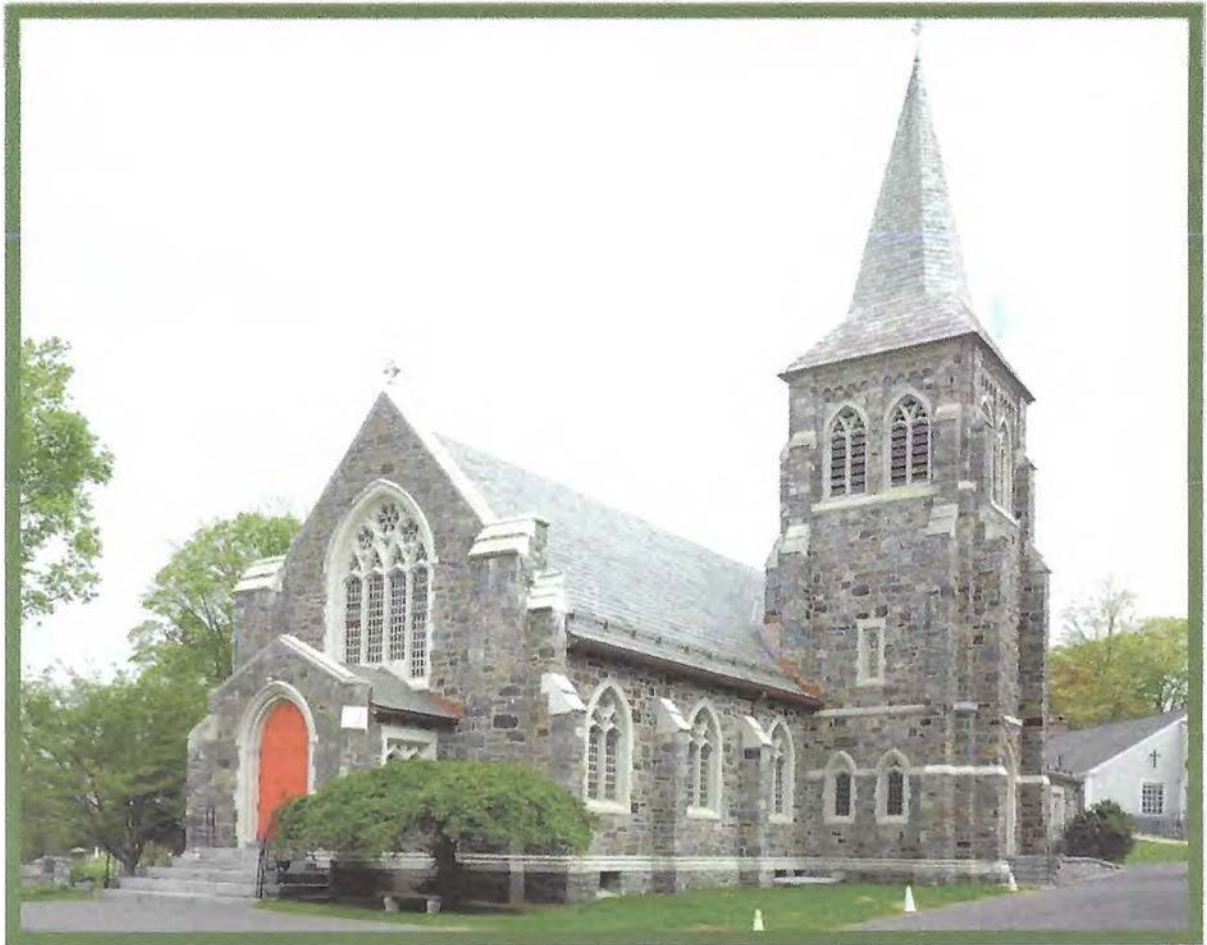


# St. John's Episcopal Church



## Annual Report 2022 January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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 29, 2023**

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER**

**REVIEW OF THE GUIDELINES FOR MUTUALITY**

**APPROVAL OF THE VOTING ROLL**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING**

**PRESENTATION OF THE SLATE FOR ELECTION**

**ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS AND DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES**

**WARDENS' REPORT**

**PRESENTATION OF THE 2023 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 - 2023

### 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.

Mary Elizabeth Adams  
Penny Bardel  
Bill Bardel  
James Bauer  
Joanne Bauer  
Joan Beattie  
Nick Benson  
Edward Bent  
Rebecca Lambert Bent  
Urs & Joanne Berger-Sweeney  
Darcy Beyer  
Treacy Beyer  
Worth Bracken  
Hunter Brown  
Ann M. Burton  
Joseph Claro  
Chris Campbell  
Darcy Campbell  
Shelley Caroe  
Joseph Claro  
Kathleen Clynes  
Kathy Coe  
Bob Coles  
Sara Coles  
Jay Collins  
Roberta Connolly  
Laura Daly  
Tim Daly  
Betty Daniels  
Thomas Daniels  
Mary Davis  
Michael Del Nin  
Claudia Di Fabrizio  
Larry Di Fabrizio  
Jeffrey Drubner

Sophia Sutton Drubner  
Charles Dubow  
Isabella Dubow  
Melinda Dubow  
Toom Dulack  
Veronique Dulack  
Lili Dyer  
Natalie Dyer  
Ashleigh Fernandez  
Emily Fitzhugh  
Holly Flor  
Robert H. Futh  
Sally Futh  
Camille Gillespie  
David Gillespie  
Lisa Gorrivan  
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  
Sean Krebs  
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  
Arthur Miller  
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  
Richard Snider  
Jon Somes  
Jerry Strawbridge  
Suzi Strawbridge  
Caroline Thompson  
Richard Thompson  
Ann Belford Ulanov  
Carter Walker, III  
MB Witt  
Darby Wright  
Harry Wright



# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Washington, Connecticut

January 23, 2022

**The Annual Report can be found here:** [Saint John's Parish \(secureservercdn.net\)](https://secureservercdn.net)

## **In Attendance via Zoom:**

Ted Bent, Shelley Caroe, Joseph Claro, Sara Coles, Laura Daly, Tom Daniels, Mary Davis, Tom Dulack, Veronique Dulack, Natalie Dyer, Emily Fitzhugh, Bob Futh, Sally Futh, Camille Gillespie, David Gillespie, Fr. Geoff Hahneman, Ann Hodgman, Andris Kalnins, Constance Littlefield, Larry Littlefield, John Magee, Susie Magee, Susan Markert, Sarah Lee Martin, Susan McFeely, Justin Ormand, MB Witt

**Call to Order:** Fr. Hahneman opened the meeting at 6:34PM with a prayer.

**Guidelines for Dialogue:** Fr. Hahneman reviewed the guidelines for mutuality.

**Approval of Voting Roll:** Approved as presented in the Annual Report via a show of hands.

**Approval of Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting:** Approved as presented in the Annual report via a show of hands.

## **Presentation of Slate for Election (see annual report for a full list of nominations):**

Fr. Hahneman asked for a vote on the entire slate of nominees by a show of hands. The slate was accepted as presented:

*David Gillespie, Mary Davis, Wardens*

*Laura Daly, Clerk*

*Joseph Claro, Treasurer*

*Hunter Brown, Assistant Treasurer*

*Class of 2022*

*Jay Bauer, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnins*

*Class of 2023*

*Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro*

*Class of 2024*

*Rebecca Bent, Larry Littlefield, Susan McFeely*

*Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt*

**Warden's Report:** David Gillespie thanked the Nominating Committee (Penny Bardel, Ted Bent, and Constance Littlefield) for their work. Among the many individuals listed in the annual report who gave of their time and resources, Mr. Gillespie called out: Outgoing Warden Susan McFeely for all her demanding work on St. John's buildings and grounds, especially the rental of the Rectory and preparing the cottage for Tom Brand. Outgoing Treasurer Lawrence Littlefield for his diligence, his ability to secure PPP funds, and steering us to financial health. Outgoing vestry members Joan Beattie, Bob Futh and MB Witt for their tireless dedication. Constance Littlefield and MB Witt for a very successful Fete which allowed the church to donate \$10,000 to the Washington Community Fund. Geoff for his continued dedication, treating his parttime position as a full time concern. Jon LaFleur for his

dedication and musical gifts. Tom Brand for his work to grow the music program. Mr. Gillespie also recognized the late Ken Hecken for his contributions to St. John's as a former vestry member.

**Treasurer's and Stewardship Reports:** Lawrence Littlefield reviewed the published financials, and the current state of our stewardship drive/pledges. Although not required by the by laws or the Canons (it is the Vestry that approves the budget), the budget was approved as presented by a show of hands.

There was a question of why the financial report for the Foundation was not part of the Treasurer's Report. Ms. Davis explained that the Foundation is a separate 501C3 non-profit and will present its own financial report at the next Vestry meeting (scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 and open to all parishioners in accordance with covid protocols at that time).

**Individual Reports (Buildings and Grounds, Music, Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Leadership, Bishop Transition Committee, Holiday Fete, Outreach, Altar Guild, Floral Guild)**

Fr. Hahneman asked if there were any questions relating to the published individual reports. Ms. Coles wanted to thank Jon LaFleur and the St. John's parishioners who were part of the Summer Choir for their dedication to St. John's music program, especially during this time of covid.

#### **Report of the Priest-In Charge for 2021**

Beyond the published report, Fr. Hahneman highlighted that fact that, due to COVID-19, parishioners are tired, anxious, and fragile, not unlike the state of the church nation-wide. But there are signs of hope and stability: the center of the parish has held, and we are better off financially. We are also becoming more engaged with our community through various outreach activities and our involvement with refugee resettlement. Fr. Hahneman also discussed the task ahead of St. John's to determine what our future holds. The Rev. Joseph Shepley, Rector of St. Paul's, Brookfield, has been assigned to us to help us discern what our future goals should be. To that end, The Reverend Shepley will hold an all-parish meeting in the Parish Hall on March 12 from 9AM-12Noon.

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Hahneman closed the meeting with prayer.

**Adjournment of Meeting:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:24PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Laura Daly*  
Clerk

### **NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS, DIOCESAN DELEGATES, AND NEW MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY FOR 2023**

The Nominating Committee warmly thanks *David Gillespie*, who has completed three consecutive two-year terms as Warden.

The Committee nominates two new members to the Vestry:



**Michael Del Nin**, to fulfill an unexpired term in the Class of 2024 occasioned by the departure of *Larry Littlefield* in the Summer of 2022, and **Worth Bracken**, to join the Vestry in the new Class of 2025.

Biographical paragraphs for Michael Del Nin and Worth Bracken are attached to this report. Biographical paragraphs for all others named below have been included in prior years and are on file in the Parish Office.

The present Warden, *Mary Davis*, has completed one year of her first two-year term.

Individuals nominated to be elected at this year's Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023, are listed below in bold italics:

OFFICERS:

Warden: **Jay Bauer**

Treasurer: **David Gillespie**

Assistant Treasurer: **Andris Kalnins**

Clerk: **Laura Daly**

Members of the Vestry Classes of 2023 and 2024 remain unchanged:

Class of 2023: Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro.

Class of 2024: Rebecca Bent, **Michael Del Nin**, Susan McFeely

VESTRY CLASS OF 2025, for a three-year term each:

**Worth Bracken**

**Sara Coles**

**Andris Kalnins**

DIOCESAN DELEGATES AND ALTERNATE, for a one-year term each:

Delegates: **Sara Coles** and **M.B. Witt**

Alternate: **Laura Daly**

Respectfully Submitted by the Nominating Committee

*Penny Bardel*

*Ted Bent*

*Justin Ormand*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2022**

This has been a year of adjustment as regards our parish finances. At the beginning of 2022, Larry Littlefield, who served this church as treasurer for the last several years, moved to the Carolinas and dutifully resigned as Treasurer, role that I then stepped into. At that same time, our Bookkeeper, Jane Martin, stepped down in her role because of family obligations. In addition, Donna Corey, our Auditor, retired. As a result, day-to-day financial management of the church required recalibration for a new Treasurer, new Bookkeeper, and new Auditor! With the help of Dawn Rosiello, our invaluable Office Manager, the congregation managed to keep the lights on and the bills paid.

But this year has also been a year of financial steadiness: our operating account has remained consistently strong, so strong that the Vestry decided that it would not need the traditional withdrawal from Endowment for income, as of February 2022, preserving the



parish endowment for future needs. Coming into the new year of 2023, I am happy to report that Jane, our dear Bookkeeper has returned to us. Since her return, church billing and payment has again become a well-oiled machine. While I am stepping down as Treasurer this month, I am confident that the financial model now in place will serve the church well for years to come.

### *2023 Financials*

Pledge income for 2023 is \$125,165, 72% percent of our goal. Our Rectory tenant vacated the space in December and the Vestry has decided to use this vacancy period to rehabilitate the building. We are aiming for completion by the end of April 2023 so that we can relet the space before the summer. We anticipate a rental income of \$32,000 for 2023.

Our 2022 Christmas Fete again proved to be a Washington tradition and a success for the church! As a result, the church generated a net income of \$27,212 as of December 31, 2022, after expenses paid, and checks of \$5,000 each sent to the Washington Fire Department and Ambulance Service. We continue to receive additional payments as payments are made for auctioned items.

For the coming year, we are budgeting a total income of \$221,000 based upon pledges received and rental income. Also included in the total income are loose plate donations and non-pledge income.

Total expenses for 2023 are budgeted at \$343,094, which is only 2.8 percent higher than our 2022 actuals, despite inflation. While fuel and labor costs are rising, we have done our best to lock in rates so as to lessen any market change impact.

Thus, I am happy to report that the Church is on a very strong financial footing. To continue this, we must maintain our generous support for the mission and ministry of St. John's.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Claro  
*Treasurer*

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2023

For 2023 thus far, St. John's has received 40 pledges. The overall financial result is comparable to the result for 2022. 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 2023 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,

*Joan Burgess*

*Foundation Administrator*

**Thank you to all who have pledged financial support to St. John's Church for 2023**

Mr. & Mrs. William Bardel  
Dr. & Mrs. James Bauer  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bent  
Mr. Urs and Joanne Berger-Sweeney  
Mr. Hunter Brown & Ms. Tillie Page Laird  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Campbell  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coles  
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Daly  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Daniels  
Ms. Mary G. Davis  
Mr. Michael Del Nin & Mr. Sean Krebs  
Dr. and Mrs. Larry Di Fabrizio  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dulack  
Ms. Natalie Dyer  
Ms. Emily Fitzhugh  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Futh  
Mr. and Mrs. David Gillespie  
Ms. Lisa Gorri van  
The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman  
Ms. Audrey Hecken  
Ann Hodgman  
Mr. Thomas Hollinger & Ms. Kathryn Coe

Ms. Corinne Johnson  
Mr. Andris Kalnins & Sarah Lee Martin  
Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Keating  
Mrs. Kirsten B. Knutson  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Littlefield  
Mr. and Mrs. John Magee  
Capt. Rudy Mangels & Ms. Holly Flor  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Markert  
Ms. Susan McFeely  
Ms. Nancy A. Miller  
Mr. Justin Ormand & Mr. Joseph Claro  
Mr. Alec Purves  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reynolds  
Ms. Susanna Salk and Mr. Jay Collins  
Mr.s Richard C. Snider & Jon W. Somes  
Mr. and Mrs. John Strawbridge  
Dr. Ann Belford Ulanov  
Ms. MB Witt  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wright

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Balance Sheet

Dec 31, 22

Notes

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

Petty Cash	171.00
PayPal	7,280.31
USB Church Ops Ckg	62,944.41
USB Held for Endowment	942,800.00
USB Savings	<u>18,576.28</u>

Total Checking/Savings 1,031,772.00

##### Other Current Assets

Wells Fargo	6,062.47
Investments - D&B Endowment	748,587.43
Investments - Schwab Hull Scholarship	75,076.70

Total Other Current Assets 829,726.60

Total Current Assets 1,861,498.60

### TOTAL ASSETS

1,861,498.60

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

##### Accounts Payable

Accounts Payable (1,567.12) #2

Total Accounts Payable (1,567.12)

##### Credit Cards

Mitchell Oil Line of Credit 502.99 #3

Total Credit Cards 502.99

##### Other Current Liabilities

Prepaid Pledge Income 19,680.77

##### Restricted Investment Funds

##### D&B Endowment Fund

D&B Endow. Foundation loan 2011 15,000.00

D&B Endowment Fund - Other 748,587.43

Total D&B Endowment Fund 763,587.43

Hull Scholarship Fund 75,076.70

Total Restricted Investment Funds 838,664.13

##### Restricted & Reserve Funds

H. von Goeben Request 942,808.25 #4

Security Deposit Fund 6,700.00

Davis Memorial Fund 1,500.00

Emergency Center Fund 7,600.00

Parish Discretionary Fund 2,672.51

Total Restricted & Reserve Funds 961,280.76

Total Other Current Liabilities 1,819,625.66

Total Current Liabilities 1,818,561.53

Total Liabilities 1,818,561.53

#### Equity

Fund balance 48,950.85

Retained Earnings 72,138.94

Net Income (78,152.72)

Total Equity 42,937.07

### TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

1,861,498.60

### NOTES

#1 Bal. @ 11/30/22

#2 Vendor credits to be used for 2023 invoices

#3 Budget pay heating oil account

#4 \* For transfer to D&B Endow. in 2023

01/14/23  
Cash Basis

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Income & Expense Budget vs. Actual

January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22	Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>		
<b>Income</b>		
Weekly Collections		
Pledge Income	112,200.51	153,570.00
Non-Pledge Offerings	12,745.00	12,000.00
Loose Plate	10,392.00	6,000.00
Pledge Prior Year Income	200.00	0.00
<b>Total Weekly Collections</b>	<b>135,537.51</b>	<b>171,570.00</b>
Fundraiser Income Prior Year	300.00	
Fundraiser Income	41,588.51	25,200.00
Outreach Income	1,885.00	0.00
Grants		
Diocese Grant	500.00	
PPP Forgiven Loan	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Grants</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Endowment Fund transfers	1,679.02	20,148.00
Interest Received	1,193.67	48.00
Miscellaneous Income		
Music Income	175.00	600.00
Liturgical Income - Flowers	1,822.19	900.00
<b>Total Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>1,997.19</b>	<b>1,500.00</b>
Rental use of Property	71,025.44	61,896.00
Bequest Income	0.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>255,706.34</b>	<b>280,362.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>255,706.34</b>	<b>280,362.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Clergy		
Medical Insurance	2,214.00	1,728.00
Professional Expenses	1,173.24	1,500.00
Salary	37,980.00	37,968.00
SS allowance	3,720.00	3,720.00
Supply Priests	250.00	1,500.00
<b>Total Clergy</b>	<b>45,337.24</b>	<b>46,416.00</b>
Episcopal Church		
Diocesan Pledge	29,148.96	29,148.00
<b>Total Episcopal Church</b>	<b>29,148.96</b>	<b>29,148.00</b>
Music		
Music Library	2,926.51	
Singers	17,469.28	0.00
Music Director Wages	27,999.92	0.00
Music Expenses	2,624.90	0.00
Organist Wages	0.00	0.00
Supply Organist	900.00	0.00
Music - Other	0.00	48,192.00
<b>Total Music</b>	<b>51,920.61</b>	<b>48,192.00</b>
Office & administrative		
Bank Fees	225.00	120.00
Online Processing Fees	1,198.90	930.00
Audit	1,750.00	2,592.00
Communications		
IT Tech Support	5,032.99	
Donor Database	408.00	396.00
Internet	3,309.50	3,300.00
<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>8,750.49</b>	<b>3,696.00</b>
Computer & Copier Expenses	7,481.71	6,864.00
Office Supplies	1,479.25	2,640.00
Office wages	30,213.75	34,992.00



01/14/23  
Cash Basis

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Income & Expense Budget vs. Actual**  
January through December 2022

	Jan - Dec 22	Budget
Payroll Expense	2,177.84	1,992.00
Payroll taxes	3,377.21	3,144.00
<b>Total Office &amp; administrative</b>	<b>56,654.15</b>	<b>56,970.00</b>
Payroll Expenses	48.14	
Program Expenses		
Evang./Publicity	0.00	0.00
Outreach	2,245.00	9,996.00
Parish Life	530.91	720.00
Web Page	119.88	144.00
Program Expenses - Other	0.00	1,200.00
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>2,895.79</b>	<b>12,060.00</b>
Fundraiser Expenses	13,857.42	0.00
Property		
Alarm Fee	2,566.41	3,900.00
Bldgs. & Grounds		
Church Supplies	4,762.45	3,000.00
Building Rental Use Expense	16,481.94	25,000.00
Bldgs. & Grounds - Other	57,624.49	30,000.00
<b>Total Bldgs. &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>78,868.88</b>	<b>58,000.00</b>
Property & Liab. Ins	19,371.59	15,600.00
Utilities	29,596.64	36,000.00
<b>Total Property</b>	<b>130,403.52</b>	<b>113,500.00</b>
Worship		
Flowers	761.39	
Altar Supplies	2,831.84	1,800.00
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>3,593.23</b>	<b>1,800.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>333,859.06</b>	<b>308,086.00</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-78,152.72</b>	<b>-27,724.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-78,152.72</b>	<b>-27,724.00</b>

## St. John's Episcopal Church: Projected 2023 Income and Expenses

### INCOME

*Notes:*

Pledge Income	\$150,000	
Plate & Non-Pledge Contributions	\$12,000	
Fundraising Income & Fete Income	\$50,000	#1
Rental Income	\$38,400	#2
Endowment Fund Distribution	\$75,000	#3
Misc. Income	<u>\$2,000</u>	#4
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$327,400</b>	

### EXPENSE

Clergy	\$50,129.28	#5
Music	\$62,047	#6
Parish Life	\$21,000	#7
Outreach	\$10,000	
Common Mission Support	\$28,609	#8
Liturgical Supplies		
Altar Flowers	\$1,000	#9
Liturgical Supplies	\$5,000	#10
Facility Maintenance	\$60,000	#11
Building Utilities	\$40,000	
Insurance		
Property & Casualty Ins. Lib	\$18,844	#12
Property & Casualty Work Comp	\$1,464,47	#13
Parish Administration/Bookkeeper	\$40,000	#14
Parish Office Expense	<u>\$25,000</u>	#15
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$363,093.75</b>	
Net Income (Loss)	<b>(\$36,693.75)</b>	

### NOTES:

#1 included Fete income

#2 (\$1,200 x 12 for yoga + \$24,00 for Rectory)

- #3 approximately 4.5% of Endowment
- #4 interest income, church/parish hall fees, memorials
- #5 increase of 8% COLA from 2022
- #6 Music director, organist, sheet music, organ/piano maintenance, singers
- #7 includes Fete and Fundraising expenses
- #8 10% of line A from the 2021 Annual Parochial Report
- #9 estimated donation in 2022: \$900
- #10 church and altar supplies
- #11 grounds maintenance, HVAC, alarm, mowing
- #12 5% increase from 2022
- #13 5% increase from 2022
- #14 Office staff, audit fee, payroll fee
- #15 Printing/copier expense, office supplies, postage, financial service fees, alarm fees, program expenses – [NOTE: audit fee was also listed here in 2022 as well as above]

## **THE WARDENS' REPORT FOR 2022**

During 2022, St. John's began to emerge from the Covid pandemic and return to a "new" normal, including a normal service schedule, occasional choral evensongs and a delightfully reimagined Christmas Fête. The "new" normal also includes the live-streaming of Sunday services. We continue to be blessed with the good fortune of having Father Hahneman as our "part time" Priest-in-Change. Father Geoff continues to go well above and beyond what is expected from a "part-time" priest. Under diocesan guidelines, for part-time priests are expected to officiate at services only two or three Sundays a month. Father Geoff continues to officiate at services every week, prepare wonderfully thoughtful sermons (a collection of which he has placed on the parish's web site), organize and conduct the liturgy, type and organize the bulletins, conduct reading and bible study groups, and engage in pastoral calls and counseling. He continues to have 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 extra-special thanks for his ministry among us.

We wish to thank Joseph Claro for his service as Treasurer. This is a time-consuming and sometimes vexing job, particularly with an unanticipated change of accountants and bookkeeper, and his efforts over the past year are greatly appreciated.

We offer special thanks to Penny Bardel, Justin Ormand, and Ted Bent for their service on the Nominating Committee. MB Witt, Susan McFeely and the Fête Committee deserve special thanks for rethinking and producing another fabulous Fête. It was a great financial success and has enabled the parish to make substantial contributions to the Washington Volunteer Fire Department and the Washington Ambulance Association.

We also wish to extend our thanks to Tom Brand for excellent music. The choral evensong services and the service of lessons and carols continue to bring in new faces. We look forward to the continued development of his efforts in the coming year.

Finally, thanks to our various committees and guilds, which are critical to keeping the parish functioning, including the Altar Guild, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers, Hospitality Committee, Flower Committee, Outreach Committee, Food Drive, Property Committee and Finance Committee. We are sure that we have neglected to offer much well-deserved special thanks, so we will conclude by apologizing for any omissions and offering thanks for all of those who contributed in ways both great and small to the life of St. John's over the past year.

Respectfully yours,

*Mary Davis and David Gillespie*

*Wardens*

## **BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT FOR 2022**

### **Buildings:**

- (1) The Rectory remained rented to Ira Titunik until 12/31/22. January and February 2023 will be spent assessing and implementing needed repairs and/or upgrades to the Rectory for future rental.
- (2) The Cottage remains occupied by Tom Brand and his family as part of the Music Program for St. John's.
- (3) The Parish Hall continues to rent to Ah Yoga on an annual basis, the Washington Garden Club on a monthly basis, plus we let the American Red Cross use the space to hold its Blood Drives several times a year.

### **Grounds and Property:**

- (1) Maintenance of the church properties and its grounds continued through 2022, thanks in large part to the hard work and dedication of our Parish Administrator, Dawn Rosiello. Dawn hired Dave Boccuzzi, former employee of the Department of Highways and Washington Supply, as a handyman which has worked out well for all day to day needs and repairs.
- (2) Thanks to the recommendation of Rod Pleasants, BAS Outdoor Services were hired to do an assessment of the St. John's grounds. It was long overdue, but in the end reinforced why annual maintenance is so important. BAS proceeded to clean up, weed, mulch, prune, trim and in some cases cut back/remove diseased and dead shrubs and trees throughout the property. They will continue to maintain the properties going forward so that annual maintenance is kept to a minimum. The Rectory had the most damage hence all of the shrubs were removed, replanting will take place Spring of 2023.
- (3) Elsa's Cleaners continue to clean the Church and Parish Hall weekly and the Cottage monthly.

Respectfully submitted,



*Susan McFeeley*  
*Property Chair*

## **MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2022**

Music played a vital role in the worship life of our parish during 2022. The following are some highlights:

### **CHOIRS:**

Throughout the year, the St. John's 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.

Our choirs provide wonderful opportunities for music making and fellowship for parishioners and community members of all ages and experience levels. ***New members are always welcome***, and, at this time, we are especially eager to expand the ranks of the tenors and basses in our Chancel Choir and to ***recruit additional children to participate in our new Community Youth Choir***. If you or someone you know may be interested in joining one of the ensembles described below, please contact Organist & Choirmaster, Tom Brand.

### **St. John's Community Youth Choir \*NEW!!!\***

*A nurturing and inclusive group in which family members of multiple generations can enjoy singing together in a fun, informal environment. Rehearsals take place immediately prior to the monthly Family Service, which is typically on the second Saturday of each month at 5:00 p.m.*

### **Chancel Choir**

*Intergenerational ensemble open by audition to volunteer and professional singers from throughout the region. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m., immediately prior to the 10:00 a.m. service from mid-September through mid-June and on various feast days. Eclectic repertoire includes anthems of all periods and styles. Singers are welcome to participate every Sunday or whenever their schedules permit.*

### **Schola Cantorum**

*Professional chamber choir of lay clerks and choral scholars, which specializes in the performance of polyphonic motets and Masses from the Renaissance.*

### **SPECIAL MUSICAL PROGRAMS & EVENTS:**

Throughout 2022, St. John's hosted several special musical programs, which were well attended by parishioners and community members alike, often attracting a larger crowd than at the morning's principal service! These programs included the following:

- February 27: Choral Evensong featuring the Choirs of St. John's
- March 13: Compline featuring Saecula Schola Cantorum
- June 11: Piano Recital by the Rev. Alan Murchie (former Organist & Choirmaster of St. John's)

- October 8: Family Service featuring the Elm City Girls' Choir
- October 16: Choral Evensong featuring the Choirs of St. John's
- November 12: Family Service featuring Saecula Singers & St. John's Community Youth Choir
- December 18: Service of Nine Lessons & Carols featuring the Choirs of St. John's
- December 24: Christmas Eve Family Service featuring Saecula Singers & St. John's Community Youth Choir

### **EQUIPMENT & RESOURCES:**

On April 15, 2022, St. John's received a beautiful Kawai console piano as a donation from Allison Kravitz. The piano has been situated in the sanctuary where it is now being used regularly during worship services and concerts. A dolly with wheels has been installed to facilitate repositioning the instrument as needed.

St. John's is blessed to have an extensive library of printed choral music, which has been carefully cataloged and well maintained over the years. Laura Daly deserves a special shout out for her extraordinary efforts to keep things in good order over the past several years. With the approval of the Priest-in-charge, most of the funds in our music library budget for 2022 were used to purchase 12 Samsung Galaxy tablets along with a charging station and various accessories. These new devices make it possible for our choir members to read from digital sheet music within the MobileSheets app and to access scores for upcoming services via the cloud. The tablets also enable our choirs to access the hundreds of thousands of public domain musical works that are now legally available on the internet while eliminating the cost, hassle, and environmental impact of photocopying.

### **NEW INITIATIVES, STRATEGIC PLANNING, AND VISION:**

The future holds many exciting possibilities for our music ministry. In particular, considerable interest has been expressed recently in establishing additional choral opportunities and training programs for children and youth. Some preliminary initiatives are now underway, and there is building excitement about the potential for growth in that area.

During the summer of 2022, it was announced that St. John's would be establishing a new Family Service to be held on one Saturday afternoon per month beginning in October. Father Geoff asked me to organize an informal Youth Choir to perform during that service, and I agreed to do so on a trial basis in the fall, with the understanding that it would begin as a "prototype" ensemble, and that establishing such a program on an ongoing basis would require additional resources.

The Youth Choir hit the ground running, and the first few Family Services were well attended by parishioners and community members (with many families drawn to the services specifically by the opportunity to participate in the Youth Choir).

Shortly after the Family Service in November, at the request of Father Geoff, I drafted the following proposal, which includes a vision statement for the St. John's Music Program and

a set of goals related to expanding the musical opportunities that we provide for children and youth:

**Vision for the future of the St. John's Music Program:**

St. John's will become widely recognized throughout the region as a beacon of musical excellence and superb choral education, featuring professional-caliber intergenerational choirs during weekly Sunday morning worship, and attracting large crowds for special events such as Evensong, Compline, and monthly Family Services of Saturdays as well as concerts presented by outstanding guest artists and visiting ensembles.

**Goals for expanding the St. John's Music Program and the Organist & Choirmaster position in 2023 to include additional musical opportunities for children and youth:**

- Establish the St. John's Community Youth Choir as an ongoing youth choral program sponsored by St. John's, which will serve young singers of all ages from the parish and wider community and will perform at monthly Family Services and occasional special feast days (with rehearsals and music education workshops held immediately prior to each performance).
- Recruit several St. John's Choral Scholars and other highly skilled choral musicians to serve as professional Section Leaders for the Youth Choir
- Invite both local and visiting children, grandchildren, and other young family members of St. John's parishioners as well as young singers from the Greater Washington Area to attend Family Services and participate in the Youth Choir
- Invite guest ensembles to collaborate with the Youth Choir on occasion
- Build community and strengthen ties among visiting families, parishioners, and Choral Scholars by organizing occasional receptions, group dinners, or potlucks following Family Services on Saturday evenings.
- Work towards establishing an intensive Summer Music Education Program (potentially in partnership with Saecula Choir Foundation\*) for St. John's Choral Scholars and other serious young choristers in the region, during which participants receive advanced instruction in ear training, sight-singing, music history, vocal technique, conducting, and organ skills, and during which they perform in several special services (e.g. Morning Prayer, Evensong, Compline, etc.) at St. John's during a week-long residency.

\*Saecula Choir Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization whose goal is to establish North America's first pre-college conservatory for choral conducting. Saecula and St. John's have forged a strong relationship, and there is potential for establishing a formal partnership in the future that could support both institutions in achieving their respective goals. Anyone who may be interested in playing a role in fundraising and/or strategic planning for such an endeavor is encouraged to contact Tom Brand or Father Geoff Hahneman.

Our existing Choral Scholar program is exceptional, and it is clear that expanding our music program to include additional opportunities for children and youth, as described above, could attract new families to the parish, have a significant positive impact on the community, and



establish the reputation of St. John's as a hub of professional-caliber musical training for young choristers.

Implementing the above proposal will require additional resources as it will substantially expand the scope of the Organist & Choirmaster position and the St. John's Music Program. It is my understanding that the proposed budget for 2023 includes support for the Community Youth Choir during the spring of 2023, but that additional funds will need to be raised if the program is to continue in the fall.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Special thanks go out to Emily D'Souza, who served capably as our summer organist throughout July and August. Emily is a Choral Scholar at St. John's and a member of the Elm City Girls' Choir and Saecula Singers who often serves as apprentice conductor of our Schola and Chancel Choir on Sunday mornings. She has received musicianship training and introductory organ instruction from the Saecula Choral Institute and Organ Exploration Program.

I also extend heartfelt gratitude to Father Geoff, the Wardens, Vestry, staff, parishioners, and of course all of our dedicated choir members for their support of our Music Program throughout the year. It is truly a privilege to serve as Organist & Choirmaster of this wonderful 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 & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS REPORT FOR 2022**

As with everything else during these times, the Readers and Eucharistic Ministers schedule was in flux. A few stalwarts read during the church closing and did double duty by reading both lessons, and on occasion the Psalm. By late fall, with the mask mandate relaxed, and more of our Readers were back in person. Since communion of the chalice was suspended during the height of the pandemic, no one served as Chalicer at the Eucharist. 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. ***We welcome and encourage others to volunteer to read or chalice in the months ahead.*** Please speak with me or the priest if you are interested. We look forward to a return in 2023 to our traditional practices.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Holly Flor*  
*Schedule Coordinator*



## **DIOCESAN DELEGATES' REPORT FOR 2022**

On May 21, 2022, the clergy and lay delegates of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut met at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford to elect a new Diocesan Bishop before the retirement of the Right Reverend Ian T. Douglas, PhD. who has led the diocese since April 2010. There were four candidates who had been previously selected by the Bishop Transition Committee, plus one petition candidate nominated from the floor. After six ballots, the Reverend Jeffrey Mello, Rector of St. Paul's, Brookline, in Massachusetts was elected.

On Saturday, October 15, 2022, the Reverend Jeffrey Mello was ordained and consecrated bishop diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut again at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford with the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church Michael B. Curry as the chief consecrator. Interestingly, since the agreement in 2000 between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America known as the Concordat, a Lutheran bishop participated in the consecration. Bishop Mello is now the first openly gay person to serve as Connecticut's diocesan bishop.

Annual Convention: On November 4, 2022, the clergy and lay delegates again met at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford for its two day Annual Convention, led by newly elected Bishop Diocesan the Right Reverend Jeffrey Mello. The Convention included an address by Bishop Mello followed by a lovely Taizé Evensong in the Cathedral. The following day the Convention met to elect members of the Mission Council and Standing Committee, and to vote on the Diocesan budget and five resolutions. There was a renewed sense of energy in the air as ECCT moves into the future.

Respectfully submitted by,  
*Sara Coles, MB Witt, Fr. Geoff Hahneman*  
*Diocesan delegates*

## **NORTHWEST REGION LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT FOR 2022**

The mission of The Northwest Region Leadership Team of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut is to join God's redemptive work of restoration and reconciliation and acts as a catalyst to new ways of being the body of Christ in the Northwest Region. We do this by: Regularly communicating with our Region's worshipping communities and Ministry Networks to support their efforts to connect, coordinate, and collaborate with each other and their local communities. Convening an annual gathering (Convocation) for sharing our wisdom, experience, and resources. Nurturing God's Mission in new and meaningful ways with financial support granted annually to new and existing initiatives in the Region. Responding to new initiatives and events with discernment and supporting them when they align with our mission. Laura Daly is the Scribe and a member of the Northwest Region Leadership Team.

A major part of our efforts in 2002 was the promotion of the Elmore Terrell Trust Grant to foster collaborative ministries. This includes ministries with other faith-based communities or with the community at large. This grant can help fund an existing or new project. The NWRLT reviews the applications and votes on which missions receive funding. For 2022, recipients of the Elmore Terrell Trust Grants include support for food pantries, clothing, community outreach, anti-gun violence. ***St. John's, Washington, received a \$600 Terrell grant to support Fr. Geoff in forming of KIVA groups among students from our various high schools.*** These teens will meet monthly as an after-school project to learn about the more than 1.7 billion people around the world who are unbanked and can't access the financial services they need to improve their lives and the lives of their family. They will explore the KIVA website (kiva.org) to learn more about ways to make micro-loans through crowdfunding with as little as \$25 each and thus unlocking capital for the underserved, improving the quality and cost of financial services, and addressing the underlying barriers to financial access, working with NGO's (Non-Government Organizations) around the world.

We are in the planning stages of a Meet and Greet with our new Bishop Jeff Mello, scheduled for Saturday April 1, 2023. More details to follow but mark your calendars for this opportunity to get to know our new Bishop.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Laura Daly*

*Northwest Region Leadership Team member*

## **THE HOLIDAY FETE REPORT FOR 2022**

The 2022 Holiday Fete for St. John's turned out to be another success! Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Steering Committee --- Veronique Dulack, Regine Laverge, Ron Leal, Sarah Lee Martin, Rod Pleasants, and Chris Zaima --- the Parish Hall was transformed once again into a Christmas wonderland of Shoppes with six outside Vendors and the Library became the St. John's Boutique of attic treasures and unique decorative finds. The entire front entrance sparkled with Christmas lights leading into a holiday garden of amaryllis and narcissus, a welcoming and beautiful setup overall!

A Champagne Preview Reception kicked off the evening starting at 5:30 followed by a Cocktail Party and Silent Auction, attended by over 100 parishioners and friends of St. John's. We continue to anticipate gross revenues of approximately \$50,000 with a net profit to St. John's of approximately \$25,000, after expenses, plus a \$5,000 donation each to the Washington Ambulance Corp. and the Washington Fire Department.

MB and I thank our Steering Committee, loyal Parishioners, Staff and the many Friends of St. John's for their continued help, support and donations in allowing us to continue the tradition of our Holiday event. ***We always welcome additional volunteers*** as we begin to plan for this year's Fete.

Respectfully submitted,



*Susan McFeely and MB Witt*  
*Co-Chairs*

## **ALTAR GUILD REPORT FOR 2022**

Members of the Altar Guild perform an essential service, working behind the scenes to prepare the church for all the services during the year, each according to the church calendar. In addition to the two regular Sunday services each week, we also prepare for special services like Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Evensong, Lessons & Carols, and the new and very lively Family Service on the second Saturday of each month.

The Altar Guild prepares for our weekly communion feast the same way you prepare for a dinner party at your home. We prepare the dishes, linens, and candles, setting the table and then we clean up after the party. If you are interested in the inner workings of the church, this is a good way to learn and ***we welcome any and all newcomers*** with training as long as you need it, time flexibility, and a great group of people to work with.

Many thanks to our small but dedicated team, many who have served for more than twenty years: Susie Magee, Ginny Reynolds, Camille Gillespie, and Sara Coles. In 2022 we welcomed new member, Corinne Johnson, and ***would love to add even more members in the months ahead***. As our services at St. John's expand, it would be lovely for the Altar Guild to expand as well..

Respectfully submitted,  
*MB Witt*  
*Altar Guild Coordinator*

## **OUTREACH REPORT FOR 2022**

Despite 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:

### **FOOD DRIVES:**

On October 1, 2022, St. John's sponsored another Food Drive to support our local Food Banks in Warren and New Milford, at which we collected more than 300 lbs. of canned goods and dry foodstuffs, and more than \$1,000 in cash.

### **BLOOD DRIVES**

The American Red Cross conducted three blood drives at St. John's Episcopal Church in 2022 (January 14<sup>th</sup>, July 8<sup>th</sup>, and September 9<sup>th</sup>), to support our local hospitals during this time of pandemic.

### **BACK TO SCHOOL BACKPACKS**

*Covenant to Care for Children* asked us to focus specifically on the needs of teenagers this year. So, on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 15 backpacks and school supplies were delivered to the *Covenant to Care for Children* branch in Torrington on behalf of St. John's.

## **ANGEL TREE**

St. John's sent 15 Amazon gift cards of 25 dollars each (for a total of 375 dollars) to the DCF (Department of Child and Families) office in Torrington for distribution during Christmas.

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

St. John's played a leadership role in the formation of the Washington Refugee Resettlement Project, with St. John's Foundation being the fiduciary agent. WWRP became as an IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) Community Co-Sponsor group. At the end of April, 2022, WWRP received an Afghanistan refugee family, the Awrangs, housed in a duplex in New Milford. In the months since, all the family members have been actively engaged in English classes, provided by the Literacy Volunteers on the Green. They have had their medical updates. The children were registered and began school, and Alibaba, the father, had a very successful art exhibit of his calligraphy at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens on the week of October 28th.

Respectfully submitted,

*Veronique Dulack*

*Outreach Chair*

## **FLORAL GUILD REPORT FOR 2022**

A small number of dedicated Flower Guild members continue to do a wonderful job providing lovely floral and plant décor on St. John's beautiful altar. Without their dedication we would not have had the beauty that adorns St John's. 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 very much 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! Thanks to Natalie Dyer and Emily Fitzhugh for assisting at Christmas and other times.

***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 special donations given and the St John's Flower Guild happily utilized these funds to create appropriate Christmas and Easter floral décor. We thank those in the congregation who have made such contributions and we look forward to their 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*

## LAY WORSHIP LEADERS & PREACHERS' REPORT FOR 2022

In 2022, Morning Prayer was held on five Sundays when Father Geoff was away (February 13, April 24, July 24, September 11, and November 27). The 8 am services were officiated by Laura Daly, and the 10 am services were alternately officiated by Sara Coles and Laura. Sara preached at 3 services and Laura preached at 2 services. We have attempted to recruit additional parishioners as Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers, and are hopeful that others will join us in 2023. ***Anyone interested in becoming a Lay Worship Leader or Lay Preacher should ask Father Geoff.***

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Coles, Laura Daly  
*Licensed Lay Worship Leaders*  
*Licensed Lay Preachers*

## HOSPITALITY REPORT FOR 2022

We continue to provide Coffee Hour and time for fellowship after the 10am service. I want to thank the following parishioners for their dedication to this ministry: Penny Bardel, Mary Davis, Veronique Dulack and her daughter, Natacha Rousseau, Natalie Dyer, Emily Fitzhugh, David and Camille Gillespie, Corine Johnson, Susan Markert, Susan McFeely, Jon Somes, Richard Snider, MB Witt. As many hands make light work, ***we still need more volunteers for coffee hour.*** Please contact Laura Daly ([msdalynac@gmail.com](mailto:msdalynac@gmail.com)) if you are interested in being added to the list. Coffee and some cookies would be all that is required as the most important element of coffee hour is to catch up with friends and make new friends.

As we continue to get out from under covid restrictions, we will be planning potlucks and other events to rebuild our ties to each other. The more we can act as a community, the more we can do for the community at large.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Laura Daly, Hospitality Chair*

## THE REPORT OF THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE FOR 2022

St. John's like churches, synagogues, and mosques throughout the world has struggled this year to move beyond the pandemic that has haunted this country for the last two years and more. And yet the pandemic isn't over. Surprisingly, more Americans died of Covid in 2022, than in 2021, and the new XBB.1.5 strain remains threatening on the horizon as it spreads. But the world wants desperately to move on from the pandemic. People are simply

no longer willing to treat Covid as an emergency requiring extraordinary measures anymore. As a nation, we seem to have collectively decided it was time to go back to 'normal,' back to the way things were before the pandemic.

Almost, anyway. "Back" is misleading because we haven't really returned to the normal of 2019. Covid has left a permanent mark, as viruses sometimes do, and 'normal' will never be quite the same again. Over a million Americans have died from this disease and are absent from their family's table. Meanwhile attendance of workers in office spaces in some of the nation's largest cities currently averages only about half of pre-pandemic levels, as more people work from home. And sure enough, I am working more from home than I was in 2019. I am preparing the bulletins, the weekly eblasts, and my sermons from my office at home. Meanwhile weekday foot traffic in our downtowns remains about one-third below 2019 levels, and public transit ridership averages about two-thirds of what it was. This suggests a permanent shift in the way our communities are engaging with one another.

What is considered 'normal' has changed with the pandemic. For example, our Reading Club, started during the pandemic via ZOOM, has chosen to continue to not meet in-person as the pandemic faded. Indeed, a lot of my diocesan meetings remain on ZOOM, or hybrids. Similarly, though we returned to in-person worship last year, we still have a significant number who watch our services online, an average of about 20 households still view our worship on Facebook or YouTube each week. Indeed, many of our weekenders now seem to watch services of St. John's online when they are stuck in New York City, rather than attend 'their' New York churches. Nonetheless in-person attendance has continued to grow over the last 15 months, but we are not back to the numbers of 2019, and wonder whether we ever will be. Yet, attendance at non-Sunday morning services, for example, Evensongs, Family Services, Blessing of the Animals, and Lessons & Carols, is indeed most encouraging and is expanding our congregation, as it often is larger than that of the principal service on Sunday mornings!

Though leisure, sleep, and household activities all increased significantly during the pandemic, socializing decreased even more. A significant share of our community is still uncomfortable with public activities, from flying to going to the movie theater. Many still wear face masks when in a crowd. Indeed, the CDC currently recommends in Litchfield County the wearing of face masks when inside. Moreover, the pandemic seems to have turned us all more inward, into our families and small groups of close friends, our churches, and we may never completely reestablish old patterns of a more public society. Attendance at our religious services has recovered some ground as people seem to desperately want "community" and social interaction. Coffee hours are back, but ***volunteers to organize them are few***. Musical Events are back, but again without people to organize receptions, much needed to build up a sense of 'community.' Perhaps the most interesting thing is that St. John's started a 'new' Family Service in October, and attendance has been very heartening. Our Organist & Choirmaster is building up an impressive Youth & Children's Choir for those occasions, but again we don't have the volunteers to organize Receptions afterwards to welcome in these new families! So, what does the future hold?

Churches, like other institutions, are still continuing to struggle. Attendance nationally is dropping, but personal giving per capita is surprisingly growing! Nonetheless, a third of church buildings in a recent study of rural parishes are costing more money each year than they are able to raise, and only one in five was financially profitable. In order to secure their future, churches must be useful to their communities and find ways to maintain financial sustainability. The study found that churches played a significant role in communities, with three-quarters of respondents noting that the closure of their local church would have a “devastating impact.” Church buildings were most valued for providing rites of passage services (78%), being a place for religious worship (72%), and offering a quiet space for reflection, thinking, and meditation (69%). “Evaluating the success of the church in terms of the number of funds it raises and the size of its congregation undervalues the contribution that churches and church buildings make to a community,” said lead author Helen Haugh, Associate Professor in Community Enterprise at Cambridge. The study assessed the wider community use of church buildings and the contribution that churches made to the common good. They found that three-quarters of church buildings held community activities in 2019, an increase of 27% since 2012! “These ranged from blood donation to debt counseling and coffee mornings to concerts,” said Dr. Timur Alexandrov, Postdoctoral Research Associate of the project. The study, REACH (*Reimagining Churches as Community Assets for the Common Good*), gives recommendations for churches to connect with the wider population. “The project has revealed a hunger for change, as many churches plan for their futures, so more of our churches can look forward to a sustainable future as community assets, loved and supported by all.”

This is the very question that St. John’s, Washington, must wrestle with. We are probably never going to return to the pre-pandemic numbers in attendance. So, what do we do? How do we re-imagine the future of St. John’s? Do we think that we will ever have a full-time Rector again? If not, what do we do with the Rectory? And how do we raise up more lay leaders to run the parish, without the benefit of permanent full-time clergy? We need more Lay Leaders to lead worship, and more Lay Preachers to substitute when clergy are not available. We need more VJs (video jockeys) to maintain our important online presence. We need more volunteers to organize social events, coffee hours, and even pastoral calls. We need more active lay involvement in the life and mission of this parish.

So, we are still where I said we were at my first Annual Meeting at St. John’s in January 2020, three years ago.

***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!***

*The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman  
priest-in-charge*



## 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, Mary Davis, *Wardens*

Laura Daly, *Clerk*

Joseph Claro, *Treasurer*

Hunter Brown, *Assistant Treasurer*

*Class of 2022*

Jay Bauer, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnins

*Class of 2023*

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro

*Class of 2024*

Rebecca Bent, Michael Del Nin, Susan McFeely

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