

# Saint John's Church, Concord

576 Concord Road  
Glen Mills, PA 19342

*Founded 1702*

*Celebrating 317 Years of Worship*



The Rev. Daniel W. Hinkle – Interim Rector

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

**Mission of Saint John's**  
To be a welcoming community committed to  
seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.

**Our vision is to grow with intent. We will maintain intimacy by gathering in groups; reach all generations through fellowship; advance our mission through a vital program of outreach; nurture spiritual growth through worship, music, education and pastoral care; encourage commitment to effective ministry; and support the church through stewardship.**

**Saint John's is a Heart-friendly Church**

# Saint John's Church, Concord

## Annual Parish Meeting February 2, 2020

Invocation

*The Rev. Daniel W. Hinkle.  
Interim Rector*

Reports:

A. Rector's Report

*The Rev. Daniel W. Hinkle*

B. Rector's Warden Report

*Martha Pearlman*

C. Finance Reports & 2019 Budget

*Martha Pearlman*

D. Planned Giving: the 1702 Society

*Gerry Tierney*

E. Next Chapter Capital Campaign Committee

*Paul Costello*

F. Rectory Update

*Paul Pearlman*

G. Profile Committee Update

*John Pachkowski*

Recognition of those Retiring from Vestry

*The Rev. Daniel W. Hinkle*

Presentation & Election of Nominees for Vestry

Election of Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Introductions: Staff, New Members, Others . . .

The Necrology

*The Rev. Daniel W. Hinkle*

Closing Prayer

*The Rev. Daniel W. Hinkle*

### 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

*Presented for Approval*

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
February 3, 2019**

#### **ATTENDEES:**

Members of the Vestry: The Rev. Dr. John T. Sorensen, Rector; Martha Pearlman, Rector's Warden; Thomas Williams, Vestry Warden; Burt Blackburn, Treasurer; Peggy Long, Secretary; Diane Carlin, Stephen Carmichael, Mary Pat Lynam, Marshall Pearson, Ted Stipa, James Yoch; the Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel; and Members of the Congregation

**INVOCATION:** Fr. John opened the meeting with prayer at 10:22 AM.

#### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL MEETING**

Motion: Garrick Weaver moved that minutes of the prior Annual Meeting, held February 4, 2018, be approved as corrected. Amy Borer seconded the motion, which was approved by voice acclamation, with none opposed.

## **REPORTS**

### **The Rector**

*Full information appears in the 2018 Annual Report*

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Father John. Copies of the 2018 Annual Report, with minutes of the Annual Meeting held on February 5, 2017, were made available in booklet form to all attendees. The Annual Meeting is held at the beginning of the calendar year to review the past year; present a budget for the new year; discuss the future of St. John's; and conduct the election of Vestry Members and of Delegates to Diocesan Convention. Fr. John invited parishioners to read his full report in the booklet and stated that he is covering the information during the sermon at each service today.

Motion: Danielle Yoch moved that today's meeting agenda be accepted. The motion was seconded by Tom Williams and approved by acclamation.

### **The Rector's Warden**

*Full information appears in the 2018 Annual Report*

Martha Pearlman thanked everyone for their efforts progressing the many parish accomplishments of the past year, saying that we can be especially proud of the capital improvements which support not just our many ministries, but which also support and welcome the local community. She announced that the Vestry will be meeting on February 19th with a representative from the Diocese to facilitate our calling a new Rector upon the upcoming retirement of Fr. John. She thanked those who were instrumental in bringing Fr. John to St. John's, and thanked Fr. John for all he has done in his ministry here and for guiding us successfully and smoothly through many changes.

### **The Vestry Warden**

*Full information appears in the 2018 Annual Report*

Tom Williams announced that he is retiring from Vestry and thanked the members for being a good group of people with whom to have worked. He asked that the congregation continue to support the church in the year to come, including by volunteering to help.

### **Financial Report for 2018 and the 2019 Budget**

*Full information appears in the 2018 Annual Report*

Treasurer Burt Blackburn having completed his first year as Treasurer was pleased to announce that the parish is in good shape overall - despite the operating deficit projected in last year's budget and created by some fixed expenses that could not have been anticipated, and because we did receive some unexpected revenue through renting space in the parish building. Bills and salaries are being paid. Although support of the capital campaign may have negatively impacted pledging, on the last page of the budget you will see a \$247.00 surplus. Burt entreated members to complete a pledge card to enable our budgeting process to be more accurate. His summary of our financial position reads:

The 2018 Operating Revenues were \$367,596.67 compared to the budgeted amount of \$367,950.00 for a negative variance of \$353.33. (Please note when reviewing the Revenue Analysis on the second page of the report, the totals do not include the Church Auction contribution of \$10,000 towards operating expenses.)

Operating Expenses for 2018 totaled \$387,721.08 compared to a budgeted amount of

\$384,575.00. Our operating expenses were over budget by \$3,146.08. Additionally, the 2018 budget included a projected operating deficit of \$16,625. With the projected budget deficit and the negative variances in operating revenues and operating expenses, we did realize a total negative variance of \$20,124.41.

Due to the overall financial condition of St. John's, the substantial loss has been sustained by our limited cash reserve.

Regarding the 2019 budget, the vestry has approved a balanced budget with anticipated revenues of \$367,150 and total operating expenses of \$366,903.

### **The Associate Rector**

*Full information appears in the 2018 Annual Report* The Reverend Jill LaRoche Wikel highlighted from her written report that 12 youth were confirmed, and that Middle School and High School Youth remain active in the parish by helping with ministries such as Sunday School and Bible School, serving as Acolytes, and working on the Appalachian Service Project. Three women's groups are meeting during the course of a month.

### **PLANNED GIVING: THE 1702 SOCIETY**

Gerry Tierney reported on behalf of the Society, stating that its newest member is the recently deceased Richard Mendenhall, from whose estate a generous contribution has been received. Gerry invited anyone with questions or interest in becoming a member of the Society to please speak with him.

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE**

As Vestry Representative for the Capital Campaign Committee, Ted Stipa recognized Paul Costello for his leadership efforts to fund the campaign. Ted reported that bids have gone out for Phase 2 of the overall project, (i.e., improvements that will cover the now-open courtyard in the center of the parish building to provide space for handicapped-accessible restrooms and other functional rooms). He stated that we hope to execute this phase in stages as the funding becomes available. Although 60% of active family units have already donated or pledged to the capital campaign, it is our hope and goal to achieve 100% participation. Ted emphasized that contributions at any level are welcome and needed.

### **PROPERTY AND GROUNDS**

\_\_\_\_\_ Vestry member Steve Carmichael recognized committee members who have been busy taking care our property and grounds, including Garrick Weaver, new committee member Pearl Pearlman, and leader Ron Hammer. Steve noted that work is underway on the playground.

### **RECOGNITION**

#### **Retirement from Vestry**

On behalf of the congregation and vestry, Fr. John thanked Tom Williams for his faithful years of service as a member and as Vestry Warden.

#### **Music Ministry**

Fr. John recognized Music Director Jessica Villante and Organist Gregory Rettew for the excellent music they provide to us.

## **Other**

Larry Dunbar thanked Fr. John for his service, commending him especially for the installation of church air conditioning, which Larry asserted had been talked about since he served on vestry in 1964.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE: PRESENTATION AND ELECTION OF NOMINEES FOR VESTRY**

For the Nominating Committee, Martha Pearlman and Tom Williams presented the following slate of candidates and terms for which nominated (corrected herein from booklet):

William Calhoun, 1st term  
Stephen Carmichael, 3rd term  
Mary Pat Lynam, 2nd term  
John Pachkowski, 1st term  
Ted Stipa, 3rd term

### Motions:

With no additional nominations from the floor, it was moved by Tom Williams and seconded by Danielle Yoch that nominations be closed and the slate accepted. The motion was approved.

Tom Williams further moved that nominees be elected for the terms specified above. Carol Angus seconded the motion, which was approved by acclamation.

## **ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

*Elect three Delegates and one Alternate*

The ballot cited as nominees Burt Blackburn, Miriam Matrangola, Mary Alice Peeling, and as Alternate, Danielle Yoch; however, both Danielle and Miriam respectfully declined. In their stead, Sue Hammer volunteered to serve as Delegate, and Peggy Long as Alternate.

Motion: It was moved by Tom Williams that the slate of representatives to Diocesan Convention be approved with Delegates: Burt Blackburn, Sue Hammer, and Mary Alice Peeling, and Alternate: Peggy Long. By voice acclamation, with no one opposing, the motion was approved.

## **REVISION TO BY-LAWS**

Vestry member, Jimmy Yoch, proposed approval of the updated set of by-laws recommended by the vestry, a copy of which was emailed to parishioners and published in the weekly eNews prior to this meeting. Discussion included bringing consistency to language throughout the document; removing Article VIII on St. John's Pre-School, no longer a ministry; revision of Article II on membership and voting qualifications; and use of the name St. John's, Concord, or St. John's, Glen Mills.

Following discussion Miriam Stanton moved that the revision to the by-laws be tabled for further research. The motion was seconded by Lois Jean Bak and passed by vocal acclamation with no one dissenting

## **THE NECROLOGY / VITAL STATISTICS**

*Full information appears in the 2018 Annual Report*

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting ended approximately 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Peggy Long*  
*Secretary of the Vestry*

*For All Vestry and Committee Reports Please Refer to the 2018 Annual Report Booklet*

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### **2019 Vestry Members and Ministry Responsibility**

**Burt Blackburn**, *Treasurer, Mission/Outreach*  
**Bill Calhoun**, *Property Committee*  
**Diane Carlin**, *New Members*  
**Peggy Long**, *Vestry Clerk*  
**Martha Pearlman**, *Christian Education*  
**Jimmy Yoch**, *Finance*  
**Steve Carmichael**, *Building & Grounds*  
**Mary Pat Lynam**, *Administration*  
**Marshall Pearson**, *Audit*  
**Ted Stipa**, *Next Chapter Capital Campaign*  
**John Pachkowski**, *Worship*

### **Recognition of Vestry Members & Officers Retiring at Annual Meeting, 2019**

**Peggy Long**, *Vestry Clerk*  
**Marshall Pearson**, *Vestry Member*  
**Jimmy Yoch**, *Finance*

## Interim Rector's Report

What is Intentional Interim (Transition) Ministry?

All congregations in transition between settled priests benefit greatly from an intentional time of interim ministry and the spiritual guidance and pastoral care of a trained interim priest. This is so even if the former priest left under the best of circumstances. It is especially true when the congregation has experienced any of the following: an unusually long pastorate, a less than optimum ending to the former pastorate, major conflict, a serious breach of ethics by a former priest or other member of the congregation, the previous priest and/or immediate family members remain part of the congregation and/or community after retirement, or the congregation is preparing for re-visioning.

1. An Intentional Interim (Transition) Priest serves in the interim period between settled priests.
2. By nature a Transition Pastorate is a temporary position for a specific time period that may be extended if necessary.
3. An Intentional Interim Priest is not to be a candidate for settled pastor in the congregation where he/she is serving.
4. An Intentional Interim (Transition) Priest has specific training and skills to guide a congregation to identify, appreciate and build on its strengths, and to identify and appropriately resolve possible transition issues and crises.
5. An important job of the Interim Priest is to help the congregation bring appropriate closure regarding its former priests by encouraging members to stop depending on them for their spiritual, pastoral and general congregational needs, and to transfer their allegiance regarding these needs to the interim and ultimately to the new settled priest.
6. Intentional Interim (Transition) Priests are normally responsible for the following three broad areas of ministry:
  - A. The continuing worship, spiritual and pastoral life of the congregation as well as basic church administration. The Interim Priest is the Priest of the congregation for the duration of the interim period.
  - B. Guiding the congregation in the identification, appreciation and building on its strengths; and guiding the congregation through the Five Developmental Tasks unique to the interim period. These are as follows:
    - 1) Coming to Terms with its History
    - 2) Discovering a New Identity by discerning God's new vision for ministry
    - 3) Leadership Changes (both paid and volunteer, lay and clergy)
    - 4) Reaffirming diocesan and greater church connections
    - 5) Preparing for new pastoral leadership and ministries
  - C. Leading the congregation through healing, re-visioning or renewal as appropriate to specific circumstances.
7. Church profiles, portfolios and the search process are usually done with judicatory leadership. However, the Interim Priest often provides coaching on the overall process and other appropriate guidance. The Interim Priest has no knowledge of possible candidates being considered.
8. The length of an Interim Period is unique to each congregation and its needs. The congregation should give itself enough time for healthy closure with its former priest, to complete the Developmental Tasks, to resolve unfinished business, and to begin moving towards a new vision for the future. This usually takes from one to one and one half years.

St. John's Episcopal Church, Concord has experienced a lot of change the past fifteen months. First your previous Rector, Fr. John Sorensen, was seriously ill for more than a month in the fall of 2018. He then announced his retirement in January of 2019 and his ministry ended in May of last year. Jane Russell retired last June 2019 after more than a decade as your Parish Secretary. The Rev. Jill LaRoche-Wikel, Assistant Rector left at the end of August 2019 after five years of part-time ministry with you. Finally, I began full-time ministry as your Interim Rector just five months ago on September 1, 2019. This is a lot of change for any parish church to go through, and St. John's has weathered this transition very well.

In the past five months, a lot of positive things have been accomplished. The Discernment Process for calling a new Rector has begun with the formation of a Parish Profile Committee. They have been meeting every Monday evening for several weeks. The Parish History Project has been completed. What was learned will be incorporated into the materials about St. John's Church that candidates will receive. Finally, you ended the 2019 fiscal year in the black and begin this new year with a balanced budget. Having completed the History Project (B.1 mentioned above), we are well on our way to accomplishing developmental tasks B.2, 3, & 4 above.

The Parish Profile committee should be done its work before Easter. The Vestry will have appointed the Search Committee by then. St. John's Church should be listed as open and receiving names sometime soon after Easter, and the Search Committee should be receiving materials and begin interviewing by the end of May. Your new Rector may start his or her new ministry with you by September give or take a couple of months.

Once St. John's Church is listed as open and receiving names, the process becomes confidential. We will not know who has applied to be Rector and will not learn who your new Rector is until the Wardens announce the news to the congregation. Our job will then be to continue to steep the whole process in prayer and place it in God's hands. When the church is listed as open and receiving names and the Search Committee begins interviewing, I then begin to look for my new position.

The Vestry and the Profile and Search Committees will regularly keep the parish informed about the progress of the discernment process. If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding any aspect of the discernment process, please feel free to ask me or one of the Wardens or the chair of the Profile or Search committees at any time.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the past five months of ministry with you and look forward to celebrating Holy Week and Easter here at St. John's Church, and to sharing in your joy in learning who your new Rector will be and preparing for the new mission and ministry God is calling you to in the future.

Christ's Peace,

*Fr. Dan Hinkle +*

Interim Rector

Cell: 610-223-5588

Email: [frdanstjohnsconcord@gmail.com](mailto:frdanstjohnsconcord@gmail.com)



## **RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT**

2019 was a year full of changes and challenges here at St. Johns. With Father John's retirement in May, our Parish Secretary, Jane Russell's retirement in May also, and Rev. Jill's departure in late August, we lost many years of experience and knowledge of St. John's Church. We celebrated the work of each in May, June, and August with a party and much laughter and some tears too.

Even though the late summer and early fall were challenging to say the least, we hired a new Parish Administrator, Joan Marie Lupi and we also welcomed Father Dan Hinkle as our Interim Rector. Both started about the same time in early September, and both have worked very hard to get to know us and help us during this transition time.

Because of budget concerns, the Vestry voted in October to cut the budget by 10 % and we gave monthly updates on our financial position. The parishioners of St. Johns fulfilled their pledges and even gave a little extra. We finished the year with a small surplus! Father Dan planned our Stewardship Campaign and it was a great success. We have a balanced budget for 2020.

The Profile Committee was formed in November and has been gathering information for our parish portfolio. Father Dan began work on a History Project near the end of the year, and we have spent the first few weeks of 2020 learning about our history and former priests.

For over three hundred years, people have come up the hill to worship at St. Johns. As we renovate the rectory, review our programs, and select a Search Committee, it is vital that we continue to pray and ask for God's guidance as we work to call a new Rector later in 2020.

Yours in Christ,  
Martha Pearlman

## **VESTRY WARDEN REPORT**

It is with joy in my heart that I tell you everything going on at St John's are good things! First and most important is that your Vestry is a solid unit of brothers and sisters in Christ. St John's should be very proud.

Let's go back a few months...Fr John retired, then Rev Jill left, along with our parish secretary, Jane who retired. Wow! So much, so fast...but we all kept St John's going.

Our diocese helped us through the process of finding an Interim Rector in Fr Dan, who is doing a great job! Next we went through the process of advertising/interviewing for a Parish Administrator and found Joan Marie who has done a marvelous job. And, we kept moving forward with the renovation of our parish hall which is 2/3 complete. A job well done by all.

Currently, the profile committee is gathering input for St John's Profile to assist the forming search team in their quest to eventually find us a new rector. The property committee now under Paul Pearlman's direction has begun working on fixing up the rectory. The auction committee put together a good evening of good food, good fun and great items for bid plus additional funding for St Johns's properties.

I should give a special thanks to YOU, the congregation for your ongoing and continued support of the parish as well as in the capital campaign and stewardship funding. Many names could be mentioned but I'm sure I'd miss a few, but God knows who you are and He loves a cheerful giver. Let us give thanks.

Your brother in Christ,  
Ted Stipa

## SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

As we close the 2019 financial year there are a few points that I would like to highlight.

- In early Fall, we were facing another year with a potential deficit in our operating budget. In October, the vestry approved a revised budget with a 10% reduction in expenses and we reduced the amount of our anticipated revenues.
- The good news is that as the year came to a close, our congregation met their pledge commitment and, in some cases, members increased their contributions so we did surpass our anticipated pledge revenue by \$4,894.95.
- In reviewing our Revenue vs Expenses:
  - Revenue: \$319,310.35
  - Expenses: \$319,027.39
  - \$ 282.96 (positive variance)

Even though our positive variance in revenue vs. expenses is small, I think that we should be grateful for this positive news. Note that our revised budget of October still had the potential for a substantial deficit. So, I and your vestry would be remiss if we did not say Thank You for your prayers and your contribution of treasure towards the parish's financial goals.

Lastly, we planned our budget for 2020 conservatively based on our expenses of 2019 and a balanced budget with anticipated revenues of \$322,350 and expenses of an equal amount. Note: We have anticipated costs for our search process and we have set aside funds for these potential additional costs.

Printed as an appendix:

- 2020 Budget
- Analysis of Revenues & Expenses for 2019
- Statement of Financial Position at the end of December, 2019
- Summary of Restricted Accounts

Respectfully Submitted,

Burt Blackburn, Treasurer

## VESTRY & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### 2019 AUTUMN LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION

This year's committee members included Carol Angus, Marti Keenan, Dianna Stone, and Bette Jo Readinger with invaluable assistance from Marge Holgate, Deb Angus, Karen Donnelly, Dolly and Dick Constable, Nancy McKean, Peggy Dunbar, Miriam Stanton, Lynn and Lou Olivier, Bill Angus, John Keenan, Tracy Payne, Andrea Furlano, Grace Raak, Maggie Hibbs, Ron and Sue Hammer, Martha and Paul Pearlman. The Live Auction was handled by Marti Keenan and Carol Angus assisted by Maggie Hibbs. The Silent Auction was co-chaired by Dianna Stone and Bette Jo Readinger with the assistance of Nancy McKean, Miriam Stanton and Judy Singer. Thanks to all the unnamed supporters who when asked rose to help in the many aspects of preparing for this event. John Turner's special auctioneer touch with the assistance of his wife Janice, makes this event one not to miss.

One hundred and ten (110) local and Delaware merchants contributed various gifts of theme baskets, gift cards, and products to support our auction. All contributors were handed or mailed a hand-written thank you note with a copy of the program in the weeks following the auction. This "hands-on" approach brings warm responses and allows many merchants to "remember" us and respond, "come back next year". People like to be thanked.

This year work on the auction started in June. With the church leadership in a transitional status it was difficult to identify goals that could be sanctioned by most. Your committee continued to work throughout the summer. Given that church was not back on its normal routine until the first Sunday in October, getting the word out to everyone was compromised. Ticket sales were down this year. We raised the entrance fee to \$30 without complaint. We do not set a monetary goal for how much we expect to raise at the auction but accept the proceeds from our efforts as a gift from our church community. The Auction is only one opportunity for members of St. John's to contribute to the support of St. John's multiple programs throughout the year in addition to pledging and the Capital Campaign. The St. John's family and their friends are amazing. Your committee continues to recognize that there should be changes made to how the auction can be handled more effectively. That remains a work in progress and will be handled outside this vestry report.

It is with pride and pleasure that the Auction Committee acknowledges once again the spirit of the people of St. John's with their response to an evening full of fun and fellowship. Attached is a monetary breakdown delineating the accomplishments of this year's auction. The breakdown is accompanied by the recommendations offered by your 2019 Auction Committee for the disbursement of monies raised. These recommendations have been discussed and suggested by the Auction Committee and approved by Fr Dan. We hope that the Vestry will honor the Auction Committee suggestions for disbursement of the 2019 Live and Silent Auction gains, giving special attention to the Wish List donations.

Respectfully submitted,

The St. John's Auction Committee

## BREAKDOWN OF AUCTION 2019

\$2,765.00	<b>TICKET SALES</b>
4,083.50	<b>SILENT AUCTION</b>
<u>23,633.00</u>	<b>LIVE AUCTION</b>
30,481.50	Total income from evening
<u>-2,035.00</u>	Expenses (lower than 2018 due to generous donations)
28,446.50	Net after expenses
<u>-2,845.00</u>	10% Tithe to Outreach
25,601.50	
<u>-9,425.00</u>	Wish List Items (see below for list)
16,176.00	
<u>-10,000.00</u>	Toward church budget
6,176.00	
<u>-3,155.00</u>	Additional to Outreach to equal \$6,000.00
3,021.00	
<u>-775.00</u>	Balance required for driveway repair
2,246.00	
<u>-1,014.00</u>	Balance required to replace parish hall door
1,232.00	
<u>-1,232.00</u>	Additional funds to organ/piano Fund
0.00	

WISH LIST #1	New door to parish hall (Requested \$5,889; rec'd \$4,875)
WISH LIST #2	Youth sponsorship (\$1,000.00)
WITH LIST #3	Repair of driveway (Requested \$2,400; rec'd \$1,625)
WISH LIST #4	Handicap swing for playground (\$875.00)
WITH LIST #5	Seed money for Rectory restoration (\$1,050 rec'd)

## 2019 PROPERTY/GROUNDS REPORT

Paul Pearlman has assumed the role of committee chairman. The property and grounds committee of St. John's would like to submit the following list of accomplished projects in 2019. This list reflects the hard work of all the committee members on behalf of our church. As the church has been in transition, the Capital Campaign work has continued and the rectory is our main focus, projects have been limited and focused.

- Sexton: The roles of Sexton have been formalized and finalized with the two contractors.
- Parish Hall Doors: Locks on both the Parking Lock and Main Door have been repaired by the Committee so all doors now functional.
- Property Issue Report Form/Email address: A form and email address for Church Members to report issues or other items relating to Properties and Grounds issues has been created. The idea

is to improve the reporting, communication and tracking of issues to provide more transparency and to be able to prioritize resources.

- Grounds Cleanup: Bi-annual cleanup was held on November 30th. Attendance was lower than hoped for but leaves around all of church, parking lot, rectory and front yard were removed and most of remaining mulch was spread.
- Rectory: Preliminary scope and Estimate for the potential scope is coming together and will be ready in the near future. First line item estimate for upgrading Insulation has been received and the portion that can be done by us for parts only cost, which includes some of the biggest impact items.
- Grounds have been managed and maintained through landscaper.

Submitted by Steve Carmichael

## **CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Your cemeterians have laid out nine graves in 2019. In addition, we are available to address requests for information regarding purchases of plots and genealogy questions.

Barry Eserk, John Pachkowski, and Roger Readinger, Cemeterians

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT**

This, as you know, has been a time of change for St. John's. We, in Children's Education, have tried to use this time to take stock in our resources while continuing to provide an age appropriate (and fun) learning experience for the children.

One of the major changes in 2019 was the fact that we did not hold Vacation Bible School. While we know that it was missed by some, the fact is that our numbers had dropped significantly. This is to be expected in the life cycle of any program, so we took the time to re-assess our strengths and look for any areas of opportunity that we could work on in the coming months. We felt that the time and expense of running VBS was prohibitive given the attendance. What we are addressing is:

- The availability of volunteers, both Adult and Youth
- The competition with other VBS programs
- Summer travel plans for those who might otherwise attend
- VBS as a means to attract members to Saint John's

We want to make it very clear that this is not a permanent ending for VBS. Our volunteers are extremely talented and it has always been a great learning experience, as well as LOTS of fun for everyone involved! We can't thank our helpers enough, their joy and enthusiasm is contagious – so in that sense VBS is always a success!

We have some really great traditions for children and families at Saint John's. Our Christmas "pageants"

at the Christmas Eve services continue to be a big draw; the children learn a lot about the story of Christmas in rehearsal; they also learn how to get up in front of large groups of people without fear (mostly) and how to speak in public. We also have “Three Kings Sunday” which grows each year. The children get to dress up in costume and the story of the Kings is followed up in Children’s Chapel. We were excited that, in 2019, each king had his/her own personal star!

The addition of the costumed kings and stars in Children’s Chapel makes for a rousing interactive experience! It truly captures the spirit of what we are trying to accomplish with that program. Children’s Chapel is designed to follow the same Gospel story that the adults read in Church. We augment that with role playing, science experiments, and other object lessons. We hope that these things will spark discussions within the family and plant a seed for each child that helps them grow in faith.

This brings us to a new tradition: Happy Birthday Jesus” a Sunday School party to which everyone is invited! Sunday School is truly the bedrock of Children’s Education. We are blessed at Saint John’s to have a talented group of teachers and helpers. We pick a theme for each part of the Church year. Each teacher is provided lesson plans that are age-appropriate and engaging. We cannot stress enough, however, that it is the dedication and enthusiasm of the teachers themselves that really makes this work. They provide an incredibly strong foundation; the children WANT to come to Sunday School and that is half the battle won. They help the children enjoy the journey of faith and discover more about God’s love. The children aren’t afraid to ask questions. They are learning to reason through things on their own without worrying if their questions are “ok”. There isn’t a better gift that one can give a young Christian. We thank our Teachers for that.

So, while we are changing and growing, we remain secure in the fact that the people who make up Children’s Education remain dedicated to keeping Saint John’s a place for children to learn and grow in faith.

Margie Hatcher

## **2018 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT**

Most of you are aware that the Phase 2 portion of our Parish Hall Renovation Project was 90% completed this past year. The beautiful new handicap accessible restrooms, the new nursery, and the very functional 1702 Annex courtesy of Ed and Amy Borer have been available to us for most of the year. The only remaining work to be done is the dish washing room and the painting of the new second floor attic and stairways which will be completed by a parish DIY project this Spring. The contractor, Chris Ryan, Glenveagh Construction, has been very generous in allowing us to pay off what we owe him over a period of time. At this point, for the completed work, we owe the contractor \$40,000. Because of pledges that we expect to receive shortly, we expect to be able to completely pay off the contractor in the first quarter of 2020.

Plans for 2020 are currently being considered. We have applied for a Community Development Grant from the Diocese. If this is received, we hope to start the beginning of Phase 3 of the Parish Hall Renovation Project by installing a handicap accessible walkway in the front of the Parish Hall. We also

need to consider when to complete the dishwashing room and when to start other portions of Phase 3 based on our cash position. As these plans are formulated, the Parish Community will be informed.

Submitted by Paul Costello

## **MISSION AND OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT**

For 2019, the Mission and Outreach Committee again has had a positive impact in a number of projects and commitments. The generosity of our parish community continues to be a blessing to a number of recipients.

### **Saint Mary's Food Cupboard**

We continue to provide assistance to Saint Mary's with a monthly donation from our Outreach funds as well as our bi-monthly food delivery of food and supplies donated by parish members. New this year, is an additional delivery of resources donated by Costco faithfully delivered by John Keenan and others. As in years past, an additional donation was made to support holiday food needs. In December, Saint Mary's served 393 people providing 5,895 meals.

### **Chester Eastside Ministries**

We continue to support Chester Eastside Ministries in a number of ways:

School Supplies - Our collection of school supplies was a tremendous success. We provided needed school items and supplies to assist students as they began their school year in August. The generosity of our congregation was greatly appreciated by the staff of Chester Eastside and the many students we supported.

Thanksgiving - Again this year, we collected turkeys for the Ministries' Thanksgiving Holiday food distribution. Additionally, the youth group successfully collected can goods and other food items for the Holiday meals.

Christmas Giving Tree - With the start of Advent, we continue to have our annual Christmas Giving Tree which benefits the children of Chester. Our donation of actual gifts and gift cards ensured that a number of families were able to provide gifts for their young ones. Again, the parish generosity was greatly appreciated by Chester Eastside.

Phoenix Afterschool Program - The program at Chester Eastside continues to thrive giving students of Chester a safe afterschool resource for tutoring, homework help and cultural enrichment. Our donations of school supplies and financial help does have a very positive impact on the students. Additionally, there are opportunities for those interested to join other parishioners in participating in the after-school program by tutoring, assisting in homework help or by providing cultural enrichment activities.

### **Guatemala and San Andreas Companion Parish**

Our support of our Companion Parish in San Andrea Itzapa, Guatemala continues. To ensure the congregation of San Andreas has a place of worship, a meeting spot for educational opportunities and

youth group activities, we continue to send rent money of \$225 per month. We also send assistance on occasion as the need arises. In June, we purchased two computers for the congregations use for their youth program. We also provided the opportunity for 10 of their youth to attend a diocesan youth camp/retreat program in December. The appreciation and gratitude of our support of San Andreas has been expressed on numerous occasions by Padre Miguel and Bishop Romero.

Respectively Submitted,

Burt Blackburn

## MEMBERSHIP

### 2019 New Members

David Freeth

Margaret Conley *David and Peggy were also married at St John's later in the summer*

Philip Corango *Resident of Fair Acres*

Amelia Kinsolving

Cory Heuyard

Baby Asher Heuyard *Baby Asher was baptized the same day his parents became members*

Margaret Hibbs

Adrienne Thurston

Since I usually attend the 8 a.m. Service where I am both a Reader and a Greeter, I don't often know those attending the later services who may wish to join Saint John's. My name, telephone number and email address will be listed in the Parish bulletin as a contact for those who may wish to join Saint John's.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Carlin

## MUSIC REPORT

Truth be told, the Music Department at St. John's has little to report, simply because very little changes from year to year (and that's a good thing!). The 9:15 service has the singing of hymns and violin solos at communion, and the 11:00 service has the addition of adult choir and vocal solos. We view music as an integral part of the worship service, and as a department, we seek to deepen both our own spiritual practice and the practice of those around us through music. We find great value in doing so, and love to make music here!

In terms of personnel, this year is my ninth as music director and Greg's third year as organist. This year we also welcome Lew and Josef on board as the Tenor and Bass Section Leaders respectively. It is a



privilege to work with such wonderful people and musicians and to work for such a wonderful community.

As we look forward into the rest of the year and beyond, we are excited for what lies ahead, and are glad for the opportunity to share our music with St. Johns!

Jessica Villante, Music Director

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Father Dan Hinkle helped us with a Stewardship Campaign for 2020 in October. Parishioners gave personal statements about why they gave to St. Johns at each of the three services during November. At the end of 2019, estimated pledges are \$220,000, which include not only those who handed in pledge cards, but also those who give electronically or regularly but did not put in a pledge card. We will need to form a Stewardship Committee in 2020 and plan a new campaign.

Martha Pearlman

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

The Women's Spiritual Fulfillment Group was formed in January of 2015 for the women of St. John's who were looking for support, friendship, and spiritual growth as they navigated life. It is geared toward women who are looking to balance home, family, and work in a positive and faithful way. (All women are welcome as it is not exclusive to 'young' women as many seem to think.)

Although many books have been read and discussed it is really the close relationships formed that have made this group an integral part of our lives.

Because of our commitment to one another, our faith, and our church's mission many of the group have chosen to support a young university student in Guatemala with our personal (not related to outreach funds) donations. These small contributions of money and support are having a big impact on her life and will enable Ana to finish college and perhaps change lives in Guatemala as a result.

We continue to evolve (now use TED talks and Bible Study guides in addition to books) in our commitment to the church and one another.

WSFGS meets from September through June usually the 3rd Monday of the month in the Battin Room at 6:30 for fellowship and 7:00 for the meeting. Hope you can join us!

Submitted by Mary Pat Lynam

## THE 1702 SOCIETY

The 1702 Society honors individuals and families who make gifts to St. John's through planned giving in conjunction with their estate plans. These final bequests will establish your legacy with St. John's and will provide a lasting benefit to the church so it can continue to serve our families and continue our outreach programs.

Two parishioners recently made generous contributions to St. John's through a bequeath in their respective wills.

How could you become a member of the 1702 Society? Well, first of all, you don't have to pass away. You can simply make St. John's part of your estate plan by including the church as a beneficiary in your will or as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy. Don't have a will? You should- especially if you have young children.

Already have a will? No need to rewrite it. Just add a simple codicil to it including St. John's. We do have a member of the church who informed me that he would be glad to assist any parishioner with wills, codicils or estate plans. Just contact me and I will assist in the arrangements. Current 1702 Society Members

Norman Butterworth  
Edna Shmith  
Sharpless Family  
Barr Family

Carol Pittock  
Bowers Family  
Schroeder Family

Paul Costello  
Dorothy Thomas  
Lawrence A Dunbar  
Donna Tierney  
Gerry Tierney  
Francis Smedley Ennis

Judith Pittock  
George H Woodcock  
Janice Luttrell  
Joseph Luttrell  
Ruth Duncan  
Richard Leroy Mendenhall

Gerry Tierney, 1702 Leader

[gerrytierney@comcast.net](mailto:gerrytierney@comcast.net)

610-745-1881

## PASTORAL CARE ANNUAL REPORT

We meet on the first Monday of the month at 7 pm. during the school year. That is a time we review those who are on our prayer list.

Our group prays for those for whom we are concerned and lifts up special intercessions.

We have a blanket ministry. Some of our members make prayer shawls which we take to sick or shut ins. There is a card ministry, a telephone ministry which is active each month, and a meal ministry during illness or other crisis. Members visit shut ins as well as needed.

At holidays we send notes, call or visit, and in many ways stay in touch.

One member of the committee conducts a Grief Share series once or twice a year when there is a need.

We close our meetings with the Lord’s Prayer. All are welcome to join in this group.

Amy Borer, Chair of Pastoral Care

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**Vital Statistics from the Church Office**

**BAPTISMS**

Asher Liam Charles Heuyard

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Philip Thompsen

W. Marshall Pearson

Ann McGonigal

**NEW MEMBERS**

David Freeth

Amelia Kinsolving

Adrienne Thurston

Margaret Conley

Cory Heuyard

Philip Corango

Margaret Hibbs

**MARRIAGES**

David Wayne Freeth & Margaret Cecelia Conley

Thomas Williams Jr. & Brendalynn Aird

**TRANSFERS IN**

Patricia Doyle

Evan Doyle Willoughby

Gerald Doyle

Sean Joseph Willoughby

Amanda Doyle

**DEATHS**

Walter S. Cavanaugh\*

Dennis Holland

Miriam M. Ersek\*

Mark Houser Jr.

Randy Wayne Hibbs

Nancy C. Schreiber

Carol Tucker\*

Kevin Price McCoy

Peter L. Osgood\*

David Darley\*

Harold DeNenno\*

William J. Holt Jr.

*\*Saint John’s Parish Members*

**The Average Sunday Attendance in 2019 was 115.**

## 2020 Ballot

### *Vote for five Vestry Members (2 year terms)*

\_\_\_ Mary Gonzalez, first 2-year term      \_\_\_ Burt Blackburn, running again

\_\_\_ Danielle Yoch, first 2-year term      \_\_\_ Diane Carlin, running again

\_\_\_ Gerry Tierney, first 2-year term

Nominations from the floor:

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### *Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Three Delegates & One Alternate*

- Burt Blackburn
- Ann Moses
- Sue Hammer
- Peggy Long (Alternate)

Nominations from the floor:

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