

Annual Parish Meeting

St. John's Episcopal Church

January 23, 2022

523 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, CT 06066

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**January 23, 2022
Following 9am service**

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ANNUAL MEETING

St. John's Episcopal Church, Vernon, CT

January 23, 2022

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Opening Prayer**
- 3. Acceptance of Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting**
- 4. Treasurer's Report**
- 5. Presentation of 2022 Budget**
- 6. Presentation of Slate of Candidates/Officers**
- 7. Election of Vestry and Officers**
- 8. Priest – in – Charge's Remarks**
- 9. Senior Warden's Report**
- 10. Benediction**

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, VERNON, CT
2020 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING VIA ZOOM – 1/17/2021

Call to Order: Alicia DiLeo called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.
Rev. Virginia gave an opening prayer.

Verification of Quorum: Alicia DiLeo confirmed to Afreda Barber, Vestry Clerk, that a quorum was present via zoom. Zoom etiquette was given by Andy Halpryn to all attending by computer and phone.

Acceptance of the Annual Report 2019: A motion was made to accept the 2019 minutes by Bill Francis and seconded by Tom Army. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting: A motion to accept the 2020 minutes as written was made. A motion was made to accept the Annual report with the exception of the Treasurer's report by Tom Army and seconded by Joan Sizer. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report and Presentation of 2021 Budget:

Kevin Fenner, Treasurer reviewed the 2020 budget and introduced the 2021 budget. Highlights included the following for 2020:

- \$942 is our deficit this year. \$15,000 from ppp is not included
- 3.5 % less revenue than expected but expenses much lower.
- 96 Pledges received in 2020 down 22 by last year,
- \$16,916 non pledge income which includes fund raising dollars.
- 3.6 being drawn from endowments this year and next (\$20,000).
- \$11,000 went into capitol account.
- Faith in Action: \$50,095 financial grants given this year(No Relay for Life)
- The Lester fund distributed \$121,000 this year.

A round of applause followed. Alicia asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and pass the 2021 budget. The motion was moved by Mary Wilson and seconded by Don Wills. The motion was passed unanimously. Kevin was thanked for all his work.

Election of Vestry Officers and Members:

Tom Session's representing the nominating committee presented the slate of officers and new members for 2021. They are as follows: Alicia diLeo, Senior Warden; Don Wills, Junior Warden; Kevin Fenner, Treasurer; Andy Halpryn, Assistant Treasurer; and Alfreda Barber, Clerk.

Members for the three year term of 2024 : John Horan, Shirley McGarry and Kelli Peters.

Diocese Representatives through 2022 Jim Hutton, Shirley Finney with alternate Dwight Feenstra.

The slate was presented and was unanimously accepted.

Rectors Report

Rev. Virginia thanked and acknowledged the incredible staff of St. John's and all the adaptations that each one made as of March 2019 due to Covid 19. Markus Centola, Music Director had to re imagine his job. He lifted us up along with the Palmer Family Singers. Margaret Mullen, Parish Administrator; Margaret sent out weekly mailings and continued to manage details doing an incredible amount of work. Rev. Virginia, recognized Paul and Bill for their work and support during this unprecedented time.

Rev. Virginia recognized and thanked the Vestry, who had begun meeting by phone and then zoom every two weeks starting on March 16. She shared how Kevin and Andy had figured out how to live stream the service early on and the progress over the months. All the work that Alicia and Don had done to keep us moving along during the months.

Rev Virginia thanked the departing Vestry members: Bethany Chanthavisouk, Linda Collier, and Shirley Finney, for their service. A leaf on the Tree of Life will be hung in their honor.

During 2020 Rev. Virginia noted how she misses seeing all of us in person. She thanked everyone and our generous ways. She is grateful for us all.

Senior Warden's Report:

Alicia stated that Church is so much more than a building. The building is closed but the church is opened. She thanked the 2020 Vestry for the fortitude in making difficult decisions. Alicia thanked the parish for their generosity during this time and giving the Vestry space to follow the science to make the discussion on when to close and when to open the building. It was a frustrating and sad year. The community made a difficult time easier. Alicia thanked all.

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 Joan Sizer. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 pm.

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

St. John's Episcopal Church - Vernon

1/1/2019

Fav (Unfav)	2018 Actuals	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2021 Budget-Adj	2022 Budget	21 Bud vs 21 Act.
2 INCOME							
3 Current Year Pledges/Reg Giving	247,750	240,148	243,269	245,868	241,050	245,868	4,818
8 Loose Plate	6,854	5,450	1,222	907	500	1,000	407
9 Special Offerings - Total	7,657	6,078	3,706	4,346	3,000	3,000	1,346
13 Gen. Endowment Interest	20,068	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	(0)
14 Non-Pledge Income		14,660	16,916	19,811	13,550	13,550	6,261
15 Fundraising (Profit)	2,415	2,750	3,708	4,387	1,000	1,000	3,387
16 Misc	121	814	693	1,456	300	300	1,156
17 Rent	775	1,250	(200)	675	250	250	425
18 Special Donations	14,290	9,846	12,715	13,292	12,000	12,000	1,292
21 Payroll Protection Plan (PPP)			15,275	-			-
26 TOTAL INCOME	299,929	286,335	300,388	290,931	278,100	283,418	19,092
28 EXPENSES							
30 CLERGY							
31 Salary	61,900	66,000	68,016	46,648	46,641	63,250	(7)
32 Social Security Allowance	9,532	10,142	10,464	6,951	6,946	9,780	(5)
33 Housing Equity Allowance	2,999	2,946	3,288	1,370	1,370	3,077	-
34 Pension	19,798	19,944	21,607	14,366	8,542	19,181	(5,824)
35 Medical and Dental	32,744	35,307	35,332	13,259	15,910	36,066	2,651
40 Life Insurance	325	320	360	150	150	360	-
41 Cell Phone	840	1,340	840	350	500	900	150
42 Continuing Education	683	362	174	315	313	1,850	(3)
43 Clergy Prof. Expenses	538	425	45	-	250	500	250
44 Travel/Mileage Allowance	3,375	3,388	1,221	423	833	2,000	410
45 TOTAL CLERGY	132,733	140,174	141,346	83,833	81,454	136,964	(2,379)
	44.4%	49.1%	49.4%	29.0%	29.7%	46.5%	
47 CLERGY TRANSITION							
48 Transitional Clergy				34,500	34,500	2,600	-
49 Clergy Search Expenses				915	5,000	-	4,085
50 Other Search / Moving Expenses				10,678	2,000	2,000	(8,678)
51 TOTAL CLERGY TRANS.	-	-	-	46,093	41,500	4,600	(4,593)
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	15.9%	15.1%	1.6%	
53 CLERGY ASSISTANCE							
54 Clergy Supply	1,750	1,854	600	964	1,200	1,500	236
55 Sabbatical Reserve	5,000	1,500	1,690	-	-	1,950	-
56 Asst. Clergy (Sabbatical - Net)	-	242	-	-	-	-	-
57 TOTAL CLERGY ASST.	6,750	3,597	2,290	964	1,200	3,450	236
	2.3%	1.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.4%	1.2%	
59 CHRISTIAN ED.							
64 Total Christian Education	1,589	550	-	-	500	500	500
	0.5%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%	
66 FACILITIES							
67 Sexton Salary	15,466	16,487	16,979	17,212	17,050	17,568	(162)
68 Sexton Social Security	1,183	1,261	1,299	1,317	1,304	1,344	(13)
69 Maintenance							
70 Church/PH	2,432	2,592	2,466	772	1,500	1,500	728
71 Rectory	3,646	2,679	2,161	16,442	750	750	(15,692)
72 Sexton Supplies	964	1,167	711	1,292	400	400	(892)
73 Kitchen Supplies	(315)	249	-	-	150	150	150
74 Repairs	488	490	2,283	480	800	800	320
75 Snowplowing	4,630	2,945	-	630	5,000	5,000	4,370
76 Tractor Expenses	109	140	246	479	250	250	(229)

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

	Total		
	Dec-21	Dec-22	Chg.
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
100000 Endowment Funds			
101000 Endowment 04499 - EH General Fund	383,782	354,182	29,600
101010 Endowment 04340 - Vernon General Fund	277,561	258,738	18,823
101100 Endowment 04500 - Flower Fund	49,228	46,089	3,139
101200 Endowment 04596 - Outreach Fund	14,331	12,880	1,451
101300 Endowment 04596 - Music Account	17,792	19,439	-1,646
101400 Endowment 04596 - Organization Saving	98,064	87,910	10,154
101450 Endowment 16475 - Property Fund	632,498	568,328	64,170
101500 Endowment 21106 - Scholarship Fund	20,216	20,023	192
Total 100000 Endowment Funds	\$ 1,493,472	\$ 1,367,589	\$ 125,883
110000 Restricted Endowments			
101600 Endowment 21107 - Braender Fund	663,355	604,577	58,778
110200 Endowment 04663 - Lester Fund	1,480,761	1,499,353	-18,592
Total 110000 Restricted Endowments	\$ 2,144,116	\$ 2,103,929	\$ 40,187
200000 Cash on hand	\$ 57,400	\$ 56,284	\$ 1,116
210000 Organization Savings - 8610			
210010 Acolytes	733	733	0
210020 Altar Guild	2,944	281	2,663
210040 St. John's Men's Group	1,352	966	386
210050 CNC - Confirmation Retreat	4,588	4,588	0
210060 Concert Series	3,963	3,963	0
210070 ECW	4,594	7,175	-2,581
210075 ECW - Funeral Fund	200	200	0
211020 ECW - Food Pantry	826	1,919	-1,092
210080 Environmental Committee	426	426	0
210090 Knitting Fellowship	120	120	0
210100 Memorial Fund	26,568	8,683	17,885
210110 Memorial Garden	18,732	17,160	1,572
210120 Music Fund	95	83	12
210130 Outreach - Relay for Life	0	250	-250
210140 Sabatical Savings / Moving Costs	10,000	3,323	6,677
210150 Senior Luncheon	181	181	0
210160 Tree Of Life	13,641	14,351	-710
211010 Outreach - Braender	17	2,831	-2,814
211030 Outreach - Haiti	0	420	-420
211040 Outreach - Parishoner's Fund	5,926	1,740	4,186
211070 Outreach - Wellner Scholarship	103	103	0
211080 Rector's Discretionary Fund	2,859	5,056	-2,197
211090 ACCESS Program	13,433	25,661	-12,228
211200 Scouting Program Support	632	1,514	-882
219000 Endowment Funds	-98,064	-87,910	-10,154
219100 Unallocated Gain	41,951	31,798	10,154
Total 210000 Organization Savings - 8610	\$ 55,819	\$ 45,612	\$ 10,207
220000 Lester Fund	43,540	-11,329	54,869
230000 Savings Capital Res -8584	63,350	58,346	5,004
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 3,857,698	\$ 3,620,432	\$ 237,266
Total Current Assets	\$ 3,857,698	\$ 3,620,432	\$ 237,266

Annual Report of the Senior Warden for 2021

It is important for us to remember where we were when we welcomed in 2021. We were ten months into the global pandemic, and many of us just experienced a Christmas that felt small and “less than” compared to how we normally celebrated the season. This church was still empty on Sundays except for the dedicated, skeleton crew responsible for the livestreaming of worship. We were in the middle of a very dark tunnel. Even though we are still living lives constrained by Covid and its ever-adapting variants, it is important to remember how much better things are *now* than they were one year ago.

In the spring of 2021, as the worst of the pandemic restrictions began to ease and the promise of in-person worship appeared on the horizon, we learned of another loss we needed to absorb and process: the retirement of Virginia. It is not easy to say goodbye to a priest who is beloved, and harder still to do so while physically constrained by the realities and threats of a pandemic. Through smiles and tears (many more tears than smiles), we said Goodbye to Virginia and Tom and tried to re-imagine the future of our parish. It took strength and determination to do that re-imagining. Thus began our parish journey of finding a Priest-in-Charge.

Our congregation endured much this year. If we knew in 2020 that our 2021 would include six months of grieving Virginia’s loss AND planning for our future with the required optimism and faith that God was with us on the journey, I think we all would have said, “No thanks, that’s more than we can manage.” And yet we managed it – together as a community of friends and faith. It is fair to say we walked through this past year with faith, determination, and compassion. We were there for each other when someone stumbled into moments of doubt or anxiety; we were there for each other when a wave of grief of missing Virginia seemed overwhelming. When many of you saw a task going unperformed in Virginia’s absence and Margaret’s summer-long vacation, you asked, “How can I help?” and without additional fuss or muss you stepped up and filled that need. To all who rose to the occasion, Thank You.

I had the privilege of working with an extraordinary group of people this past year. The Vestry class that met for the first time on February 8, 2021 had no idea we would be navigating so many uncharted waters: Virginia’s retirement; a completely unfamiliar Priest-in-Charge search process; the re-opening of our worship space in ways that kept us physically safe and required our continued reliance on masks and distancing; and the retirement of Margaret Mullen, who knew how to grease every wheel of our parish to keep things running smoothly.

The 2021 Vestry distinguished themselves by working harder on a more diverse set of circumstances than any Vestry in recent memory. They did so in good humor, with a calm and steady hand, and an optimistic eye toward the future. They never once gave into the fear that our best days are behind us. Their list of responsibilities kept increasing over the summer during our PiC search process, yet I was never told “NO” when I asked any of them to complete one more task, collaborate on one more item, or show up for one more evening Zoom call at the end of their day. No matter what I asked of them, they showed up and got the job done.

A few vestry members are about to enjoy a well-deserved break from the leadership ranks:

When Virginia asked me three years ago who I wanted as my Junior Warden, I said, “**Don Wills**” without a moment’s hesitation. I never regretted my choice. His optimism is infectious, and it was very much needed this year. As an original member of St. John’s East Hartford, Don’s presence is an important reminder that a church community is not defined by its building, but by its people and their commitment to God and to each other.

From the moment **Bill Francis** handed the Senior Warden baton over to me, he was always just a phone call away, ready to offer insights that come from his standing as long-term guardian of this parish. His work as Facilities Head has been time-consuming and demanding, and he made coordinating multiple projects look easy. He rarely takes his eye off the long-view, and that is an important perspective to have in the room when decisions are being made.

Gretchen Shea has a keen eye for the budget, never misses a detail, and was always one of the first to volunteer when I sent out a call for help. Her assistance during Virginia’s month of goodbye events and the crafting of our parish profile was considerable. I have heard her describe herself as an Eeyore, but I have never seen anything from her but optimism and a can-do temperament.

As a loyal member of the St. John’s Men’s group, **Steve Filipek** brought a big-picture moral clarity to the Vestry, and he served as an important link between that prayerful group and the Vestry. His is pragmatic and detail-oriented when the situation demands it, and he cheerfully rose to the challenges that the last two years have thrown our way.

We are all lucky that Treasurer **Kevin Fenner** and All Things Tech Guy **Andy Halpryn** are *not* surrendering their responsibilities. The hours these two gentlemen devote to the workings and health of this parish are substantial. I relied heavily on their instincts and common sense during my tenure, and my personal debt to them both is considerable.

This challenging summer was made more manageable by the presence of **Mark Santucci**. We are grateful he answered our invitation to be our priest during this season of transition; he provided continuity to our worship schedule and tended to the pastoral needs of our parishioners whenever a need arose. Knowing that our weekly worship would continue uninterrupted during the time of transition meant the vestry could focus its energies on the time-consuming “To-Do List” items of our Priest-in-Charge search. It was an enormous relief to know that the spiritual needs of our community were in his capable hands.

St. John’s is blessed to have a capable staff who bring their best selves to the campus every day:

Paul Brown and Bill Gutzmer, our beloved Sextons (and St. John’s Dynamic Duo) embody the saying, “Stay Calm and Carry On.” With almost zero oversight and the utmost trustworthiness, they performed their sexton duties and kept our buildings in tip-top shape. They are tireless in their efforts, dependable in every circumstance, and never lose their good cheer. Paul has graciously volunteered to serve as the parish’s Head of Facilities in 2022, and he will work alongside the Vestry to ensure our campus is well-maintained. We all owe Bill and Paul a collective Thank You, as they have decided (together, of course!) to serve the parish one more year in their roles before taking a well-deserved retirement.

Markus Centola had the unenviable task of keeping our choir members motivated, loyal to the group, and ensuring they remained a cohesive unit during a time when no choral singing was permitted. That is no easy task and he succeeded at it. We are lucky to hear the choir sing together once again, and our worship is more joyful because of it. Under his direction we can expect to hear a Joyful Noise lifted to God every week.

It is no easy feat to replace Margaret Mullen, but **Christina Morin** wasted no time impressing us with her quick mind, organizational skills, and cheerful attitude. I encourage all of you to introduce yourselves to Christina in the coming months and get to know her. You will be glad you did. We are lucky to have her join our family.

We have a seemingly endless list of parishioners who faithfully carried out their ministries, volunteered to take on more responsibilities that arose because of the pandemic and/or our season of transition, and who did their utmost to maintain the emotional health and well-being of our community. For those who carried on despite sadness or anxiety, who kept their eyes on the horizon, who Showed Up in countless ways, *you* are the St. John's heroes of 2021! This parish's greatest strength is its parishioners. You are faithful, strong, resilient, and are ready to take on any challenge. Always know you are seen and valued, and your impact on the lives of your fellow parishioners cannot be overstated.

Finally, I am so excited this Priest-in-Charge journey led us to Marc Eames, and I am grateful he chose St. John's as his and his family's spiritual home. I believe he will walk with us and amongst us as we chart the path forward for our Church. We have many more chapters to write in the story of who we are and how we live out our lives of faith together. We have a beautiful view of the past when we look in our rear-view mirrors; let us pledge to carry those memories with us always AND dedicate ourselves to creating new and meaningful bonds, new traditions, seek new ways to serve God and each other, and always keep our hearts open to whatever God has in store for us. God is in charge, always. It is our privilege to walk together on His path.

I consider myself blessed to have been given the opportunity to serve as Senior Warden during these eventful three years. I look forward to continuing to serve this community I love whenever my talents align to the task.

In faith and gratitude,

Alicia di Leo
Senior Warden

Facilities Report 2021

It's been a very busy year for facilities. In spite of working through a pandemic, much has been accomplished. Sincere thanks to our Sextons Paul Brown and Bill Gutzmer who keep our buildings in pristine condition every week.

Thank you also to a dedicated group of volunteers who faithfully keep our campus clean, mowed, trimmed, and leaf-free. We appreciate the hard work of Don Wills, Dave Smith, Ron Cronsell, Carl Schaefer and Doug Marshall.

In addition to his efforts on the lawn crew, Carl Schaefer continues to go above and beyond the call of duty by sharing his talents inspecting and tuning up our air conditioning and heating systems on a timely basis to be sure all is running as efficiently as possible all year through. Many thanks Carl!!

In addition to the normal tasks that Paul and Bill tackle and the unscheduled fixes from time to time, these past months have been spent helping to refurbish, polish up, clean and upgrade the Rectory. They have carefully and lovingly prepared it for Rev. Eames and his family. It looks fabulous!!

In addition to refurbishing the Rectory this year, we also improved our campus by:

trimming dead trees around the Memorial Garden

Clearing brush in the right of way

contracted to have our parking lots and walkways cleared of snow and ice

replaced the exit doors at the front of the Sanctuary

installed new ADA compliant emergency exit ramp

Spring time should see a revamping of the brick walkway at the Memorial Garden

It has been my pleasure to head up facilities these past years. Paul and Bill were scheduled to retire from their jobs with us but have agreed to stay on another year and Paul will be taking over for me. We are grateful for these two dedicated men. Thank you Paul and Bill!

Respectfully submitted
Bill Francis
Bill Francis

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ALTAR GUILD REPORT 2021

The members of the Altar Guild in 2021 were: Linda Borovicka, Carol Clayton, Carole Cronsell, Sue Douglass, Maria Evans, Marsha Francis, Susanne Kulikowski, Donna Lemay, Joanne Palica, Jackie Petrizzo, Gretchen Shea, Lois Valliere, and Mary Wilson. We thank Evelyn Clarke for all her help as she made the decision to retire from Altar Guild. We were saddened by Dorothy Morganson's passing, and we have mounted a special leaf on our tree of life in memory of her many years of steadfast devotion to our ministry.

As the Covid 19 pandemic continued into 2021, it has been another challenging year. Thank you to all our Altar Guild members for continuing to adapt to the changes we made as we worked with Father Mark to meet his expectations for new altar set up after Rev. Virginia's retirement. We will strive to do the same as we welcome our new Priest in Charge early next year.

We continue to realize considerable savings by purchasing smaller weekly flower arrangements from Michelle's Florist, and by using refillable oil canisters for all candles.

We pray that more people will become more comfortable attending in-person services, and that we may begin to have new parishioners join St. John's so that we can get more help on our Altar Guild. Please let Lois, or Sue know if this important and fulfilling ministry is something that you would like to be part of.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy New Year!

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Valliere and Susan Douglass

Music Director Annual Report 2021

As I reflect back on 2021, I realized how much constant change we all experienced as we continue to navigate and adapt to an ever-changing world. The world is still in the grips of global health crisis that persists, but not just for our physical well-being but, for our mental, and spiritual well-being. Change is difficult and so is saying goodbye. Virginia and Tom Army will be dearly missed at St. John's, but I take comfort in knowing that they have found happiness in moving into the next phase of life to enjoy their family. It was an honor to be able to work side-by-side for last 10 years with such a great spiritual leader. Thank you Virginia.

The best part of going into upper parish hall offices is when you were greeted by Margaret Mullen and her four-legged sidekick and got to exchange a few jokes, she always had all the answers. Thank you Margret for all you've done for us all, we will surely miss having you around.

The live-streaming of service was not an easy undertaking when it came to capturing a quality sound from the organ, piano, and vocal microphones etc. The Allen Organ company installed a direct box with output cables to be plugged into our sound mixer just for streaming. This past March Andy Halpryn and I worked with a sound engineer to install a new digital soundboard and other additional sound equipment to upgrade our streaming capabilities. This upgrade allowed Andy "our streaming and audio techie" to move to the choir loft where he can appropriately stream the service.

Up until the summer I had the pleasure of working with Claire Palmer most every Sunday and for funerals. Claire has a unique natural talent as a vocalist and I wish her the best in continuing her musical studies.

St. John's reopened its doors in June as Rev. Mark Santucci assisted us all in the regathering process and shared his spiritual gifts in shepherding us all through a transition period. It was a pleasure to work with Mark again, I appreciate his support to music ministry at St. John's.

One of the greatest highlights of the year was getting the choir back together again. The choir began rehearsing Sunday mornings to get our voices back in shape and to perform anthems in late November throughout December and for Christmas Eve.

We are always looking for new members to join the choir to enrich the group and join the music ministry. In a choir it is necessary to create a balance between voice parts. Our choir is currently in need of all voice parts. If you or anyone you know have an interest in music and a willingness to learn, we need you and welcome your voices!

I look forward to a healthier New Year in 2022, making music all together as a congregation. I welcome all the new positive changes and look forward to working our new parish administrator Christina Morin. I especially look forward to working with our new Priest Marc Eames in our life and service together at St John's.

Respectfully submitted,

Markus Centola

Communications Annual Report 2021

COVID-19 has greatly changed the Communications ministry. We no longer have events that we want to invite people to, so there have been no announcements placed in the newspapers. But we have managed to communicate in new ways.

The first way is with the web page. There still were occasional announcements of events and the usual updating of stale data, but there have been some major changes:

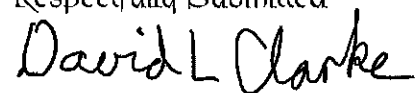
1. I nearly fell out of my seat watching the introductory Zoom presentation on the "Priest Transition" process, when Rev. Tolzmann put up a slide that said, right at the top, that "your website is your "advertisement." And she further said that the webpage was the keystone of the whole process. OMG! This meant adding a "transition" page for candidates to look at and quickly find out everything about our history, people, activities, and our local communities. I guess it was effective, our new priest should arrive sometime in January.
2. Each week, I placed the next Sunday's "hand outs" on the web home page, StJohnsVernonCT.org. This includes the bulletin, readings, hymns, and any announcements if there are any. Be sure to hit the "Refresh" key, ⌂, and then look for them in the righthand column.
3. For the second year in a row (due to COVID) the Bazaar was conducted online. A page was created that showed photos and descriptions of the items.

The next new way of communication has been through videos on Social Media. Andy does the initial filming and live streams it to Facebook. I take the resulting video, add an initial title and over a dozen signs that tell page numbers in the BCP, names and numbers of the hymns, and other useful information. I close the video with a credits listing.

Also, communications has taken on the task of copyright permissions recording. We have licences from two companies that cover copyright permissions. I report weekly, to each company, the songs we used from the collection that they cover. They, in turn, pay the copyright holder for our usage.

Finally, the Rockville and Tolland High Schools contact me regarding the Wellner scholarships that we manage. Last year there were no photos or newspaper writeups due to COVID.

Respectfully Submitted


David L. Clarke

St. John's Flower Ministry Annual Report 2021

The flower ministry is a group of faithful parishioners who deliver the two vases of altar flowers after the 10 a.m. service to members of St. John's who are either homebound, in the hospital, or struggling with illness or other situation. We deliver flowers every week, with the exception of Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, the Sunday before and the Sunday after Christmas, as well as Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The flower ministry is a small commitment of no more than four to five times per year and the smiles these flowers bring are the reward for the few extra minutes it takes to deliver them. This is not a visiting commitment, as there is another group of people who visit, and the flowers are usually dropped off on the way home from church; however, if necessary, they can be delivered later in the day.

The schedule is made at the beginning of the year with every effort made to accommodate special requests such as being scheduled on the same day as a member has altar guild, Sunday school, or avoiding vacation dates. A reminder is sent at the end of each week to the scheduled members to give the recipient's name, address, and phone number, and on Sunday morning, there is a printed postcard with that information. The scheduled members are also listed in the Sunday bulletin each week. There is no concern about unexpected changes in members' personal schedules. We request that if a member is unable to deliver on a scheduled Sunday that he/she send out an email asking to swap a date with someone. We have a very cooperative team who willingly switch when necessary.

The following people have graciously given their time this year for the flower ministry. Alexis Averett, Bethany Chanthavisouk, Mary Chesley, Elaine & Dick Clark, Carol Clayton, Pat Cleveland, Linda Collier, Betty & Don Ellwood, Chris Emery, Kimmie Farrell, Shirley Finney, Sharon & Paul Janovicz, Skylar Marshall, Sue Morehouse, Jackie Petrizzo, Gretchen Shea, and Maureen Toth.

I am pleased to announce that we have new members joining us for 2022 – Alfreda Barber, Sue Douglass, Sue Howell, Emily McDonald, and Kelli Peters. A couple members have had to step down for 2022 – Elaine and Dick Clark and Alexis Averett – I am grateful for their help this past year.

I am very grateful for the willingness, cooperation, and dedication of this group. You are all what makes this work so well. Your time is much appreciated in the notes of thanks we receive from recipients.

This ministry can always use more people. As is said, "Many hands make light work." The more members we have, the fewer times each member delivers. Should you have any interest in joining this rewarding ministry, I would welcome you with open arms. Please contact me at lborovicka@comcast.net, 860-878-0358-cell, or 860-871-7270-home.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Borovicka
Flower Ministry Chairperson

Tree of Light Annual Report 2021

The Tree of Light celebrated its 7th annual event in 2021. It continues to grow each year financially and in popularity, not only within St. John's, but with our friends outside of St. John's. In our first year, we proudly raised approximately \$300. In the past six years, money raised has consistently increased, and in 2021 we, once again, broke all records with a grand total in \$1,046!

The money collected is donated to a worthy cause each year. Once again this year, we chose the World Central Kitchen (WCK.org). WCK is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization devoted to providing meals in the wake of natural disasters. Founded in 2010 by celebrity chef José Andrés, the organization prepared food in Haiti following its devastating earthquake. Its method of operations is to be a first responder and then to collaborate and galvanize solutions with local chefs to solve the problem of hunger, immediately following a disaster.

The most recent work of WCK in 2021:

"Last Friday (12/10/21), deadly tornadoes devastated cities and towns across the central and southern US – a candle factory and entire communities were left in rubble in Kentucky, and in southern Illinois, an Amazon distribution center partially collapsed, tragically killing employees inside. As communities work to deal with the devastation, WCK's Relief Team is spread throughout the impacted areas to provide thousands of comforting meals to families and rescue teams searching for survivors.

Shortly after the storm hit, WCK mobilized local restaurants and food trucks to provide immediate food relief. We now have over 25 local partners, including a collaboration with Chef Ed Lee and the Lee Initiative, and the WCK Relief team is cooking hot, nourishing meals from our own food truck for communities in need.

WCK is distributing meals throughout towns across Kentucky including Mayfield, Dawson Springs, Benton, Cayce, and Bowling Green. Buildings have been flattened and entire neighborhoods have a long, hard road to recovery, so WCK is making sure to provide round-the-clock meals for emergency crews as well as families who have lost their homes."

We will continue to support World Central Kitchen, which is such a worthy cause.

We sell lights for \$2 each, 3 for \$5, or 6 for \$10. In 2020 we had 333 tags (list of names on the tree included) on the tree In Memory of, In Honor of, or Special Wishes for. The lights remain on the tree until Epiphany. After that date, if anyone wishes to take the tags as a memento, please let us know, and we will save them for you.

The Tree of Light is proof of "every little bit counts," and how far \$2 will go to help others in need.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Borovicka & The Compound
Kimmie & Dave Farrell and Bethany & Sid Chanthavisouk
Tree of Light Organizers

St. John's Knit-Togethers Annual Report 2021

St. John's knitting group was created by people dedicated to creating fun and useful items for our family, friends, or people in need. It brings great joy to all of us to finish a project and then give it away to someone who will love it. We make prayer shawls and lap robes for anyone needing support, and baby blankets for our Baptism candidates.

The knitting group meets Mondays from 10 to noon in the lower parish hall or in the Memorial Garden in the warmer months. We welcome all crafters and have been joined by those who just want to sit and chat for a while. We have a large supply of needles, yarn, and patterns to get you started.

We are building community by sharing stories and encouraging each other while knitting ourselves together.

So please join us.

Respectfully submitted.

Lois Valliere

CORNERSTONE FOUNDATION

The Cornerstone Foundation started in 1989 with the merging of a drop in center founded by Helen Syriac and the Union Congregational Church. It is a faith ministry seeking to bring the love of Jesus Christ to the lonely, poor and broken in spirit. It is a nonprofit which endears to improve the quality of life among the people they serve.

The Cornerstone has become a multi facility working in all areas of community service. They are not federally funded, they receive a grant from the town based on the number of meals that they serve but mainly from donations.

The Community soup kitchen has provided over 40,000 meals. Cooks for a Cause was started a few years ago by Maggie and Vance Mortenson of St. John's and is up and running with the help of our dedicated volunteers that take time out of their busy schedules to give back to the community by cooking Sunday brunch for the soup kitchen. We serve between 60=80 depending on the need. Some of our volunteers had to step back because of Covid but are ready to return when it is safe. The kitchen is handing out meals so no one goes hungry. Tom Sessions told me how he can now make great scrambled eggs. We are also fortunate to have a garden at St. Johns and the harvest is donated to the soup kitchen.

There are many challenges, to feed and clothe the homeless, but the rewards are numerous. You may feel that you are too busy to give up a Sunday morning once a month, but what a great feeling when you leave and see how grateful these people are for your help and the love you show them by giving up a few hours of your time.

Plus A hug or a few kind words can mean a lot

To quote Brain Flint who is director of the shelter Cornerstone gives all the credit to Jesus Christ

Carole Cronsell

1/12/22

Home Away from Home Ministry

Annual Report 2021

Going away to college or into the military is an exciting time for high school graduates but at the same time, it can be a little lonely at times. The kick-off of the Home Away from Home Ministry began in 2015 and has been a significant ministry for St John's since that time. Several members of our parish prepare a care package once a semester for each of the college students, those in pursuit of their dreams, or young military personnel from our parish who are living away from home. We rotate the assignments so that the same person doesn't get the same individual each time.

Although 2021 has continued to be a year of facing the risks of COVID19 for everyone, the availability of a vaccine has allowed our young adults of St John's to return to their colleges. Thankfully, in the Fall of 2021, the returning students and new high school graduates going off to college were able to begin their education, and I'm happy to report that the Home Away From Home Ministry was once again sending off a thoughtful care package to everyone to support their efforts and remind them that St John's is so very proud of our young people.

Joining me in this ministry for 2021 were the following parishioners:

Linda Borovicka
Joanne Pallica
Lois Valliere
Sue Douglass
Marsha Francis
Paul Janovicz
Diane Dalo

We have received some very positive feedback from the students who enjoy getting a package and being reminded that their St. John's family is thinking of them.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Petrizzo
Home Away from Home
Ministry Chairperson

St. John's Men's Ministry 2021 Annual Report

As the St. John's church community and our society in general continued to struggle with the COVID pandemic, our Men's Ministry continued to evolve in our new identity. Because of the pandemic a few meetings were held via Zoom technology early in 2021. As our vaccination rate got to 100% we went back to in-person meetings.

We officially launched the St. John's Men's Ministry in January, and one of the first activities we began was called Helping Hands. With this initiative members offered their services to parishioners to do light chores around their respective homes. We continued this initiative all year, and contributed 27 hours of help to people in our church community.

Another of our initiatives continues to be food distribution to needy people in our area; it lasted all year, and it remains an ongoing project. This effort includes contributions to the food pantry in the Lower Parish Hall and specific deliveries to needy families in the area. We also encourage people in our church to donate food and/or money to the Cornerstone Foundation in Rockville.

We continued the tradition of devoting attention in each meeting to spiritual matters. We did this by listening to podcasts produced by Bishop Rob Wright of Atlanta who also included one discussion with our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. These podcasts gave us much to think about and much to be inspired by. Also during each meeting we conduct a worship service that includes scripture and prayer.

One disappointment was the cancelation of our annual Steak and Chicken Dinner...our main fundraiser of the year. We decided to cancel the dinner because of concerns related to the pandemic. However, but look forward to resuming it in 2022.

Concurrent with our Steak and Chicken Dinner planning, we began discussions about how we could offer our time and skills to the resettlement of an immigrant group here in the Vernon area. We contacted Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services in New Haven and a few local church groups in our area for help and guidance. Also, having missed out on our annual fund raiser, we pivoted to make a direct appeal to the congregation for funds to support IRIS in its very worthwhile efforts to resettle displaced Afghan families in Connecticut. Our efforts paid off, and we raised \$1700 for IRIS, which was three times more than we normally raise at the Steak and Chicken Dinner. By the end of the year we decided to align ourselves with a group in Manchester that works through IRIS and who had already accomplished the resettlement of one family. Our Refugee Support Ministry will evolve as we head into 2022, and we look forward to continuing this important undertaking to which God has led us.

We are very pleased with what we have been able to accomplish during this pandemic year as our Men's Ministry continues to move forward into new territory. As men of St. John's we come together in good faith each month to support and pray for the larger St. John's community, and we especially look forward to working with our new priest, Marc Eames.

Report by: Dave Smith

The 2021 Nut Sale was again a huge success!

Our heartfelt thanks - to all who placed orders, Ron and Carl for picking them up from Christ Church in Pomfret, Diane for assisting in assembling the orders, and Margaret for managing the deposits. 626 packages were purchased for a net of profit of \$1734.94. These funds will continue to benefit St. John's in all the good works we do.

We look forward to working with everyone in 2022.

St. John's Nut Team - Ruth Hoffman, Nancy & Jim Simon

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Here's how we came up with the figures:

Sales \$4455.00

Minus Cost of Nuts 2607.74

Minus Cost of Bags 112.32

Net \$1734.94

#### Counters Group 2022 Annual Report

Throughout the challenging times and virtual worship until June 2021 St. John's has had five faithful teams of weekly counters. It was a wonderful being able to have four or five of us counting together again every Sunday, we tally the weekly offering, report to the Treasurer, and make the bank deposit. While this is a routine set of tasks, we are grateful to be able to offer this service to the community of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Skip Sutcliffe

### **The 2021 Parishioners Fund – Diane Gutzmer**

There were three gifts given out for fuel and rent. We have a balance of \$5,926.00.

### **The 2021 St. John's Tree of Life- Mary Wilson**

The St. John's Tree of Life was dedicated by the Rev. Virginia Army on September 9, 2012. Since then it has blossomed and flourished! The Tree was conceived and donated as a visual memory book for the family and friends of St. John's Parish providing the opportunity for us to mark important celebrations or milestones.

The Tree of Life provides a tangible way to remember and celebrate such events as the birth of a child or grandchild, milestone birthdays, baptisms, confirmations, graduations, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, particular thanksgivings, the passing of a loved one, and many other special life events.

The Tree has generated over \$23,000 which is being used to help fund our Parishioner's Outreach Fund, our Capital Reserve Fund and our General Budget expenses. Funds from the tree were recently used to update our sound system to allow for virtual services.

Please feel free to contact Mary Wilson or pick up a pamphlet in the upper Narthex if you have any questions.

## **Gardening in a pandemic, Year 2: 2021**

We started gardening in earnest in April this past year, with a team that included Marsha Hartlieb, Debbie Halpryn, and Gretchen Shea. We planted, weeded, mulched, and harvested on Saturdays, depositing the harvest in the parish hall kitchen fridge, and then Lois Valliere did the Sunday transfer to the sanctuary.

It was a wet year, so we did more weeding than watering. Standout produce this year included kale galore, bags laden with peas, aromatic dill and cilantro, carrots through the summer, pumpkins in the fall, weeks of tomatoes (thanks to Melissa for the seedlings) and eggplant, several different kinds of lettuce, pole beans that grew up our cornstalks, and green peppers. Our fabulous raspberry canes also loved the wet weather, yielding over 30 pints of raspberries!!!

As usual, we donated all our produce to the folks at Cornerstone. Our splendid couriers included John Horan, Dave Smith, Maria Evans, Sue Morehouse, Sue Douglass, Alicia DeLeo, and Gretchen Shea. We delivered produce all the way through October this year!

Many thanks to all for their dedication and skill.

Letty Naigles

## **The St. John's Bazaar 2021**

We want to thank everyone for your continuing support of our Covid-minimized Bazaar. As always many hands work in the background to bring all of this together. We want to thank David Clarke for the marvelous presentation of the items on our web-site. Special thanks go to Lois Valliere, Terry Sessions, Sue Douglass, Marsha Francis, Nancy Simon, Ruth Hoffman and Rev. Mark Santucci. Thanks to all the others who contributed to the Bazaar's success. The Bazaar raised \$1743.00.

The St. John's Bazaar team



## **ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

### **VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

#### **Nominations Slate for 2022:**

Senior Warden – Betsy Sartori  
Junior Warden – Jim Hutton  
Treasurer - Kevin Fenner  
Assistant Treasurer - Andrew Halpryn  
Clerk – Alfreda Barber

#### **Class of 2025 Nominated:**

Kelly Schmidt  
Lois Valliere  
JoAnn Palica (2 year term, ending 2024)

#### **Remaining Vestry:**

Sharon Janovicz – 2-year term ending 2023  
Jim Simon – 2-year term ending 2023  
John Horan – 2-year term ending 2024  
Shirley McGarry -2-year term ending 2024  
Kelli Peters – 2-year term ending 2024

#### **Representative appointments to the Episcopal Diocese Annual Convention for 2020 and 2021 are:**

Alicia DiLeo  
Gretchen Shea - Alternate

Respectfully submitted by the Vestry Nominating Committee,

Tom Sessions

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

1855 to 2020 means 165 years of worship together and so much more. As the pages turn in the album at the back of the church, documents and pictures reveal different lives and times along with strong connections that weave together our communal life as the Body of Christ in Vernon.

The St John's Vernon story starts in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (1855) when 300 people traveled to the village of Rockville by foot and horse and carriage to the first recorded Episcopal Service. Soon after, regular services were held at the Rockville Hotel followed by an upstairs room at the Sears Block building, the Town Hall, and the Lutheran Church. The moveable service continued for twenty years until the December 1875 St John's Church dedication. It must have been a vibrant time in Connecticut as down the road in East Hartford another beloved St John's worshipped in their new church home in 1869.

Did you know St John's Vernon had twenty-nine rectors in their first 100 years, while St John's East Hartford had three? Organ dedications were 65 years apart as the first (with great fanfare) was in 1910, and the second (computerized one) happened in 1975. And the 1890's church supper menu? Oyster Supper. And in 1957? It's the popular "Green Ham" dinner! We probably do not want to suggest a nostalgic supper tradition.

The ministries of men, women, and youth, through prayer, altar guild, fellowship opportunities, and service to those in need provoke many stories in the records. In the 1880's the Ladies Aid group at St John's assists with the care and upkeep of the parish, and the purchase of the hymnals and pews by hosting dinners. The making and sale of ice cream is how the Men's Guild funded the maintenance of the building. In the 1890s' these groups electrify the church and order the essential hand fans for summer services.

In the early 20th century, St John's ministries reflected the changing world. The 1912 annual Call to the Parish recognized women as well as men for the first time. The outside world was considered part of parish life. St John's became a place for war work and established an Honor Roll for Service members in 1925. Supported causes evolve to outreach to Visiting Nurses, the Red Cross, Widows and Orphans, Japanese Relief Funds, and Aged and Infirm Clergy. These efforts are connected to outreach today through the organic garden and Cornerstone, Sioux and Lakota support, Haiti, Honduras and Puerto Rico connections.

We are connected today to these changing times, by our own changing times. Mid-20<sup>th</sup> century church activities included trees, quilts, and palm crosses. These events are part of our St John's story. In 1947 eight trees on the Sunday School walls were decorated with Easter Offering leaves. Are these trees the seeds for our Tree of Life and Tree of Light? In 1951, blankets and quilts were collected and sent to Korea, and we know today we have a very strong quilt and knitting force among us. A 1980's photo shows palm cross instruction – something that still takes place every year (because many of us forget how to do it from year to year).

As we journey further into this century and our 165<sup>th</sup> year we do not need to turn the pages to see the power of prayer and the strength of our spiritual life at St John's. Our faith in action, our fellowship and friendship, our prayerful worship life together, and our church celebrations are all part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century risk taking journey committed to in 2017 by the brilliantly merged one St John's as we strive to be disciples of Our Lord Jesus, fully present in our world and fully engaged with the mission of God.

During this coming celebratory 165th year, please share your own stories from our merged St John's history – whether from the album or not - so we can discover new connections to the past and imagine all that can be accomplished as we go forward in faith together.