sure there is no contamination of the ashes from one recipient to another.

The meeting was then adjourned with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laura Daly*

*Clerk Pro Temp*

**NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS, DIOCESAN DELEGATES  
AND NEW MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY FOR 2022**

*Biographical paragraphs for all persons nominated below are available in the Parish Office*

**WARDENS:**

David Gillespie, *second year of third two-year term.*

Mary Davis, *first year of first two-year term*

**OFFICERS:**

Joseph Claro, TREASURER

Hunter Brown, ASSISTANT TREASURER

Laura Daly, CLERK

*for one-year terms*

**VESTRY:**

*for terms ending as stated by Class year*

**CLASS OF 2022:**

Jay Bauer, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnis

**CLASS OF 2023:**

Joseph Claro, Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack,

**CLASS OF 2024:**

Rebecca Bent, Larry Littlefield, Susan McFeeley

**DIOCESAN DELEGATES:**

Sarah Coles, MB Witt

*for one-year terms*

\*\*\*\*\*

Respectfully submitted:

*Penny Bardel*

*Ted Bent*

*Constance Littlefield*

*Nominating Committee*

January 2022



## STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2022

For 2022 thus far, St. John's has received 42 pledges, totaling \$154,000. This is an increase of 3 pledges over 2021, and the overall financial result is comparable to the result for 2021. The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the members of the Vestry and all those who pledged for their assistance with and contribution to achieving this result, and we encourage any who have not pledged for 2022 to do so. Pledging not only expresses our commitment to St. John's, but it also greatly helps the Vestry and Finance Committee in planning for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Larry Littlefield*  
*Treasurer*

### **Thank you to all who have pledged financial support to St. John's Church for 2022**

Mr. and Mrs. William Bardel  
Dr. & Mrs. James Bauer  
Ms. Joan M. Beattie  
Mr. Nicholas Benson & Ms. Natalie S. Dyer  
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore Bent  
Mr. Hunter Brown & Miss Tillie Page Laird  
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Campbell  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coles  
Ms. Roberta Connolly & Mr. Arthur Miller  
Mr. Jay Collins & Ms. Susanna Salk  
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Daly  
Ms. Mary Davis  
Ms. Claudia and Larry Di Fabrizio  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dulack  
Ms. Natalie H. Dyer  
Ms. Ashleigh Fernandez  
Ms. Emily Fitzhugh  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Futh  
Mr. & Mrs. David Gillespie  
The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman  
Ms. Diana Hardee

Ms. Audrey Hecken  
Mr. Thomas Hollinger & Ms. Kathryn Coe  
Mrs. Andrew Johnson  
Mr. Andris Kalnins & Ms. Sarah Lee Martin  
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Keating  
Ms. Kirsten Knutson  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Littlefield  
Mr. & Mrs. John Magee  
Captain Rudy Mangels & Ms. Holly Flor  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Markert  
Ms. Susan McFeely  
Ms. Nancy Miller  
Mr. Justin Ormand & Mr. Joseph Claro  
Mr. Alex Purves  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Reynolds  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. John Strawbridge  
Dr. Ann Belford Ulanov  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Witt  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wright

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2022

### *2021 Highlights:*

Pledge income was \$157,000 which was 99.5% of our goal.

Rectory rental and use agreement income in 2021 was \$61,000 against a budget of \$36,000. We were able to receive help from a tight rental market and quickly rented the Rectory after our first tenants left in June.

We applied for and received a \$19,700 grant from the Paycheck Protection Plan ("PPP").

With a great effort by all hands the Fete generated net income of \$25,700, after taking into account associated expenses and the presentation to the Washington Community Fund of a \$10,000 donation.

Our 2021 operating expenses were slightly lower than plan. As we opened buildings for in-person services we had a bit of cleaning, painting, and general repairs to perform.

Total operating income in 2021 was \$310,000 (25% over budget) and expenses totaled \$249,500 (3% under budget) generating a net gain of \$60,500. We had forecasted a \$10,000 deficit.

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2021

General Operating Account: \$143,400

Restricted Account: \$313,680 (bequest in December)

Donation and Bequests: \$510,000 (11/30/21)

### *2022 Highlights:*

We are budgeting total income for 2022 to be \$280,000 based upon pledges received of \$153,500 and rental income of \$62,000 which reflects a drop in rental in the second half of the year. Also included in total income; loose plate, non-pledge income, fundraising and Endowment transfers totaled \$64,500. (In-line with 2021 actuals).

Total expenses for 2022 are budgeted at \$308,000 which is 22% higher than our 2021 actuals. As we all know costs are rising in all areas driven primarily by fuel and general services (labor). There are no specific projects outlined, approach is fix what we need at that time. Budget assumes a \$27,000 deficit by the end of 2022.

Submitted by:

*Lawrence Littlefield, Treasurer*

*Hunter Brown, Assistant Treasurer*

# 2022 PROJECTED BUDGET

## St. John's Church Projected 2022 Income and Expenses

	<b>2022 Budget</b>	
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
Pledge Income	\$153,570.00	
Plate & Non-Pledge Contributions	\$18,000.00	
Fundraising Income & Bazaar Net Income	\$25,000.00	
Rental Income	\$62,000.00	
Endowment Fund Disbursement	\$20,144.00	<i>20220 figure is 4.5% annual disbursement.</i>
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,648.00	<i>Interest Income, Church/Parish Hall Usage Fees, rental and Memorial fees</i>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$280,362.00</b>	
 <b><u>EXPENSE</u></b>		
Clergy	-\$46,416.00	<i>salary, SSA, Medical ins, supply, clergy professional exp</i>
Music	-\$48,192.00	<i>Music Director, Organist, Sheet Music, Organ &amp; Piano Upkeep, Singers</i>
Parish Life	-\$720.00	
Outreach	-\$10,000.00	
Common Mission Support	-\$29,148.00	<i>10% of \$291,489</i>
Liturgical Supplies		
Altar Flowers	-\$900.00	<i>Estimated donation \$900</i>
Liturgical Supplies	-\$4,800.00	<i>church and altar supplies</i>
Facility Maintenance	-\$55,000.00	<i>Grounds Maintenance (HVAC, Alarm, Mowing/Plowing, Pest, trash) &amp; Repairs</i>
Building Utilities	-\$36,000.00	<i>Phone, Internet, Fuel, Electricity &amp; Water for Church campus</i>
Insurance	-\$15,600.00	<i>Property &amp; Liability</i>
Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper	-\$40,696.00	<i>office staff, audit fee, payroll tax</i>
Parish Office Expense	-\$20,614.00	<i>Computer, Printing/Copier Expenses, Office Supplies, Postage, Financial Service Fees, Alarm fee, Audit, program expenses</i>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>-\$308,086.00</b>	
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>(\$27,724.00)</b>	

## THE WARDENS' REPORT FOR 2021

The Covid pandemic continued to affect the entire globe in 2021, and St. John's was no exception. The parish adapted in many ways to the "new" normal, including making live-streaming a normal part of Sunday observances, and a re-thinking and return of annual fundraising events. We have been particularly fortunate in having Father Hahneman as our part-time "Provisional Priest-in-Change." Many of us do not appreciate the extent to which Father Geoff goes above and beyond what is expected from a "part-time" priest. Indeed, we think that many parishioners assume that he is simply fulfilling his obligations by showing up for church every Sunday. The "new normal" for part-time priests is to officiate at services only two or three Sundays a month. Father Geoff not only appears every week, he also prepares wonderfully thoughtful sermons and liturgical services, types and organizes the bulletins, and conducts reading and bible study groups. He has also taken on a leading role in the Washington Council of Congregations and makes countless other contributions to the life of this parish and the wider community. On behalf of the parish, we want to offer special thanks for his ministry among us.

There are several people who are rotating out of officer and vestry positions. In particular, we would like to recognize Joan Beattie, who is stepping down as clerk after many, many years of service. Joan not only has a long history with the parish (her parents were married here), her participation has been a great gift in more ways than we can count. We hope that she is rebuilding her strength and will be able to rejoin us in person during the coming year. We also wish to thank MB Witt and Bob Futh for their service on the vestry. Their voices and contributions will be missed in the vestry meetings, but we look forward to their contributions in other ways. We also wish to thank Larry Littlefield for his service as treasurer. This is a time-consuming and sometimes vexing job, and his efforts are greatly appreciated. When Larry took over, he faced the resignation of our long-time accountants, lack of a professional bookkeeper, and outmoded financial systems and reporting. With the assistance of Mary Davis and others, he has helped the parish to transition to a new financial reporting system, to obtain grants for the parish under the Covid-relief legislation, and to establish good order in our books. We look forward to his continued participation on the vestry and otherwise. Susan McFeely will be rotating off as warden. Although she would have been eligible for another two-year term, she agreed to stand for a one-year term to facilitate return to having staggered term for the two wardens, rather than having them both come up for election in the same year.

We offer special thanks to Penny Bardel, Constance Littlefield, and Ted Bent for their steady service on the Nominating Committee. MB Witt and Constance Littlefield deserve special thanks for rethinking the annual parish Bazaar as the Fête. It was a great outreach event for the wider community and a great financial success.

We also wish to extend our thanks to Tom Brand, for providing us with music in these challenging times. His reintroduction of evensong and a service of lessons and carols has

been particularly successful in bringing in some new faces. We look forward to the continued development of his efforts in the coming year.

Finally, we are sure that we have neglected to offer some well-deserved special thanks, so we will conclude by once again offering thanks for all of those who contributed to the life of St. John's over the past year.

Respectfully yours,

*David Gillespie and Susan McFeely*

*Wardens*

*David Gillespie, addendum*

I want to offer my very special personal thanks for the service of Susan McFeely as warden. She is rotating out of that position, but thankfully she is willing to continue to serve on the vestry. I think it is safe to say that neither one of us had any idea what we were getting into when we agreed to serve as wardens of this parish. As a result of our former rector's severe illness, the wardens became responsible for running the parish, pending the return of the rector or the appointment of a priest-in-charge. It turned out that this arrangement remained in place until Father Geoff's appointment by Bishop Douglas. I can personally attest that during that time, the person who most singularly was responsible for the continued operation and functioning of this parish was Susan McFeely. Susan not only took over the day-to-day operation of the parish, she managed the parish operations with what had become a largely dysfunctional staff, a complete lack of professional bookkeeping, and a financial crisis that almost resulted in the shuttering of the church. I wish I could say that every challenge and problem is behind us, but without Susan's devotion of countless hours of work and attention to the many needs of the parish, both great and small (practically putting her own sanity at risk), I don't think the parish could have survived. So I hope that everyone in the parish will offer their personal thanks to Susan for all that she has done for the parish and will continue to do for the parish as a member of the vestry, among other duties. Susan is like the person who wins the pie eating contest, only to learn that the prize for winning is more pie! Bravo Susan!

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT FOR 2021**

### **Buildings:**

(1) The Rectory - our tenants, William Prussiers and Richard Lester, continued their lease of the Rectory until June 2021. Klemm Realty was hired to re-rent the Rectory which we were able to do as of August 1st as a year lease to Ira Titunic, his son Jason and their dog Max for \$5,250 per month plus utilities, etc.

(2) The Cottage - Our Guatemalan couple, Francisco and Marjorie, remained in the cottage until August 31st. The cottage is now being used as part of the new Music Program at St. John's for Tom Brandt and his family.

(3) The Parish Hall - Aha Yoga has renewed their lease of the Parish Hall for another year at \$1,200 per month; The Town of Washington continues to hold Its quarterly Blood Drives at St. John's. Other users of the Parish Hall include the Washington Garden Club.

**Grounds & Property:**

(1) Maintenance of the Church properties and its grounds continued through 2021. Custom Electric replaced all of the old and burned out lights in the Church with LED Lighting and upgraded the exterior lighting at the Parish Hall.

(2) In preparation for our new Rectory tenant, Evergreen Landscaping did a major clean-up of the Rectory grounds and trees in June including the removal of a dead tree on Parsonage Lane, cutting back and thinning of the lilac trees and overgrown flower beds surrounding the house, and extensive tree branch removal throughout the property, In addition, a new mailbox for the Rectory was Installed, some interior and exterior painting was required, leveling of the rectory patio was needed, screen doors replaced, and basic electrical, plumbing and heating maintenance upgraded. The Rectory maintenance is ongoing and will require continued funds to keep the property up to rental standards.

(3) Elsa's Cleaners are now cleaning the Church and Parish Hall on a weekly basis and the Cottage once a month.

(4) A special Thanks to Mary Davis, Rod Pleasants and The St. John's Foundation...the new awning was installed on the side door entrance to the Church, the side entrance doors were removed and redone, and all of the doors to the Church were stripped and repainted.

(5) A special Thanks to David Gillespie for spearheading the purchase of the Parish Hall's new professional gas stove and the return of the old stove to its previous owner.

(6) A special Thanks to Larry Littlefield for always being "on call" for property repairs and emergencies, his help and knowledge invaluable this past year.

(7) A special Thanks to Sarah Lee Martin for keeping our flower pots outside the Parish Hall and Church planted and looking beautiful.

(8) A special Thanks to Natalie Dyer for volunteering to oversee the weeding of the Church property flower beds and for some special tree maintenance on the driveway.

(9) A special Thanks to Regine Laverge for her ongoing and invaluable help with the Rectory and Cottage maintenance and its tenants.

(10) A special Thanks to our Parishioners who donated much needed items for the Rectory.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan McFeeley*

*Warden*

## MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2021

Music played a vital role in the worship life of St. John's during 2021. Despite the many challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, uplifting songs of love, peace, joy, and reassurance resounded within the walls of our beautiful sanctuary, strengthening our faith, renewing our spirits, and filling our weary hearts with hope.

On many Sundays between January and September, vocal soloists, quartets, and other small ad-hoc ensembles presented offertory anthems and/or provided leadership of four-part hymn singing. These musical offerings greatly enhanced worship services and were deeply appreciated by all during a period when congregational singing was limited, if not prohibited.

Jon Lafleur served as Organist throughout most of 2021 until his retirement on September 12. Jon is a beloved member of the St. John's community whose talent and faithful service have been great blessings to the church and its music program over many years. The parish gratefully acknowledges Jon for sharing his gifts so generously.

I was honored to assume the position Organist & Choirmaster on September 19, and I have enjoyed getting to know the wonderful people of St. John's over the past several months.

Throughout the fall, our choirs presented a diverse array of repertoire in styles ranging from Medieval plainsong to Renaissance and Baroque polyphony to Anglican cathedral anthems by Romantic, 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and contemporary composers. Members of our Chancel Choir and Schola Cantorum worked diligently to provide glorious music for worship services, despite the challenges of having to wear face masks and remain socially-distanced while singing. Special musical programs during the fall included a service of Choral Evensong on October 3, a concert featuring the Elm City Girls' Choir on November 6, and a Service of Nine Lessons & Carols on December 19. These events were well attended by parishioners and community members alike.

The future holds many exciting possibilities for our music ministry, such as expanding our intergenerational choir program, re-launching the once-renowned St. John's Concert Series with performances by outstanding instrumentalists, vocalists, and ensembles, presenting joint Evensongs with choirs of neighboring parishes, introducing sung Compline services from time to time, and collaborating with organizations such as Saecula Choir Foundation and local schools to establish new educational programs for gifted young musicians.

We all hope and pray that, before too much longer, we will find ourselves in a time when the worship life and musical activities of St. John's are no longer impacted so severely by the pandemic. In the meantime, we will continue to seek out creative ways to "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" while keeping our community as safe and healthy as possible.

I extend heartfelt thanks to Father Geoff, the Wardens, Vestry, staff, parishioners, and of course the dedicated choir members who have welcomed me so warmly. It is truly a privilege to serve as Organist & Choirmaster of this remarkable parish, and I look forward to

our continuing collaboration as we strive to rebuild and strengthen the beloved music program of St. John's.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tom Brand*  
*Organist & Choirmaster*

## **READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS REPORT FOR 2021**

As with everything else during these times, the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers schedule was in flux. A few stalwarts were permitted to read during the church closing and now all are doing double duty by reading both lessons, and on occasion the Psalm. Since conventional communion has been suspended for the time being, no one served during the Eucharist, except Geoff, of course. We are grateful to Penny Bardel, Rebecca Bent, Hunter Brown, Sara Coles, Mary Davis, Laura Daly, Tom Hollinger, John Magee, Justin Ormond, and Marty Sauser for their service, and welcome our newest reader, Ann Hodgman.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Holly Flor*  
*Scheduler*

## **LAY LEADERSHIP REPORT FOR 2021**

Given the dearth of full-time clergy, the ECCT has relied increasingly on lay leadership over the past several years. Training and utilization of Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers is a growing trend across the Diocese. Many parishes lack any clergy, or have very limited clergy services, and rely heavily on lay persons.

At the encouragement of Fr. Geoff Hahneman, we accepted the opportunity to be trained as Lay Preachers and Lay Worship Leaders.

The Morning Prayer class was held on ZOOM over several hours and taught by Bishop Ian. Prior to the pandemic, the class was held in person at Spring Training.

Lay preacher training classes were held this past spring on ZOOM 2-½ hours per week for 7 weeks. Each week all had homework which was the same topic to write about and present to the class, with each member of the class providing a critique. Each assignment brought us closer to writing an actual sermon. Our "final" was a 10-minute sermon based upon a specific piece of scripture. All graduates were licensed as Lay Preachers by the ECCT. Ginnie Glassman, the teacher of the Lay Preacher training, holds ongoing (once a month) ZOOM meetings for licensed lay preachers which prove to be very helpful as we continue to hone our skills. We share our experiences and critique each other's sermons.



Since our certification, we have each given 2 sermons at St. John's and officiated at 2 Morning Prayer services. Neither of us anticipated lay preaching as part of our church life. Although it involves lots of work and dedication, it is a very fulfilling experience. It is an experience that we recommend highly.

Anyone at St. John's who is considering holding Morning Prayer services and/or being a licensed lay preacher should contact Fr. Geoff. Sara and I are also available to discuss our experiences in greater detail.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Coles and Laura Daly*

## **BISHOP TRANSITION COMMITTEE REPORT**

On April 7, 2021, The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Ph.D. announced To the Bishops, Clergy, and People of the Episcopal Church in CT his intention to retire as Bishop Diocesan effective October 2022. Following this announcement, a Bishop Transition Committee (BTC) was formed to discern who will be called to be our next Bishop Diocesan. The committee is comprised of both lay and clergy and represents all of Connecticut.

Members of the committee were selected by both the Standing Committee and each of the Region Leadership teams. As a St. John's parishioner, and scribe for the Northwest Region Leadership Team, I was selected to be on the BTC.

More about the BTC can be found at <https://ctbishopsearch.org/>

While the work of the BTC is confidential, the following timeline can be shared:

*March 17-19, 2022:* The BTC will host a retreat for the semi-finalist candidates.

*Week of March 28, 2022:* The slate of candidates is announced, opening up a 10-day petition period for additional names.

*May 9-14, 2022:* Meet and Greet opportunities across ECCT with the slate of candidates.

*May 21, 2022:* A special election convention will be held to elect the next bishop diocesan of ECCT.

*June to September 2022:* Consents are secured from The Episcopal Church's bishops and dioceses.

*October 8, 2022:* Consecration of the XVI Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut

I and the entire BTC ask for your prayers as we do this holy work. We have written a prayer which we hope you will use on a regular basis:

Bless and grant the Bishop Transition Committee the gifts of wisdom, humility, and empathy as they discern your will for a new shepherd, inspirational leader, and willing advocate as we further your work in the Episcopal Church in CT.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Laura Daly, member of BTC*

## **THE HOLIDAY FETE REPORT FOR 2021**

The Fete was a lovely event and far exceeded our expectations. Everyone who attended was in a festive mood and the Parish House was transformed. We were able to meet our goals and give ten thousand dollars to the Washington Community Fund.

We would like to thank the Steering Committee whose help and support were indispensable: Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Ine Laverge, Ron Leal, Sarah Lee Martin, Susan McFeely, Rod Pleasants and Chris Zaima.

We would also like to thank everyone who donated items to the Couture Closet, the Larder, the Emporium and the Silent Auction, with special thanks to Arlene Glantz, Audrey Patterson and the staff at Photo Arts in Torrington.

The total income was \$49,802.41 which included ticket sales, vendor percentages and profits from the Couture Closet, Larder, Emporium and Silent Auction.

The expenses for the event totaled \$14,177.84 which included printing and postage, supplies, food and beverages, etc. Also, the Fete Committee donated \$10,000 of its earnings to the Washington Community Fund.

We are delighted to report that we showed a net profit of \$28,730.90.

Respectfully submitted,

*MB Witt and Constance Littlefield*

*Co-Chairs*

## **OUTREACH REPORT FOR 2021**

Despite the many restrictions imposed by the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, the mission of Outreach did not stop. On the contrary. We are happy to report that thanks to everyone's generosity and participation our *Outreach Calendar* activities have been met with great success. Our monthly food drive has merged with the **Hunger Outreach** initiated by Rev. Geoff Hahneman in collaboration with the Washington Council of Congregations (WCOC), including:

### **FOOD DRIVES:**

In total, WCOC has run seven food drives. In 2020, five: three at churches (one at First Congregational, one at Salem, one at MLPH), and one at Holiday in the Depot in the town. In 2021, three more: one at the Judy Black Park on Martin Luther King Day; and two at First Congregational Church. In total, we collected: 13,000 pounds of shelf-stable food and household products (that's 6 1/2 tons!) and \$22,500 in cash donations. We donated 2/3rds of

our collection to the New Milford Food Bank and 1/3 to the Warren Washington Food Bank, who in turn distributed it to those in need in their communities.

### **WCOC COLLECTION TABLE AT THE FARMERS MARKET**

Together the WCOC raised nearly \$10,000 for the Community Culinary School of NW Connecticut since the beginning of the Farmers Market in 2020. In addition, since June 2020, we have collected at the Farmers Market about 300 pounds of fresh produce (half for the Community Culinary School in 2020, and half for the Warren/Washington Food Bank in 2021). Our funds and produce helped the chefs at the CCS prepare thousands of free meals.

### **BLOOD DRIVES**

With the support of WCOC volunteers, the Red Cross has conducted four blood drives at St. John's Episcopal Church, one in 2020 and three in 2021 (January 15, July 9 and September 10).

### **FROZEN DINNERS**

Starting on December 28, 2020, and continuing every Monday until November 8, 2021, volunteers from St. John's collected 50-100 frozen dinners each Monday prepared at the Trinity Retreat Center in their commercial kitchen by their chefs and delivered to our local Food Banks in Kent, Bantam, and Warren, at a time when the Retreat Center was closed and demand at local Food Banks increased.

### **EASTER BASKETS**

Candies, toys and other Easter themed supplies were given to 10 local children delivered to

Leah Pullaro, Social Worker of the Town of Kent

**SUPPORT OF BASIC NEEDS NON-PROFITS:** Apart from sponsored events, WCOC member congregations have recruited volunteers on behalf of other local non-profits that respond to basic needs in the broader community. When the Warren/Washington Food Bank needed additional staff to distribute their food, member congregations of WCOC successfully recruited volunteers through notices in our weekly bulletins.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACKS**

In August, six boxes filled with school supplies of all sorts were delivered at the request of Missy Woodward at Town Hall in Washington. These school supplies are distributed through the Washington/Warren Food Bank.

### **ANGEL TREE**

In collaboration with the Hartford based *Covenant to Care for Children*, the Angel Tree provided 25 dollars gift cards for 15 children living in Torrington, children who otherwise would have been deprived of Christmas presents.

### **WASHINGTON REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT (WWRP)**

In late October, St. John's played a leadership role in a town wide conversation about the possibility of settling a refugee family, which became WRRP, with St. John's Foundation

being the fiduciary agent. WWRP has now leased a duplex in New Milford, completed applications as an IRIS Community Co-Sponsor, and is awaiting a refugee family.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Veronique Dulack*  
*Outreach Chair*

## **ALTAR GUILD REPORT FOR 2021**

There is a saying, “Working for the Church doesn’t pay very well, but the retirement benefits are out of this world.” This was posted on the refrigerator of the Episcopal Center for Renewal in Dallas and was a reminder to all who volunteered their time and talents, exactly who we were working for. In serving on the Altar Guild the reminders are tangible as we handle the linens and vessels for setting up the Eucharist and then cleaning up afterward.

Covid has presented new challenges, but Fr. Geoff constantly reminds us to stay flexible, adapt and simplify wherever possible, and relax. Our new norm is to keep everyone comfortable and safe, while performing our duties.

Many thanks to our wonderful, amazing Altar Guild members who have served faithfully, some for many years. Sara Coles, Camille Gillespie, Susie Magee, and Ginny Reynolds.

Please consider joining the Altar Guild. We are an equal opportunity ministry that is not limited to just women. Training is provided and the times are quite flexible, and don’t forget those benefits!

Respectfully submitted,  
*MB Witt, Altar Guild Coordinator*

## **FLORAL GUILD REPORT FOR 2021**

A small number of dedicated Flower Guild members did a wonderful job providing lovely floral and plant décor on St. John’s beautiful altar during very difficult ‘Covid’ times. Without their dedication we would not have had the beauty that adorns St John’s every week. Special thanks to Veronique Dulack, Sally Futh, Alec Purvis and MB Witt. (MB helps in every aspect of St. John’s. Huge kudos to her!) They were very imaginative and created floral offerings using flowers and plants grown in their own or parishioner’s’ gardens, as well as flowers from florists. Their dedication, joyful spirit and reliability has been exceptional. Several members, myself included, have not been able to help this past year so an inordinate amount of work has been accomplished by this small dedicated group. Veronique, Sally, Alec and MB deserve enormous thanks! Lee Reese and Julia Metcalf helped when available. Thanks to Natalie Dyer and Emily Fitzhugh for assisting at Christmas.

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.

There is a small Floral Guild budget which is appropriate in these difficult times. We have been fortunate that some parishioners have been very generous and have given donations to 'honor' or to 'celebrate' a family member or friend or for a special occasion. At Christmas and Easter, there were donations and the St John's Flower Guild decorated for the occasions within the limits of volunteer availability and financial contributions received. We thank those in the congregation who have made such contributions and we look forward to future generosity.

Again, enormous thanks to the small group of dedicated Floral Guild volunteers. We welcome more parishioners to join us.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susie Markert*  
*Flower Guild Chair*

## **THE REPORT OF THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE FOR 2021**

St. John's like churches, synagogues, and mosques throughout the world, has struggled this year again with how to respond to this global pandemic, and yet how to remain active in our social life and outreach ministries. With constantly changing circumstances, we have ridden out wave after wave, with ups and downs, and shifting landscapes. Like everyone else, we are tired and unsettled and fragile.

Still, we slowly returned to in-person worship on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The 8:00 a.m. Service resumed two weeks later on May 30<sup>th</sup>. In July, we removed the mask mandate inside the church, except for the unvaccinated, and started Coffee Hours again on the Parish Hall porch. Attendance grew slowly but significantly week after week in August. A new Organist

& Choirmaster began in September, and a new choir began to sing for our Services, including some returning choristers like Jonathan Hall and Ann Hodgman who sang in St. John's Choirs years before. The St. John's Fall Music Program hosted an Evensong (10/3), then a choral concert with the Elm City's Girls' Choir (11/6), and then a Traditional Lessons and Carols in candlelight (12/19). The crowds at each event were great, full of old and new faces. Then the Omicron wave hit, and in-person attendance fell significantly throughout the season of Christmas, while online streaming audiences grew. But the Omicron wave is said to be short-lived.

Meanwhile the work of the Church to care for our community continued. Joined together as the Washington Council of Congregations, we continued efforts to care for our town, and the most needy amongst us. New Food Drives were organized over the months to support our local Warren/Washington Food Bank, gathering more than 4 tons of food stuffs

and \$14,000 in cash donations. A table was ‘manned’ at the Farmers’ Market again, providing fresh fruits and vegetables for our local Food Bank, and monetary donations to support the Community Culinary School, making 700 meals a week for the New Milford Senior Center. Frozen meals from the Trinity Retreat Center were delivered every Monday to the Kent, Warren and Bantam Food Banks by volunteers from St. John’s. Three Blood Drives were coordinated with the Red Cross to support our local hospitals, who remain in desperate need of blood in the midst of this global pandemic.

Meanwhile Parish Life goes on. St. John’s had an in-person Baptism of Emma Thomson in June, the Wedding of Thea Lines and Brenda Schrader in August, and several important funerals, including Carter Walker, Jr., and Ken Hecken. In addition, there were numerous hospital and nursing home visitations, sometimes in very precarious situations, and a few home visits as well. An Adult Bible Study worked critically through the Gospel of Mark in the Fall, but the plans to continue with a study of Acts has been delayed because of the Omicron wave. The Reading group, which began in the midst of the pandemic last Spring, has continued uninterrupted, gathering via ZOOM to discuss a variety of different novels, with the number of participants growing each time.

What the next year holds is unknown, but we will manage. The center has held. The current congregation is strong and committed. Attendance, when considering on-line worshippers, has been promising. The Pledge Campaign matched previous years. There are new people attending services this year. There are some former members returning as well. There were new pledgers this year too. All looks good for future sustained growth and recovery. The outreach efforts affirm our faith and commitment. The Fete was a huge success. The Music Series, WCOC and now the WRRP highlights St. John’s leadership role and place in the community, as did our recent gift of \$10,000 to the Washington Community Fund.

So, in the end, we will be well. All manner of things will be well. For I am convinced that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus Our Lord. So, we continue our prayers for recovery and reconciliation, for care and concern for one and another, and for peace and stability in our nation. May God bless us all!

Respectfully submitted,

*Fr. Geoffrey Hahneman, Priest-in-Charge*

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**78 Green Hill Road**  
**Washington, CT 06793**

**Staff**

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

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Dawn Rosiello, *Parish Administrator*

Joan Burgess, *Foundation Administrator*

**Parish Office Telephone:** (860) 868-2527

**St. John's Email:** [stjohnschurch@snet.net](mailto:stjohnschurch@snet.net)

**St. John's Website:**

<http://stjohnswashington.com/>

**St. John's Facebook Page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWashingtonCT>

**St. John's YouTube Page:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqlRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

**Vestry**

David Gillespie, Susan McFeely, *Wardens*

Joan M. Beattie, *Clerk*

Laura Daly, *Clerk Pro-Temp*

Larry Littlefield, *Treasurer*

Hunter Brown, *Assistant Treasurer*

*Class of 2021*

Robert Futh, Larry Littlefield, MB Witt

*Class of 2022*

Sara Coles, Mary Davis, Andris Kalnins

*Class of 2023*

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro

**Diocesan Delegates:** Sara Coles, MB Witt.