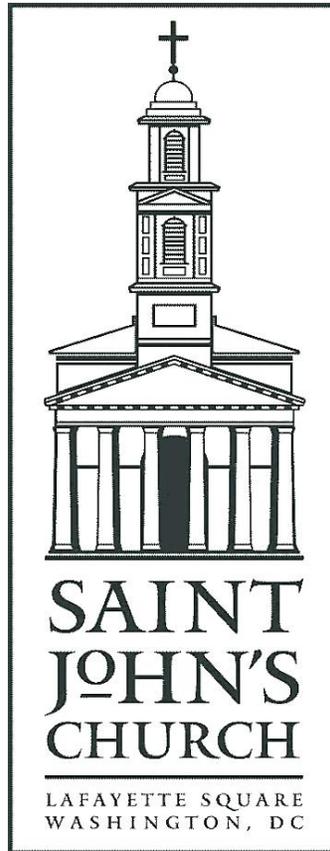


# Annual Parish Report

For the year 2018



Interim Rector's Report  
Wardens' Report  
Reports of Parish Organizations

February 2019

The Reverend W. Bruce McPherson  
*Interim Rector*

The Reverend D. Andrew Olivo  
*Assistant Rector*

The Reverend Michele V. Hagans  
*Interim Associate Rector*

Kaye Edwards  
*Assistant for Church Growth*

Savannah Ponder  
*Assistant for Ministries to Children, Youth, and Families*

Michael Lodico  
*Director of Music Ministry and Organist*

Brent Erstad  
*Assistant Director of Music*

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## INTERIM RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Members of St. John's,

What a wonderful privilege it has been for me to serve as your Interim Rector for the last six months of 2018. It is a daunting task to follow my friend and colleague, Luis León, in the leadership of St. John's, but you have been gracious and warm in your welcome. It has been especially gratifying to work with this Vestry and its Wardens, Richard Metzger and Paul Barkett.

The year has seen changes other than a change of leadership. The rehabilitated Parish House has given a new face to so many of the important activities of the church. The Togo West Parlor is a lovely space for our excellent speakers, for the Parlor Series concerts and for receptions of every description. It honors a man whose integrity and strength of purpose forever changed the way in which St. John's lives into its Baptismal promise to "respect the dignity of every human being."

As a result of the rehabilitation, we have wonderful new Sunday School space, additional office and conferencing space, rehearsal room for the musicians and an up-to-date kitchen and dining room. And, the new H Street entrance is spacious, welcoming and handicapped accessible. Thanks to all who helped in this effort, especially the Campaign Leadership, Anne Stewart and Larry Redway, who co-chaired the 200th Anniversary Campaign for St. John's.

There have also been some staff changes. Hayden Bryan, after service to St. John's for seventeen years, told me early in my time that he wanted to retire. I held on to him as long as I could, but finally let go and his retirement became official on December 31. Fortunately, we were able to persuade Kim Carlson to leave her post at St. Columba's and come to St. John's as Director of Operations. In the very short time that she has been with us, Kim has proven herself to be an invaluable member of the team. She is smart and she is hard working. I hope that you will get to know her over time.

Equally important was the decision of the Vestry to create a full-time position for an Assistant for Ministries to Children, Youth and Families. Savannah Ponder has filled that position with great creativity and intelligence. As a result, it is easy to see the growth in Sunday School attendance. We are blessed to have her with us. In fact, the entire staff is a blessing. We are fortunate indeed to have such a loyal and dedicated crew.

Of course, change is still in the air. Very soon now, the Vestry will be able to announce the identity of your new Rector. The Search Committee, under the very able leadership of Hilary West, has been hard at work meeting and interviewing candidates. They will soon have completed that work and will be due the gratitude of everyone at St. John's.

Becoming the Rector of this busy and historic church is a major undertaking. Whoever is called will need your affirmation and support. I know you will welcome him or her with the same graciousness that you have shown me.

Faithfully yours,  
The Reverend W. Bruce McPherson

## WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear Parishioners:

2018 was a year of eventful transitions and encouraging new developments for St. John's. In May, we said goodbye to our Rector of 24 years, Luis León, with a glorious weekend that celebrated and thanked Luis and Lu for their many contributions to our church over the past three decades. In July, we welcomed Bruce McPherson as our Interim Rector and began the transition to a new permanent Rector. In October, we returned to our newly renovated Parish House and over the ensuing weeks we gradually regained access to all of the new and refurbished facilities, including a new kitchen. Finally, in November Hayden Bryan announced his retirement after almost 18 years as Executive Director of Operations. Hayden's service to our church over many years will be recognized at our Annual Meeting in February. We were delighted that Kim Carlson agreed to join our staff as the new Director of Operations in December.

We are pleased to report that St. John's continues to be financially sound. We finished 2018 with a surplus of approximately \$130,000. Pledges, however, remain an ongoing concern. Our pledges for 2019 are below the 2018 levels, continuing a three-year decline. In view of several anticipated one-time expenses in 2019, the Vestry voted to apply a portion of the 2018 surplus to balance this year's operating budget.

In November, we marked the re-opening of our renovated Parish House with a service attended by our Bishop and former Rector. We are fortunate that at this point it appears once the remaining pledges have been paid, we will have sufficient funds to cover all of the cost of the work that was done.

We are blessed as a congregation to have so many parishioners whose efforts made 2018 a far less challenging year of transition than we otherwise would have experienced. From those who spearheaded the Parish House Capital Campaign, to those who guided the restoration process, to those who made their homes and other locations available for parish gatherings, such as the potluck suppers and the Inquirers' Classes, we are extremely grateful for their dedication to St. John's. We are also thankful for the very able and conscientious staff of our church. They bore the brunt of the impact of the Parish House renovation on our life as a congregation and their performance was, in a word, outstanding.

This year marks the final year of service of three members of the Vestry: Carrie Garland, Thom Sinclair, and Anne Stewart. Their participation in Vestry meetings over the past four years has enriched our discussions of significant issues affecting our congregation. We give thanks for their willingness to serve.

Finally, we want to express our profound gratitude to all of you for your continued commitment to St. John's Church. With your support, we have emerged from a year of transitions ready to welcome a new Rector and begin a new phase in our church's life.

Richard Metzger  
*Senior Warden*

Paul Barkett  
*Junior Warden*

## ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFERS REPORT

2018 was another successful year for this program. Our acolytes and crucifers contribute to the ceremony of our services, setting the tone of reverence and solemnity. Twenty-two Church School students participated as acolytes and 12 adults served as crucifers. All take their jobs seriously and should be commended for their commitment and promptness.

Two acolytes serve as the torchbearers at the head of the procession as our worship service begins, and one additional acolyte carries the clergy cross, which proceeds the clergy. We were sorry to lose Isabel Tierney to other activities, but warmly welcome new acolytes Walker Crochet, Spencer Galm, and Cooper Thesmar. The acolytes for 2018 were:

Clark Agnew  
Hugh Agnew  
Alexander Anikeeff  
Audrey Anikeeff  
Reese Crochet  
Walker Crochet  
Thea Crouch  
David Estes  
Spencer Galm  
Carolyn Gardner  
Ben Garland

Caroline Huettner  
Adrianna Leckow  
Alexander Lehmann Weng  
Oliver Lehmann Weng  
Sebastian Lehmann Weng  
Claire Montgomery  
Obi Onwuamaegbu  
Kosi Onwuamaegbu  
Elizabeth Thesmar  
Cooper Thesmar  
Gus Tierney

Our crew of crucifers has the important job of carrying the beautiful ornate cross into the church at the head of the procession. The crucifers for 2018 were:

Paul Barkett  
Matt Bode  
Wendy Fibison  
Andrew Hunt  
Stewart Jeffries  
Kenny Kraft  
Leo Lex

Paul Mandelson  
Michelle Mangrum  
Brandon Montgomery  
Eric Peters  
Thom Sinclair  
Andrew Tomlinson

I'd like to thank RJ Gravina, St. John's Program Coordinator, for his weekly assistance. We always welcome interested new members; training sessions are held when needed.

Deborah H. Hailey  
*Acolyte and Crucifer Coordinator*

## ADULT FORUM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Forum Committee presented the following speakers during the preceding year. We look forward to continuing our work in the new year.

### 2018 Adult Forums

- **January 7: Sylvia Mathews Burwell**, St. John's parishioner and President of American University. She served as the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Barack Obama and as Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Bill Clinton. She spoke on *Reflections on Higher Education Issues*.
- **January 21: The Rev. Canon Paula Clark** of the Diocese of Washington joined us for a discussion of the Rector transition and search process. Canon Clark works with parishes in transition on all aspects of the process and explained the process and answered questions.
- **January 28: Vestry Candidates' Presentation.**
- **February 18: Don Holloway**, Curator of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He spoke on *The Gerald Ford Presidency*.
- **March 11: Andrea Mitchell** is the Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent for NBC News and the host of "Andrea Mitchell Reports" on MSNBC each weekday.
- **April 15: Bill Kristol** is an American neo-conservative political analyst and commentator. He is the founder and editor-at-large of the political magazine *The Weekly Standard* and a political commentator on several networks. He spoke on *A House Divided*, which focused on the divisions in America and what can be done about them.
- **May 13: Aaron David Miller**, a Vice President and Middle East Program Director at the Wilson Center, is among America's foremost experts on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and U.S. policy in the Middle East. A former adviser to six secretaries of state (George Schultz to Colin Powell), he helped shape America's policy in the region for more than two decades. A prolific commentator, Miller is currently a global affairs analyst for CNN. He is the author of five books, including the national bestseller *The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace*, and most recently, *The End of Greatness: Why America Can't Have (and Doesn't Want) Another Great President*. He spoke on *The State of Mideast Affairs*.
- **October 21: Melissa Chiu**, Director of Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the national museum of modern art. She spoke on *A Look inside the Hirshhorn*.
- **November 4: Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya**, Bishop of the Diocese of Swaziland. She is the first woman to be elected as a bishop of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa and of the whole African continent. She spoke on the *Green Anglican Movement* in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

- **November 18: Bishop Mariann Budde**, Bishop of Washington **and the Rev. Dr. Luis León** for the *Rededication of the Parish House*. Bishop Budde addressed the current trends in the Episcopal Church.
- **December 2: Rabbi Jesse Paikin**, Rabbinic Fellow, Sixth and I Synagogue.
- **December 9: Danielle Brian**, Executive Director of the Project on Government Oversight. She spoke about *Ethics in Government*.
- **December 16: Dr. Timothy Sedgwick**, Professor of Christian Ethics, Virginia Theological Seminary. He spoke on *Christian Ethics in the Public Square*.

Clark Ervin  
*Chair*

## ADULT INQUIRERS CLASSES REPORT

Assistant Rector Andy Olivo led the spring adult inquirers class in 2018. The spring class was held March 17 and March 24. The fall class was led by Interim Rector Bruce McPherson and Assistant Rector Andy Olivo. It was held on October 13 and October 20. Forty-eight newcomers participated in the classes. Each class is a two-day experience of exploring our faith, the history and tradition of the Church, and the spiritual life of the Episcopal Church and St. John's Church in particular. The class is designed for newcomers to St. John's; for adults seeking baptism, confirmation and reception into the Episcopal Church; and for anyone, newcomer or longtime member, interested in learning more about St. John's and the Episcopal Church.

Thirty-nine members of the classes took part in two Services of Confirmation, one in May at the Washington National Cathedral and one in November at St. John's.

Kaye Edwards  
*Assistant for Church Growth*

## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Canons of the Episcopal Church require that all parishes, missions, and other institutions be audited annually (I.7: Of Business Methods in Church Affairs). The primary purpose of an audit is to assure that financial statements for the year were prepared from the financial records and present fairly the financial position and changes in net assets and cash flows of the congregation. While the Canons permit an audit by committee where approved by a diocesan authority, audits completed by CPAs or LPAs are preferred.

An independent certified public accountant, Mr. Gerald A. Miller, P.C., of Bel Air, MD, has performed an external audit of the financial statements of St. John's Church for several years, and did so again for calendar year 2017. On November 6, 2018, Mr. Miller forwarded three draft documents for review and discussion with the Audit Committee:

- (1) Independent Auditor's Report with accompanying financial statements and supplemental information for St. John's Church;
- (2) Independent Auditor's Report and accompanying financial statements for the Elsie Howland Quinby Fund; and
- (3) a letter to the Vestry and Management on internal control over financial reporting.

Members of the Audit Committee met with Mr. Miller at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at the Parish House of St. John's Church, Lafayette Square to review and discuss the findings. The following individuals were present at the meeting: Frank Klotz (Audit Committee Chair), Mike Becraft, Martha Ellison, Nkem Onwuamaegbu (Treasurer), the Reverend W. Bruce McPherson (Interim Rector), and Preston Cherouny (Financial Secretary). Richard Metzger (Senior Warden) could not attend due to other commitments, but he carefully reviewed the documents and provided substantive comments prior to the meeting.

With respect to the financial statements and supplemental information for St. John's Church, Mr. Miller reported that in his opinion, they "present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities, and net assets of St. John's Church, Lafayette Square as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and its support, revenue, and expenses for the years then ended, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting" used by St. John's.

Similarly, with respect to the financial statements for the Elsie Howland Quinby Fund, Mr. Miller reported that in his opinion, they "present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, liabilities, and net assets of the Elsie Howland Quinby Fund of St. John's Church, Lafayette Square as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and its support, revenue, and expenses for the years then ended, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting" used by St. John's.

The Audit Committee carefully reviewed and discussed the two draft auditor's reports and accompanying financial statements with Mr. Miller. The Audit Committee was satisfied with the draft documents Mr. Miller had prepared. A correction was proposed to a footnote on the financial statement of the Elsie Howland Quincy Fund to reflect the fact that it is no longer administered by a separate Quincy Fund Committee. There was also discussion of the footnote on both financial statements regarding the current status of the interest-only loan made to the previous Rector in 2007

for the purchase of his house. No changes to the footnote were necessary. Mr. Miller subsequently put the financial statements into final form for submission to the Diocese.

The Audit Committee also discussed the draft letter on internal control. The letter identified those deficiencies that Mr. Miller noted while performing the audit. As he explained, deficiencies fall into two categories:

- “material weakness” (“a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Organization’s financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.”); and,
- “significant deficiency” (“a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.”).

Importantly, no “material weaknesses” were identified during the audit. However, two “significant deficiencies” were noted:

- “investment transactions such as interest, dividends, realized and unrealized gains and losses, and transfers are not recorded in the general ledger.” Accordingly, during the audit, Mr. Miller performed an analysis of the investment activity and proposed general ledger adjustments to the investment accounts as an additional service.
- “several adjustments to list of deposits in transit and the outstanding check list” were proposed and it was necessary for Mr. Miller to reconcile the operating checking account balance as of December 31, 2017, as an additional service.

The same two “significant deficiencies” were identified in the audit for calendar year 2016, and in previous annual audits as well. Mr. Miller has in the past stated that they are common among non-profit entities of similar size and to eliminate both deficiencies from future audit findings would require a certified public accountant to be on contract at St. John’s to perform real-time record keeping in the general ledger. That remedy is neither necessary to maintain solid financial records and accounting practices nor would it be cost effective. Preston Cherouny volunteered that the new procedures and processes he has adopted as Church Financial Secretary to reconcile the operating checking account balance on a monthly basis should eventually eliminate the second significant deficiency noted above.

Following the meeting with the Audit Committee, Mr. Miller finalized and signed all three documents for submission to the Diocese as required by the Canons of the Episcopal Church. These documents are on file in the Church.

Frank Klotz  
*Chair*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

At St. John's we believe that children are treasured members of our community and seek to provide them with formational experiences that will help them grow in their faith and feel the love of Christian community.

### January to October, 2018 Church School Year

In January, we continued with the one-room, multiage (ages three to those in fifth grade) chapel/class using the Gospel-based *Creative Ideas for Children's Worship* program. Students heard and discussed the Gospel for the Sunday, then joined their families for communion in the church. The class was held in the Hay-Adams Hotel through early October 2018. Students in grades six through twelve attended a worship service with their families, giving them a chance to experience the full and rich liturgy of the Episcopal Church. The students were incorporated into ministries during the service, including acolyting, chaliceing, ushering, and reading lessons

### 2018-2019 Church School Year

The full Church School Program Year began with the opening of the Parish House on October 21. There were four classes meeting during the 11:00 am service—preschool ages 3-6, grades 1-3, grades 4-6, and a teen confirmation class. Average attendance has been between 25-35 students per Sunday.

Children age 3 through Kindergarten attended a Godly Play inspired class. Students heard a story told from the Bible and responded through art and activity. Students in Grades 1-3 and 4-6 used Spark, a lectionary-based program from Augsburg Press that uses age-appropriate games and activities to explore the lessons.

The Confirmation class for students in grades seven and above began in October. Students and teachers followed the *Confirm Not Conform* curriculum which, in addition to focusing on basics about faith and tradition, encourages students to explore their own beliefs and how they fit into the Episcopal Church. A teen retreat is planned for March 2019, followed by confirmations at the Cathedral in May 2019.

### Nursery

The nursery for children under age three was held in the Hay-Adams Hotel until November. In November, nursery resumed in the basement of the Parish House. Attendants Jessica Ortiz, Eric Zavala, and Bibian Arriaga are on duty each Sunday from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### Teachers for 2017 to 2018 Year

Our teachers are committed to being with your children and youth, and they are a blessing to the whole parish community. Thank you to our 2017-2018 teachers:

Virginia Bader, Nicole Crochet, Laura Doucet, Anna Ehrich, Casey Evans, Joanne Hutton, Chrystal Martin, John Martin, Sara McGanity, Karis Gong Parnham, TJ Parnham, Margaux Polanski, Beth Robinson, Laurie Rossbach, Nora Rigby, and Alfred Thesmar.

We also thank the volunteers who taught the class at least one time during the summer church school held in June and July 2018. Those who gave their time and talent included Janet Edmond, Pamela Venzke, Elena Braithwaite, Cate Rooney, Sarah Yi, Tamara Gayle, Lacy Broemel, Emorie Broemel, Matthew Taylor, Carolyn Crouch, Christi Rich, Kathleen Benner, Nora Rigby, Laura Herzog, and Beth Couturier.

**Thanks to church school teachers for the fall 2018 – spring 2019 year:**

Virginia Bader, Beth Couturier, Nicole Crochet, Bessie Doffermyre, Laura Doucet, Janet Edmond, Anna Ehrich, Casey Evans, Annie Froehlich, Carrie Garland, Laura Herzog, Grant Kraus, Emily Lucio, Chrystal Martin, John Martin, Sara McGanity, TJ Parnham, Hap Rigby, Nora Rigby, Alyssa Ryerson, Matthew Taylor, Pamela Venzke, and Anna Wieger.

Savannah Ponder  
*Assistant for Ministries to Children, Youth, and Families*

## CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Church Growth Committee works to expand the number and engagement of our parish members and community.

Much of the committee's work in 2018 was focused on how to maintain growth and vitality of St. John's Church during the closure and renovation of the Parish House. Other parish ministries have been quite active in this: for example, we have eagerly tracked the popular potluck events this past year.

The focus of our work regarding this has been to expand and refresh the greeters' ministry and focus on infusing regular parish life with a stronger emphasis on welcome. The committee funded a new notice board that will identify greeters outside, making it easier for newcomers and guests to know who to approach to ask questions.

In addition, we have encouraged greeters, Growth Committee members, and all parishioners to serve as part of a welcome team, greeting those who are new, or new to them, at services and other parish events.

Robin Anderson, who served as Head Greeter in 2018, has stepped down from this role beginning in 2019. Kat Kehoe, who is a greeter, will become the Head Greeter. She and the other greeters will continue growing this revitalized ministry, working closely with our committee.

Visibility is an important element of church growth, and the committee funds the seasonal banners on 16th Street and H Street that list service times and special events. In addition, the general-purpose horizontal banner suitable for parades and other events continues to be used in front of the church when water has been handed out to participants in marches and at the Capital Pride Parade in June.

There were three key continuing initiatives in 2018. First, we focused on maintaining parish connections and growth through the parish house renovation and as we embarked on a rector transition. Two members of the Church Growth Committee, Andrew Hunt and Sara McGanity, are serving on the Rector Search Committee.

Second, we will evaluate visitor and inquirer data – both the information that is collected already and what could be collected – to permit further, informed engagement work.

Finally, we hope to host a reception for recent inquirers class attendees to help new members become further connected into the life and ministries of the parish.

The committee was especially proud of the recognition at a service on June 3 of sixty-three new members from the past two years.

Active Growth Committee members were: Andrew Hunt, Chair; Kaye Edwards, Staff Representative; Robin Anderson; Sherill Mason; Sara McGanity; Robin Pennington; Christi Rich; and Quin Woodward Pu. The committee would like to thank Sara McGanity, an active member of the committee who stepped down in 2018.

Andrew Hunt  
*Chair*

## EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Parish support of the Education for Ministry (EfM) program, in its twenty-fifth year at St. John's, has a robust legacy. Sixty-two people have completed the program through our parish, many others have participated for one year or more, and graduates of other EfM groups join our parish from time to time. Nine participants currently pursue their studies and explorations one evening weekly throughout the school year, four of whom are scheduled to graduate in May of 2019. The program is led by co-mentors Carolyn Crouch and Lyle Elder.

Most of our EfM participants are parishioners, although we also have benefited from welcoming other recruits who have enriched the texture of our community with their ministries; some have been members of our weekday parish, others belong to a different branch of God's church. At least two study groups in other parishes have spun off from this one, facilitated by trained lay leaders who are spurred by the power of study, reflection and growth within a small community of seekers where we grow in faith and love.

Learners register for one year of study at a time. The first year investigates Hebrew scriptures, the second takes up the New Testament, the third broadly covers Church History, and a fourth year focuses on theological questions and developing your personal theology. The program forms excellent preparation for future leadership in the church by grounding our ministries in sound theological understanding and reflection.

EfM sets itself apart from other courses of Bible study through its combination of stimulating graduate-level theological studies and a thorough exploration of our call to live out our baptismal covenants through the many and varied ministries we exercise on a daily basis. Prayer, study, worship, conversation, theological reflection, laughter and gathering around a common table are among the joys discovered anew along the way. In our time together, we learn to put together and lead worship services; we develop a vocabulary with which to describe our faith and beliefs; we share personal stories and discover their universal dimensions; we spend time with the big questions, reflecting theologically. We approach each year through the lens of an overarching theme, like living faithfully in a multicultural world, developing a mature spirituality, and our journey to God.

Want to be part of this journey? Want to know if there might be another EfM group closer to your place of work or home, or meeting at a better time for you, or even meeting online? Note: you register for only one year at a time! Please contact EfM mentors Carolyn Crouch (202-271-4216 or Carolyn.crouch819@gmail.com) and Lyle Elder (703-307-1133 or D.Lyle.Elder@gmail.com), for more information. You can also visit the website at [www.sewanee.edu/EFM/](http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/) to find out more and read excerpts of the curriculum online.

Joanne Hutton  
*Chair*

## FLOWER GUILD REPORT

Members of the Flower Guild consider it an honor to serve our church in this creative ministry.

During the 2018 Parish House renovation, Guild members answered the call for adaptability and flexibility while fulfilling our mission to bring the beauty of God's flowers into our house of worship. We pared down our supply of brass containers, floral foam, take-home vases, and other tools of the trade to a minimum and stored these bare-boned supplies in the church basement for easy access. We packed the remaining equipment into large plastic tubs to re-emerge once construction was complete.

Each Friday morning, buckets overflowing with freshly delivered flowers lined the walls of the crowded hallway, eagerly waiting to be arranged. On a typical Saturday morning, a team of two arranged these flowers directly on the main altar, taking care to navigate the altar steps, while preparing arrangements for the chapel and narthex on folding tables set up by the Sextons.

When Saturday weddings or funerals required arranging on a weekday, our members began working in the morning, paused to break down their work for the noon worship service, and then resumed arranging again after the service. The arranging process is usually a four to six-hour time commitment, excluding planning and ordering of the flowers.

In addition to Sunday flowers, members also lovingly created expressions of great sorrow and immense joy, arranging for four funeral or memorial services and nine weddings this past year. Great attention is given to each parishioner's request regarding color and flower choice on these important occasions.

Christmas and Easter, the church's most celebrated holy days, are met with full exuberance and excitement, with an abundance of flowers and many busy hands taking part. Lent and Advent are observed by the exclusive use of green foliage.

### **Weddings**

Anne Harrington continues to serve as our wedding coordinator, communicating the color and flower preferences of the happy couple to the assigned guild members.

### **Making a Contribution**

Each week, parishioners have the opportunity to honor loved ones by making a donation to the flower fund. Your contributions can sponsor either the main altar, or the narthex, or all of the church's arrangements. The names of your loved ones will appear in the Sunday bulletin along with your dedication, which can be in memory, in celebration, or in thanksgiving for a person or event.

## **Consider Joining the Flower Guild**

We invite our parishioners to consider joining the Flower Guild. Whether acquiring a new skill or expanding on an existing talent, being a member of the Guild is a rewarding way to volunteer at St. John's. Newcomers are paired with experienced members who mentor them until they are fully fledged, confident flower arrangers. It is a wonderful ministry with the added benefit of newfound friendships. Please contact Flower Guild Chair Katherine Kyle if you would like additional information at carsonkyle@gmail.com.

## **Thank You to Our Sextons**

All of the members of the Flower Guild enthusiastically extend heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated Sextons who worked extremely hard during the renovation. Extra duties fell on their shoulders including multiple runs to and from the basement to retrieve needed supplies as we worked.

Thank you to Victor Obregon, Glynnis "GeeGee" Bryant, and David Gamboa.

## **Happy Trails to Hayden Bryan, Executive Director for Operations, 2001 to 2018**

Working with Hayden was always a pleasure. He coordinated details great and small with warmth and professionalism. He will be greatly missed, and we look forward to working with Hayden's successor, Kim Carlson.

## **Current Members**

Sarah Agnew  
Karolina Arias  
Paul Barkett  
Barbara Bulla Brown  
Thea Crouch  
Casey Evans  
Barbie Harper  
Anne Harrington  
Lily Happi

Susan Heil  
Amanda Claire Hoover  
Joanne Hutton  
Kristin Josey  
Sherill Mason  
Nicole Kleman Neufeld  
Julia Koster  
Elizabeth Lewis  
Liz Morin

Mary Raether  
Allie Raether  
Laurie Rossbach  
Adelle Simmons  
Jennifer Urquhart  
Pamela Farrell Venzke  
Aswathi Zachariah

Katherine Kyle  
*Chair*

Pat Dalby  
*Co-Chair*

## GREETERS MINISTRY REPORT

Members of St. John's Greeters welcome visiting guests and potential new members each Sunday, providing information on the church and on the variety of Christian Formation programs offered. The Greeters are the people you see standing near the clergy as you exit the church after services.

Greeters encourage newcomers to attend the Forum after the 9:00 a.m. service and the Hospitality Hour following the 11:00 a.m. service, so that newcomers can meet parishioners and so that we can learn more about our guests' interests and needs.

We encourage all members of the parish, as members of one body, to consider themselves greeters, whether in an official or unofficial capacity. Only a small amount of time is required and the service provided is invaluable. We invite parishioners to take a few minutes after a service to introduce themselves to people they do not know (whether guests or fellow parishioners) so that we fulfill St. Benedict's reminder that "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ."

The new Head Greeter, Kat Kehoe, began her role in January 2019; her duties include making the schedules for official Greeters.

Please extend a warm welcome to our new Greeters: Gary Dalby, Sylvia Martin Estes, Jamie Finch, Joy and Dick Nathan, and Desiree Stolar. We would like to thank Laura Clarke, Marshall Reinsdorf, Robin and Chuck Schwartz, Devin Urness, and Donna Wells for their participation over the years but who have stepped down. We also mourn the death of longtime parishioner and Greeter Stephen O'Shields.

If you are interested in joining the Greeters team, please contact Kat Kehoe at [katkehoe@gmail.com](mailto:katkehoe@gmail.com).

The names of St. John's Greeters in 2018 are as follows:

Russ Brown	Kat Kehoe	Christi Rich
Gary Dalby	Ross Leckow	Anne Stewart
James Doyle	Patricia Leslie	Desiree Stolar
Sylvia Martin Estes	Sara McGanity	Brenda Wolter
Jamie Finch	Joy Nathan	Willy Wolter
Geraldine Hayhurst	Dick Nathan	Quin Woodward Pu
Max Hudgins	Eleanor Odom	Richard Young
Andrew Hunt	Peter Odom	

Robin Anderson  
*Chair (2018)*

*Editor's note: A special thanks to Robin for leading the Greeters Guild in 2018 with her grace and organizational skills. She will be missed.*

## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Investment Committee's responsibility is to assist in the oversight and management of the church's endowment. The members of the Committee in 2018 consisted of: Richard Metzger, Paul Barkett, Krista Becker, Laura Herzog and Lisa Kirchenbauer.

Brown Advisory was retained by the church in 2011 to handle the day-to-day management of its investment portfolio. The Investment Committee relies on the advice and guidance of Brown Advisory to achieve its overriding objective of increasing the value of the church's portfolio over time through capital appreciation and dividend and interest payments. In addition, the church's endowment annually provides an income stream to support the church's operating expenses.

### **Investment Committee Meetings**

The Investment Committee met twice during 2018 with representatives of Brown Advisory. The discussion during these meetings covered a wide array of topics, including the performance of the church's endowment accounts over the course of the year, developments in national and international debt and equity markets that could affect the church's portfolio, and Brown Advisory's assessment of likely changes in financial markets during the year. The Committee generally seeks to maintain a portfolio balance of 60% equity and 40% fixed income investments. As the value of equity stocks has grown in recent years, however, Brown Advisory increased the relative share of the church's holdings in those instruments, particularly large cap equities. In 2017, Brown Advisory began to rebalance the church's portfolio by gradually shifting a relatively greater share of the church's investments to cash and fixed income investments. That process was completed in 2018. The rebalancing reduced the church's risk exposure and strengthened its ability to support the Parish House renovation and operating budget income needs. In addition, the Vestry directed that \$1 million of the increase in the value of the portfolio that the church experienced in 2017 be earmarked as an additional contribution to the Parish House Capital Campaign in 2018.

### **Market Conditions and Portfolio Performance**

The market has been headline driven in 2018 with a lot of ups and downs that are unrelated to actual corporate economic performance. In general, almost all asset categories were down at the end of 2018. The bond market generated negative returns as interest rates have risen so even balanced accounts have faced headwinds in all areas. As noted, the church's asset allocation is currently weighted more heavily to non-equity investments than usual. Brown Advisory will begin to increase the relative share of the church's equity investments when the timing is right. Brown Advisory also will continue to focus on sizing the portfolio to make sure there is enough liquidity to support our income needs.

## **Funding the Parish House Renovation**

In 2018, the Vestry, upon recommendation from the Investment Committee, agreed that the cash flow requirements of the renovation should be financed by borrowing the necessary funds from the Endowment Account in lieu of using a commercial line of credit. Funds were drawn from the Endowment as needed to pay invoices in the latter half of the year. The church will pay a quarterly fixed interest rate of 2.7% on the outstanding amount. The loan, thus, is another fixed income asset in the Endowment Account. The principal of the loan will be repaid over time as the church receives Capital Campaign pledge payments.

Krista Becker  
*Chair*

## LATROBE FELLOWSHIP FOR YOUNG ADULTS REPORT

The Latrobe Fellowship is an active, energetic, joy-filled group of young adults at St. John's Church. Latrobers are single and married adults in their 20s and 30s who find themselves at different places in their life and on their spiritual journeys. Developing and deepening relationships with God and other young adults is very important to us. We gather on the First Wednesday of each month at 7pm for a joyful celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Following the service, we then gather for dinner, fellowship, and an opportunity to learn about food, faith, wine, the Episcopal Church, and a variety of other topics throughout the year.

Latrobers also participate in the larger life of St. John's Church by serving on Sunday mornings as ushers, greeters, readers, chalice bearers, musicians, Sunday school teachers, and in many other ways. Additionally, many serve on Vestry, the Rector Search Committee, as delegates to Diocesan Convention, and in other parish leadership roles. Young adults have worked on many different outreach projects, including the Christmas toy drive, the clothing drive, and Grace's Table. As we move into 2019, you will continue to see young adults active and engaged in the good work that is being done in this church and community.

Because of the ongoing renovation work on the Parish House, the Latrobe Fellowship was displaced from our normal meeting place for much of the past year. The Episcopal Church of the Ascension and St. Agnes (1217 Massachusetts Ave., NW) generously offered us use of their church and undercroft spaces for the monthly gatherings, and we continued to use their space through June of 2018. During this time away, we worked hard to keep Latrobers connected to St. John's and, thankfully, there was not a decrease in the monthly attendance. We're extremely grateful to Ascension and St. Agnes for their hospitality, but we were glad to return home to St. John's in the fall. Here are the events that the Latrobe Fellowship sponsored in 2018.

- January 10, 2018: Champagne Tasting with the Rector
- February 7, 2018: Mardi Gras Celebrations
- March 7, 2018: Conversations on the Holy Land
- April 11, 2018: Trivia Night
- May 2, 2018: Goodbye Party for the Rev. Dr. Luis León
- June 6, 2018: Rooftop Eucharist and BBQ
- August 18, 2018: Latrobe at Grace's Table
- October 3, 2018: Wine Tasting
- November 7, 2018: Board Game Night
- December 5, 2018: White Elephant Gift Exchange

I'm especially grateful to members of the Latrobe Steering Committee: Matthew Taylor, Lacy Broemel, Emorie Broemel, Martha Spieker, Andrew Tomlinson, Alyssa Tomlinson, Evan Zimmerman, Taylor Jetmundsen, Anna Wieger, and Carl Ward.

The Rev. D. Andrew Olivo  
*Assistant Rector*

## MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

The core ministry of the music program at St. John's Church is to lead the music for worship for fifty-two Sundays each year, feast days, weddings, memorial services, major parish events, music festival services, and concerts. To that end, we invite both professional and volunteer singers to join our choral program, to rehearse weekly, and to offer in worship the finest sacred and diverse liturgical music from ages past to our own day. We are fortunate to have one of the finest pipe organs in the Washington area. In addition, through the generosity of parishioners and friends of St. John's, we are able to engage skilled instrumentalists to augment our organ and choral resources for Music Festival Services. In 2018, we welcomed the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra as our *Orchestra in Residence* and inaugurated the *Parlor Series* to showcase the newly-renovated Parlors as a performance space, which now houses a lovely Chickering grand piano donated by Jim and Pat Czerwonky.

This past year, three adult choirs, The Parish Choir (volunteers), the Latrobe Choir (volunteers), and the St. John's Choir (staff singers) have led music for over 100 services, which includes Sunday mornings, eight Music Festival Services, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and First Wednesday Latrobe Eucharists. The Parish Choir continued its "Quarter" system, which requires shorter, yet more focused commitments to the choir. Thursday evening rehearsals for the Parish Choir continue to be preceded by a light supper of sandwiches and sodas, though now conclude with a sung service of Compline in the nave.

I would like to give special recognition to Parish Choir member LaFleur Paysour, who in April hosted and gave a special welcome to 105 visitors from our parish to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. Another shout out goes to Parish Choir member Philip "Radar" Anfinrud for making elaborate percussion instruments from metal conduits and other materials for the Rev. Dr. Luis León's farewell service. With the logistical challenge of lacking a choir room in the Parish House for most of 2018 due to the renovation, the choirs were found rehearsing in the nave, on the sidewalk weather permitting, in the ballroom of the Hay-Adams Hotel, and even with brass at the *Off the Record* bar on Easter morning. I would like to thank all singers for their flexibility, grace, and patience throughout the renovation. Here is the 2018 membership of our Choirs:

### The Parish Choir

- Sopranos: Annette Anfinrud, Caroline Baxter, Thea Crouch, Whitley Herndon, Elizabeth Holdefer, Diana Liao, Julia Leonard, Margy Love, Kathy Luhrman, Robin Taylor, Tory Wood, Quin Woodward Pu, Christina Wilson, and Alyssa Wolice
- Altos: Alison Adkins, Sarah Banks, Krista Bradley, Barbara Burkhardt, Cay Buser, Wendy Fibison, Sara Josey, Ashley Kitchelt, Lisa Koehler, Katherine McClintic, Virginia Pasley, LaFleur Paysour, Elizabeth Pennings, and Margo Wiegenstein
- Tenors: Philip Anfinrud, Craig Burkhardt, Jimmy Duke, Nick Levy, Tom Wade, Alex Wilkins, and Will Yale
- Basses: Justin Dean, Chris Jones, Bill Josey, Daniel Sherwood, George Taylor, John Whelchel, and Tyler Young

### **The Saint John's Choir**

- Sopranos: Dena Goodman, Alicia Lumberly, and Tory Wood
- Altos: Annie Coffman, Lisa Koehler, and Louisa Waycott
- Tenors: Noah Calderon, Sammy Huh, and Nicholas Levy
- Basses: Justin Dean, Chris Fominaya, and Christopher Jones

### **The Latrobe Choir**

- Sopranos: Whitley Herndon, Virginia Pasley, and Quin Woodward Pu
- Altos: Sarah Banks, Robin Rotman, and Katherine McClintic
- Tenors: Gus Chrysson and Will Yale
- Bass: Jeff Bozman

### **Music for Festival Services**

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and friends of St. John's and our Ushers Guild, we are able to augment our music on Music Festival Sundays, Easter, and Christmas Eve with instruments including strings, brass, jazz band, and percussion instruments. Music Festival Services in 2018 included:

- February 11, Jazz Music Festival Service: Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass* with the St. John's and Parish Choirs accompanied by the Dan Dufford Jazz Ensemble
- April 1, Easter Day, sung by St. John's and Parish Choirs with brass quintet and timpani
- May 6, Music Festival Service: *Holy Minimalism*, sacred music from the minimalist genre, including Jonathon Dove's *Missa Brevis*, sung by the St. John's Choir
- May 20, Farewell service for The Rev. Dr. Luis León: The premiere of the Gus Chrysson's *Aplaudan pueblos todos* sung by the Parish and St. John's Choirs, and music for percussion, choir, and organ, including the first movement of the *Concerto for Organ with Percussion Orchestra* by Lou Harrison. Three professional percussionists participated in the service with distinction: Luis Garay, Tom Maloy, and Dave McDonald.
- July 1, Music for Independence Day with Fife and Drum
- September 30, Music Festival Service: Music from French Cathedrals including Louis Vierne's *Messe Sollenelle* with the Parish and St. John's Choirs
- December 16, A Festival of Lessons and Carols sung by the St. John's Choir
- December 24, Music for Christmas Eve with the Ars Nova String Ensemble, including Charpentier's *Messe de minuit*

The Music Festival Services are funded entirely by the gifts of benefactors, and these gifts are always gratefully received. Please consider sponsoring a Festival Service as a meaningful way to mark a milestone or memorial. Contact Director of Music Michael Lodico (Michael.Lodico@stjohns-dc.org) for more information.

### **First Wednesday Concerts**

There were eight First Wednesday Concerts in 2018, using not only talent from our music staff but also outstanding artists from the Washington area and the mid-Atlantic region. This past year completed the ninth season of midday concerts and the beginning of the tenth season, which attract not only parishioners and friends of the parish, but also workers from neighborhood offices, and a loyal group of senior adults from local retirement communities.

- January 10, Julie Vidrick Evans, Concert Organist, performed Music by French Composers
- February 7, Soloists from the St. John's Choir performed with the men's vocal ensemble *Bamburía*
- March 7, Classical guitarist Mak Grgić and organist Stephen Ackert performed Preludes and Fugues from Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*
- May 2, Organist Michael Lodico performed *Music for Angels*, including Craig Phillip's *Archangel Suite*
- June 6, The United States Air Force Strings with organist Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler performed music by women composers, including Margaret Sandresky's *Dialogues for Organ and Strings*
- October 4, The United States Army Chorus
- November 7, The Ars Nova Brass Quintet with organist Michael Lodico
- December 5, The Episcopal High School Chamber Choir performed *Music of the Season*, Brent Erstad, Director

### **The Parlor Series (Sunday, 5:00 p.m.)**

- October 21, The Ars Nova Chamber Ensemble performed *Mozart's Clarinet Quintet*

### **Visiting Choirs for Sunday morning services**

- April 29, The St. Augustine's University Choir from North Carolina
- June 10, The Genesis Youth Choir from Dallas, Texas
- June 17, The GenOUT Youth Choir, an outreach choir of the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington

### **Orchestra in Residence (Sunday, 5:00 p.m.)**

- November 18, The Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra performed Beethoven's *Sixth Symphony "Pastoral"*

I give thanks for the leadership and inspiration of our Clergy, Vestry, and parishioners, and of our wonderful volunteer and staff singers. I am particularly grateful for the help and support of our Assistant Director of Music, Brent Erstad, choir personnel manager, Lisa Koehler, and choir librarian, Tory Wood. All of us who lead music at St. John's feel most fortunate to be a part of continuing two centuries of worship and ministry on Lafayette Square.

Michael Lodico  
*Director of Music Ministry and Organist*

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

As Christians, we are called at Baptism to “seek and serve Christ in all persons.” At St. John’s, our Outreach ministries are focused on partnerships to serve others, both in our community and around the world. In 2018, despite the unavailability of the Parish House, the Outreach Committee continued to build many of our long-standing partnerships, and renewed or initiated other important partnerships. Hundreds of parishioners and friends were involved in Outreach during 2018, and we supported and served a variety of communities in Washington, DC, South Africa, and Jerusalem. The Outreach Committee utilized a budget of \$98,200 during 2018, and the Committee is grateful to the Vestry for this generous allotment. Our resources were allocated as follows:

### EDUCATION: \$30,000

- Communities in Schools of the Nation’s Capital \$15,000
- Bishop Walker School \$5,000
- College Fund \$5,000

St. John’s provided significant support to **Communities in Schools of the Nation’s Capital** (CISNCAP) through funding for the general operations of the organization and through the time and talent of its parishioners both as volunteers in schools and on the Board of Directors. CISNCAP’s mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. To do that, CISNCAP places a Site Coordinator in each of its partner schools whose responsibilities are focused on case management, targeted interventions, whole school prevention services, and parent engagement.

Efforts around CIS this year focused on increasing awareness of and participation in volunteer activities throughout the Congregation by offering additional opportunities to volunteer with CIS. These new opportunities include volunteering at the Family Food Market once per month, participating in career fairs at various times throughout the year, reviewing report cards at volunteer-student conferences with children quarterly, and participating in the Journal Project, which was piloted in 2015. The Committee voted to rename the school-specific line budget line item to “**CIS Special Projects**,” which for 2018 included funding the continuation of the successful pilot journaling project with middle and high school students and Communities in Schools sites.

**Bishop Walker School**, born of the diocese of Washington, is a tuition free institution for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. St. John’s provides a variety of support for the school, including financial support and giving books to students as part of our annual Christmas toy drive. The School currently serves 93 students between kindergarten and sixth grade.

In 2018, St. John’s continued our **College Fund** to help students from the parish afford a college education. The funding contributed to a general scholarship fund for Parishioners.

**PARTNERSHIPS: \$46,900**

*Washington, DC*

- Grace's Table \$6,000
- All Girls Boy Scout Troop Washington, DC TBD

*South Africa*

- Kwasa Centre, South Africa \$15,000
- Travel to/from South Africa (reserve account) \$5,000
- Clergy Travel from South Africa \$2,000

*Diocese of Jersalem*

- St. Paul's Shafr'Amr \$1,000
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) \$1,000
- Princess Basma Centre in East Jerusalem \$7,000

This year the Outreach Committee continued to build our partnership with **Grace's Table**, an outreach ministry of Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. This fellowship prepares and shares a meal at 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays for persons who are homeless or on the margins of being homeless. Starting in September 2013, we have committed to providing volunteers to host Grace's Table on the third Saturday of each month. Teams of 3-5 volunteers purchased and prepared the food, and then gathered with guests to eat and socialize together. The number of guests has varied from about 40 to 50, in addition to volunteers. This wonderful local partnership enables St. John's parishioners to make an impact close to home and build relationships within our community. This year we provided a \$6,000 donation to support the operating costs for Grace's Table, and allocated the remainder of the funds to reimburse volunteers for the cost of the food they prepared and served.

**The South African Companion Group** partners with the Kwasa Centre and the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in the Diocese of the Highveld to provide education and other services to children living in an informal settlement near Johannesburg. The Outreach Committee hopes to send a group from St. John's to Kwasa in 2019.

St. John's continues to partner with the **Diocese of Jerusalem**. We continued donations to our partners at St. Paul's Shafr'Amr and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ). A group of pilgrims from St. John's visited the Holy Land in February 2018, and a second group is visiting in January 2019. The pilgrims from the 2018 pilgrimage group spearheaded a fundraiser to support the **Princess Basma Rehabilitation Centre & School** in East Jerusalem.

We also began a relationship with the **All Girls Boy Scout Troop of Washington, D.C.**

**HOUSING: \$12,800**

- Rebuilding Together \$9,000
- Pathways to Housing \$3,000

St. John's continued to support **Rebuilding Together** this year.

In addition to receiving financial support from St. John's, **Pathways to Housing** is the beneficiary of items donated by parishioners to our semi-annual clothing drives. This year, we grew our partnership with Pathways as they took a greater role in helping to distribute the donations to appropriate community organizations throughout Washington DC.

**EVENTS: \$1,500**

- Sandwich Sunday (\$600 x 1) \$600
- Clothing Drive -
- Annual Gift Drive \$1000

In 2018, **Sandwich Sunday**, an outreach ministry that provides sandwiches to Martha's Table, was put on a temporary hold due to the construction of the Parish House, but will return in 2019.

St. John's put on hold our tradition of hosting spring and fall **Clothing Drives**, due to the Parish House renovation. We were able to host a coat drive shortly before Christmas to provide coats to children participating in Communities in Schools.

The annual **Christmas Gift Drive** collected books, clothing, and other gifts for more than 150 children. We worked with four organizations to collect children's Christmas wishes and distribute gifts: Bishop Walker School (BWS), Southeast White House, St. John's Community Services, and Advocates for Justice and Education. The gift drive budget was used to purchase supplies for the Angel Tree, to purchase wrapping supplies, and to provide lunch for the volunteer "elves" who participated in the wrapping parties on December 10.

**IMMIGRATION: \$10,000**

In early 2017, we recognized that sponsoring a refugee family would be a huge undertaking, and certainly not the only way to support refugees in Washington. With every resettlement, there is a need for a welcoming community to embrace, support, and connect the refugees to needed resources. Some preliminary research uncovered a number of DMV area parishes active in refugee support, and their progress and ideas helped shape a written proposal for St. John's to start prayerfully exploring what refugee support might look like for our congregation.

The program created a year-long phased approach to bring attention to refugee issues at St. John's by developing a focused plan to support refugee efforts already underway in our community. The phases included education and awareness, reflection, and opportunities for action. The purpose was to put our congregation and the Outreach Committee in a stronger position at the end of the year to evaluate the possibility of sponsoring a family, or alternatively, to be better informed of the needs of the refugee community and other opportunities best suited for our parish to contribute to the efforts in an ongoing way. The Refugee Committee has also maintained funds for continued work in a reserve account.

**DONATIONS: \$14,500**

- Downtown Cluster of Congregations                      \$7,000
- IONA Senior Services    \$1,500
- Samaritan Ministries    \$2,000
- Washington Interfaith Network                              \$3,000
- Seabury Resources for Aging                                  \$1,000

In 2017, the Outreach Committee continued to expand our partnership with **Seabury Resources for Aging** by participating in the Aging in Place program.

Several Outreach Committee members met with **Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)** Organizer Alison Dunn to discuss additional ways to involve St. John's in WIN efforts around the city. The Committee has a new lead for this effort and looks forward to seeing how the partnership grows in 2019.

St. John's continued to provide financial support to **Samaritan Ministries**.

In addition to the ministries outlined above, St. John's continued our partnership with **So Others Might Eat (SOME)**. Parishioners pick up an empty casserole pan in the Parish House, fill it with a casserole, and drop it off in the basement freezer. The casseroles feed homeless and low-income persons in DC.

**MOVING FORWARD:**

The Outreach Committee intends to meet in early 2019 in order to plan for the coming year now that the Parish House has reopened. We plan to restart our clothing drives, Sandwich Sunday, and other activities put on hold by the Parish House renovation.

Matthew David Taylor  
*Outreach Committee Chair*

## PARISH HOUSE RENOVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Renovation began on January 2, 2018, after five years of planning and design. Eventually the plan included a new elevator, redesign of the old parlors, a new stairwell replacing our old fire escape, a modernized kitchen, and a new centralized main entrance to improve security when necessary.

A Design Subcommittee was appointed by the co-chairs to review finishes and decorative detail. Members include the co-chairs, John Irelan, Luis León, Robert Pahnke, and Anne Stewart. The Subcommittee met periodically during renovation to work out colors and textures and maintain some of our historic elements. We want to thank John Irelan for his extra work on so many of these details.

On the first floor, a new Multipurpose Room replaces the Library. The new Togo West Parlor includes: a painted upgrade to the two columns in the north side so that they match the look of the existing scagliola columns to the south; a new infill crafted for the south fireplace to imitate the north fireplace; new carpeting; replication of the existing ornamental woodwork for the new pilasters flanking the old pocket doors now re-milled to fit between the parlor and the Multipurpose Room; an audio-visual system that includes a mechanized drop-down screen, a built-in projector, and two new monitors in the south end and in the Multipurpose room; and automated window shades.

The second floor includes space for the Church School and a vesting room each for the clergy and acolytes. The re-arranged upper floors provide for a practice room and lockers for the choir on the fourth floor, and consolidation of clergy offices on the third floor.

We want to thank the Renovation Committee members for their hard work as we finish the six-year effort: Paul Barkett, Matt Gaziano, Richard Grimmett, John Peters Irelan, Lisa Kirchenbauer, Luis León, Nancy Mathis, John More, Robert Pahnke, Damaris Rivera, Anne Stewart, and Christina Wilson. Hayden Bryan has served the Committee well as the staff coordinator.

Chase W. Rynd and Sharon Park  
*Co-chairs*

## PARISH LUNCH REPORT

The Sunday Parish Lunch is a wonderful and important fellowship opportunity at St. John's. Due to the renovation of the Parish House we decided to continue and even expand this fellowship opportunity by organizing activities by neighborhood/zipcode. These events began in September 2017 and have continued throughout 2018. They have been potluck suppers, brunches and cocktail parties in the homes of parishioners. There is considerable enthusiasm for this new community building opportunity which we are looking forward to continuing into 2019.

Special appreciation is extended to the following individuals who organized, cooked and hosted these events during 2018, at which more than 200 parishioners enjoyed fellowship:

- Leila Taafe & Arthur Kellerman & Kay Gilley
- Sara McGannity
- Andrew Clarke & Chip Sherrill
- Thom Sinclair & Jim Kreger
- Joanne & Powell Hutton
- Meredith Sullenger
- Martha & Dick Ellison
- Robin Anderson & Chuck Schwartz
- Ann & John Gardner & Mary & Carl Raether
- Dick & Joy Nathan

Holly Sukenik  
*Parish Lunch Coordinator*

## PARISH REGISTER REPORT

### Transfers into the Parish in 2018:

Catherine E. Stolar – from St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, Washington, DC  
Saunders Lee McElroy – from St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Birmingham, AL  
Jonathan Jellis Rawlings – from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain, TN  
James Robert Finch – from All Souls Episcopal Church, Washington, DC  
David Paul Dawson – from All Souls Episcopal Church, Washington, DC  
Susan Webb Wild – from Holy Cross Episcopal Church, Carlsbad, CA  
Aimee Elizabeth Forsythe – from All Saints Church, Richmond, VA  
Budd Jaye Hallberg – from Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Gettysburg, PA  
Rebecca Simmons Brown – from St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, Spartanburg, SC  
Benjamin Robert Watson – from Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Wilmington, DE

### Transfers out of the Parish in 2018:

Michael Tune – to St. Patrick’s Episcopal Church, Washington, DC  
Laura Hohnsbeen Clarke – to St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA  
Mario Anthony Giberti – to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Greensboro, NC  
Julia Elizabeth Baun – to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Greensboro, NC  
Natalia Chilion Giberti – to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Greensboro, NC  
Silas Buras Sauls – to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Smithfield, NC  
Stephen, Ansley, and Alden Adkins – to Christ Church, Georgetown, Washington, DC

### Confirmations, Reaffirmations, Receptions, Baptisms in 2018:

#### Confirmations

Eric A. Love  
Annie Houston Morefield  
Caitlin Brooks Rooney  
Harrison Holt Simonds  
William Haskell Simonds III  
Haofeng Edward Tang  
John Richard Aschieris  
Glynnis Pleshette Bryant  
Anne Marie Formanek  
Elizabeth Lee Holdefer  
Brittany Leigh Prime  
David Leigh Sluis  
Lauren Haley Waldron

## **Receptions**

Scott Edward Barnes  
Justin Brooks Dean  
John David Morefield  
Julie Neff  
Raymond Vytautas Petniunas  
Susan Elizabeth Petniunas  
Katherine Johnson Rawlings  
Matthew William Sipala  
Susan Webb Wild  
Robin Dorothy Anderson  
Veronica Rocio Bautista  
Leo Henricus Bouma  
Susan Lydia Jess  
Elizabeth Peirce Koehler  
Gregory David Mays  
Kristina Markle Pasqualone  
Elizabeth Anne Schoetz  
Charles Warren Schwartz  
Edward David Simmer  
Desiree Davis Stolar  
Brian Joseph Wesoloski

## **Reaffirmations**

Sally Rose Larson Barnes  
Catherine Stewart Morefield  
Jonathan Jellis Rawlings  
Budd Jaye Hallberg  
George William Rabbe, Jr.

## **Baptisms**

Penelope Enibokun Bolton  
John Bancroft Davis  
Charlotte Grace Hantson  
Hodges Denning Doffermyre  
Joseph Gabriel Leonelli  
Leonardo Ruben Arriaga  
Henry Matson Coxe V  
George Rankin Ehrich  
Clara Morgan Hallett  
Vivienne Grace Harris  
Margaret Ruth Bedingfield Kieve  
Ava Claire Kosegarten  
Edith Bridges Leskosky  
Glynnis Pleshette Bryant

Victoria Robertson Hahn  
Mason Seth Jeffers  
Myles Jamal Jeffers  
Thomas McCrory Lyons  
Richard Timothy Ward  
Robert Stuart Dyer  
Naomi Ruth Froehlich  
Grace Kennedy Corcoran  
Claire Juliana Hillery Gaziano  
Haley Sloane Bussie-Thomas  
James Steuart Martens, Jr.  
Audrey Ella Oster  
Matilda Byrd Luxardo Jeffries  
Grace Rose Parnham

### **Weddings**

Audrey Michele Wood and Matthew Evan Corcoran  
Cameron Heaps Ippolito and Andrew Gerald McBride  
Emilia Lucille León and Jonathan Daniel Waldmann  
Mary Elizabeth Burke and Daniel Gregory Kroese  
Christine Victoria Brown and Michael Frederick Stehle  
Alyssa Ann Wolice and Andrew Edward Charles Tomlinson  
Lacey Daniel Raymond and Edwin Virgil Sczcepanik  
Whitney Alyssa Parker and Robert Seth Johnston  
Elizabeth Anne Schoetz and Gregory David Mays

## PASTORAL CARE AND LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY REPORT

Every week at St. John's Church we have members who are committed to the work of pastoral care for those in the congregation in need of support. A group of parishioners work with the clergy to reach out to our homebound and ill parishioners; they make phone calls, send emails, deliver flowers, visit and share communion, and say prayers for those who are in hospital or no longer able to join us in church on Sunday mornings.

Almost every Sunday of the year we say this prayer as we send out our Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs): "On behalf of God and St. John's Church, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you will visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. Amen." It's an important part of our service each week as it reminds us that there are members of our parish who, for a variety of reasons, cannot make it to church and yet are still part of our life together. The LEMs are one way that we stay linked to those who cannot be with us on Sundays. They share communion, they read scripture, they say prayers, and, most importantly, they remind those they visit that they are loved by their church and by God. I am very grateful to the team of LEMs who committed themselves to this important ministry, and I invite the congregation to keep them, as well as the homebound and sick parishioners they visit, in your prayers.

Pastoral care is vitally important to the health of our congregation, and we are grateful to each member who makes time to care for those in need. If you are interested in assisting with any of the pastoral care work at St. John's Church, please contact the Rev. Andy Olivo for more information. And when you have your own pastoral care needs that arise, please let the clergy know as soon as possible so that we can pray for you and offer you our care and support. The only way that we can know if you are sick, in the hospital, or celebrating a special occasion is if you let us know.

The Rev. D. Andrew Olivo  
*Assistant Rector*

## PLANNED GIVING REPORT

As of the end of 2018, there were 56 parishioners who have committed in their estate planning to make a bequest to St. John's as part of the 1816 Society. Unfortunately, at the writing of this report, three parishioners have lost their lives in 2019 but those bequests will be part of the 2019 update. As we call a new Rector to our church, the Chair expects to launch a renewed commitment to planned giving within the St. John's community. In addition, the Chair will be involved in a new financial education effort within the Diocese of Washington that may have an impact on the efforts of this committee.

Lisa A.K. Kirchenbauer  
*Chair*

## PROPERTIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Properties Committee is responsible for issues involving the condition and operations of the Church's buildings and grounds. It provides oversight and support to the administrative staff in the area of property management. The Committee worked directly with Hayden Bryan, Executive Director for Operations, in 2018 to implement its decisions. The Committee's members are Rick Busch, Barbie Harper, Joanne Hutton, Patricia Leslie, Richard Metzger, Sam Watson, and Richard Grimmatt, Chair of the Committee.

The principal actions taken by the Committee in 2018 involving the properties of St. John's Church were as follows:

The Committee continued its program for the removal, restoration, and reinstallation of the historic Lorin memorial Stained-Glass Windows of St. John's Church. Contracts were signed for the restoration of several windows this year. The most significant window restored was the Hagner window, located on the H Street side of the church on the main floor. During 2018 two windows were removed from the Organ Bay area--the Abert and Crane windows. When these windows are reinstalled in early 2019, all of the Stained-Glass Windows on the main floor within the church will have been restored. During 2019, two windows on the H Street side of the Gallery will be removed and restored: the Markoe window, and the Buchanan window. Another window on the AFL side of the Gallery, the Turnbull window, adjacent to the large demi-lune Bishop's window, will also be removed and restored in 2019. All of these windows are original, historic, Lorin windows and were designed and fabricated in Chartres, France in 1883-1884 and all installed by 1885. The Committee continues to use the Shenandoah Glass firm of Front Royal, Virginia to do these restorations. This company has demonstrated its professional skills through its previous restoration of several other Lorin Stained Glass Windows in the church. This firm also installed custom-built, state-of-the-art, protective covers, formally called Insulated Glass Units (IGU), on windows throughout the church. These IGUs protect the windows from damage that results from expansion and contraction of the stained glass caused by excessive heat or cold outside when the temperature inside the church is the opposite, whether during Washington's hot summers or its cold winters.

Once the above restorations are completed, only three major Stained-Glass windows will remain to be restored in the church. One of these windows is in the North Gallery on the AFL side of the church: the Presidents W.H. Harrison, Tyler and Taylor window, located on the door adjacent to the large demi-lune Bishop's window. The other two historic windows are the Swords and Shields windows installed in 1885 and located at the lower level of the stairs leading to the Gallery; one on the H Street side of the church, and the other on AFL side.

Initial planning actions were taken in 2018 to carry out plantings in key areas around the West front Plaza and elsewhere around the exterior of the church. Now that the Parish House renovations are essentially completed, it is the intent of the Committee to pursue implementation of these plantings in 2019.

Richard F. Grimmatt  
*Chair*

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Committee's main focus will always be on annual giving. Receipts from pledges account for about 40% of the total budget at St. John's. Here is the record of pledge amounts received over the past few years: 2015 (\$1,117,488.00); 2016 (\$1,025,960.00 from 427 units); and 2017 (\$1,009,150.00 from 389 units).

As of January 23, 2019, we have received pledges from 311 units totally \$864,377. Pledges have not been coming in as quickly as in past years. For example, at this time last year, we had received pledges from 375 units totally \$1,035,764. Typically, pledges continue to be submitted for several months into each calendar year, as new members join our church or members reevaluate their charitable giving plans. To those members of our parish family who have not yet pledged for 2019, we ask you to carefully and prayerfully consider making a pledge. Any pledge, no matter how small, makes a difference!

Stewardship Committee members carry out the annual canvass in November. Members of this year's Stewardship Committee include Sara McGanity, Claudette Cox, TJ and Karis Parnham, Natalie Popovic and Chip Sherrill. We are truly grateful for their faithfulness and support. We were also pleased that several members of the Vestry volunteered to assist us in making calls.

I especially want to recognize the outstanding support that the St John's office staff has provided in facilitating our Stewardship work. Evangeline Gravina creates the call sheets for the fall canvas, Hayden Bryan organizes them into notebooks for canvassers, and Preston Cherouny maintains records and makes the necessary financial reports to the appropriate church committees and the Vestry. We continue to be blessed as a result of their hard work.

Faithfully,

Ralph Olson  
*Chair*

## THEOLOGY ON TAP REPORT

Theology on Tap provides an opportunity to explore issues and topics that relate to faith and life in a casual, low-pressure environment. Speakers from churches, universities, and institutions in the DC-area share their thoughts and experiences on a variety of topics to get the conversations started each month. And we do this while enjoying a beer (or Diet Coke) and a burger.

2018 continued to be interesting year for Theology on Tap because of ongoing space issues. Finding a restaurant that would consistently allow us to gather (for free) in their space was a challenge. We met for a time at Fuel Pizza on K Street NW, but had issues at the end of 2018 with the space being double-booked. In 2019, we will use the newly renovated parlors of the parish house to host events!

The Rev. D. Andrew Olivo  
*Assistant Rector*

## TOUR GUIDES' REPORT

St. John's Tour Guides continued its ministry of welcoming visitors from around the country and the world to inform them of the church's history and work in our nation's capital. This past year, visitors from the United States came from Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington state, while those from around the world included individuals from Ontario Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, and Mexico. Tour guides frequently invite visitors to sit in the Presidential Pew during talks about the church, and during one of these occasions a young person indicated that he was practicing for when he became president!

The geographic breadth of visitors from around the country and the world is testament to St. John's two-hundred-and-two year history not only as the Church of the Presidents, but also to its excellence in preaching, fine music, and architectural significance as a masterwork of America's first trained architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe.

Every tour is a special event for both Tour Guides and those staying following the 11 a.m. service to hear them and ask questions about the church. One special tour this year took place in June, when Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wyatt and ten members (four generations) of their family, gathered in Washington from around the country for a pre-arranged tour of the church. Mr. Wyatt is the great, great, great, great nephew of John Peter Van Ness, a founding member of St. John's. In the spring of 1815, Mr. Van Ness was one of six individuals chosen by a larger group seeking to build a new Protestant Episcopal Church in the west end of a growing City of Washington. According to church historian Richard Grimmett, this group was to secure a building site, receive and review plans and estimates for a building, and superintend its construction. In this capacity Mr. Van Ness would have had a working relationship with architect Latrobe. Subsequently in July 1816, Mr. Van Ness became one of eight men elected to the first Vestry, and in December of that year, he was one of two vestrymen chosen to meet then-president James Madison to offer him a pew in the new church.

Thank you to a great team of Tour Guides; Rick Bush, Valerie Crotty, Carolyn Crouch, Pat and Garry Dalby, Betty van Iersel, Mac Johnston, Jacob Parcell, Richard Price, and Karen Zachary.

Valerie Crotty  
*Chair*

*Editor's note: After many years of ably and joyfully leading the Tour Guides, Valerie is stepping down as the head of the group. She will continue to give tours. We thank her for her years of service and special attention to this important ministry.*

## USHER GUILD REPORT

For the past 132 years, Ushers have had an integral role at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, more than 200 years after the placement of its cornerstone on September 14, 1815. More than 70 years after services began on October 27, 1816, the vestry approved the hiring of Ushers from the local community to seat growing numbers of visitors and parishioners. In 1894, volunteer male members of the congregation were given the opportunity to serve as Ushers to offer service to the church on committees and the vestry. In 1941, the Usher Guild was formed. In the 1970s, volunteer female members of the congregation began to serve on the vestry and in the 1980s as Ushers. In 2003, female parishioners assumed roles as Assistant Head Ushers.\*

Today's volunteer Ushers are members of that legacy Usher Guild, and warmly greet and assist parishioners and visitors as they attend services at St. John's Church. They help with seating so as not to disrupt the worship of others, and participate during the Offertory and administration of the Holy Eucharist. Ushers serve in small teams once a month at each of the three Sunday morning services (7:45, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.), January through May and early September through December, and at each of the two Sunday morning services (7:45 and 10:30 a.m.), June through August. They also serve as Ushers for memorial services, funerals, and other special events. Each year, the Usher Guild has sponsored the splendid festival music programs featured at the Easter Sunday services.

Ushers strive to ensure that appropriate decorum and the integrity of personal security of worshipers are maintained. They also assist in the event of emergency situations that may occur during church services. As first responders, the Assistant Head Ushers and many Ushers are certified in use of emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) techniques and automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment.

During 2018, more than 60 parishioners served as Ushers. The teams of Ushers were led by 10 Assistant Head Ushers: Jeff Agnew, Bud Harrell, Robyne Johnston, Richard Metzger, John More, Ellen Parke, Anthony Pegues, Nora Rigby, Alfred Thesmar, and Samuel Watson. Church growth continued to increase during the year, with total attendance of approximately 30,000 worshipers. The Christmas Eve Pageant and Easter Sunday services were the most highly-attended regular services held at St. John's Church.

Ushers welcome the opportunity to serve the entire St. John's Church parish and the surrounding community. You are invited to consider being part of this exciting and dedicated ministry. If you would like additional information, please contact the Head Usher at any time (jczewonky@verizon.net).

James H. Czerwonky  
*Head Usher*

\* Information was sourced, in part, from Green, *The Church on Lafayette Square*; Harper, *Years of Change*; and Grimmer, *St. John's Church, Lafayette Square*.

## VESTRY NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Under the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Vestry of St. John's Lafayette Square is responsible for the economic health of the Parish and for the support of the ministry of the clergy. This coming year, the Vestry will select a new Rector, one of its most important functions. The Vestry consists of the Rector, the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden and twelve members of the Vestry elected by the Parish. The Vestry is assisted by the Parish Officers -- the parish Counsel, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer. Officers are appointed by the Vestry annually.

The Senior and Junior Wardens serve one-year terms while the twelve members of the Vestry serve staggered terms of four years. Each year, the terms of three members of the Vestry expire. This year the departing members are Carrie Garland, Thom Sinclair and Anne Stewart.

On Saturday, December 10, 2018, member of the Vestry Nominating Committee met to consider potential nominees to fill the vacancies. Based on the recommendations of the Committee, the following parishioners have agreed to stand for election to the Vestry:

Senior Warden - Richard Metzger

Junior Warden - Paul Barkett

Vestry Member (three to be elected):

Lauren Edwards

John Herzog

Nora Rigby

Chase Rynd

Desiree Davis Stolar

Leila Taaffe

Richard Metzger, Senior Warden, introduced the candidates at a Forum on Sunday, January 27, 2019 and each candidate gave a presentation. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 3, 2019 and the results should be announced at the end of the meeting

Anne D. Stewart  
*Chair*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### 2018 Highlights

#### Income

2018 saw a decrease in pledge income and holiday offerings, which was counteracted by a significant increase in plate offerings. Final plate income (\$151,680) exceeded the budgeted amount by approximately \$61,500 (69% greater than budget). The increase in plate income was caused primarily by a change in how the church accounts for contributions by pledging members in excess of their pledged amounts. In the past, the church has recorded those payments as pledge income. In 2018 and going forward, we will record those payments as plate income. This change will give us a more accurate measure of the percentage of pledged amounts that are paid. Using this approach pledge income (\$951,360) in 2018 came in approximately \$33,500 below budget (a 3% shortfall), and holiday offerings came in 13% under budget.

In addition, prior year pledge income exceeded budgeted amounts by approximately \$17,000 (169% surplus). This was due primarily to delays in receiving mail that had to be re-routed from the church address to the church staff's offsite location during the Parish House renovation. As such, a number of 2017 pledges were received in 2018 and were applied to this year's income statement. Wedding income was also notably higher than budgeted.

#### Disbursements

The majority of St. John's expenses fall into four categories: Clergy (20%), Parish and Office (29%), Music (11%) and Outreach (14%). The balance of the expenses consisted of administrative, maintenance, and repair costs.

In 2018, \$290,276 was allocated to various outreach initiatives. Expenditures in that total included:

- Diocesan Pledge: \$164,000 (increased \$14,000 from the prior year).
- Parish Outreach Committee: \$92,426 (numerous grants, programs and donations).
- Seminary Support, Washington Interfaith Network, Downtown Cluster of Churches, Bishop Walker School and KWASA: \$33,851.

#### 2018 Surplus

The church experienced cost savings in several expense categories as well as strong plate and prior year pledge income amounts and, as a result of these combined factors, St. John's ended 2018 with a **surplus of \$134,755**.

## 2019 Budget

The Vestry approved a balanced budget for 2019. As the church returns to regular operations following the completion of the Parish House renovation, staffing, maintenance, and program expenses are expected to rise. In addition, there are several one-time expenditures that will be incurred in 2019, such as expenses that accrued in 2018, but will be paid in 2019 because the church operates on a cash accounting basis. The following are the principal changes in recurring expenses from 2018 that are included in the 2019 budget:

- ✓ Staff and clergy salaries have been budgeted with an increase of 2.4%, as recommended by the Diocese.
- ✓ Salary for new Rector has been budgeted on conservative estimates and assumes a June 1 start date.
- ✓ A part-time position for a front desk receptionist has been allocated to provide improved security at the new entrance.
- ✓ The third sexton and Assistant for Ministries to Children, Youth and Families have been budgeted for the full year.
- ✓ The budget includes modest programmatic increases for Parish Outreach Committee, the Music Department and Christian Education.
- ✓ The Diocesan pledge has been budgeted at \$150,000 (\$14,000 less than amount paid in 2018), returning to the 2017 level.

Based on current pledges and prior-year collections, the 2019 budget conservatively sets pledge income at \$900,000 (approximately \$51,000 lower than 2018 actuals).

Funds are transferred monthly from the church's endowment accounts in equal installments to the operating account and are used for church expenses. Historically, these funds have been equal to 5% of the average December 31 account balances for the current and preceding two years. For the past few years, very strong pledge income and certain expense savings have enabled the church to reduce this percentage to 4.8% in 2018.

Several factors, however, caused the Vestry to decide to use the 5% factor for the 2019 budget. In particular: the market downturn at the end of 2018 and borrowing from our endowment accounts to fund the Parish House renovation have reduced the balance in the endowment accounts. The Vestry decided to offset these changes in part by returning to the use of the 5% factor in determining the endowment's support for the operating budget in 2019. Because the unpaid Capital Campaign pledges exceed the remaining anticipated Parish House renovation expenses, the Vestry expects that the church's endowment will experience a significant increase over the next two years.

In view of the uncertainties associated with the church's transition to a new Rector in 2019 and the various one-time expenditures noted above, the Vestry decided to apply the 2018 surplus to offset some of the expenses in the 2019 budget (primarily the 2018 accruals and payment of the restoration of the last of the stained-glass windows) and to fund a contingency account to address the uncertainty factor.

Nkem Onwuamaegbu  
*Parish Treasurer*



## **Welcome!**

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, we believe Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

ST JOHN'S WAS ORGANIZED IN 1815 to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

BROCHURES DESCRIBING PARISH LIFE, the history of St. John's, and the Episcopal denomination can be found in the church entrance. If you are visiting, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

ST JOHN'S WEBSITE [WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG](http://WWW.STJOHNS-DC.ORG) has up-to-date information about the Church including the weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Adult Forum speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events

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### ***Vestry***

Richard Metzger, *Senior Warden*

Paul Barkett, *Junior Warden*

Virginia Bader, Andrew Clarke, Audrey Wood Corcoran, Carolyn Crouch, Martha Ellison, Carrie Garland, Jeff Hantson, Wande Johnson, Peter Odom, Jessica Sanchez, Thom Sinclair, and Anne Stewart.

Nkem Onwuamaegbu, *Treasurer*

Casey Evans, *Assistant Treasurer*

Karis Gong Parnham, *Secretary*

Christopher R. Wall, *Parish Counsel*

### ***Head Usher***

James H. Czerwonky

### ***Staff***

Kim Carlson

*Director for Operations*

Evangeline Gravina

*Operations Assistant*

Preston Cherouny

*Financial Secretary*

R. J. Gravina

*Program Coordinator*

Elizabeth Leach

*Communications Coordinator*

Victor Obregon, *Sexton*

Glynnis Bryant and David Gamboa,  
*Assistant Sextons*

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### **Parish House**

1525 H Street N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005-1005

*Telephone 202 347-8766*

*fax 202 347-3446*

*Website [www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org)*