

# Annual Parish Meeting

St. John's Episcopal Church

January 17, 2021

523 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**January 17, 2021, 12:30 pm**

**Table of Contents**

**Agenda**

**2020 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, January 19, 2020**

**Reports:**

**Rector's Report**

**Sr. Warden's Report**

**Facilities Report**

**Altar Guild Report**

**Music Director's Report**

**Health Ministry Report**

**Flower Ministry Report**

**St. John's Men's Ministry Report**

**Tree of Light Report**

**Environmental Ministry Report – Gardening in a Pandemic**

**Counters' Report**

**Memorial Garden Report**

**Report of Nominating Committee for the Election of Vestry Members, Wardens &  
Parish Officers**

**Short History of St. John's: Different Times, Connected Lives**

**Presentation of 2021 Budget**

**Treasurer's Report and 2021 Budget**

# **ANNUAL MEETING**

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Vernon, CT**

**January 17, 2021**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Opening Prayer**
- 3. Acceptance of Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting**
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
- 5. Presentation of 2021 Budget**
- 6. Presentation of Slate of Candidates/Officers**
- 7. Election of Vestry and Officers**
- 8. Rector's Report**
- 9. Senior Warden's Report**
- 10. Benediction**

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, VERNON, CT  
2019 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 1/19/2020

Call to Order: Alicia DiLeo called the meeting to order at 11:00a.m..Rev. Virginia gave an opening prayer.

Verification of Quorum: Alfreda Barber, Vestry Clerk, confirmed a quorum was present.

Acceptance of the Annual Report 2018: A motion was made to accept the 2018 minutes by Betsy Sartori and seconded by Christine Clarke. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting: A motion to accept the 2019 minutes as written was made. A motion was made to accept the Annual report with the exception of the Treasurer's report by Letty Naigles and seconded by Gretchen Shea. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report and Presentation of 2020 Budget:

Kevin Fenner, Treasurer reviewed the 2019 budget and introduced the 2020 budget. Highlights included the following for 2019:

- \$742 is our surplus this year.
- 3.5 % less revenue than expected but expenses much lower.
- 112 Pledges received in 2019 up from last year.
- \$14,600 non pledge income which includes fund raising dollars.
- Less than 4% being drawn from endowments this year and next (\$20,000).
- Total income is \$286,335 for 2019.
- \$11,000 went into capitol account.
- Faith in Action: \$56,095 financial grants given this year
- The Lester fund distributed \$101,552 this year.

A round of applause followed. Alicia asked for a motion to accept the report and pass the 2020 budget. The motion was moved by Bill Francis and seconded by Melissa Fenner. The motion was passed unanimously.

Election of New Vestry Members:

Tom Sessions presented the slate of 2020 Vestry nominations as follows:

(Three year terms) Jim Simon, Betsy Sartori, and Sharon Janovicz

(One Year term) Shirley Finney. Alicia than called for a motion to accept the new vestry members. This was moved by Letty Naigles and seconded by Kevin Fenner. The motion passed unanimously.

Rectors Report

Rev. Virginia thanked and acknowledged the incredible staff of St. John's and all the work that each and every one of them does. Paul Brown, Sexton and Bill Gutzmer, Asst. Sexton. They do so many things around the parish making the place shine. Markus Centola, Music Director; He is an incredible, gifted musician. Margaret Mullen, Parish Administrator; Margaret manages a million little details doing an incredible amount of

work in two days. Rev. Virginia, acknowledged them for all the extra hours they put in and all the fine work they do to.

Rev. Virginia recognized and thanked Bill Francis for all he does regarding facilities. She thanked Carl Schaefer for keeping us warm and the furnace running. Maria Evans, R. N. was thanked for all the help she has given as the parish nurse. Rev. Virginia thanked Rev. Ben Brockman for covering the parish. We are truly blessed that Rev. Ben and Linda are in our midst.

Rev Virginia thanked the departing Vestry members: Elaine Anderson, Tom Session, Cheryl Abbott, and Paul Finney for their service over the past few years. Rev. Virginia thanked and shared her appreciation for all the Vestry members and the officers.

Rev Virginia thanked all who work behind the scenes and make St John's such a special place. She thanked everyone and our generous ways. She is grateful for us all.

#### Election of Vestry Officers:

Alicia called a vote for approval of the officers of the Vestry. Officers for nomination to a one year term: Alicia diLeo, Senior Warden; Don Wills, Junior Warden; Kevin Fenner, Treasurer; Andy Halpryn, Assistant Treasurer; and Alfreda Barber, Clerk. The motion was moved by Skip Sutcliffe and seconded by Jane Sutcliffe. The motion passed unanimously.

ACCESS Presentation: Elaine Anderson shared how the committee brainstormed with an architect and came up with the following list:

- ① Upgrade the emergency exit.
- ② Upgrade seating in the church to accommodate wheelchairs.
- ③ Expand the Narthax and add a rest room.
- ④ Upgrade the existing rest rooms in the church and lower parish hall.
- ⑤ Regrade the entrance and walks.
- ⑥ Add a lift in the church.

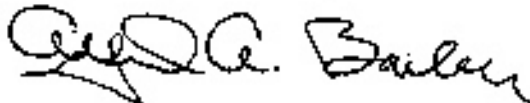
The committee is searching for a new architect firm to conclude a capital needs assessment. Elaine shared that she is hopefully to get back to the parish members in a few months. Andy Halpryn shared a plan on funding the A.C.C.E.S.S. Project. It is too early to talk dollars, but what is suggested is that we borrow from the endowments and then look for the parish to pay it back into the endowments.

#### Senior Warden's Report:

Alicia shared how she appreciates the knowledge and experience vestry members brought to each meeting. The group has been a pleasure to work with and always striving to see what they can do better. She singled out Kevin Fenner as Treasurer and Bill Francis for Facilities work. 2019 is the 165th anniversary year of St. John's. It is a perfect year to tackle the issues of making our campus accessible to all. She thanked everyone for all the work we do.

Benediction and Adjournment: Rev. Virginia gave the Benediction. Alicia called for a motion to adjourn the meeting this was moved by Kevin Fenner and seconded by Betsy Sartori. It passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alfreda A. Barber". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Alfreda A. Barber, Vestry Clerk

## **Annual Report of the Rector for 2020**

January 10, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we gathered a year ago for our 2019 Annual Meeting, which one of us could have foretold or anticipated the year of 2020? It has been a deeply challenging, stressful, and painful year. There have been countless losses and hardships which each of us has had to face. We have lost precious time spent with family and friends, visiting with beloved ones, and hugging and playing with our grandchildren. We have lost our sense of safety and security in the world, too often anxious that the virus lurks in chance encounters, required medical appointments, and necessary trips to the grocery store and pharmacy. Many of us have been sick and several of us have lost beloved friends or family members to the virus. As a parish we have lost our hugs at the time of the passing of our Lord's Peace, singing our favorite hymns together, attending concerts together, sharing great meals together, talking and connecting Sunday to Sunday and, most painfully, we have lost the communion of gathering shoulder to shoulder around our Lord's table together. These are heavy losses indeed.

However, in the midst of these burdens, I have witnessed many blessings. Chief among those blessings has been the faithfulness and generosity of the good people of St. John's. We last worshipped together inside on March 8, 2020. Yet, from that day forward your pledges kept coming in weekly and monthly, the Vestry kept a close eye on expenses, and we have run in the black again this year. I do not take our financial health for granted. It is all down to your extraordinary commitment and devoted magnanimity. Your actions this year have ensured that our bills are paid, that we retained all our cherished staff, that we have wholeheartedly shared our resources in the wider communities of which we are a part (Nearly \$6,000 alone in gift cards and cash to address food insecurity!), that our buildings and grounds have been well cared for, and that we managed to set aside capital reserve funds for future extingencies. I have always known of your good and faithful hearts. This year you all blew me away by your determination to take care of each other, the parish, the charitable work we support, and the mission and ministry of our family of faith.

I want to thank the Vestry who have provided unparalleled leadership and stability in the midst of this challenging year. Early on in the pandemic, the Vestry met extra and often, learning to use Zoom and navigating the vicissitudes of digital meetings. The Vestry has provided the wisdom and guidance I needed, week to week, month to month, to understand next steps and move forward together as the Body of Christ at St. John's, Vernon. They have stepped up in every way imaginable and I could not have gotten through this year without their care and our collaboration.

