

# 2019 - 2020 Annual Report



**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH AND PARISH DAY SCHOOL  
Ellicott City, Maryland**



**Prepared for May 3, 2020 Annual Meeting**

# Jesus' Way of Love

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## ***Inclusivity Statement***

“At St. John’s all are welcome!  
Wherever you find yourself on your  
faith journey; whatever you are believing  
or doubting; whether you are married,  
partnered, or single; whatever your  
physical or mental abilities; no matter  
your age or economic status, race or  
ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender  
identity: we welcome you here to be  
met by God, who already knows you  
and loves you.”

“Christ has no body but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

~ Teresa of Ávila



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## Prayer & Opening

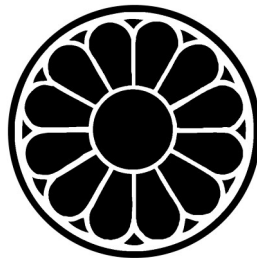
God who has called the people of St. John's to be the church in this time and place, Fill our hearts with hope as we live as followers of The Way of Jesus. Embolden us to share your light with the world. Challenge us to build community wherever and however we can.

Strengthen us in ways we hope for and in ways we do not expect. Over this next year, move within and among this community of faith.

When we gather again to look back on another year past, enliven us with your vision and continued hope for the years that are to come.

This we pray in the name of the One whose name we bear: Christ.

Amen.



On the pages that follow, you are invited to learn more about the way those who minister at St. John's through their leadership, worship and community building; growing and connecting; serving and caring; and giving and sharing have been called to walk Jesus' Way of Love over the past year.

Thanks be to God for St. John's community of faith.

# Change, Challenge, and Hope

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a gift it is to be part of this amazing community of St. John's! In this time of uncertainty, one thing of which we can be certain is change. Change means that we are continuing to grow and transform into the people God has called us to be. And 2019 was indeed a year of change, but also of challenge and promise. We said goodbye to three beloved members of the community who generously gave of themselves to make our common life and worship richer. Nancy Stavely, The Rev. Jenni Ovenstone-Smith, and Denise Vesuvio all left St. John's; their time with us made an indelible mark on our community. I am grateful for their faithfulness and am confident God will continue to use their many talents and gifts to God's glory. Their departure necessitated a search to fill all three positions and, through the grace of God, John Hurd joined us and provided leadership and space for members of our music teams and myself to conduct a search for our next Music Minister. Ten candidates were interviewed and ultimately we invited Jason Largent to join our staff as our new Director of Music Ministries & Organist. Due to budget constraints, we had to change the position from full to part-time. Jason joined us in August and the tradition of great music at St. John's continues under his leadership. Additionally, Jordan Prescott joined us in September as our resident Organ Scholar and leads an Evensong Choir, as well as performs occasional organ concerts. I am grateful for the talented musicians who help us pray through music!

With Rev. Jenni's in February we did not have time or resources to hire a full-time school Chaplain & Youth Minister prior to the end of the program year. In the interim, Rev. Stephen Hagerty and I picked up those responsibilities as we searched for a part-time replacement. Rev. Stephen and I continue to support Youth Ministry and Colleen Citrano was promoted to Director of Youth Ministry to assume some of Rev. Jenni's responsibilities as well. With the support and leadership of incredible youth leaders and teachers, we continue to provide a loving community of care and formation for our young people. When we have the financial resources, it is my hope to hire a full time Youth Minister. In late July, Denise Vesuvio submitted her retirement letter and we were challenged to re-imagine children's ministry in new ways without her leadership. In August, God faithfully sent us The Rev. Joanne Tetrault to serve as Parish Day School Chaplain and Children's Faith Formation Coordinator. Rev. Joanne is with us two Sundays a month and works part time. Gratefully, The Rev. Dr. Katrina Grusell agreed to assume more responsibilities as Associate Rector for Pastoral Care and increase her hours to 20 per week, including two Sundays a month. Rev. Stephen continues to work in the areas of discipleship both with youth and adults, and as a result the depth of spiritual growth throughout the parish continues to expand. This is measured by an increased number of small groups, participation in Bible Study, and in the sacramental life of the Church through Eucharist, Confirmation, Baptism, and Worship.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the change to our service schedule in the Fall of 2019. With the reduction of full-time Clergy, and in order to make sure that your Clergy were available for formation

as well as Sunday worship, we reduced the number of weekend services from five services per weekend to four. This did not come without some challenges. All of us have had to make some adjustments, and the good news is that Sunday attendance has increased by five percent (5%) from 2018. In the Fall we also introduced a Children's Chapel program during our 10:15 a.m. service in All Saints Hall. Children's Chapel provides an opportunity for our little ones to hear a sermon that is age appropriate and brings our Sunday scriptures to life.

Vestry elections last May brought us new leadership and a new Vestry class and I am grateful they accepted this challenge. Ken Wireman, Bob Cecil, and Jordan Schlick have hit the ground running as the new executive team of wardens and treasurer, respectively, and their support, collective wisdom, and positive outlook have been life giving for the staff and our parish. I want to especially thank Emily Murphy who agreed to remain as Registrar thus providing comprehensive and organized meeting notes for all our Vestry meetings.

What a wonderfully talented and committed staff we have at St. John's. Our staff is dedicated to empowering each of you to grow in your relationship with God and each other through Christ. I have never worked with a more faithful group of men and women.

One of our biggest accomplishments in 2019 was the addition of Ms. Lori Dembo as our new Head of the Parish Day School. Lori has worked tirelessly to reorganize and make improvements in the school across the board to ensure we have teachers and staff who are committed to the mission of the school. Under her leadership admission trends were rising (prior to the onset of the pandemic) and the day school was on firmer financial footing with better fiscal controls. Through the work of Lori and her team, St. John's is gaining notoriety once again for its strong commitment to academic and spiritual development and excellence.

Despite the changes and challenges we faced in 2019 and in the midst of this pandemic, I am acutely aware of the many ways God has blessed our community. The faithfulness you have lived out in so many ways continues to provide me confidence and hope in the future of the Church and of St. John's in particular. We continue to be "St. John's Strong." This community of love we are building each and every day provides us new views on the mystery of God's presence in our lives. Our community of love stretches well beyond the boundaries of our buildings and campus, and is making God's love known in impactful ways that we can see, as well as in ways we have not yet begun to realize. St. John's was among the leaders in our Diocese for spiritual and numerical growth in 2019, and I see this as the fruit of our deepening commitment to live and incarnate our mission: "We strive to bring all people to a closer relationship with God and each other in Jesus Christ."

In the coming year we have many opportunities, and yes, challenges before us, but when it is the Spirit of God that leads and unites us, no distance of time or place can separate us. It is my prayer that we continue to deepen our relationships with God and each other with a commitment to prayer, growth, care for one another, and service to our local community and the world. Additionally as we live into this new normal, I believe with the groundwork we are laying in livestreaming our prayer, formation, and worship, the potential to bring Christ into the hearts of those who do not yet know Him are unlimited. It is my

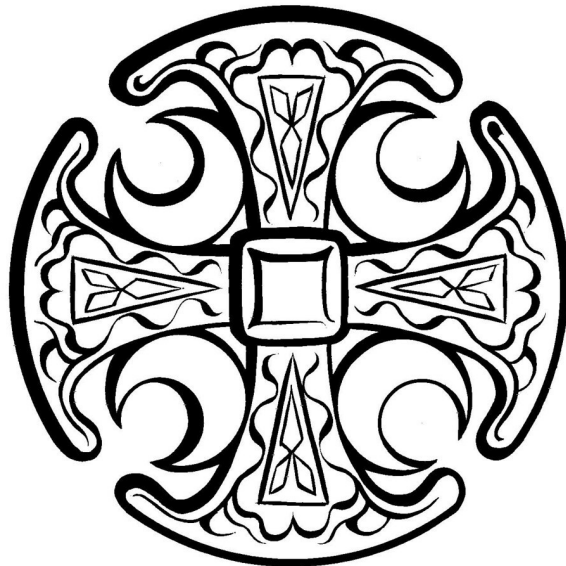
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hope in the coming year we as a community make a concerted effort and investment in sound and video technology and training of techno-evangelists that not only enhances our Sunday worship, but empowers us to share Jesus' Way of Love to a world in desperate need of the peace and reconciliation that are available through the love and grace of God through God's instrument here on earth, the Church.

During this season of Easter, may the hope of the Risen Christ be the antidote to whatever holds us captive and liberates us to walk unfettered in Jesus' expansive Way of Love, towards a life of meaning and purpose. While the days ahead will be challenging, and maybe even difficult, Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans, "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." (Romans 5:1-5)

I am grateful and privileged to serve alongside you as your Rector and look forward to the coming year with the hope and expectation we will continue to make a difference and be part of God's mission to heal and reconcile this place we call home.

Peace and God's Grace,  
Rev. Ann+





# Change and Challenge, Always with Christ

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Ken Wireman  
Senior Warden

## Senior Warden's Annual Report

Yes, over the past five years we have worked through, and still are working through, some very large changes here at Saint John's. And yes, we have been faced with many challenges during this current

church year. And of course yes, we are now in the middle of the most severe pandemic any of us have seen in our lives.

There is one constant through every change and challenge, from clergy and staff leaving, to new clergy and staff coming, to our Deacon retiring, to our Music Director retiring, to the school having a tough year, to some expensive unexpected expenses of the church buildings and grounds. That constant is Christ's love for us, and the presence of Christ's love in each of us here at Saint John's, and the way that we share that love with each other. Come what may, the church (that's all of us) will persevere. Moreover, as Senior Warden I will assert that there are many reasons to be joyful and acknowledge our many blessings.

When Reverend Ann came to Saint John's, I surmised that her time as Rector here with us would be different; and in my opinion, refreshingly different. We had not picked an excellent administrator; we picked a true spiritual leader. Reverend Ann focuses her energy on our spiritual well-being and encourages us in becoming true Disciples of

Christ. And from my perspective, as well as paying close attention to the congregation, I see how we have all grown; growing pains and all.

At a time when most Episcopal Churches are shrinking, we are growing. We have more people coming to church, more opportunities for meaningful formation, and a complement of Clergy who deeply care about us. And regarding Pledging, I am so very pleased that we are not hearing ad nauseam about money concerns from the pulpit. Yet, for the past two pledge seasons, our pledges are growing and the average pledge amount is growing as well.

We have a new Head of School, and as Senior Warden, I'm also on the school Board. As such, I have seen first-hand the incredible selection we have made. Our school is again growing in enrollment. Lori Dembo is a treasure to Saint John's, and her leadership is evident every time I see what she has accomplished in such a short time. We have a new Music Director, Jason Largent, who is leading our various musical endeavors wonderfully. Such robust music and singing coming from the loft brings joy to my heart as we worship.

And currently, because of COVID-19, we can't attend services at the church. Yet remember, we are the church. And on our first virtual Sunday, so many people (over 500) watched services that my heart swelled. Whether we can meet in person or not, or whether we are faced with changes, challenges, and crisis; our church family at Saint John's will see it through. We will see it through together with Christ by our side and with his love in our hearts.

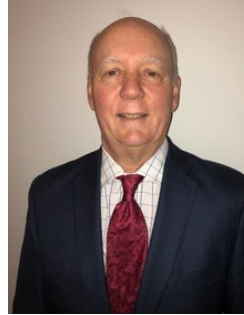
Keep the Faith,  
Ken Wireman, Senior Warden

# 2020-2021 Spiritual Leadership at St. John's

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Ken Wireman  
Senior Warden



Bob Cecil  
Junior Warden



Jordan Schlick  
Treasurer



Emily Murphy  
Registrar

## Vestry Class of 2021



Lauren Brown



Ji Su Hong



Peace Okoya



Mike Sullivan

## Vestry Class of 2022



Katie Baughman



Jackie Cumello



Mike Runge



Phil Stackhouse

# Spiritual Leadership at St. John's

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Many thanks to our outgoing  
Vestry Class of 2020



Beth Fyock



Lissa  
Bounds-Hammond



David Sloper



Brian Stone

# Spiritual Leadership at St. John's

## St. John's Candidates for Vestry Class of 2023



Ann  
Corbett



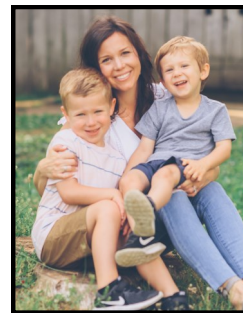
Vivian  
Stone



Eric  
Tich



Susan  
Watts



Kara  
Zaron



**VESTRY MEMBERS** offer their leadership to serve the mission of the congregation — “to strive to bring all into a closer relationship with God and one another through Jesus Christ.” Vestry members serve the entire congregation rather than represent one specific ministry. They also continue to serve in the ministries of the parish, practice sound stewardship, and support our bishop and diocesan ministries.

The Vestry includes the Rector, who serves as the presiding officer, and an elected group of parish members. Together, this group is the legal governing and decision making body of a parish with regard to all matters pertaining to the church and its operations. As the presiding officer, the Rector only votes on matters when there is a tie among the other Vestry members.

Vestry duties include approving the budget, making policies and supporting the mission of the congregation through spiritual leadership. At large churches, such as St. John's, this includes strategic planning and oversight. Operational decisions are left to the Rector, staff and commissions. The strategic work of the Vestry, in collaboration with the Rector, includes identifying goals, opportunities, and challenges; creating a strategic vision; monitoring steps toward implementing the vision; overseeing financial health and progress; developing leadership in commissions and committees; and communicating with the parish.

# Building and Grounds

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Bob Cecil  
Junior Warden

## Building and Grounds Annual Report

As your new Junior Warden, the Building and Grounds Committee has been able to make progress in a number of areas, due in no small part to the excellent work done previously by Brad Lieberman and the Building and Grounds Committee, consisting of Denny Donovan, Steve Davey, and Geoff Walker.

### Buildings:

- ▶ A thorough inspection of all of the roofs on all of the buildings on campus, by Ironshore Construction, was completed and focused on: necessary repair items (immediate and next 2-3 years); remaining roof life; and current estimated replacement cost. Immediate repairs in 2019 were ~ \$3,015, and the good news is that the roofs were overall in good shape with most having an estimated remaining life greater than 15 years. The sobering news

is that estimated replacement costs for all of the roofs are in excess of \$800,000 if replaced with the current roofing material (over \$570,000 of the total is for the slate roofs).

- ▶ Through a BG&E program, a large number of our lights / fixtures on campus were replaced with new LED lights and fixtures. St. John's part of this program was an investment of \$23,000 in Light the Way funds and will provide annual energy savings in excess of \$7,000 (3+ years to recover our investment) which does not include the additional benefits of avoiding replacement bulb cost and the labor to change bulbs.
- ▶ One leaded glass window was replaced, and four leaded glass windows by the main door to the Auditorium were repaired.
- ▶ A Memorial Gift Policy was developed to provide an organized structure to how St. John's would evaluate gift offerings. Criteria to evaluate proposed memorial gifts include, but are not limited to: 1) Is the gift consistent with the mission of the church? 2) Can the church absorb this gift and does the church need this gift? 3) Can the church maintain the gift and what is the plan for maintaining the gift, recognizing that the gift should not impose a burden on the church or its staff; 4) Is the gift temporary or permanent? 5) What is purpose of the gift? 6) How will the gift be used? The policy was approved by the Building and Grounds Committee and presented to the Vestry for their consideration.

### Grounds:

- ▶ Our Spring and Fall campus work days continue to be well supported with adult and children participation from both the congregation and St. John's Parish Day School families. As always, keeping up with Mother Nature is a challenge and we can always use additional participation to keep our campus looking its best. A thank you to Steve Davey who does a great job prioritizing and organizing the work to be done.
- ▶ Three Eagle Scout projects were completed in 2019. A split rail fence was installed between the church property and the Chatham Road property the church sold last year. A gaga pit (I didn't know what it was either) was installed by the Rose Hill field for use by the school and gets lots of use. Parking lot re-striping was completed.
- ▶ Teri and Mike Salmons approached the committee with a plan to refurbish / update Brittany's Garden. A planting plan was developed by Sun Nursery, funds were raised by private donations, and an army

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## Building and Grounds (cont.)

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of friends and volunteers accomplished great results. In addition to the plantings, the irrigation system was fixed/upgraded and maintenance was done on the fountain.

- ▶ A crushed storm water pipe in the roadway between the school and the Parish Life Center (PLC) caused a sinkhole to develop. The pipe was excavated and repaired along with repaving part of the parking lot that had developed a number of 'pot holes'.
- ▶ Trees on campus: A dead tree by the Shiflet Center for Ministry & Education was removed and a number of other trees on campus were trimmed in 2019. In addition, a new dogwood tree, donated by the Garden Club, was planted on the Alda's Chapel side of the Historic Church.

### **Work Carrying Forward into 2020:**

- ▶ Stuart Scarborough and the committee have been working on identifying a contractor to perform the same type of analysis on all of the campus building HVAC systems as was done on the roofs. The scope is to identify current maintenance issues that need to be addressed; determine the estimated remaining life of the systems; and to estimate the current replacement cost of those systems. In addition, the pneumatic thermostat control system is no longer functional in the Historic Church, and all options are being explored to address this energy-wasting issue.
- ▶ St. John's has a number of rain gardens that were installed 4-5 years ago and were part of the Ellicott City storm water remediation effort. They hadn't been well maintained and a group of volunteers, organized by Nancy McAllister and Mike Runge, along with a grant that provides training for proper rain garden maintenance, will begin the process of bringing our rain gardens 'back' to where they should be.
- ▶ The committee wants to develop a 'Campus Planting Plan' so that as ideas come forth, we've already identified areas where trees, shrubs, ground cover or flowers (and what species), would be appropriate. Also, areas where we currently have trees that are too close to buildings, or plantings that are difficult or labor intensive to maintain, will be identified and removed/replaced as opportunities present themselves. We are looking for a few volunteers with interest or knowledge who could assist us with the development of this plan. Please contact me or any Building and Grounds Committee member if you would like to get involved in this project.
- ▶ In 2019, we had one clogged gutter / downspout that required a contractor to address at a cost of ~\$1,300. We are investigating 'gutter guards' that would prevent leaves/twigs from clogging the gutters on those campus buildings that are Mother Nature's prime target.
- ▶ Mobility access to the undercroft at the Historic Church is not possible at this time. The committee has begun exploring alternatives to address this accessibility issue.

Our 14-acre campus looks great — thanks to the monetary and hands-on support of all the members of our parish. A special thanks to the efforts of our Facilities Staff: Stuart Scarborough, Richard Lawson, and Warren Harris — our first line of defense against all of the unexpected things that happen to make facilities maintenance such a challenge. As busy as we are, we are always looking for creative ideas/new projects that would make our campus more special. Please feel free to share your thoughts.

Submitted by:  
Bob Cecil, Junior Warden



# St. John's Parish Day School

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Lori Dembo  
Head of School

St. John's Parish Day School has had a very busy year! We opened with 248 students and are currently at 256. We had a busy summer repainting numerous areas of the school, upgrading our signage, and refreshing landscaping. We replaced the carpets in 16 classrooms, installed a bottle filling station with new water fountains and added a new Early Childhood piece of playground equipment thanks to our very supportive Parents Association. We enjoyed three wonderful grant opportunities: A BG&E grant replaced inefficient fixtures with softer energy-efficient LED lighting; an Howard County Arts Council grant supported an Artist in Residence, Green School initiative for three student-created local flora and foliage murals; and a Non-Public School resource grant afforded us 20 new ChromeBooks. We are currently working on a video-monitoring security system grant for the whole campus.

Our marketing and enrollment initiatives enjoyed numerous very well attended Open Houses, extensions to all social media accounts, preschool and private school fairs, and increased marketing to put us on a great trajectory for a positive 2020-2021 enrollment year! Our Annual Giving Fund was increased by more than \$10,000 from last year and celebrated 100% participation from our Board of Trustees, Faculty, and Administration. We now have a new Endowment Fund as well as planned Legacy Giving opportunities. We upgraded our benefits package to include long-term disability and life insurance policies for all full time employees. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has stalled our extensive enrollment progress and annual giving opportunities.

Additionally, COVID 19 has changed our teaching and learning format and increased responsibilities. Our very talented faculty are all dedicated, caring, experienced, effective, and creative educators! They have supported our new initiatives (math series and curriculum mapping documentation), and persevered with our new Distance Learning program. The SJPDS faculty and staff send out regular bulletins to parents and students featuring Distance Learning tools and schedules that can be implemented simply and easily. Our Early Childhood families receive emails from faculty several times per week sharing ideas across subject areas as well as daily Chapels and Zoom meetings several times per week. Distance Learning physical packets have been shared several times as well. Our Lower School students received a packet as we departed school on March 13<sup>th</sup> that gave them a strong academic start while the faculty began immediately building our extensive online learning platform. Our first six weeks of Distance Learning have been a huge success! We have set up a COVID-19 resource page on our website sharing current information and free resources with a variety of ideas and learning tools. This pandemic continues to be uncharted territory and we are all learning a great deal every day together. We continue to strive to maintain a sense of community grounded in the Episcopal traditions for over 55 years and together we all will navigate this unknown virus.

Currently, our school is on lock down after receiving extensive hospital grade cleaning. Previously scheduled for spring break, our windows and gutters have been cleaned as well. Our faculty and staff are all healthy and safe, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the coming days and weeks.

# St. John's Parish Day School

We thank the Board of Trustees, Vestry, Administration, Faculty, Families and everyone in our community for all their support during these ever evolving times. We are stronger together, even when we are apart. Take care and stay safe and healthy.

Warm regards,  
*Lori Dembo*  
Head of School





# St. John's Parish Day School Finances

St. John's Parish Day School  
Summary Operating Statement of Activity  
For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30th

	<b>Budget 2018-2019</b>	<b>Actual 2018-2019</b>	<b>Budget 2019-2020</b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>			
Total Tuition - Early Childhood	1,395,110	1,460,690	1,694,345
Total Tuition - Lower School	1,379,420	1,373,920	1,160,245
Total Financial Aid/Staff Remissions	(375,835)	(362,121)	(357,688)
<b>Net Tuition</b>	<b>2,398,695</b>	<b>2,472,489</b>	<b>2,496,902</b>
Extended Day, Camp Revenues & Activity Fees	344,811	350,277	382,985
Total Fundraising Revenue	44,000	50,753	130,000
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>2,787,506</b>	<b>2,873,519</b>	<b>3,009,887</b>
<b><u>Disbursements</u></b>			
Program and Administration	2,099,705	2,112,944	2,258,732
General Operating	161,282	164,114	144,100
Technology	32,285	34,849	25,000
Buildings and Grounds	342,582	343,321	300,000
Extended Day and Camp Expenses	27,941	13,357	12,500
Debt Service	223,238	228,205	230,000
Other Expenses	34,530	22,924	32,000
<b>Total Operating Disbursements</b>	<b>2,921,563</b>	<b>2,919,714</b>	<b>3,002,332</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(134,057)</b>	<b>(46,195)</b>	<b>7,555</b>



# Celebrations and Thanksgivings

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## In Celebration for the Baptism of:

Lily Morgan Clark  
Jonathan James Comber  
August Major Davis Eriksen  
Andrew (Drew) Grusell  
Amelia Kallmeyer  
Sophia Kang  
Theia Leni Kardelis  
Haneul Jason Kim  
Andi Ripley Magiros  
Mark McCaulley  
Emily Pearson  
Katelyn Pearson



## In Celebration for Confirmations:

Colleen Citrano

## In Thanksgiving for the Marriages of:

Douglas J. Cincotta & James S. Schoening  
Charity Ndaguri & Daniel C. White  
Esther Okeke & Chukwueloka Agajelu  
Melanie Waters & Freddy Llerena  
Emma Boone & Matthew Strauss



## In Thanksgiving for the Lives of:

Jean Brandt  
Charles Carey, Sr.  
Bobbi Jo English  
Dr. William M. (Bill) Ewald  
Janet Yeckley Greer  
David McKusick  
Annalee Nesbit  
Suzanne S. (Su) Patterson  
Maria Prevost  
Yvonne Price  
Lindsay Michelle Ruland  
James S. Schoening  
Dr. J. Rennie Stavely  
Floyd H. Trogdon  
C. Edward (Ed) Walter  
Mary Cate Walter  
Mary Parlett Webster

# Celebrations and Thanksgivings

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## Fond Farewells in 2019



John Hurd



The Rev. Jenni Ovenstone Smith



Nancy Stavelly



Denise Vesuvio



Dana Walters

# Worshiping and Community Building

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## Korean Language Worship

2019 was a very difficult year for me. Due to a car accident in the summer, I had to be treated for months and it was very painful. But thanks to the prayers and help of St. John's, I am grateful to report that my family and I have recovered.

Our Korean community stayed steady in 2019. We have Sunday worship service at 10:15 a.m. in Resurrection Chapel, followed by gatherings after the service until 1:00 p.m. A couple Sundays a month, we play sports together in All Saints Hall (ASH). We hold Bible studies and prayer meetings at home together which is a cell group Bible meeting. Children are invited to attend Sunday School and students are encouraged to participate in youth gatherings. Thankfully, two students were baptized in April. We continue to have combined Korean language and English language services, and had seven in 2019. The Korean congregation held a homemade kimchi fundraiser to begin a ministry fund, and hosted two pot lucks in ASH.

For more than a year, I have hosted a Book Club with non-members every Wednesday morning at St. John's. The participants are not members of the church yet, but more and more people are sharing their faith, and some are attending our worship service. Currently, two Book Club participants attend church regularly, and one is preparing for Baptism. We plan to expand this gathering and use it for more Koreans to engage with us through the Book Club to inform and evangelize our church. During this time of isolation, we have continued meeting via Zoom.

Away from St. John's, I visit the Johns Hopkins campus and share the gospel with Korean students. This is very difficult because I am the Asian missionary for the Diocese and am trying to share with international students that the Episcopal Church is there for them too.

I continue to visit Korean shops in the area every week for evangelism, hand out brochures to people, and keep our church information available for their patrons.

Many Korean immigrants do not go to church or have left the church, and are leading lonely lives. It is necessary to find them, share the faith of the Episcopal Church with Koreans in the American Church, and introduce St. John's as a welcoming church that can take care of them. I have to pray constantly about what our church can do for our neighbors and immigrants who live in difficult times, and I hope that will work to diversify and open the church for them. We are committed to evangelism with constant interest and are eager to sow the gospel.

Like many others, the Korean community is currently living in difficult times. Businesses are closed and people are unable to work. To stay connected, I offer a Sunday worship service every week via YouTube, and some of Korean congregants are viewing St. John's English-speaking services livestreamed from the Historic Church. I also host a Korean Compline at 9:00 p.m. every night. Occasionally, I visit each household — practicing social distancing as we talk outside. I also connect with telephone conversations.

On Easter Sunday, we were able to deliver Easter baskets to the children of the Korean ministry. For now, all the members of the Korean ministry are doing well and safely practicing social distancing.

Submitted by:  
Rev. Barnabas Lee  
Priest Associate and Diocesan Missioner for Asian Ministries



# Worshiping and Community Building

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## Altar Guild

St. John's has three Altars which are used multiple times each week. The Altar Guild is responsible for maintaining and supplying all three of these Altars. We wash and iron the linens, polish the silver and brass, and care for the candles.

### RESURRECTION CHAPEL

This lovely small Chapel is located on the lower level of the Parish Life Center. It is the location of Saturday evening's Holy Eucharist and Thursday morning's Healing Service. It also serves the Korean congregation for their Sunday morning Holy Eucharist. Tuesday evening sees a group in the Chapel for Centering Prayer. The Chapel is also used occasionally for private Celebration of Life services and private wedding ceremonies. Recently, the Dinner Church service on Wednesday evenings began utilizing the Chapel as well.

### ALL SAINTS HALL

All Saints Hall (ASH) is the home of our Contemporary (Family) Sunday Holy Eucharist. It is transformed from a multi-purpose space for the St. John's Day School during the week into worship space on Sunday. An Altar Guild team led by Cathy Nunley ([cathynunley1@gmail.com](mailto:cathynunley1@gmail.com)) is responsible for this lovely transformation. A member of the team arrives early on Sunday morning to prepare for Holy Eucharist each week. The members of the ASH Altar Guild team rotate and serve every 3 – 4 weeks.

### HISTORIC CHURCH

The Historic Church is our traditional worship space. It is steeped in history from the 1800's as Howard County grew from a rural county to the metropolis it is today. The Altar Guild serves for all of the services held in the Historic Church. It consists of 3 or 4 people on each of six teams. Each team serves once every 6 weeks. The team meets on Saturday morning in the Historic Church to prepare for Sunday worship services. Each team serves from Saturday to Friday and will prepare the Church for all services to be held during that time.

The Altar Guild always welcomes new members for both the Historic Church and ASH. If you would like to be a part of this Ministry, please contact Beth John ([cairnwynd@verizon.net](mailto:cairnwynd@verizon.net)).

Submitted by: Beth John



# Worshiping and Community Building

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## Music Ministry

“All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.

Serve him with joy, his praises tell, come now before him and rejoice!”

William Kethe, The Scottish Psalter 1650

The music ministry at St. John’s is a vibrant and diverse musical offering to those who call this parish home. St. John’s offers varied musical expressions, from traditional organ and choral music to more contemporary rhythmic sounds, there is a musical place for all on their faith journey. Since coming to St. John’s as your Director of Music in August, it has been an honor and privilege to begin ministry together.

St. John’s continues to offer musical groups at its 10:15 a.m. services, but now provides music at the 8:00 a.m. service as well. In addition to the normally scheduled morning services, St. John’s has begun offering a monthly choral Evensong led by Peabody Doctoral candidate Jordan Prescott. Families have the opportunity for children and youth to sing monthly as the Youth choir, under the leadership of Diane Lichtenberger, leads us in liturgy and song. The St. John’s Ringers provide music monthly, and the ensemble is always looking for new ringers. The collaboration with church members provides additional instrumental music throughout the liturgical year. Thanks to Susan Fedors for coordinating the instrumental ensembles. I want to express my appreciation to Eric Tich and the many faces of the ASH Band for their lovely music and weekly dedication. My personal thanks to the St. John’s Choir who rehearse each Thursday evening and lift up their voices in resounding alleluias Sunday after Sunday. Thank you all!

In these uncertain times I am devoted to continuing the excellence in musical expression that is St. John’s Episcopal Church, Ellicott City. As we charter this time together, please know I want each and every one of you to continue to be a part of the music ministry. In the upcoming weeks, months ahead, I will be calling on you to take part in ministry in new and different ways. This could be in the form of attending as a guest performer for the live virtual service, or by providing a recording, to be broadcast during the live stream. Your voice, your presence, your talents, continue to be needed and shared. The pandemic has changed how we live, how we do ministry, and how we respond to one another with love and compassion. Please be patient and kind with yourselves, but above all, with one another. I pray that this be a season of healing, hope, and transformation.

Yours in ministry,

Jason Largent, Director of Music



# Worshipping and Community Building



# Growing and Connecting

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## New Member Commission

This commission supports the monthly Newcomers' Orientation (NCO) which is offered the first Sunday of most months to adults who are new to our parish. Questions/concerns about how to get involved in parish life through participating in the many activities/programs at St. John's are discussed with representatives of the clergy, the Vestry, and the Coordinator of NCO. These sessions help new members find out what it means to be a part of our vibrant spiritual community. A total of 43 persons became members of St. John's in 2019. NCO meetings build community and assist attendees to grow in their faith and to serve one another. This is illustrated by the following comments offered by persons who have attended a NCO session.

**Mary H.:** I had the pleasure of attending the February Newcomers' meeting at St. John's, led by George [Maestri]. The meeting was attended by four new members, including myself, as well as George, Dave Sloper and Reverend Katrina. The atmosphere was inviting, as George opened the meeting telling us a little bit about the St John's Community. We each had the opportunity to share how we came to the table, and the commonalities were crystal clear. I felt a bond established immediately with members at the table, knowing that we were all searching for a faith group, and all for similar reasons. George's facilitation of this meeting was supportive to me, as I felt I was in a safe and secure environment. I found that St. John's is guided by scripture, tradition and reasoning – words that made me feel at home.

**Anna and Ryan M. (and baby Cameron):** First, it is very nice that the church offers such a meeting! We felt very welcome even before, people in the church came to say hello when they saw we were new and helped direct us around. We enjoyed having a chance to meet in an intimate setting to discuss our personal faith backgrounds and how we might fit in at St John's. I do think it might be helpful to also pair newcomers with a second meeting of a family in similar circumstances. For example when we met we were expecting our first baby. Maybe having the chance to speak with another family who has small children (even just to say hello) would be nice, but I know that can be difficult to arrange.

**Erin & Stephen R.:** Our experience at the Newcomers' Orientation was very welcoming. We greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet both church leaders and other newcomers. The meeting was a nice balance between learning what St. John's offers and developing personal connections. We both walked away eager to become involved in the church community.

**Sam M.:** Attending St. John's Newcomers' orientation was helpful and informative. I was able to learn about the various services, activities, and on-going events at the church. For me, the orientation was a friendly open-ended discussion with George, one of the Pastors, and another member. I was able to ask questions and explain what I was looking for. The major downside was that I was the only new member at the orientation. Also, since I was attending the service in the Historic Church, I didn't see a lot of people in my age group of 20 – 25. Overall, I learned a lot and was happy that I was able to attend.

**Lisa L.:** From the moment I first walked into a service at St. John's Episcopal, I felt welcomed and wanted; and the Newcomers' Orientation was an informative extension of the warm introduction I had already received in the church. The Orientation went far beyond my expectations. I thought it would be a simple chance to shake hands over a few cookies and go on my way having put a few names to new faces, but it was so much more than that. We had a depth of conversation about faith, community, and the church itself that made me want to come back for more. Most impressive and important to me was the openness with which the Clergy and parishioners welcomed worshipers like me who were not raised in the Episcopal faith. I was so worried I'd feel like an outsider, but instead I left the Newcomers' Orientation feeling as though my background would only add to the essential fabric of St. John's diverse community.

Contact: George L. Maestri, Coordinator of Newcomers' Orientation  
Membership & Hospitality Vestry Liaisons: Lissa Bounds Hammond & Peace Okoya



# Growing and Connecting

## Children's Faith Formation



Rev. Joanne Tetrault  
Assoc. Rector for Children's  
Ministry & SJPDS Chaplain

St. John's Children's Faith Formation (CFF) began the 2019-2020 program year with a change in leadership, with the departure of Denise Vesuvio in September and the arrival of Rev. Joanne Tetrault in October — and has since been in a period of renewal and transformation. And isn't that what our life of faith is all about!

CFF connects our youngest children of God to God, modeling love, compassion, and welcome, with the traditions of the Episcopal Church as its foundation. Sunday faith formation currently serves 51 families and nearly 80 children. It includes a class for 3&4 year-olds; a kindergarten class; a combined grade 1-2 class; a combined grade 3-4 class; and a grade 5 class; in addition to staffed nursery service for our very youngest members.

Currently, classes use several different curricula: the 3&4-year-old class began using a new curriculum in the fall called Frolic; kindergarten uses the well-loved Godly Play; grades 1 through 4 use the curriculum provided by the national Episcopal Church; and grade 5 continues to enjoy the Survivor curriculum. We will be looking at various available curricula to determine a more streamlined approach that would possibly follow our weekly lectionary schedule.

We are blessed with a small, extremely devoted and generous group of 15 Sunday classroom teachers, some of whom are present every week to support our children in their faith formation. We are so grateful for their love and dedication, and hope that their example will be an inspiration for others to join the Sunday teaching rotation in the future.

We continued many beloved traditions this year, including the Building-of-the-Crèche worship service and the Children's Christmas Pageant. We began some new traditions as well: In response to stay-at-home pandemic orders we offered online Stations of the Cross. Also, this year marked the first time that children from both Sunday CFF and St. John's Parish Day school joined together to form the cast of the Christmas pageant – hopefully the start of a wonderful, new tradition linking these two parts of our St. John's community.

CFF had been operating without a Commission to support its ministry. A town hall meeting was held in February 2020 for parents and teachers to discuss the direction of the program, and a small group of faithful volunteers stepped up to form a new CFF Commission. The formal commissioning of this Commission will take place at a time when we can return to in-person worship. Among the goals of this Commission will be making decisions about curricula, teacher recruitment, and expanding home-based faith formation resources for families.

Submitted by:  
The Rev. Joanne Tetrault  
Assoc. Rector for Children's Ministry & SJPDS Chaplain



# Growing and Connecting

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## Youth and Beyond Faith Formation

Our Youth and Beyond Faith Formation Commission serves parishioners from sixth grade through their college years. The commission seeks to guide and help facilitate the overall youth ministries of St. John's strategically, philosophically, and logistically. Our goal is to help our youth learn about scripture, serving others, and God's love through lessons and fellowships. We also offer family support through our Parent Connect meetings where we have had great success through exploration of college information, mental health issues (in conjunction with the Mental Health Ministry), and had our first One Love Workshop in February, where over 50 parents and youth came to learn about healthy relationships. An added bonus is that seven young adults who went through our youth program returned to be facilitators for our small discussion groups during the One Love Workshop. We continue to offer support for outreach partnerships, mission work, completing youth milestones of celebration, pilgrimage, college discernment and beyond.

In St. John's youth program, we serve over 150 youth and 54 college students through our College Connect group. Helping them all live out their Baptismal Covenant through the various milestones and ministries offered. Our Rite-13 Liturgy is a symbolic passage from childhood to adulthood celebrated by our Rite-13 youth close to their thirteenth birthday. Our J2A youth are close to making their confirmation decisions and we will plan a Confirmation service once in-person worship is back and we can work out a date with the Bishop. Due to the Coronavirus and to keep our leaders and youth safe, the J2A 2020 Pilgrimage to Italy was postponed until June 2021. YAC youth continues their outreach ministries serving Arc of Howard County through their Friday night events, Project PLASE of Baltimore and Catonsville, St. Francis Neighborhood Center, packing Retriever Essential food bags, and serving in ASH worship. In July of 2019, 35 YAC youth and 16 leaders travelled to Lewisburg, WV to work with Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity. We made a difference in five families lives through our youth's work on various homes during our one week stay. In September, the YAC youth were honored by Governor Hogan and the Ravens' Organization with the M & T Bank's Honor Rows award for having completed over 4,000 hours of volunteer work from September 2018 through July 2019! They were treated with a pre-game field visit and were featured on the JumboTron during the game.

In addition to the tremendous volunteer efforts of our YAC group, this year's Discovery Weekend had an outreach component on Saturday, January 25. We had 170 youth and adults go out to 11 various local organizations for outreach service. We fed over 160 homeless in the Baltimore area; packed and delivered 62 Cubby Bags for the Ronald McDonald House; packed both Welcome and Snack Bags, and organized the pantry at the Ulman Center; visited three nursing homes where we played games and socialized with the residents; cleaned two Arc homes; and supported Food on the 15th and the UMBC Retriever Essential food program. This outpouring of service could not have happened without our leaders and parents. Thank you to the families who donated over 1,000 items to help make this happen!

Our College Connect group serves 54 college students. "Welcome to College" freshmen care packages were sent to 19 college freshmen in September and 54 Fall care packages full of goodies, words of inspiration, and notes of 'hello' from our HS youth were mailed in early November. Many students find these packages arrive just when they needed to feel connected to God. We have 37 of our college students paired with a guardian angel, who pray for their student, send text/packages of encouragement to remind them of God's love when they are away from home.

Continued

# Growing and Connecting

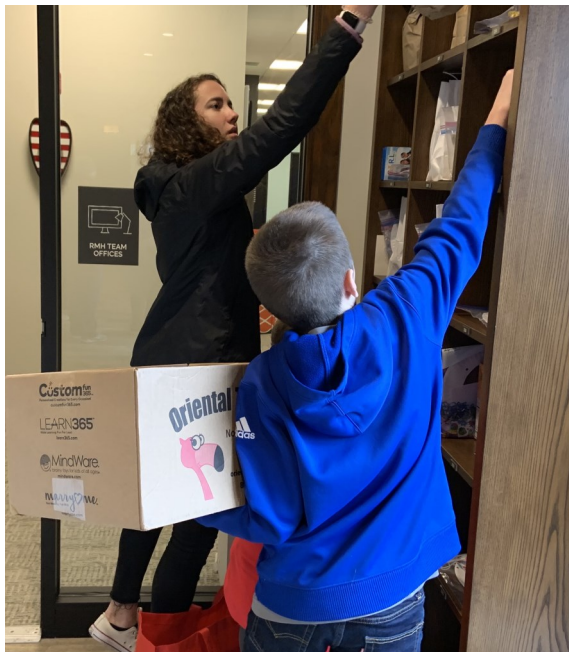
We continue to connect our youth during the stay-at-home orders virtually through online meetings for all groups. In 2020, we will continue to connect youth, college students and parents to Christ as we register for new youth groups in the Summer/Fall and have our All Youth Retreat in September. We will look for ways to serve God through helping others, know Jesus more deeply through scripture, and give witness to their faith to the wider community.

Submitted by:  
Colleen Citrano  
Director of Youth Ministries



YAC (Young Adults in Church) youth group along with some St. Francis Neighborhood Center friends on the Ravens' field as part of their M & T Bank's Ravens' Honor row recognition.

During the 2019 Mission Trip, a group of YAC youth working with Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity in Lewisburg, WV signed a wall with "God bless this house" prior to installing the final piece of baseboard to the home.



Youth delivering Cubby Bags of necessities and treats to the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore as part of January's Discovery Weekend's Saturday morning of outreach and service.

# Growing and Connecting

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## Adult Faith Formation

As for most of us writing these reports (and maybe for most of you reading them), I am doing this from home. So, first, I am grateful: grateful that we have the resources and technology available for this to happen! Between email, cell phone, Zoom meetings, Skype, Facebook, and our website, we have been able to stay connected and focused on the mission that God has given to us.

In the Catechism found in our *Book of Common Prayer*, the mission of the Church is described as follows: “The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.” What this means for me at St. John’s is that the community, the service, the fellowship, the communion we all share is grounded *in our shared relationship with and in Christ*. The challenge in my role as Associate Rector for Discipleship is to direct us to our shared relationship in Christ in all we do together.



For some of the concrete data of my position, in 2020, we have four St. John’s Small Groups with a total of 30+ parishioners, continuing to meet weekly (now via Zoom) for prayer, check-in & fellowship, scripture study, and prayers for others. (*Please know, you are welcome to join these Small Groups and we are always looking for ways to expand this particular ministry.*) I also continue to offer a weekly Thursday evening Bible Study (regular attendance between 5-12 folks), where we are now in the midst of reading the Book of Revelation (having just finished a ten-week session on Paul’s Letter to the Romans). This too is now meeting via Zoom and continues to be a real joy for me. I also plan Adult Faith Formation activities for Sundays (e.g., multi-week program on forgiveness, Lenten program using Society of St. John the Evangelist resources, etc.).

My involvement with the support and education of our Youth Ministry, particularly focused on the J2A youth and parents, has been a wonderful experience. We recently had a wonderful Confirmation Retreat and I continue to be so impressed with the commitment of our parents and teachers in forming the next generation of disciples. As with all the clergy, I take part in Walking the Mourner’s Path as a clergy facilitator and see this as a vital way in which we concretely care for others as Christ commanded us to do.

The most important work that I do (and which forms the core of discipleship activities here at St. John’s) is to help assist with our common worship, either as celebrant, preacher, or deacon. There are numerous other activities (pastoral care and counseling, individual confessions, administrative duties, etc.) that continue to challenge and move me, and which I believe supplement this core offering of worship and praise to our Creator.

By the side of my desk in my office on the ground level of the Parish Life Center, I have an 11 x 17 Poster I created when I was first ordained a little over four years ago. It is quite simple and has five words, all beginning with the letter “P.” It is to remind me of why I agreed (*with God’s help!*) to follow this particular and peculiar call to be a priest. The words are as follows: **Pray, Preside, Preach, Pastor, & Push**. When I am feeling discouraged, lost, out of focus, overwhelmed, underwhelmed, joyful, excited, or simply blasé, I look to my right and see these five words staring back at me. For me, they have become essential touchstones for what I am supposed to be about. And I am grateful that I can be about these five things with you all here at St. John’s.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Stephen Hagerty, Assoc. Rector for Discipleship

# Serving and Caring

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## Outreach Commission and Social Justice & Transformation Committee

<sup>11</sup> Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you,

“Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land.” Deuteronomy 15:11

The St. John's Outreach Commission and Social Justice & Transformation Committee teams have numerous initiatives, both new and ongoing which have always depended on the participation of many of the St. John's community for their success. From Food and Housing Insecurity to Criminal Justice Reform to health care assistance for our Kenya Connect partners, the St. John's community's Outreach ministries have worked to address issues of social and economic justice in our community.

### Outreach Commission Initiatives:

- ▶ Coordinated by Bonnie Sturm, a record number of people took part in the Service Over Self (SOS) Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing which filled 10,152 meals as part of a shipping container of 285,120 meals for Zambia.
- ▶ The Kenya Connect/El Hogar Benefit, under the coordination of Gil Gawthrop and Sharon Runge, raised funds for our international outreach ministries.
- ▶ St. John's donated to a Kenya Connect deworming program providing deworming medications to over 6300 students and teachers at 30 partner schools.
- ▶ The Kenya Connect 5K Race went “Virtual” this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic with 168 participants.
- ▶ In June, 2019, the Outreach Commission made a donation to The Children's Home in Catonsville to support their many programs. Our SOS Day on October 5, 2019 took place at The Children's Home, where Elaine Trogdon led a group of St. John's parishioners providing breakfast for the 45-50 residents, painting the lock-down unit, and doing yard work around the campus.
- ▶ The St. John's annual Coat Drive, coordinated by Elaine Trogdon and Kim Derise, collected and delivered approximately 300 coats, as well as numerous hats, boots and gloves to the Bea Gaddy Family Center for distribution at their Thanksgiving dinner in Baltimore City.
- ▶ Tom Brandt, who sits on the Board at the St. James Academy, coordinated the St. James Academy Big Band Fundraiser which was held at St. John's in the Fall.
- ▶ The partnership with our friends at The Club at Collington Square and The Arc of Howard County, led by Diane Standeven and Bonnie Sturm, continues to impact a large number of families, children and group homes in our area through our holiday basket initiative. With over thirty families at Collington Square and twenty group homes in Howard County, we find the need to be profound. The Pots and Pans collections continue to support this effort as we include grocery store gift cards in holiday baskets.
- ▶ While the Easter/Spring Basket Ministry efforts are on hold, we forged ahead with our Club at Collington Square Camp Gift Cards initiative to cover the cost to send all children in 47 families to summer camp. This will provide three meals a day and help the children enjoy a safe, nurturing, and enjoyable summer.
- ▶ Melinda Becker, Cynthia Cecil, and Bonnie Sturm coordinate parishioners volunteering to serve meals at the Grassroots Day Resource Center as well as the casseroles so many of us have made over the years that are delivered to the Day Center, The Children's Home, and the Baltimore County Westside Men's Shelter.
- ▶ Rebuilding Together Howard County is a one-day SOS effort where we descend on a needy home and perform needed repairs. This has been rescheduled to Sept. 26, 2020 due to Covid-19 directives.

# Serving and Caring

## Outreach Commission and Social Justice & Transformation Committee (cont.)

- ▶ The Clean Sweep Rummage Sale led by Monica Fabbri funds a large proportion of our Outreach ministries, which have had total disbursements of \$34,000 per year. This spring's Sale has been cancelled at this time due to Covid-19.

### Social Justice & Transformation Committee Initiatives:

- ▶ The Social Justice Book Club has been studying criminal justice reform and food and housing insecurity.
- ▶ We read *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson which led us to partnering with the Howard County Department of Corrections Reentry Program for an SOS project to fill 100 backpacks for men and women being released from incarceration. It is our hope that items supplied in the backpacks might bridge some of the gap for basic needs until these men and women are able to find some security in their housing, food and clothing.
- ▶ We have studied *What the Eyes Don't See, A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*, by Mona Hanna-Attisha, and *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, by Matthew Desmond.
- ▶ The Lenten Series on Social Justice: Food and Housing Security, began with a viewing and discussion, led by Jane Sims, of the documentary *A Place at the Table*. The panel discussion and roundtable discussions that were planned as part of the series have been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Outreach Commission and Social Justice & Transformation Committee invite all who hear the call to serve to join us. In the words of Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund, and so many others, "Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time."

Submitted by: Patricia Laidig  
pblaidig@gmail.com



Rise Against Hunger



Rise Against Hunger

Continued

# Serving and Caring



Backpack Project 2020

Backpack Project 2020



St. James Academy Harlem Park Elementary



The Club at Collington Square



# Serving and Caring

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## International Outreach via Kenya Connect

"The joy of reading is growing in Wamunyu for students at 20 of Kenya Connect's 58 partner schools. Thanks to donations from St. John's Parish Day School's Walk for Wamunyu, we've been able to purchase more books authored and published in Kenya, and additional lanyards and library card materials bringing the total number of books in KC's Learning Resource Center's library to 10,000 for 3,000 library card holders. This year the goal is to increase the number of students enrolled to 4,500 and the number of books to 14,000. In addition, SJPDS's walk helped to purchase the "Reading Rover Truck." This vehicle, along with the "Magic School Bus," brings the library team and books to remote schools every other week.

St. John's has continued to support Deworming Medications which help keep kids healthy and in school. Last year Kenya Connect dewormed 6300 students and 300 teachers at 30 partner schools. This activity is coupled with hand washing demonstrations — now even more important with the Covid-19 pandemic. The staff is working on reviving the creation of liquid soap to ensure that homesteads and students can properly wash their hands.

Parishioners Sarah Nelson, Roland Russoli, and Sharon Runge journeyed to Kenya as part of a volunteer team in October. The St. John's team was part of a larger group that taught lessons in the classrooms, assisted with Fun Book Enrichment Day, awarded prizes to Reading Champions, and participated in Running to Read: the Kenya Connect 5K in Wamunyu. Volunteers help provide meaningful lessons and assist the 11 member Kenya Connect staff in connecting with teachers and students at partner schools.

Kenya Connect is grateful that St. John's has supported Kenya Connect's many fundraising events including the BBQ Benefit and the KC5K. Due to the Covid-19 coronavirus, the 2020 race was held as a "virtual" event with over 166 people registered to walk, run or couch surf. We are grateful that a number of parishioners still participated in the event.

Since 2006, St. John's has been instrumental in the growth of Kenya Connect. Financial donations, volunteers, and prayers have made an impact helping strengthen education for over 18,000 students in the village of Wamunyu.

For more information or if you would like to join a future volunteer trip, contact:

Sharon Runge, [sharon@kenyaconnect.org](mailto:sharon@kenyaconnect.org)

Kenya Connect Race 2020



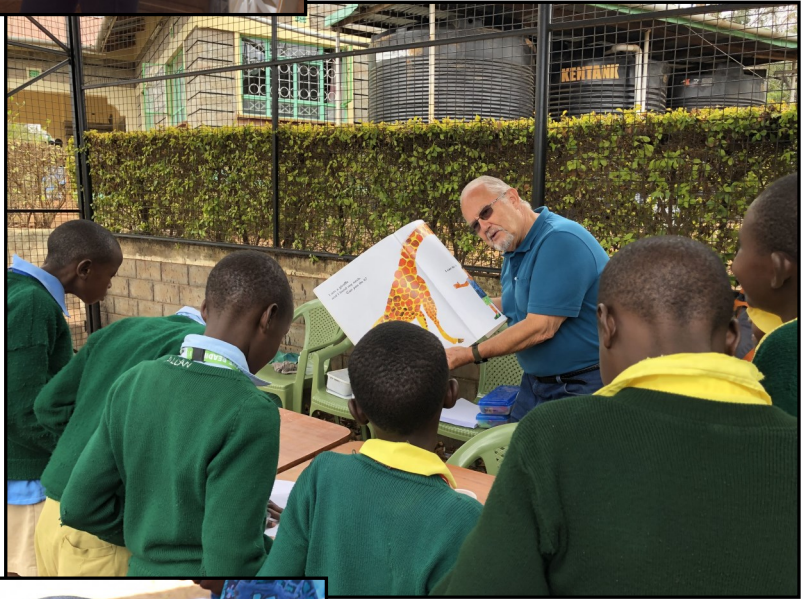


# Serving and Caring



Reading Rover

Roland Russoli teaching students



Deworming Students

# Serving and Caring

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## The Pastoral Care Commission

The Pastoral Care Commission serves the St. John's community by providing a wide array of ministries that bring hope, healing, and the light of Christ to those who are sick, grieving, homebound, in a crisis, or simply needing a spiritual friend.

### Click of Comfort, Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began in 2006 by late parishioner Gudrun Huden. The knitting group consists of anywhere from eight to fourteen knitters and crocheters that meet monthly for handwork and fellowship. Parishioners who are sick, have celebrated a birth, or other life events are given a prayer shawl to remind them of Christ's love and the care of our community of faith. Following the Ellicott City flood of 2018, several shawls were given to flood victims for comfort and warmth after their possessions were destroyed. In the fall of 2019, Click of Comfort passed a significant milestone—more than 500 shawls have been created and distributed. This accomplishment was celebrated by current and past members with a special tea at Sweet Simplici-Tea in Sykesville. In addition, two years ago, this ministry began making mini pocket shawls which have been available for the taking in both the Narthex and Upper Commons. These mini shawls, also numbering in the hundreds, have been distributed in many other places including the St. John's Prayer Tent at the Howard County Fair.



### Stephen Ministry

During the past year, six parishioners from St. John's were trained to become Stephen Ministers: Allison Gradwell, Judi LeBlanc, Susan Miller, Nancy Voskuhl, Jane Baker, and Cynthia Cecil. They bring the total to twelve Stephen Ministers within our parish, all women. As one of the protocols for Stephen Ministry is to have women serve women and men serve men, it is important that Stephen Ministry expand to include care givers who are men. Rev. Katrina and ministry head, Judy Anderson, are in the process of recruiting a class of men to be trained in the fall of 2020.

With the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, face to face meetings are currently not possible. Those Ministers with current care receivers are staying in touch by telephone and using their skills to help their Care Receivers through the myriad of concerns which are exacerbated by the ongoing situation of isolation and anxiety. Expanding their typical ministry, Stephen Ministers are making telephone calls to many quarantined parishioners and helping to address their concerns.

### Meals Ministry

Since May 2019, the Meals Ministry team has provided meals for about six families. Some asked for only one meal, others needed meals for a month or so, and some requested meals for a week or two. Meals that are delivered can be either prepared or purchased. The goal is to deliver a meal around dinner time—between 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm. The Meals Ministry, led by Elisabeth Beekman, is cognizant of the recipient's dietary requirements as it prepares or purchases meals. Current team members of the Meals Ministry have been responding to the meet the needs within the parish; however, additional volunteers are welcome, should anyone feel called to this ministry.

# Serving and Caring

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## Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Ministry hosted and served at ten bereavement receptions for parishioners this year, including one weekend with two separate receptions. The numbers of attendees ranged from seventeen people to almost five hundred. The committee, led by Pat Stackhouse, is honored to do whatever they can to make the difficult time of grieving easier for families and their friends. This committee fully organizes each repass, from purchasing prepared trays to complement the food donations of caring members of our community, to set up and service. The Bereavement Committee is a dedicated and hard working group that provides incredible comfort to those gathered to celebrate the life of their beloved and mourn their loss.

## Walking the Mourner's Path

Walking the Mourner's Path (WtMP) grief ministry serves bereaved parishioners and individuals of the community who are seeking the transformational healing of Christ's Love. Through an eight-week workshop series and the continuing support of quarterly gatherings, the ministry team of clergy and eight facilitators are specially trained to pastorally minister to the bereaved, and offer God's hope and healing grace.



Prayer and scripture are essential to the program. Facilitators pray for and with participants and create sacred space where participants can come with their pain, sadness, anger, hesitations, aspirations, tears, and laughter — or whatever each participant carries in their grief — and together in a small group setting of the St. John's faith community, explore and reflect on their grief experience. Additionally, each participant is matched with a Prayer Partner who prays for them daily throughout the eight weeks. A celebratory Eucharist service with thanksgiving and praise brings the eight-week workshops to a close.

As the group meets each week a transformation transpires. Participants connect with one another and, through mutual understanding, support each other as they learn to live anew in the absence of their loved one. As the Holy Spirit works, the facilitators step back, which serves to further enable participants, even in the vulnerabilities of their grief, to accept God's grace, Jesus' healing, and the Holy Spirit's direction. Transformational healing continues through Gatherings, where attendees continue to process their grief as they flourish in the community.

Meeting the increasing needs is a fundamental goal of the WtMP ministry, led by Tina Millard. One way WtMP accomplishes this is by widening its reach. Specifically, in 2019, it increased accessibility by holding its first daytime series and supported the annual spring *Hope & Healing* service. In addition, facilitators meet monthly and participate in an annual retreat to deepen connections with God and each other, enabling facilitators to better serve in the ministry. The ministry incorporates scripture study and adapted models from the College of Congregational Development help to guide facilitators and strengthen their skills.

With gratitude for her many years of dedicated service and the knowledge that she continues to do God's work, the WtMP ministry team says farewell to Diane Heim, one of the first trained St. John's facilitators. To the sixty-five St. John's parishioners who serve as Prayer Partners and Musicians, offering their many gifts, the Walking the Mourner's Ministry extends heartfelt thanks, as well. Your passion and dedication helps us meet the needs of the grieving. Similarly, the WtMP ministry's work is possible because of the continued commitment of the St. John's Clergy. Working together we serve to the glory of God.

# Serving and Caring

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## Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Eucharistic Visitors connect the homebound and sick to our worshiping community through the distribution of communion following Sunday services. St. John's has ten active Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

## Prayer Chain



The Prayer Chain leaders, inspired by the Holy Spirit, prayerfully put into words the intercessions, petitions, and thanksgivings of those who seek a specific prayer by written members of the prayer chain. Judy Anderson and Tina Millard write beautiful, directed prayers that are then distributed to those who commit to daily prayer for those in need. The Prayer Chain is distinct and different from prayer requests made to the office for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin.

## Mental Health Ministry

The Mental Health Ministry furthers the mission of St. John's through hospitality and inclusion of those affected by mental illness, offering education, worship opportunities, and support, and partnering with local mental health organizations. In 2019, the Mental Health Ministry hosted a forum for the larger community on Mental Health, strengthening its connection with NAMI. It provided support to Parent Connect and also hosted the annual Tidings of Comfort Service.



## Sunshine Ministry

The Sunshine Ministry sends notes to parishioners who are sick or homebound. The homebound also receive worship bulletins and other information to connect them to the parish community.

## Connecting Youth in Ministry

Young Adults in Church (YAC) assist in various ministries within the Pastoral Care Commission, four to six times a year, including visitation of seniors and homebound parishioners.

## Altar Flower Delivery

The Altar Flower Delivery Ministry takes the weekly altar flowers, as well as the Christmas poinsettias and Easter flowers, and delivers them to parishioners who are ill, homebound, bereaved, or experiencing other life events. The flowers are a tangible reminder that St. John's is a community of care.

The Rev. Dr. Katrina Grusell, Associate for Pastoral Care, works with the Pastoral Care Commissioner, Blair Kennard, and ministry leaders to provide pastoral supports to our congregation. Anytime a pastoral emergency arises, parishioners should call the pastoral on-call phone at 443-538-2806 so that clergy can provide support and care.

# Giving and Sharing: Stewardship

## Stewardship Commission Annual Report

### Introduction

The Stewardship Commission strives to encourage a spirit of generosity and financial commitment on the part of all members in the parish, in support of all the important work being undertaken throughout the year at St. John's.

### Annual Giving Theme

The Commission developed the pledge theme for the New Year: "2020 Vision: Connection-Vocation-Reconciliation." This became the basis for a focused pledge campaign that included a "call-a-thon" week in November. Commission members joined the Clergy and the Vestry of the Church in making calls and in concluding this annual pledge effort, which came very close to meeting budget goals that were set for St. John's for the 2020 year.

### Projects and Activities

At its monthly meetings, Commission members discussed and worked on ways in which a culture of giving might be enhanced at St. John's, recognizing that this is of benefit to the giver as well as to the destination of that generosity. Part of this involves messaging; members (especially Brian Stone) worked through part of the year to develop a draft "narrative budget" for parishioners, one that will provide a better sense of how all the worthwhile activities at St. John's are supported by the annual budget. Commission members also explored ways in which communication to the parish might be tailored to the needs and preferences of parishioners in different age groups or circumstances. There is recognition as well that members of the Church might want to know about how the Church might fit their estate planning. And to further a sense of community, the idea of providing name badges to those regularly attending services at St. John's is also being explored. In addition, Commission members are presently recruiting new members so as to create a larger and more diverse membership base.

It is hoped the parish will see benefits from this planning and work by Commission members as calendar year 2020 progresses.

### Transitions

Rev. Ann Ritonia provided leadership for the Stewardship Commission throughout the year in the absence of a Commission Chair. Lauren Brown served on the Commission and as liaison to the St. John's Vestry; Joe Cumello, Beth Davis-Brown, and Adam Glickman also served as members throughout the year.

Recently the Commission has welcomed three new members: Ji Su Hong, Mike Runge, and Brian Stone. All are also currently serving on the Vestry.

Jordan Schlick has stepped down as a Commission member; he is still deeply involved in the work of the Commission as Vestry Treasurer. Jordan is to be thanked for his service to St. John's through his work on these important assignments.

Submitted by Lauren Brown



# Giving and Sharing: From our Treasurer

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Jordan Schlick  
Treasurer

## St. John's Treasurer's Report for the 2020 Annual Meeting

Summary: 2019 Was a Solid, Disciplined Year / 2020 Will Be Extremely Challenging

### **Overview of Financial Operations**

The operations of St. John's include: the Church, the Parish Day School, and several donor and designated Funds. The Funds are reported separately from our operating budgets. The Church's fiscal year runs on a calendar year basis, January to December. The School's fiscal year begins on the 1st of July and carries through to June 30th of the following calendar year. This fiscal year is typical of independent schools.

St. John's Episcopal Church operates as a not-for-profit entity and has a goal of reaching break-even budget — one where receipts from pledges, plate offerings, and investment income match our disbursements on items such as salaries, programs, utilities, and campus upkeep. For several years the Church has had a structural deficit, with receipts falling short of expenditures. The Light the Way Campaign (LTW) was initiated to cover this gap and it has been used to cover shortfalls relating to capital improvements and spiritual efforts as has been necessary.

### **2019 Results:**

The gap between receipts and expenditures narrowed significantly to a deficit of <\$60,517>. For comparison, 2018's adjust deficit was <\$135,875>. Highlights are as below:

- ▶ 2019 pledges were \$980,179 (the budgeted target was \$1,000,000). Other Donations, Investment Income, and facilities rentals added \$144,849, making total receipts of \$1,125,028 (vs. a budgeted target of \$1,132,500);
- ▶ 2019 expenditures were \$1,185,545 (the budget was \$1,207,651). It is very fair to say that expenses were generally well managed;
- ▶ The difference between receipts and pledges was mostly offset: by Vestry approved use of the LTW funds in an amount (equal to 2018's use) of \$50,000 (mtg loan); the inclusion of post-Dec 31, 2018 receipt of 2018 pledges, and a reduction in Administrative staff expenses of \$19,298;
- ▶ Netting all receipts versus all disbursements, the 2019 deficit was <\$14,022> (vs. 2018's all-in deficit of <\$28,657>).

### **2020 Budget and Outlook:**

In a relatively uncontentious vote, the Vestry approved a budget with total receipts of \$1,222,000. Total Pledges had a target of \$1,050,000, Other Donations of \$110,000, Investment Income of \$37,000, and Facilities Use of \$25,000. Of note, salary increases of 2% were given to staff (who still remain on 4 day work weeks to reduce costs). Additional increases were given to clergy who are paid below the median for churches of the size of St. John's. The Vestry hopes to reach the median pay levels with modest increases in each of the next several of years as well.

# Giving and Sharing: From our Treasurer

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The Vestry approved Disbursements of \$1,227,718, leaving a deficit of <\$5,718>. Adding in the expenses on the Fulton Bank (which acquired Columbia Bank) mortgage and netting the of LTW funds, the total deficit was budgeted at <\$14,758> (versus 2019's total budgeted gap of <\$28,657>).

Notes on the 2020 Budget (in parenthesis is 2019 budget amount):

- ▶ Overall Clergy compensation was increased to \$366,479 (vs. \$326,045);
- ▶ The Diocesan pledge was reduced to \$146,239 (vs. \$178,996);
- ▶ Total Facilities costs were increased to \$213,245 (vs. \$206,700);
- ▶ Total Administrative & Office Support was decreased to \$319,655 (vs. 325,101).

## **2020 Stewardship and Corona Virus Impact:**

Regarding 2020 pledges, our target is \$1,050,000 and, as of mid-April, pledges stood at \$994,608 (vs \$953,574 at this point last year). For 2020, there are 399 pledging units, a decrease of 62 from 2019's. However, the average pledge increased to \$2,493 from \$2,273, an increase of 12% per unit. The 62 pledging units (families or individuals) who no longer pledge contributed \$633 per unit. Traditionally, additional pledges are made throughout the year. We received 38 new pledges in 2019 for the 2020 pledge cycle.

**St. John's Parish Day School (SJPDS):** is comprised of the Lower School (K to 5th grade) and the Early Childhood Program (3-yr olds through pre-K). Its school building was completed in 2001, accepted its inaugural class of first graders in 2002.

The School Board budgeted for a deficit of \$134,057 for FYE 6/30/2019. The School reported an actual net deficit of \$46,195 – a significant improvement over FYE's 6/30/18 deficit of \$330,163. The primary causes for the better performance were Receipts for Early Childhood Tuition were approximately \$64,000 higher than budgeted, and Day Camp Expenses and Other Expenses were (collectively) approximately \$26,000 lower than forecast.

The School had several favorable breaks recently: one a local competitor exited the market, another had enrollment issues due to behavioral issues with a teacher, and Howard County started a controversial redistricting plan.

## **Mortgage:**

The balance on the mortgage debt as of 12/31/2019 was \$4,124,493 down from \$4,327,423 on 12/31/2018. The original balance was \$7 million tax-exempt bond issued in conjunction with the Maryland Health and Higher Education Facilities Authority (MAHHEFA) in December, 2001. It matures in December, 2031. The rate is reset every 10 years and is due to reset December 2021. The current interest rate is 2.01%. Proceeds from the LTW campaign are being used to decrease the impact of the annual debt service payments on the Church's operating budget. This bond has a debt service covenant ratio (a measure of our assets on hand), and, at the last audit by Clifton, Larson & Allen (our accountants) this past summer, SJEC met the covenant ratio, unlike 2018 when we did not.

Continued

# Giving and Sharing: From Our Treasurer

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## **Borrowing Facility:**

The Church has a \$250,000 line of credit with Sandy Spring Bank (which acquired Revere Bank) to provide periodic support for the cyclical cash flows of the Church and SJPDS. The line was not used in 2016 or 2017, was used in 2018, and was not used in 2019.

**Light the Way (LTW) funds:** The LTW campaign generated net pledges in excess of \$1.2 million.

These funds allow the Church to make beneficial investments in our people, programs and campus.

Primary Uses of LTW funds in 2019 were:

- ▶ \$45,000 to support the operating budget of the Church
- ▶ \$28,024 for energy saving light bulbs and fixtures in the CME
- ▶ \$12,600 for balance due on parking lot repaving
- ▶ \$9,571 for consulting work associated with MHEFFA on remaining mortgage/bond
- ▶ \$7,500 legal fees related to MHEFFA mortgage/bond

Planned Uses in 2019 are:

- ▶ \$50,000 for operating budget use — slight increase is due the increase in the interest rate on the mortgage/bond
- ▶ Needs as determined by the Buildings and Grounds Commission — as mentioned in the Junior Warden's Report(s)

## **Closing: Corona Will Challenge Us:**

At this juncture, the 2020 budget is on roughly on track (through March 31st). Electronic giving (pledges) has remained steady, although plate offerings are down moderately. Facility use receipts are down significantly. However, we've also spent less in an effort to match receipts and disbursements (I'll provide details in the March Treasurer's report). That is the good news.

The bad news is the U.S. has not experienced a pandemic since the Spanish Flu of 1918. For those of you who are baseball fans, the World Series of 1917 was completed in September just prior to the Spanish Flu reaching our shores. Amazingly enough, roughly 6 months later, the 1919 baseball season began on time. Whether this pandemic follows a similar timeline, or a more extended one, is unknowable. As result, how our finances unfold is yet to be determined. However, we would please encourage you to continue your pledges and other giving as you are able.

*The bottom line is the Vestry and the Rector will continually monitor receipts and expenditures as we move through the year, adjusting as is required to maintain spending levels mirroring those of our receipts.*



Continued



# Giving and Sharing: Church Finances

## Summary of 2019 Pledges Received as of 12/31/19

Summary of 2019 Pledges Received As of 12/31/19	2018 Pledges	<i>Pledging Units</i>	2019 Pledges	2019 Over (Under) 2018	%	2019 Average Pledge	2018 Average Pledge
Decreased in 2019	\$ 232,348	78	\$ 158,893	\$ (73,455)	-32%	\$ 2,037	\$ 2,979
Increased in 2019	435,207	167	498,859	63,652	15%	2,987	2,606
No change for 2019	291,688	157	291,688	-	0%	1,858	1,858
<b>Total Pledged</b>	<b>\$ 959,243</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>\$ 949,440</b>	<b>\$ (9,803)</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>\$ 2,362</b>	<b>\$ 2,386</b>
NEW Pledges in 2019	-	36	\$ 46,016	\$ 46,016	100%	\$ 1,278	
<b>TOTAL PLEDGED to DATE 2019</b>		<b>438</b>	<b>\$ 995,456</b>	<b>\$ 36,213</b>		<b>\$ 2,273</b>	

## Summary of 2020 Pledges Received as of 4/17/2020

Summary of 2020 Pledges Received As of 4/17/20	2019 Pledges	<i>Pledging Units</i>	2020 Pledges	2020 Over (Under) 2019	%
					Change
Decreased in 2019	\$ 127,302	47	\$ 80,422	\$ (46,880)	-37%
Increased in 2019	383,881	143	477,770	93,889	24%
No change for 2019	379,426	172	379,426	-	0%
<b>Total Pledged</b>	<b>\$ 890,609</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>\$ 937,618</b>	<b>\$ 47,009</b>	<b>5%</b>
NEW Pledges in 2020	-	37	\$ 56,990	\$ 56,990	100%
<b>TOTAL PLEDGED to DATE 2019</b>		<b>399</b>	<b>\$ 994,608</b>	<b>\$ 103,999</b>	

Continued

# Giving and Sharing: Church Finances

## Budget for Calendar Year 2020

	<u>2020 Annual Budget Pledges at \$1,050,000</u>
Receipts	
Pledges	
Total Pledges	\$ 1,050,000
Church Other Donations	
401000 - Plate Offerings	50,000
403000 - Easter Offering	9,000
405000 - Christmas Offering	16,000
409000 - Flower & Altar Guild Receipts	7,000
413500 - Miscellaneous Operating Income	1,000
413500 - Outreach	17,000
403600 - Reserve for Replacements	10,000
Total Church Other Donations	<u>110,000</u>
Church Investment Income	
421000 - Operating Interest and Dividends	12,000
422000 - Trust Income	25,000
Total Church Investment Income	<u>37,000</u>
Use of Facilities	
Total Use of Facilities	<u>25,000</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,222,000</u></b>
Disbursements	
Clergy Comp, Benefits, Support	
511000 - Clergy TAC	207,100
513000 - Clergy Pensions	39,908
516000 - Clergy Insurance	42,360
514000 - Professional Exp Reimbursement	3,500
518000 - Misc/Training/Relocation	3,500
526000 - Children's Faith Formation Clergy	22,911
526000 - Pastoral Care Clergy	47,200
Total Clergy Comp, Benefits, Support	<u>366,479</u>
Outreach & Social Justice Commission	
Total Outreach & Social Justice Commission	29,000
Diocese Pledge	
Total Diocese Pledge	146,239
Faith Formation	
Education Salaries & Benefits	
Youth Education Salaries & Benefits	25,924
Children's Education Salaries & Benefits	20,000
Total Education & Benefits	<u>45,924</u>
Faith Formation Program Exp.	
534000 - Adult Faith Formation	2,600
534000 - Korean Faith Formation	3,650
534500 - Children's Faith Formation	2,500
534600 - Youth Faith Formation	2,500
534600 - Pilgrimage	15,000
Total Faith Formation Program Exp	<u>26,250</u>
Total Nursery Care	<u>3,275</u>
Total Faith Formation	75,449
Music	
Music Salaries and Benefits	
Total Music Salaries and Benefits	48,851
Total Music Program Expenses	4,000
Total Music	<u>52,851</u>
Other Church Programs	
531500 - Worship	2,000
532000 - Flowers	7,000
532000 - Altar Guild	2,400
533000 - Books & Publications	850
533500 - Parish Life	3,000
534200 - Hospitality & Evangelism Commission	1,000

Continued

# Giving and Sharing: Church Finances

## Budget for Calendar Year 2020 — continued

534250 - Common Life Commission	-
534700 - Pastoral Care Commission	6,150
Total Other Church Programs	22,400
SJ Facilities Management	
Facilities Management & Labor	
541025 - Facilities Management	58,968
541030 - Facilities Salaries	28,565
Total Facilities Management & Labor	87,533
Non Labor Facilities	
535150 - Service & Maintenance Contracts	32,374
535175 - Repairs & Replacements	23,272
535275 - Reserve for Replacements	10,000
535200 - Facilities Supplies and Grounds Maintenance	13,330
Total Non Labor Facilities	78,976
Total Facilities and Grounds Maint.	166,509
Utilities & Housekeeping Sup.	
551000 - Housekeeping Maint. Supplies	2,129
557000 - Utilities and Fuel	44,607
Total Utilities & Housekeeping Sup.	46,736
Total SJ Facilities Management	213,245
Stewardship Commission	
Non Labor Stewardship	
535500 - Stewardship Commission Expenses	3,000
536000 - Planned Giving Expenses	-
Total Stewardship Commission	3,000
Administrative and Office	
Total Administrative Staff	202,655
Communications	
555000 - Printing & Copier Lease	10,000
556000 - Postage Expense	5,000
556200 - Technology Expense	25,000
556500 - Telephone Expense	5,500
Total Communications	45,500
Insurance	
535210 - Property Insurance	21,600
554000 - Liability & Workers Comp Insurance	4,500
Total Insurance	26,100
Management & Office Support	
555500 - Office Expenses	13,500
558000 - Legal, Audit & Payroll Expense	15,000
558425 - N Chatham Rd Expenses	350
558500 - Miscellaneous Expenses	450
558600 - Bank Fees	10,500
558550 - Donated stock sale (Gain)/Loss	-
559500 - Meetings & Conventions Expense	5,000
Total Management & Office Support	44,800
Total Administrative and Office	319,055
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$ 1,227,718</b>
<b>Other Disbursements</b>	
<b>Designated by Vestry</b>	
Columbia Bank Debt Service Interest (20%)	16,271
Columbia Bank Debt Service Principal (20%)	42,769
<b>Total Debt Service Designated by Vestry</b>	<b>59,040</b>
<b>Light the Way Proceeds Applied to Budget- Debt Service</b>	<b>45,000</b>
<b>Light the Way Proceeds Applied to Budget- Education</b>	<b>5,000</b>
<b>Outreach Funding from General Donations</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2018 Pledges Received in 2019</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Reduction in Administrative Staff Expense Budgeted</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Operating Budget Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (14,757)</b>

# 2019 Giving and Sharing: Thank You for Your Gifts!

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## *The following households supported*

### **St. John's with a pledge to the Annual Fund in 2019**

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Abel, Mr. Chukwueloka Agajelu, Dr. & Mrs. Nnaemeka Agajelu, Prof. & Mrs. Sammy Agajelu, Miss Edith Albrecht, Mr. William Albrecht, Ms. Patty Aleshire, Cmdr. & Mrs. Gerald Anderson; Mr. Matthew Antonicelli, Mr. William Arbaugh, Ms. Nellie Arrington, Mrs. Brenda Ashworth & Mr. Don Welch, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Atkinson, Mr. & Mrs. David Bagwell, Mr. & Mrs. Con Jacyn Baker, Mr. & Mrs. John Baldwin, Mrs. Frances Baldwin, Ms. Allison Barringer, Bernard and Sandra Barton, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Battenfeld, III, Mr. & Mrs. J. Steven Baughman, Alice Baughman, Mr. Brian Baumgardner, Mrs. Pamela Adams, Mrs. Alicia Beall, Mrs. Iris Beard-Lawrence, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Becker, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Beekman, Mr. Wiley Beevers, Mr. & Mrs. W. Fontaine Bell, Mr. Thomas Benner & Mrs. Mary Botticelli, Mr. Joseph Bennett, Mr. Kenneth Berlack & Mrs. Kathryn Coleman, Mr. & Mrs. Jaymie Birney, David and Dana Blair, Mr. & Mrs. Karl Boin, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Bonig, Mr. & Mrs. Randy Boone, Mrs. Mary Bradford, Mr. Lloyd Brady, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Brandt, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Barry Brasseaux, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Brillante, Mr. Lauren Brown & Mrs. Elizabeth Davis-Brown, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Brudin, Jr., Mr. Ronald Buchman, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Buchman, Mr. & Mrs. David Bunnell, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Burch, John & Ginger Burcham, Ms. Tracey Lee Burk, Mrs. Tracey Lynn Burk, Mrs. Barbara Burris, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Burrows, Ms. Jessica Burstrem, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Butler, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Calambro, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Capo, Mr. & Mrs. Patrice Cappelaere, Mrs. Carol Carlson, Mr. & Mrs. Drew Carlson, Dr. Christine Carrington, Ms. Jennifer Carton, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cecil, Mr. Charles Chandler & Mrs. Katie Kelel, Dr. & Dr. Joseph Chen, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Christian, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Randall Citrano, Mr. Craig Clagett & Mrs. Helen Schneider, Mr. & Mrs. Alton Andrew Clark, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Clark, Dr. Chester Clarke, Mrs. Theola Clarke, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Clarke, Mr. & Mrs. David Claus, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Cochran,

Mr. & Mrs. James Coker, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Comber, Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Comegys, Mr. & Mrs. James Conners, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Conover, Alyson Conover, Mr. & Ms. Scott Conroy, Mrs. Betty Cooper, Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Cooper, Ms. Jennifer Corb, Mr. & Mrs. David Cornell, Dr. & Mrs. Michael Cox, Mr. & Mrs. Steven Cramer, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crosby, Mr. & Mrs. Neil Cucuzzella, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Cumello, Dr. Steven Cunningham & Dr. Myriam Gorospe, Dr. Patricia Daniel, Mr. & Mrs. James Daugherty, Kristin Daugherty, Steven and Terri Davey, Mr. & Mrs. Joel Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Davis, Mr. & Mrs. Donovan Day, Mr. & Mrs. David DeGeorge, Mrs. Kimberly Derise, Mrs. Jane Deweib, Mr. & Mrs. James Dingle, Mrs. Elizabeth Disney, Mrs. Denny Donovan, Mr. & Mrs. Niccolo Donzella, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Dupski, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Dyer, Mrs. Shanett Edwards-Morton, Mr. & Mrs. Barry Eigen, Mr. & Dr. Adam Eldridge, Dr. Lucy Eldridge, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Elliott, Mrs. Carol Emerick, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Emerson, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. James English, Mr. & Mrs. Erick Estrada, Dr. & Mrs. William Ewald, Dr. & Mrs. William Fabbri, Ms. Sarah Fahrendorf, Dr. Mary Farmer, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Farragut, Mr. & Mrs. John Faye, Mr. & Ms. Russell Fedors, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ferrone, Mr. Don Firmani, Ms. Martha Fletcher, Mr. George Floyd, Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Flynn, Mrs. Joan Fox, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Francis, Mrs. Peggy Jo Frank, Mr. & Mrs. John Fyock, Jr., Ms. Marjorie Gardner, Ms. Jennifer Garner, Mr. Kenneth Gascoigne, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Gaspar, Mr. & Ms. Samuel Gawthrop, III, Samuel Gawthrop, IV, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Geist, Mrs. Mary Gilbert, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Good, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Good, Mr. & Mrs. Todd Good, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Goss, Mr. & Mrs. David Gradwell, Mrs. Betsy Grater, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Graves, Mrs. & Mr. Karen Griefff, Mr. & Mrs. Ryan Griswold, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Grotz, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. James Grubb, The Rev. Dr. Katrina Grusell & Mr. David Grusell, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Guillet, Mr. & Mrs. John Habert, Mr. & Mrs. James Hagan, The Rev. Stephen Hagerty, Mr. David Hale & Dr. Anne-Cecile Bayne, Hannah Hale, Mr. & Dr. Douglas Hall, Ms. Julie Halverson, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hamer, Mr. William Hamm & Mrs. Laurie

# Thank You for Your 2019 Gifts!

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DiPietro, Mr. James Hammond & Mrs. Lissa Bounds Hammond, Mrs. Bonnie Hanson, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Hardon, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Harman, Ken & Beth Harris, The Rev. J. Joseph Hart, Mrs. Jill Hauser, Mrs. Susanne Haynie, Mrs. Diane Heim, Donna Hess, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Heussler, Mr. & Mrs. John Hoagland, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hockersmith, Mrs. Rachel Hoenes Haak, Mr. & Mrs. Randolph Hoenes, Rexton Hoenes, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Hoenes, Sr., Mrs. Lois Holden, Miss Charlotte Holland, Mrs. Deborah Holmes, Mr. & Mrs. William Holmes, Mr. Ji Su Hong, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hooten, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Hopf, Mr. Townsend Hornor, Jr., Ty Hornor, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Horvath, Mrs. Ethel Houston, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Hurst, Mr. & Mrs. Curt Hustead, Mr. & Dr. Jeffrey Huston, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Izydore, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Jeanneault, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth John, Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Johnson, Dr. Lance Jordan & Mrs. Lucy Hovey-Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Joseph, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Louis Joslin, Mr. & Mrs. David Justice, Mr. Scott Kallmeyer, Ms. Jin-Hee Kang, Mr. Vincent Karasack & Mrs. Deborah Borden-Karasack, Dr. & Mrs. Ross Kennard, Ms. Mary Jo Kenney, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kerr, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kerry, Victoria Kerry, Mrs. Carol Kiesler, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kilcoyne, Mr. & Mrs. James King, Mr. & Mrs. John Kinloch, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Miklos Kish, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Knox, Miss Sarah Kozik, Mr. & Mrs. James Kreckel, Mr. Terry Kreft, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Kubiet, Ms. Elinore Kuebler, Ms. Ellen Kuhn, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Laidig, Mr. & Mrs. Ross Laidig, Mrs. Margaret Lawrence, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lebe, Ms. Judith LeBlanc, The Rev. & Mrs. Barnabas Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Jun Lee, Mr. & Mrs. Min Lee, John & Carrie Leovy, Ms. Diane Lichtenberger, Mr. Stephen Lidard & Dr. Christa Peters-Lidard, Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Lieberman, Miss Jill Lieberman, Mr. & Mrs. Freddy Llerena, Mr. & Mrs. John Lockwood, Sarah Lockwood, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Logsdon, Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Loomis, Mr. & Mrs. James Louzan, Mr. E. Richard Lower & Mrs. Monica Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. David Maas, Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Mackey, III, Mr. & Mrs. George Maestri, Dr. & Mrs. John

Magee, Mr. Matthew Maloney & Mrs. Denise Schiavone, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Maloney, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Marietta, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Martin, Mrs. Nancy Martin, Mr. Andres Martinez, Mr. & Mrs. Greg Martinez, Dr. Doug Martz & Dr. Elaine Trogdon, Ms. Nancy Mason, The Rev. Miriam Mathews, Ms. Patricia Matteo, Mr. Benjamin Mayock, Mrs. Kristin Mazerski, Mr. & Mrs. Paul McAllister, Mr. & Mrs. Richard McClure, Dr. & Mrs. F. Patrick McCluskey, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph McFarland, Ms. Susan McKenzie, Mrs. Pamela McKusick, Ms. Jean McQuaid, Mr. & Mrs. James Meade, Mrs. Barbara Merke, Mr. & Mrs. Keith Merkey, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Merson, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Millard, Scot & Cynthia Millen, Mr. & Mrs. C. Robert Miller, II, Mr. Charles Miller, Jr. & Mrs. Clare Brooks, Mr. Charles Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Miller, Susan Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Minnick, Mr. & Mrs. Martin Mogavero, Mr. Thomas Moloney, Brian & Ellen Moore, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Moran, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Morris, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Moskal, Mr. & Mrs. Bradford Muir, Bruce Murphy & Carol Wright, Mrs. Emily Murphy & Mr. Adam Glickman, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Murray, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Murray, Mrs. Ellen Nemphos, Ms. Negar Nourmohammad, Mr. Fred Nuguid, Mrs. Cathy Nunley, Mr. & Mrs. Brian O'Connell, Ms. Mary Margaret O'Donnell, Mr. & Mrs. Peter O'Dunne, Mr. & Mrs. Scott Oaksmith, Mr. & Mrs. Ezekiel Okoya, Mr. & Mrs. Ike Okoye, Mr. & Mrs. Joel Ord, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Ouellette, The Rev. Jenni Overstone Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Pacheco, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Padgett, Mrs. & Mrs. Courtney Panunzio, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Paris, Mr. & Ms. Michael Parks, Ms. Suzanne Patterson, Mrs. Famebridge Payne, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Pearson, Mr. James Peffall, Mr. & Mrs. David Peters, Stanley & Amy Petrilla, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Porciello, Mr. & Mrs. Winfred Prange, The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Walter Prehn, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Preissner, Dr. Barbara Prettyman, Mrs. Yvonne Price, Mr. & Mrs. Perry Priestley, Mr. & Mrs. S. Kenneth Puckett, Mr. & Mrs. James Purcell, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Charles Purple, Ms. Ellen Rabe, Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Ragland, III, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ragonese, Mr. Harold Rathbun & Mrs. Zaruhi Mnatsakanyan, Mr. David Reck,

# Thank You for Your 2019 Gifts!

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Ms. Linda Rehmet, Mr. Bruno Reich, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Reichard, Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Reilly, Mr. & Mrs. J. Randolph Respass, Mr. & Mrs. James Rey, Mr. Christopher Richardson, The Rev. Ann & Mr. Michael Ritonja, Ms. Judith Robbins, Ms. June Robinson, Mr. Kenneth Rochon, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Richard Rockefeller, Dr. William Rockefeller, Ms. Leslie Roper, Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Ross, Mr. Robert Rund & Mrs. Julie Brown-Rund, Drs. Michael and Sharon Runge, Mr. Roland Russoli & Ms. Sarah Nelson, Mrs. Beth Rutman, Mr. Frank Ryan, Mrs. Sandra Ryan, Mr. & Mrs. Harold Sachs, II, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Sackandy, Lt. Col. & Mrs. Michael Salmons, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sarno, Mr. & Mrs. James Schalge, Mr. & Mrs. David Schenning, Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Scherock, Mr. & Mrs. John Schindler, Mr. Jordan Schlick & Ms. Marsha Trant, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Schoenhut, Prof. Martha Shafer, Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Sharpe, Mr. & Mrs. James Shelar, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Shepherd, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Shope, Mr. James Siegel & Ms. Carol Diggs, Mrs. Melissa Simon, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sims, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Skalka, Mr. & Mrs. John Skinner, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Sloan, Mr. & Mrs. David Sloper, Jr., Dr. James Smeriglio & Dr. Nancy Denton, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Smith, Mr. Larry Smith, Mrs. Vanessa Smith-Lang & Mr. Doug Lang; Mr. & Mrs. Brett Sovereign, Dr. & Mrs. Henry Spindler, Mr. & Mrs. Philip Stackhouse, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stackhouse, II, Mr. & Mrs. David Standeven, Mr. Michael Stasiowski, Mrs. Patricia Stebbins, Mr. Gilbert Stewart & Mrs. Joyce Ulrich, Mr. Randall Stewart, Mrs. Joan Stockes, Mr. & Mrs. Brian Stone, Dr. & Mrs. John Stralka, Ms. Janice Strange, Mrs. Rosa Strohbehn, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stroud, Ms. Bonnie Sturm, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sullivan, Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Tally, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taylor, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Eric Tich, Mr. & Mrs. George Tolen, Mr. John Townsend & Mrs. Sheila Anderson, Miss Colleen Tressler, Mr. & Mrs. William Trieschman, Jr., Mrs. Jacqueline Troppman, Mr. T. James Truby & Mrs. Verity Weston-Truby, Al Tucci, Mrs. Denise Vesuvio, Mr. Charles Via & Dr. Abigail Ryan,

Mr. & Mrs. Warren von Uffel, Mrs. Nancy Voskuhl, Mrs. Gladys Wahlhaupter, Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Walker, Mrs. Marion Walker, Dr. Annie Walker-Abbey, Ms. Pamela Walter, Mrs. Jennifer Wamble, Mrs. Allison Ward, Mr. & Mrs. James Watkins, Mrs. Susan Watts, Mr. & Mrs. Edward Waugh, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Weinberger, Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Weston-Dawkes, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Whipkey, Mr. & Mrs. Richard White, Ms. Anita Wilcox, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Wilking, Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Wilson, Dr. & Mrs. Michael Winters, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wireman, Ms. Janet Wirth, Mr. Daniel Wise, Mr. Jason Woolwine, Ms. Kay Worley, Mrs. Michele Zaben, Lane and Barbara Zabriskie, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Zaron, Mr. Albert Zirkle, Mr. & Mrs. James Zoller, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Zoller, III

# Annual Meeting Minutes

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## Annual Meeting May 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 MINUTES

### Call to Order:

The 2019 Annual Meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church, Queen Caroline Parish, Ellicott City, Maryland was called to order on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 10:00am. The meeting took place and was called to order by Rev. Ann Ritonia. The meeting was interwoven with the worship service, with oth the 9am Historic Church and 9am ASH services meeting together in All Saints Hall.

Opening Prayer was led by Rev. Ann Ritonia followed by a reading of Acts 2:42-47. Rev. Ritonia asked the congregation to ponder the question, "What does it mean to you to devote yourself to teaching and fellowship here at St. John's." Congregants were asked to write their responses on index cards handed out by the ushers. Ballots were also handed out at this time to prepare for the election of new Vestry members for the Vestry Class of 2022 and to vote on a change of the bylaws.

Lissa Bounds Hammond was appointed as the Secretary to record the minutes for the Annual Meeting and it was determined that those present established a quorum.

The 2018 Annual Report was distributed electronically prior to the Annual Meeting and printed versions were made available at the meeting. Rev. Ritonia asked for a motion to accept the minutes from 2018. Senior Warden Sandy Hornor moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Treasurer Chris Padgett and the minutes were approved. Rev. Ritonia appointed David Gradwell, Steve Davey, and Ellen Rabe as Tellers to count the Vestry voting ballots.

Report of the Nominating Committee and First Ballot:

The Vestry Nominating Committee Members were announced: David Gradwell, Terri Davey, Tom Gross, Sharon Runge, and Ron Buchman. Rev. Ann Ritonia appointed Terry Davey and Dave Gradwell

as Tellers and asked for a motion to approve the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes and it was moved by Sandy Horner and seconded by Phil Stackhouse.

Candidates for Vestry Class of 2022 were announced by Terry Davey including: Phil Stackhouse, Ji Su Hong, Dave Schenning, Jackie Cumello, Katie Baughman, Jennifer Wamble and Mike Runge. An explanation of the criteria of Vestry member candidacy was presented Terri Davey.

Dave Gradwell presented the motion for the change of the bylaws: "Amendment to Article II, Section 3.A to the Parish By-Laws: The original text is as follows: "At least (3) months in advance of each Annual Meeting, the Rector shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of (5) Voting Members, not more than one (1) whom shall be a Member of the existing Vestry. If a Vestry Member is appointed, he/she shall be one whose term does currently expire." Proposed amended text: At least (3) months in advance of each Annual Meeting, the Rector shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of an odd number of at least (5) voting members, not more than three (3) of which shall be members of the existing Vestry. All members appointed from the existing Vestry shall be those whose term does currently expire. A two thirds majority vote is required to change the By-Laws.

### Senior Warden Report

The Senior Warden, Sandy Horner, referenced a National Geographic televised special and spoke of the evolution of our species and how we, and other species, have proven to be adaptable to change. He challenged us as a community to embrace change and be deliberate about our participation suggesting we commit ourselves as "all in" to be dedicated to our involvement in the St. John's Episcopal Church family. He encouraged us to read his full report in the 2018 Annual Report. Rev. Ann Ritonia asked another question of the congregation, "What is your deepest desire for St.

Continued

# Annual Meeting Minutes (continued)

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John's?" She then asked attendees to record their answers on an index card to be collected by the ushers.

## **Sermon by Rev. Ann Ritonia:**

A story (perhaps apocryphal) is told of President Lincoln, in the depths of the Civil War, visiting the New York Presbyterian Church for a mid-day service. This occasional practice was a respite for him during the difficult years of the horrible war between the states. Lincoln would slip in late by a side door and sometimes leave early without being noticed. One day, when he and his aide visited the church, the president lingered there in his private corner long after the other worshipers had gone. His aide finally asked, "Mr. President, what did you think of the sermon today?" Mr. Lincoln said, "I thought it was eloquent, well thought out, and powerfully delivered." "Then you liked it?" the aide continued trying to fill the silence. "No. It failed." The president went on, "It did not ask of us something great." While the preacher who had the ear of President Lincoln that morning may not have asked of his people something great, our scriptures this morning offer us just that. Our first reading offers us a wonderful vision of a community that was committed to mutual support, devoted to the apostles teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. This was a community that adjusted themselves to the existence of a gracious God and empowered by God they grew in number. Sounds almost too good to be true does it not? Some theologians have proposed the book of Acts offers a symbolic idealized portrait of communal life that describes practices that were necessarily short lived and limited in scope and simply unworkable in a modern context. Early hearers of this text would have likely been familiar with the Utopian vision that was widespread in Greek Literature with the sharing of personal possessions, a primary characteristic of a utopian society. But what if the author of Acts is really describing a vision for the newborn church, as a place where the deepest

longings for God and community and basic provision were being met in abundance for all?

This past year I have been praying about and thinking quite a bit about our mission here at St. John's, to understand the truth of what God wants from us and how we are to use the resources we have available and I have wondered if we use the model of the early church and likewise devote ourselves to the those same practices, the apostles teaching, fellowship, the sacraments and prayer that everything else will fall into place. Brothers and sisters, I don't know about you but I believe the ministry of God's reign that Jesus inaugurated during his life and secured by his death resurrection, and glorification is not merely a thing of the past, or a faint hope for the future but it exists today, it continues in the corporate life of communities, in our community here at St. John's and it is no less important today than it was to Jesus. When I look at the description of that first early Christian community, and think about who those early followers were, simple fishermen, they were not extraordinary, they were simple folk, far simpler than most of us here today. However they were a community that operated in the power of God's spirit, and the virtues of justice, mercy, charity, worship and mutuality they practiced identified them as People of the Way, united in purpose and identity - not a dispersed collection of individual church goers. In this morning's first reading, it is noteworthy that this sketch of corporate life describes a state of affairs for which others in the ancient world longed and while it might be easy to dismiss it given we live in a different time and place, it anchors our deepest longings for community, justice, generosity and meaning. Specifically, this visionary community it is the result of people embracing Jesus as God's designated agent and the means by which God will reconcile creation. This text for me then is a tool that instructs us to place as central the apostle's teachings, fellowship, breaking of the bread and prayer to measure our work during the next year. I

Continued



# Annual Meeting Minutes

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also think we would be mistaken if we assumed this passage from Acts celebrates the church or community for its own sake instead its real purpose as an extension of the ascended Lord Jesus' commitment to bring salvation to the world.

Not unlike us, the community of faith in Jerusalem lived a multifaceted witness, not restricted to a single place or way of being. It benefited its members and earned the admiration of outsiders because it did not exist for its own sake, but to care for its most vulnerable members and a means by which God extends salvation to others. This community of faith, focused on the essentials and through the Power of the Holy Spirit was empowered and caught up in the life and vitality of God who draws us in relentlessly in love and compassion. When we move away from these essentials, there is a corresponding depletion of life and vitality in the Church."

As we travel together in this next year, I invite each of you to ask yourselves this: What would happen if we declared "to God and each other" God give us no other purpose in all aspects of our lives than be disciples, to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind, freedom to the oppressed and new beginnings to all who have failed"? Would our budget, commitments, priorities and activities look any different as a result?

Friends, the work of the Church began with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, with devotion to the teachings of the apostles, fellowship, breaking of the bread and prayer, and continues today with the work of creating communities that model God's reconciling love and unity of purpose. Jesus invites us to do something great today even amidst the struggles we all face and that is to embody his way of love. We can do that in great society-shaking ways, but we can also do that in everyday ways. Sometimes we share words of healing and hope without even knowing it. In this morning's gospel, Jesus did that for Peter. He restored him to community, a sense of belonging and gave him a purpose and Jesus is doing that for

us as well. He is inviting us into community, like the one described in our first reading where we belong and by God's grace are accepted for who we are. And like that community in Jerusalem he is giving us a purpose as well, that God will use us wherever we are, to take care of God's people and the world in response to his love for us. Friends, Let this next year lead us to accept Jesus invitation to join him in mission, to deepen our relationship with him and one another and boldly claim a resurrection faith that delivers the message that even the humblest among us are beautiful and useful to God and open us to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives to make a difference in the World God loves so much

## **Recognitions:**

Rev. Ann Ritonia thanked the outgoing Vestry leadership Christopher Padgett, Treasurer, Brad Lieberman, Junior Warden and Townsend "Sandy" Horner, Senior Warden. Rev. Ann Ritonia expressed gratitude for the efforts of the St. John's Parish Day School Search Committee and announced the new Head of School, Ms. Lori Dembo, scheduled to begin in July.

## **Thomas Cranmer Award:**

Rev. Ann Ritonia recognized Teri Salmons as the first recipient of the award that honors a person who shows a deep commitment to prayer life at St. John's. June Robinson was granted the award and Rev. Ann expressed gratitude to June's commitment to prayer and her service on Wednesday evening Bible studies.

## **St. John's Cross:**

Rev. Ann Ritonia recognized previous recipients of the St. John's Cross Award: Gill Gawthrop, Elisabeth Beekman, Eric Tich, and June Robinson. The recipient of this year's award was granted to Mrs. Frances Baldwin for her faithful commitment assisting Rev. Ann Ritonia and the weekly needs of the Parish Life Office and administration.

Continued

# Annual Meeting Minutes (continued)

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## St. John's Award:

Previous recipients of the St. John's Award were recognized. This year's award recipients are: Christopher Padgett, Bradley Lieberman, and Townsend Hornor, Jr., for their many years of service as the executive leadership of the Vestry.

## Vestry Elections

**Announcement of the New Vestry Officers:** Rev. Ann Ritonia Requested that the new slate of Vestry officers be approved consisting of Kenneth Wireman, Senior Warden; Bob Cecil, Junior Warden; Jordan Schlick, Treasurer. There was a motion to approve the slate and it was seconded by unanimous voice vote.

## **General Assembly 2019 Attendees were**

**announced:** Rev. Ann Ritonia announced that Townsend Hornor, Jr., Ron Buchman, David Bunnell, and Jim Truby will be in attendance this year.

## Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Chris Padgett provided a summary of his full report, which is posted in the Annual Report. In 2018 the Vestry approved a \$42,000 loss. The combination of that loss and the financial support of Rev. Jenni and her family then approved a revised budget deficit of \$72,000. Low pledge revenue combined with these budget deficits brought us to a \$125,000 loss for the year. There were also higher disbursements that were above budget including facilities staff overtime, the hiring of a full-time facilities manager, and additional salaries required to replace administrative staff. The Close the Gap fundraiser brought in \$35,000, however, it was not enough to reduce the bottom line deficit. The Vestry passed a \$61,000 budget deficit for 2019 and additional pledges since March have decreased the deficit by an additional \$18,000 bringing down to \$41,000 for 2018. The Vestry has taken steps to reduce the deficit further by eliminating one full time staff member, the reduction of health insurance expenses, and the reduction of clergy. The Vestry also voted to sell one of the Chatham Road properties generating

revenue of \$281,000. Our challenges going forward are for the church and school to break even. We have had a honorable partner in Columbia Bank. However, in 2021 it is possible, based upon our receipts, that the bank could decide to call our bond. SJPDS had a loss of over \$300,000 in 2018, almost twice the amount budgeted for the year. They have also replaced staff at market rates and have invested in the marketing and development of the school hoping to compete in the private school market. Chris encouraged everyone to review his full report in the 2018 Annual Report.

Rev. Ann Ritonia thanked the musicians and choirs from both ASH and the Historic Church and encouraged all to purchase cakes from the J2A following the meeting.

## Vestry Elections

Rev. Ann expressed gratitude to the Vestry members stepping down and proceeded with the presentation of gifts to Terry Davey, David Gradwell, Joe Chen, and Ellen Rabe. Personal thanks were extended to each member for their individual contributions to the Vestry. Dave Gradwell announced that the motion to change the bylaws passed. **Chief Teller Terry Davey announced the election results for the Vestry Class of 2022:** Kate Baughman, Jackie Cumello, Mike Runge, and Phil Stackhouse. New members came forward to read take their oath and received their pin and a Vestry handbook.

## Adjournment

A motion was made at 11:52 to adjourn the Annual Meeting by Mike Sullivan. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Following the service, the Rector hosted a Town Hall Q & A in ASH.

## Q&A Town Hall

Rev. Ann Ritonia opened the Question and Answer Town Hall by answering a question about the present student population at St. Johns Parish Day School (SJPDS). The current enrollment is 254 students. SJPDS has a goal of increasing that

# Annual Meeting Minutes

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number to 300 in the next academic year. Revenue is currently generated by tuition and the before and after care program that extends the school day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. five days per week. Presently, there are contracts in negotiation with the Trellis Autism program and Peabody Childrens Chorus (PCC) that would provide additional revenue. To that end, we are working to certify spaces to meet the criteria for those contracts. The question was raised from the audience “Is St. John’s going to add another clergy member in the Future?” Rev. Ann replied that we (SJEC) are seeking additional funds for a Chaplain for SJPDS as additional clergy. She added that there is a female graduate that would be a terrific candidate that would become available in January of 2020 that would meet the qualifications and would be great for the position.

On the topic of the Director of Music Ministry, Ann explained that more interviews will be taking place in the coming week and that there were two in the week prior to the Annual Meeting. Ann hopes to have a new hire by mid-June. For now, the Director of Music Ministry position will have to be a part-time position.

A question was raised, “Will there be another campaign for additional pledges coming up?” Ann answered, that we have to learn to live within our means and informed us that half of our families at St. John’s are not financially committed to the church. There are 350 families of the church body that are not pledging. Sandy Horner added that our financial shortfall would be remedied by each family giving an additional \$5.00 per week. Rev. Ann summarized by stating that our focus overall is very hopeful.

Sharon Runge inquired about the number of new parishioners this year. Rev. Ann replied that we have 101 new parishioners and 31 new pledgers this year. Ann encouraged us to think about new streams of revenue for SJEC. Jackie Cumello stated that families participating in Faith Formation programs need to contribute financially and questioned families whose children are participating in the annual pilgrimage, accepting partial

support from the parish for the pilgrimage that are not committed financially to the church.

Tim Loomis referred to the “Prosperity Gospel,” stating that when we give to God, it comes Back to us in spades. Ann had a brief discussion of the current stewardship program with Anna Loomis suggesting the use of videos, also Lissa Bounds Hammond offering examples of from other churches utilizing You Tube and social media for marketing and development. Rev. Dr. Katrina Grusell suggested that those testifying could, “Name Your Story.” A question was asked, “How are we (at SJEC) impacting the lives of those outside of our walls.”

Ann gave examples of our work in El Hogar, Kenya Connect, Walking the Mourners Path, Celebrate Recovery, and the Mental Health Commission. Fred Bell also commented that SJEC could be utilizing testimonials on social media from those whose lives have been touched by those programs. Rev. Ann Ritonia asked that all those whose lives have benefitted from those programs should send their stories to Tracey Stone. Dave Bunnell suggested that Sunday sermons should be posted on our website, social media pages, and the You Tube channel. Also, that youth members could help publicize our programs by posting events and comments on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Phil Stackhouse described his ongoing efforts to post photos and information on SJEC’s Facebook page. Ann announced the success of the publicity for the annual Shrine Mont retreat with attendance at 150 this year. Concerns for children’s privacy and safety on Facebook was discussed and it was stated that parents must give written permission for their children to be featured in photos at Shrine Mont that would be posted on Facebook. Next year’s online registration for Shrine Mont will include granting permission for your child’s/ children’s photograph to be posted on social media.

Continued

# Annual Meeting Minutes (continued)

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Ann stated that youth leaders will be encouraged to contribute information for posts and publicity on social media and that efforts to utilize technology to increase revenue are printed in the bulletins each week including a notice for giving called, “Text to Give” for those who would like to easily donate a one time gift to the church. Ann also announced the upcoming introduction of a kiosk for giving in the Commons during coffee hour and the possibility of a “Go Fund Me” Campaign on Facebook.

Rev. Ann Ritonia closed the Q & A by challenging the participants to ask themselves, “What is your vision for SJEC for 2020?”

Submitted by:  
Lissa Bounds-Hammond

2020  
VISION 

# St. John's Award

## St. John's Award

The St. John's Award is presented each year during the annual meeting to a parishioner who gives of themselves, exemplifies the Spirit of St. John's and lives our mission in the community.

Previous Recipients of the St. John's Award:

2019	Christopher Padgett, Brad Lieberman and Townsend Hornor, Jr.	2001	Clai Carr
2018	Pam McKusick	2000	No Award Given
2017	Tom & Pat Merson	1999	Bea Allen
2016	Greg and Laura Johnson	1998	Carol Bartley
2015	Diane Standeven & Debbie Lieberman	1997	Phil Stackhouse
2014	Tom Goss	1996	Stewart Whittle
2013	Betty Cooper	1995	Charlie Kline
2012	Judy Robbins	1994	Frank Krantz
2011	Mary Bradford	1993	Jim Keenan
2010	Tom Brandt	1992	Dot Pumphrey
2009	Sally Scott Marietta	1991	Millie & Homer Hammond
2008	George & Jane Tolen	1990	Anita Cushing
2007	Bill Ewald	1989	Al Gardner
2006	Mike Salmons	1988	Bill Buddo
2005	No Award Given		
2004	Rev. Mimi Mathews		
2003	Paula Matuskey		
2002	The Lorenz Family		



Bradley Lieberman, Christopher Padgett, Townsend Hornor, Jr.  
2019 St. John's Award Recipients

# St. John's Cross Award & Thomas Cranmer Award

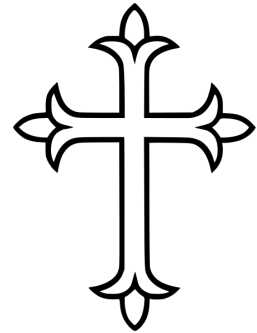
## St. John's Cross Award

The St. John's Cross is an annual award given to the member of the parish who, in the last year, has helped us fulfill our mission to bring everyone to a closer relationship with God and each other in Jesus Christ. Previous recipients have been Melinda Becker, Elisabeth Beekman, Eric Tich, Karen Good, Dave Standeven, June Robinson, Gill Gawthrop, Monica Fabbri, Beth Mackey, Patty Hagan, Beth John, Tina Millard, and Frances Baldwin.



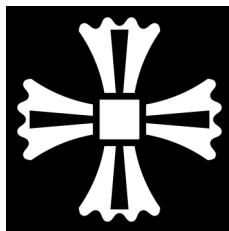
Frances Baldwin

2019 St. John's Cross Award Recipient



## Thomas Cranmer Award

The Thomas Cranmer Award was introduced in 2018 to honor a person who shows a deep commitment to prayer. Named after the first Archbishop of Canterbury and father of the first Prayer book, the award holds up member of our community who model a life of prayer. Teri Salmons was the first recipient of this award, and last year June Robinson received the award.



June Robinson

2019 Thomas Cranmer Award Recipient

# St. John's Clergy & Staff



*Rev. Ann Ritonia  
Rector*

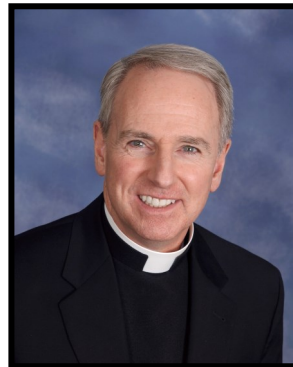
*Rev. Stephen Hagerty  
Associate Rector,  
Discipleship*

*Rev. Dr. Katrina Grusell  
Associate Rector,  
Pastoral Care &  
UMBC Chaplain*

*Rev. Joanne Tetrault  
Associate Rector,  
Children's Ministries &  
SJPDS Chaplain*



*Rev. Barnabas Lee  
Priest Associate &  
Diocesan Missioner  
for Asian Ministries*



*Rev. Joe Hart  
Assisting Clergy*



*Colleen Citrano  
Youth Ministry*

*Kathy Hahn  
Finance*

*Warren Harris  
Facilities*

*Yvonne Hollis  
Administration*

*Annie Kao  
Finance/Development*



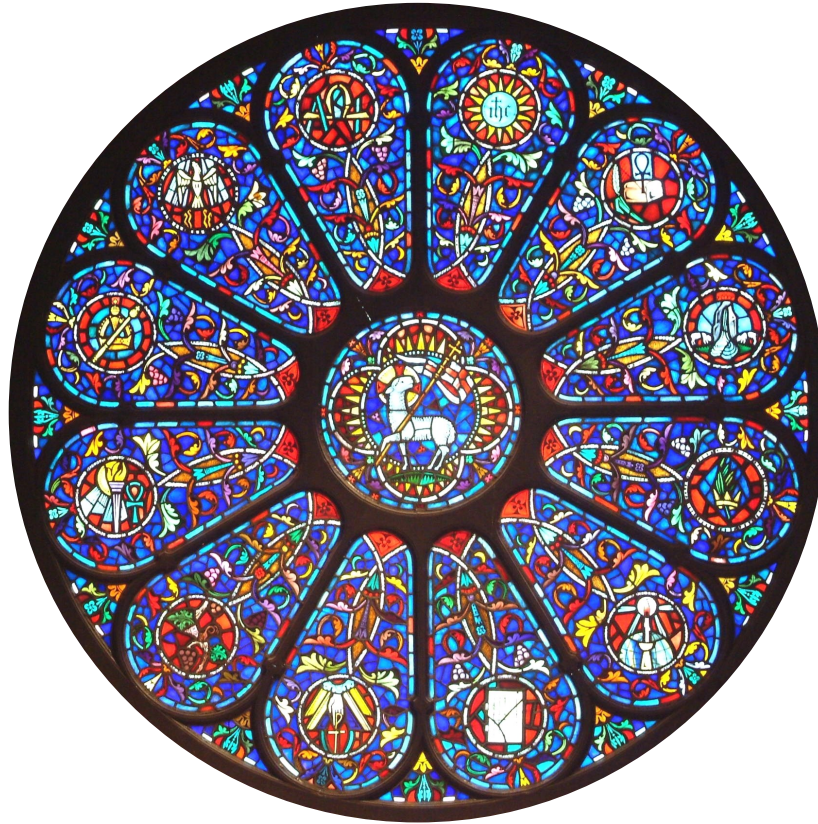
*Jason Largent  
Music Ministries*

*Richard Lawson  
Facilities*

*Jordan Prescott  
Music Ministries*

*Stuart Scarborough  
Facilities Management*

*Tracey Stone  
Communications*



## **St. John's Episcopal Church and Parish Day School**

The Rev. Ann M. Ritonia, Rector

The Rev. Stephen Hagerty, Associate Rector for Discipleship

The Rev. Dr. Katrina L. Grusell, Associate Rector for Pastoral Care & UMBC Chaplain

The Rev. Joanne Tetrault, Associate Rector for Children's Ministry & SJPDS Chaplain

The Rev. Barnabas Lee, Priest Associate and Diocesan Missioner for Asian Ministries

The Rev. J. Joseph Hart, Assisting Clergy

Mr. Jason Largent, Director of Music Ministry/Organist

Mr. Eric Tich, All Saints Hall Music Coordinator

Mrs. Patty Hagan, Verger Coordinator

Ms. Lori Dembo, Head of School