

# Saint John's Church, Concord

576 Concord Road  
Glen Mills, PA 19342

*Founded 1702*  
*Celebrating 320 Years of Worship*



**The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel – Rector**

## **2021 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 27, 2022

### AGENDA

Invocation	<i>The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel</i>
Reports:	
A. Rector's Report	<i>The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel</i>
B. Rector's Warden Report	<i>Danielle Yoch</i>
C. Finance Reports & 2021 Budget	<i>Burt Blackburn</i>
D. Planned Giving: The 1702 Society	<i>Gerry Tierney</i>
E. Capital Campaign Committee	<i>Paul Costello</i>
Recognition of those Retiring from Vestry	<i>The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel</i>
Presentation & Election of Nominees for Vestry	<i>The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel</i>
Election of Delegates to Diocesan Convention	<i>The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel</i>
Introductions: Staff, New Members, Others . . .	<i>The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel</i>
The Necrology	<i>Diane Carlin</i>
Closing Prayer	<i>The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel</i>

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# **Annual Meeting Minutes**

**March 7, 2021**

*Presented for Approval*

The meeting was attended by Vestry members: The Reverend Jill LaRoche Wikel, Rector; Martha Pearlman, Rector's Warden; Ted Stipa, Vestry Warden; Mary Gonzalez, Secretary; Burt Blackburn, Danielle Yoch, Gerry Tierney, Bill Calhoun, Diane Carlin, Steve Carmichael, Mary Pat Lynam and John Pachkowski; and Members of the Congregation.

## **INVOCATION**

The meeting began at 11:18 AM with prayer offered by Rev. Jill.

## **APPROVAL OF LAST YEAR'S MINUTES**

Motion to approve the minutes of the annual meeting held February 2, 2020, by Paul Costello, Bill Angus second. Unanimously approved.

## **REPORTS** (Refer to 2020 Annual Meeting booklet for full written reports)

A Rector: Father Dan's report from last year is on file for all to review.

B Rector's Warden: Martha thanked Father Dan, Ted, and Burt for their service.

C Finance Report and Budget: Burt Blackburn shared we ended 2020 in good shape, even in the midst of a pandemic. Thanks to the entire congregation for their support. Burt shared financials over Zoom and Rev. Jill will send budget to congregation as part of e-news after this meeting. At this moment, we are looking at a \$25,000 deficit for 2021. Burt expects that to shrink drastically and plans to revisit the budget mid-year to see how things balance out.

D Planned Giving: The 1702 Society: Gerry Tierney shared there haven't been any changes in membership and is looking for more members. Call Gerry if you need help creating a Living Will as there is a parishioner who can help.

E Capital Campaign: Paul Costello shared we were on-hold last year due to the pandemic. Only thing outstanding is the renovation of the bathrooms across from the kitchen in the Parish Hall. Looking to take the load off the cabinetry in the kitchen as part of Phase 2 and will look to add more storage. Finishing the attic and looking to receive certificate of occupancy. Phase 3 is office renovation and handicapped restroom toward the front of the Parish Hall.

F Rectory Update: Martha shared her thanks to Bob McGonigal for saving us so much money by donating his time. Paul Pearlman also did an excellent job. Planning for another open house when the weather gets nicer. Rev Jill intends to move-in around July/August.

## **RECOGNITION OF RETIRING VESTRY MEMBERS**

Rev. Jill thanked members Steve Carmichael and Ted Stipa for their years of serving on the Vestry.

## **PRESENTATION & ELECTION OF VESTRY NOMINEES**

A slate was nominated. First 2-year Term: Jacqui Dunn and Tracey Payne; Continuing terms: Bill Calhoun, Mary Pat Lynam, and John Pachkowski.

When no nominations were received from the floor, Danielle Yoch moved, Diane Carlin seconded, the slate of five persons be accepted as presented and elected. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Nominated as Delegate: Burt Blackburn, Sue Hammer, Ann Moses; as Alternate: Peggy Long

No nominations were made from the floor. Paul Costello moved, Bette-Jo Readinger seconded, that nominees be accepted as presented and elected. The motion passed unanimously.

### **INTRODUCTIONS: Staff, New Members, etc.**

Rev. Jill introduced our new parish administrator, April McKenzie. Thanks to Maureen Thompson for all she's done to help over the past few months. Thanks to Jess Villante for her gift of music.

### **THE NECROLOGY**

Rev. Jill read aloud all names, listed in the Meeting Bulletin.

### **OTHER QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

Ann Moses recognized Margie Hatcher for the amazing job she does with the weekly children's sermons.

### **CLOSING**

Ann Moses moved that with no further business, the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Burt Blackburn, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM with Rev. Jill leading us in closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Gonzalez Vestry Secretary

## **RECTOR'S REPORT**

My first year as your Rector has been an amazing one! I'm so grateful to be back with my St. John's family, reconnecting with so many of you and welcoming new families into the life of our congregation.

One thing this year has been: changeable! Our worship has changed times, changed format, even changed location occasionally. We started the year with one in-person service at 9:30 and one livestream-only service at 10:30. Realizing that video/sound quality of livestreaming worship from our sanctuary wasn't optimal for online worship, we upgraded our sound system and installed a 20X PTZ camera. Once this upgrade was complete, we were able to have two in-person services, livestreaming our later service.

Another new worship opportunity was moving our worship to outdoors. We had seven outdoor worship services beginning with our Easter celebration and concluding with our family Christmas Eve service "Cocoa, Carols, and Creches" which drew over 120 people!

One of my dreams for St. John's is to faithfully steward and enjoy the great gift of land our parish forefathers and foremothers have given us. We have fifteen beautiful acres on our holy hill, a chance for us to worship God in the beauty of God's creation. During the year, we held a variety of events on our property, taking advantage of the space we have. Summer "drive-in" movie nights, an outdoor Vacation Bible School, and camping in our field are just a few of the highlights. Forty parishioners participated in our hike to our historic Penn Oak.

This year has been so spirit-filled as we've enjoyed coming together once again for worship and many different small group activities. Parishioners from every generation and from our different worship services have blended together into one family, strengthening our bonds with each other and deepening our faith over cups of coffee, glasses of beer, and holy hikes.

I want to express my deep gratitude for our Vestry. These amazing disciple-leaders wrestled with differing opinions on how to approach keeping our parish safe and healthy during the second year of this pandemic, often meeting (virtually) several times a month to make sure that our decision making was current. At the end of each meeting, the Vestry was in full unity with their decisions. The Vestry also leaned into their faith and hope for what St. John's can be, creating a strong foundation for the future – both for our online capabilities (technical upgrades) and our in-person ministry (the completion of Phase 3 of our Parish Administration Building renovation).

God has preserved St. John's for such a time as this.

In the coming year, our parish will once again have a thriving Youth Ministry; we'll strengthen our commitment to San Andreas in Guatemala and reach out locally with our ministry partners in Chester; and we will continue to openly and inclusively welcome all of God's children to worship with us and participate in the building of God's Kingdom.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,  
The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel

## **RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT**

It's been another wonderful year in the life of St. John's. I'm excited to have been asked to serve as your new Rector's Warden. It's an honor to serve alongside Reverend Jill and Bill Calhoun. I know I won't be able to fill Martha's shoes, but I'm sure going to try. I want to thank Martha Pearlman for her dedication, hard work and tremendous commitment to St. John's. I know it's due in part to her sheer force of will that we made it through the darkest parts of the pandemic and came out the other side even stronger.

We started the year unsure of what the new normal would look like and closed out 2021 with close to 200 people up on the hill to celebrate Jesus's birth. Reverend Jill's leadership, care and innovative ideas brought our church family together in so many wonderful ways. The youth program is flourishing under Jacqui Dunn's excellent direction. Getting to hear "Marvelous" Miss Margie's children's sermons has been a highlight of the pandemic changes for many adults who've missed out previously. I've been in awe of how many of you give so much of your time and talent behind the scenes to keep our little church running smoothly.

I'm so grateful to all of you for your pledges that support the amazing work that we do at St. John's, for the care and love you share with our church family and for showing up week after week whether in person or virtually. We have a lot of exciting things in store for 2022. I look forward to sharing another year with all of you and discerning where God is calling us next.

Yours in Christ,  
Danielle Yoch

## **VESTRY WARDEN REPORT**

This has been a busy and exciting year for your vestry. I have been working with the vestry and Reverend Jill to ensure that the needs and questions of Parishioners are responded to in a timely manner. One question has been the mask mandate and our response to it. Also, we have been planning various church activities such as outside services, Lent and Easter activities, and the year-end church picnic. We recognize the need to keep parishioners "in the loop" as we move into the new church year. This been an exciting time in our church life, and we look forward to continuing the outstanding work started by Reverend Jill and the vestry.

Submitted by Bill Calhoun, Vestry Warden

## SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

### Annual Financial Report 2021

We have finished the 2021 financial year in relatively good financial shape, due of course to our committed and generous parishioners who continue to support Saint John's.

In reviewing our Revenue vs Expenses for the year, we ended the year with a positive balance as noted:

- Revenue: \$301,180.50
- Expenses: \$297,813.06
- \$ 3,367.44 (positive balance)
  
- Our revenue for the year was less than budgeted by \$7,427.50, however our expenses were less than anticipated and budgeted by approximately \$20,327.
- Our pledge income for the year was \$205,177.18 (including \$6,582 from the previous year). Our budgeted amount was \$211,258
- Again with the second year of pandemic caution, we were unable to gather in fellowship for our annual auction, but our giving train was on track and generated over \$22,000 to fund a number of parish projects, the general fund and outreach.
- The financial committee and the vestry planned our 2022 budget conservatively based on our revenue and expenses of this past year. The budget presented does show a deficit of approximately \$19,000. However, in our initial budget of 2021 our deficit amount was over \$25,000. We revised the 2021 budget mid-year and still showed a deficit of \$9,000. The good news was we ended the year with a positive balance as noted above.
- As noted in previous years, I believe we will meet the financial challenges of 2022 as in the past. By mid-year, we will review our financial situation, revise as needed and report to the parish.

Included with this report:

- 2022 Budget
- Analysis of Revenues & Expenses for 2021

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Burt Blackburn, Treasurer

Accounts	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)
<b>Operating Revenues</b>		
<b>Pledge Income</b>		
1752-001 - Prior Year Pledge Income	\$6,258.00	\$6,582.00
1752-002 - Current Year Pledge Income	\$205,000.00	\$198,595.18
<b>Total Pledge Income</b>	<u>\$211,258.00</u>	<u>\$205,177.18</u>
<b>Plate Income</b>		
1751-001 - Unrestricted Plate Offering	\$3,500.00	\$4,765.98
2761-001 - Special Offerings	\$1,800.00	\$1,847.96
<b>Total Plate Income</b>	<u>\$5,300.00</u>	<u>\$6,613.94</u>
<b>Investment Income-Operating</b>		
1755-001 - Unrestricted Church Fdn Income	\$83,000.00	\$84,585.34
1755-002 - Interest	\$50.00	\$29.04
<b>Total Investment Income-Operating</b>	<u>\$83,050.00</u>	<u>\$84,614.38</u>
<b>Other Income</b>		
1756-001 - Hall Rent	\$3,000.00	\$4,570.00
1756-011 - Church Auction	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
1756-013 - Miscellaneous Income	\$0.00	\$205.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>\$9,000.00</u>	<u>\$4,775.00</u>
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<u>\$308,608.00</u>	<u>\$301,180.50</u>



St. John's Episcopal Church  
 Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Detail  
 January to December 2021  
 Note: The Report Option to Include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
<b>Business Expenses</b>		
<b>Insurance</b>		
1867-081 - Master Insurance Policy	\$9,300.00	\$9,506.75
1867-082 - Workers' Compensation	\$1,300.00	\$1,088.00
<b>Total Insurance</b>	<u>\$10,600.00</u>	<u>\$10,594.75</u>
<b>Utilities</b>		
1867-091 - Heating Oil - Church - 2418540	\$2,000.00	\$2,033.29
1867-094 - Electric - Church&Hall-58589-01104	\$4,000.00	\$3,492.25
1867-095 - Water	\$700.00	\$529.96
1867-096 - Gas - School and Hall	\$5,000.00	\$3,279.21
1867-131 - Heating Oil - Rectory - 2418582	\$3,000.00	\$2,103.62
1867-132 - Electric - Rectory-61681-01702	\$2,000.00	\$1,224.01
1867-133 - Propane-Rectory	\$300.00	\$222.96
1867-161 - Telephone - Office	\$2,700.00	\$2,419.13
1867-162 - Telephone Allowance - Rector	\$400.00	\$384.00
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<u>\$20,100.00</u>	<u>\$15,688.43</u>
<b>Office</b>		
1867-101 - Copy Machines	\$9,200.00	\$9,128.02
1867-102 - Postage	\$1,000.00	\$607.95
1867-104 - General Office Expense	\$2,000.00	\$1,649.61
1867-106 - Computer Support	\$6,500.00	\$5,236.79
<b>Total Office</b>	<u>\$18,700.00</u>	<u>\$16,622.37</u>
<b>Altar Supplies</b>		
1867-171 - Altar Supplies	\$400.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Altar Supplies</b>	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Property and Equipment</b>		
1867-210 - Repairs and Maintenance	\$12,000.00	\$13,155.66
1867-213 - Organ Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$500.04
1867-215 - Maintenance - Rectory	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
1867-241 - Housekeeping Supplies	\$600.00	\$448.53
1867-243 - General Grounds Care	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1867-244 - Trash Pickup	\$4,200.00	\$4,449.76
1867-245 - Snow Plowing	\$6,500.00	\$6,293.00
1867-246 - Cemetery Grass Cutting	\$10,000.00	\$11,100.00
1867-248 - Sewer Service	\$700.00	\$542.50
1867-249 - Cleaning Services	\$12,200.00	\$13,000.00
<b>Total Property and Equipment</b>	<u>\$50,600.00</u>	<u>\$52,889.49</u>
<b>Taxes on Property</b>		
1867-221 - School Tax	\$1,400.00	\$1,399.47
1867-222 - Township Tax	\$300.00	\$219.11

Accounts	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)
1867-223 - County Tax	\$227.59	\$227.59
<b>Total Taxes on Property</b>	<b>\$1,927.59</b>	<b>\$1,846.17</b>
<b>Total Business Expenses</b>	<b>\$102,327.59</b>	<b>\$97,641.21</b>
<b>Outside Giving Diocesan Giving</b>		
1864-001 - Assessment	\$13,909.00	\$13,909.00
1864-011 - Pledge	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
1864-012 - Clergy Financial Assistance	\$935.00	\$935.00
1864-013 - Retired Clergy Medical Assistance	\$2,819.00	\$2,819.00
<b>Total Diocesan Giving</b>	<b>\$25,663.00</b>	<b>\$25,663.00</b>
<b>Other Giving Outside Parish</b>		
1866-001 - Deaneery	\$100.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Other Giving Outside Parish</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Outside Giving</b>	<b>\$25,763.00</b>	<b>\$25,663.00</b>
<b>Church Programs</b>		
1867-510 - Adult Education	\$500.00	\$366.59
1867-511 - Pastoral Care	\$100.00	\$0.00
1867-512 - Sunday School	\$700.00	\$152.15
1867-513 - Fellowship	\$750.00	\$304.82
1867-514 - Worship	\$1,500.00	\$1,398.56
1867-515 - Music (printed)	\$250.00	\$55.00
1867-517 - Other Education Supplies	\$600.00	\$190.67
1867-518 - Stewardship	\$0.00	\$410.82
1867-521 - Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$500.00	\$0.00
1867-522 - Rector's Professional Development	\$1,500.00	\$1,632.05
1867-526 - Dir of Music Ministry Profess Devel	\$200.00	\$0.00
1867-531 - Other	\$1,000.00	\$18.36
<b>Total Church Programs</b>	<b>\$7,600.00</b>	<b>\$4,529.02</b>
<b>Remuneration</b>		
1867-011 - Rector's Salary	\$66,000.00	\$63,250.00
1867-013 - Rector's Relief	\$1,200.00	\$950.00
1867-021 - Sexton's Salary	\$3,000.00	\$2,875.00
1867-031 - Organist/Choir Director's Salary	\$27,400.00	\$22,489.62
1867-032 - Organist's Relief	\$500.00	\$700.00
1867-041 - Parish Secretary Salary	\$12,000.00	\$10,948.00
1867-042 - Other compensation	\$1,000.00	\$375.00
1867-051 - Director of Religious Ed Salary	\$12,000.00	\$11,510.38

St. John's Episcopal Church  
 Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Detail  
 January to December 2021  
 Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)
1867-054 - Bonuses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1867-055 - Choir Stipend	\$6,000.00	\$7,125.00
1867-061 - Social Security and Medicare	\$4,000.00	\$3,438.64
1867-062 - SECA Reimbursement-Rector	\$6,200.00	\$6,158.25
1867-071 - Rector's Pension Premium	\$20,500.00	\$20,039.91
1867-072 - Rector's Housing Allowance	\$5,750.00	\$5,750.00
1867-083 - Rector's Health Insurance	\$11,500.00	\$11,500.00
1867-084 - Rector's Life Insurance	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
1867-121 - Rector's Mileage	\$800.00	\$0.00
1867-151 - Mileage - Other	\$300.00	\$201.60
<b>Total Remuneration</b>	<b>\$180,150.00</b>	<b>\$168,311.40</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>		
1867-301 - Bank Charges	\$300.00	\$331.97
1867-302 - Miscellaneous	\$2,000.00	\$1,336.46
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,300.00</b>	<b>\$1,668.43</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$318,140.59</b>	<b>\$297,813.06</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>(\$9,532.59)</b>	<b>\$3,367.44</b>

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **2021 AUCTION FINAL STOP for the St. John's Express "Giving Train"**

When the mention of an annual money raising event happened this past year, it came amidst more questions about Covid-19 and how were we as a church going to respond. How was one supposed to respond? In a discussion, the question was posed "why not do the Giving Train again?" After questions and discussions, your committee decided 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. John's Giving Train would meet the needs of the congregation. Deb Angus was asked if she could help us recreate the train. Through her design efforts the new "Giving Train" evolved.

Our "train ride" was delayed slightly not starting until the second week of October with its conclusion mid-November. This event raised \$22,815.00. Expense cost for this event were donated. We thank everyone who participated in their generous support of the various "stops" described below.

For each of you to gain an insight as to how successful we were, we share the following breakdown of this event – The 2021 "Giving Train" with our new conductor Rev. Jill.

Stop 1 – Youth Town – received \$2,055.

Stop 2 – Security Upgrade – received \$5,500

Stop 3 – Outreach Hill – received \$3,875.

Stop 4 – Kitchen Works – received \$2,125.

Stop 5 – Music City – received \$2,600. (to be divided between – Choir and Organ/Piano Fund)

Stop 6 – Final Destination – St. John's – received \$6,460.

"Unclaimed Luggage" – received \$200.

*THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!!*

The Committee Members for this event were Carol Angus, Marti Keenan, Dianna Stone, Bette-Jo Readinger, Nancy McKean and Rev. Jill. Deb Angus graciously redesigned this year's brochure and had it printed. Bill Angus designed and maintained the tracking system for all monies received for this event. Dottie Colman was always there with her final support of tracking the income. Covid did not allow us to have a special 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Live and Silent Auction but encouraged your committee to once again to think "outside the box" to continue the mission of our St. John's family. We hope you all enjoyed your ride on the "St. John's Express Giving Train".

Thank you especially to the St. John's Family for your unfailing support.

Respectfully submitted,

The St. John's Auction Committee

Carol Angus, Marti Keenan, Dianna Stone, Bette-Jo Readinger and Nancy McKean

## **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE REPORT**

At the start of 2021, Phase 2 of our Parish Hall Renovation Project was almost completed. Yet to be completed was the dish storage room and finishing the flooring and painting of the upstairs attic space. Money was in hand for some of this, but this depleted our capital campaign funds for any further work on the Parish Hall Renovation project. There were no funds available to start Phase 3 which was the building of the handicap accessible front walkway, installation of the energy efficient windows and the renovation and upgrading of the office space. Completion of both Phase 2 and Phase 3 would require an additional approximately \$188,000.

With approval of the vestry a quiet campaign was initiated asking previous donors to extend their pledge for another two years so that Phase 2 could be completed and Phase 3 could be started. We were successful in obtaining pledges of approximately \$145,000 and with an additional \$5,000 from previous auctions items we had a total of \$150,000. This left a balance needed of \$38,000 which the vestry agreed to finance through loans from some of our existing accounts.

As of now the dish storage room and upstairs attic are finished and the contractor has completed the front handicap accessible walkway, and the reconfiguration and renovation of the office space. Installation of the energy efficient windows and the new doors has been held up because of supply chain issues. It is expected that this work will be completed by the end of March.

Thank you so much to those of you who have continued to support this project through your donations. As stated, more money is needed and if anyone wishes to make additional donations, please contact Paul Costello, Capital Campaign Committee Chair.

Submitted on behalf of the Capital Campaign Committee

Paul Costello, Chair; and Rocky Bassick, Marti Keenan, Tracey Payne, Paul Pearlman, Ted Stipa

## **CEMETERY COMMITTEE**

Your Cemeterians have laid out six graves in 2021. In addition, we are available to address requests for information regarding purchases of plots and genealogy questions.

Submitted by Barry Eserk, John Pachkowski, and Roger Readinger, Co-Cemeterians

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT: Sunday School**

We started 2021 with an overall theme in Sunday School of “Coming Home”. There were a lot of changes during the year and we wanted to ease the children back into worshipping on site.

We started with some outdoor activities including crafts for Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. Kids came to Saint John’s and made presents for their Moms, Dads, and people they love. It was a great way for them to be creative and kind; we all enjoyed seeing each other again after so long!

August brought with it our modified VBS: *Fantastic Beasts of the Bible and How to Care for Them*. The kids learned that God’s Creation is magical, and we are an important part of it. We

enjoyed Bible Stories and tied them in to our lives today and how we can care for each other and the environment. We also sang “The Unicorn Song”, a personal first for VBS!

Sunday School began outdoors and slowly moved inside as the weather changed and vaccines became available. Our theme of “Coming Home” opened us up to different ideas about what is a home and who is our neighbor. Our classes were small and quite varied in age. This led to some very open discussions especially about places where we can make a difference and places where children should be and feel safe. Talking with the kids really brought to light the fact that our kids live in an everchanging world. School shooter drills and covid concerns are a part of their everyday life. It’s easy for them to feel powerless and wonder why. We were able, because of the children’s feedback, to create lessons that help them see that they are a part of things, that they can create positive change and that, no matter what, they are children of a God who loves them.

That being said, we also recommitted ourselves to ensuring that Saint John’s is not only a place where children ARE safe, but where they FEEL safe. That seems to be a small distinction, but it is extremely important. A child can’t learn if they are afraid of getting sick or worried that an intruder will cause harm. We have practice COVID protocol and let them know to stay home when ill. They also know that we have a plan in place in case of emergencies.

We are slowly creating a new and joyful “normal”; we celebrated Saint Francis with outdoor crafts and had a fun-filled indoor Halloween Party. Christmas Eve was extra special, with an outdoor “children’s service” featuring our Youth/Sunday School kids as readers and service participants. We brought together Saint John’s families and members of the community in a faith filled reminder that God is Love and We are All in This Together.

Looking forward to 2022!

Respectfully submitted by Margie Hatcher

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Youth Group**

The Youth Group has really taken off since we returned to in-person meetings in the fall of 2021. Beginning in September, we met two times per month on Sunday afternoons. The first few meetings were held around the fire pit with games and food so we could get to know each other and discuss our goals and ideas for the group. Our youth are excited about outreach and we decided to come up with ways we could help our community. During that very first session, everyone expressed hope that we could return to Guatemala.

On November 6, we met at Bowlero for a bowling party. We spent the evening playing, laughing, and enjoying our time together.

Before our next November meeting, I emailed the group a list of about 6 volunteer opportunities and asked the youth to review the list and come up with their own ideas. Then on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> a group of about 12 consisting of both youth and parents met at Chester Eastside to pack Thanksgiving dinners. We had so much fun packing a few hundred bags with Thanksgiving dinners. We used Chester Eastside’s preferred assembly-line method to ensure that each bag was filled correctly.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> about 10 youth, along two parent volunteers, gathered in the church kitchen to make cookies for our homebound parishioners. We laughed and made a mess! Together we mixed, baked, decorated, and packaged enough cookies for about 12 families. Each youth was given one or two tins to deliver to parishioners.

During our December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting while the cookies were baking, we reviewed and discussed our volunteer list. Coming to a consensus is tricky and we decided that we would focus on three types of outreach: people; animals; and the environment. The youth were encouraged to explore opportunities to present to the group at the first session of the new year.

Unfortunately, Omicron reared it's ugly head and the youth have not been able to meet in 2022. We have consistently had 7 to 10 youth come to each meeting; they are happy to get together and excited to be a part of St. John's We are excited to start back up in late February.

Respectfully submitted by Jacqui Dunn

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

We welcomed three new members and two returning members.

In 2022 we hope to establish a "Welcome Sunday" for New Members so they are officially introduced to the St. John's Family.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Carlin

### **MISSION AND OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT**

In 2021 the Mission and Outreach Committee had a positive impact through several projects and commitments despite the continued COVID pandemic. The continued generosity of our parish community is a blessing to those we were able to assist.

#### Saint Mary's Food Cupboard

We continued to provide assistance to Saint Mary's with a monthly \$100 donation from our Outreach funds plus an addition \$300 for a total of \$1,500 as well as our bi-monthly food delivery of food and supplies donated by parish members. We are still receiving resources donated by Costco which are also delivered by John Keenan, Ronni Liberi and Darree Clark.

#### Chester Eastside Ministries

We supported Chester Eastside Ministries in a number of ways:

##### *School Supplies*

We collected school supplies even though many people weren't attending in person services. We provided needed school items and supplies to assist students as they began their school year in August. The donated items were appreciated by the staff of Chester Eastside and the students we supported.

##### *Thanksgiving*

We continue to support their Thanksgiving food drive. We contributed 25 turkeys. Parishioners & the Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts generously dropped off canned vegetables at the parish hall to include as part of our donation.

#### *Christmas Gift Cards*

This year Chester Eastside requested we provide gift cards instead of gifts allowing parents to purchase items for their families. Parishioners generously provided more than \$1,750 requested gift cards to Target & Walmart.

#### *Summer Camp*

We also provided \$1000 for tuition allowing 2 to attend their summer camp.

#### Phoenix Afterschool Program

We were unable to resume helping students with the Phoenix Afterschool Program in the fall of 2021 due to COVID, but Martha Pearlman continued to tutor a student.

#### 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.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Alice Peeling

### **MUSIC REPORT**

Thinking about the music at St. John's over the past year, the term that I return to again and again is flexibility. The past 12 months have seen music that was entirely live, entirely virtual, and everything in between. Through it all, our goal has remained the same - to provide music to enhance the worship service.

As of this writing, music at St. John's includes live violin music, some live piano, and live singing to pre-recorded tracks. We also have a library of approximately 200 hymn tracks (both with and without vocals), preludes, and instrumental solos - literally an entire church year's worth of music.

While we are not making new tracks as frequently, we still make new ones when needed. During Advent, we had guest string musicians and a guest organist; Carol Angus went above and beyond to provide piano accompaniment for advent and live organ for the evening Christmas Eve Service. The Choir sang absolutely beautifully at the evening Christmas Eve services. The Family Christmas Eve service used pre-recorded tracks to allow the congregation to have Christmas music while worshipping outside. I am looking forward to planning similar musical offerings for Lent and Easter.

In terms of personnel, Josef is our staff soloist, and Chris Villante is our interim organist/pianist. I am very grateful for their time, talent, and flexibility. The past twelve months would not have been possible without their herculean efforts.



Moving forward, the top priority is to hire an organist. This has been slow going, but it is slow going with the intent to hire the right person for St. John's both now and going forward. I am grateful to the congregation at St. John's for their flexibility as we navigate this path, and look forward to the day that music is 100% live 100% percent of the time!

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Villante, Music Director

### **PASTORAL CARE ANNUAL REPORT**

Pastoral Care during the pandemic has continued mostly through phone calls and cards as communication from parishioners to those who are not able to be present physically at St. John's. This year saw Rev. Jill running of our Pastoral Care ministry. I brought communion to nine parish families who are unable to attend worship in person, and I made numerous phone calls and visits. One high point of outreach was the Christmas Cookies that our Youth Group baked and delivered to our homebound parishioners. Many thanks to our youth for their caring and cooking! In the future, I hope that we will be able to return to other vital ministries such as our Meal Ministry and Visiting our Shut-In parishioners.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel

### **PROPERTY/GROUNDS REPORT**

In 2021, a lot of the efforts of the Property Committee has been focused on supporting keeping the Church facilities functional during the execution of the Parish Hall Capital Projects. In spite of those requirements, the Property Committee had a very active year with both planned and unplanned projects and a new "Tech Team" has been established to deal with the new virtual requirements of the Church.

The Property and Grounds committee of St. John's would like to submit the following list of accomplished projects in 2020. This list reflects the hard work of all the committee members on behalf of our church.

#### Grounds:

- The large Ash Tree and the Pine tree in front of the Outreach Room were removed in November. The Ash Tree had significant rot damage to the trunk at ground level and was deemed to be a safety issue. The Pine Tree was not in good shape and we were able to get a reduced rate to remove both trees.
- Several large overgrown bushes were removed from the flower beds around the Church and Parish Hall. New planting will be done in 2022 after the Parish Hall Project is completed.
- The concrete pad outside of the Sacristy entrance was enlarged to allow better crowd management. We were able to leverage the contractor working on the Parish Hall walkway to get a reduced rate.
- The Church Sign was repaired to improve lighting and access. Quotes were received for upgrading and replacing the sign but the Vestry decided that we would not pursue those options at this time due to the high costs.

#### Church:

- The Church was power washed and, after repairing/replacing rotten trim boards and replacing the soffits, the Church Trim was painted. Gutters were also repaired where they had come loose.
- A large crack was observed above the stain glass window behind the altar. After a review by a Structural Engineer and reviewing pictures taken during the installation of the window, it was determined that the cracks were not structural but they were caused by expansion of the plaster. They will be filled and painted in 2022.

#### Parish Hall:

- 3 GFI outlets were installed on the Parking lot side of the Parish Hall. They have been very useful for the Parking Lot Service held this year.
- Hot Water Heater failed and was replaced by getting competitive bids, we were able to reduce the cost by \$1500 versus the quote from our traditional plumber.
- Kitchen exhaust fan was replaced and the kitchen lower cabinets under the main sink were repaired.

#### “Tech Team”

- To meet the increases Audio/Video and computer needs of the Parish, a Tech Team of Gerry Tierney, Philip Thomsen, and Paul Pearlman was established.
- With support from a grant from the Diocese and Church Members, the audio system in the Church was replaced with an updated digital system and a new improved video camera/controller was installed. These improvements greatly improved the capability and quality of our livestream.
- To support Livestream of Parking Lot Services, several improvements to the computer access to the Parking Lot and new audio connections to Parish Hall A/V systems were installed.
- The increased Video load and the remodeling of the Parish Hall offices required us to increase and improve Internet bandwidth and coverage. Internet speed was increased from 100 to 300 mbps and several Wi-Fi Mesh extenders were installed in the Parish Hall. The mesh extender’s location will be optimized after the Office Project is complete.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Pearlman, chair, and the Property Committee

## **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

Stewardship is alive and well and St. John’s. Your Time, Talent and Treasure contributions to our church have been very generous for our upcoming year. All these contributions allow us to maintain and operate our services and missions to meet the needs of our parishioners and our outreach ministries.

Our 2022 Stewardship Campaign has generated 84 pledges amounting to over \$200,000. Although slightly below our goal of \$205,000. , we believe we will reach this goal with additional pledges

that are expected. If you have not pledged yet, we invite you to speak with a Vestry member, or send in a pledge card.

Equally important is the time and talent portion of our Stewardship responsibilities. We've attempted to compile the hours that our volunteers have worked for most of the activities that occur at the church. Last year we estimate that volunteers have spent over 4200 person hours supporting our operations and ministries. The table below will give you an idea of how these hours are allocated.

In addition there are many, many hours spent by individuals who are not involved in a specific committee to support St. John's. We are always looking for volunteers. Particular skills are not required. Do you have a few hours to contribute?

**STEWARDSHIP TIME AND TALENT 2021**

	<u>Hours per month</u>	<u>Hours per year</u>
Office	20	240
Christian Education	22	264
Fellowship	40	480
Membership	24	288
Outreach	25	300
Property	55	660
Altar Guild	30	360
Treasury & Finance	25	300
Bookkeeping	50	600
Administration	3	36
Special projects (A/V)	15	180
Vestry	40	480
Ushers	<u>8</u>	<u>96</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>4,284</b>

Respectfully submitted by Gerry Tierney

**THE 1702 SOCIETY**

The purpose of the 1702 Society is to recognize individuals and families who have remembered St. John's in their wills and estate plans through a documented planned gift. These planned gifts enable the benefactors to witness the value of their lives and secure St. John's ministries for generations to come.

This past year we welcomed Mr. Donald Keenan as a member of the 1702 Society.

Establish your legacy for St. John's. Become a member of the 1702 Society. We can show you how.

Gerry Tierney, 1702 Leader

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

610-745-1881

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

From virtual Morning Prayer to a very restrained Holy Week, a glorious outdoor Easter morning service, and well attended outdoor 3:00 pm Christmas Eve service were indications that 2021 was another year to pivot as COVID-19 conditions warranted.

As the year progressed, the St. John's community began to return to in-person services as conditions permitted.

Due to the efforts of Gerry Tierney, Philip Thompsen, and Paul Pearlman, St. John's was able to significantly upgrade our capabilities to provide a livestreamed service for those church members unable or hesitant to return during the pandemic.

*Special thanks to:*

- Jessica Villante, Chris Villante, and Josef Samargia for providing music either live or remotely.
- Gerry Tierney, Philip Thompsen, and Paul Pearlman so running the livestream
- Tracey Payne and Melody Calhoun and all the members of the Altar Guild.
- Carol Angus, Marti Keenan, Nancy McKean, Martha Pearlman, Paul Perlman, and Ron Hammer for getting the church ready for Easter and Christmas.

Submitted by John M. Pachkowski – Worship Committee

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## **Vital Statistics from the Church Office**

### **BAPTISMS**

Sonny James Fenza  
Jackson Peter Maddaloni  
Lori Ware  
Lisa Smith  
Domenic Ware

### **CONFIRMATIONS**

*None*

### **MARRIAGES**

Marshall Pearson & Thomas Toner

### **DEATHS & BURIALS**

Lois Jean Bak\* +  
Phyllis Cavender\*  
Elizabeth "BJ" Gillingham\*  
Donald Keenan\* +

Matthew Keenan\* +  
Janice Luttrell\*  
Tom & MaryAnn McKee\*  
Ronald Pollack\*  
Winslow Shoemaker  
Heather Thomas  
Roberta Werner

\* *St. John's Parish Members*

+ *Buried at St. John's in 2021; death in a previous year*

**The Average Sunday Attendance = 49**

*Does not include our online attendance*

## **2022 Ballot**

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

- Diane Carlin, third 2-year term
- Dick Constable, first 2-year term
- Ron Hammer, first 2-year term
- Ann McGonigal, first 2-year term
- Gerry Tierney, second 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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