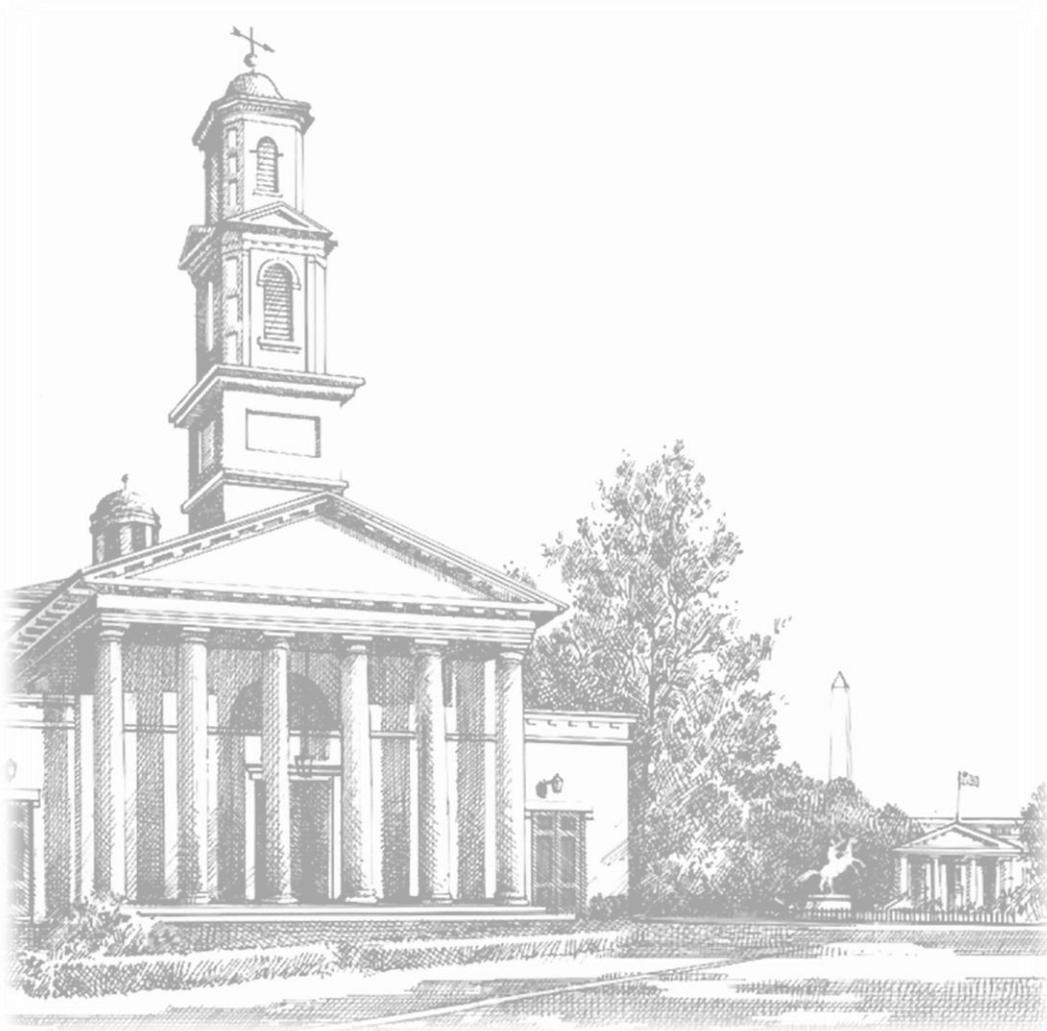


Annual Parish Report

For the year 2019



Rector's Report
Senior Warden's Report
Reports of Parish Organizations

February 2020

The Reverend Robert W. Fisher
Rector

The Reverend Jane Milliken Hague
Interim Associate Rector

The Reverend William Morris
Assisting Priest for Engaging Faith and the Workplace

The Reverend Savannah Ponder
Deacon for Ministries to Children, Youth, and Families

Kaye Edwards
Assistant for Church Growth

Brent Erstad
Acting Director of Music

Samantha Scheff
Assistant Organist

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RECTOR'S REPORT

Dear Members of St. John's,

First let me say how incredibly happy I am to be called to be the 15th rector of St. John's Church. Thank you for welcoming me and my family so warmly and graciously this year.

Right from the start, I have found this parish community to be energetic, talented, faithful and very thoughtful. We are blessed in abundance with inspired lay leadership. We have one of the best music programs I have ever heard. There are meaningful outreach endeavors, and plenty of opportunities to get involved, to connect with others, and to grow in faith together.

I also sense immense potential for us. I sense a longing by many for us to engage more deeply with one another in community, with our surrounding community (lowering the barrier of entry to folks who might otherwise not walk in the door), and with spiritual practices to deepen our relationship with God and grow spiritually. St. John's already is a lovely, lively church. There has been a positive, warm and thoughtful spirit here for a long while. But we can certainly build on our strengths, and it's especially important that we have an openness to trying new things, inviting creativity and raising up more fully our gifted lay leadership. The trends of the church broadly speaking, across denominations, are downward. All churches will need to explore new ways to do what we do within the changing societal realities that surround us, and I hope for St. John's that we will be ahead of the curve. I don't know exactly what that will look like, but that will be something that we will get to discern together in the years ahead.

Perhaps the biggest struggle I see at this moment is that there has been a trend of decline in pledging for a number of years. I had hoped that this year we would see that reverse, but instead we are seeing it essentially flatten. (The dollar amount pledged so far is just a little bit above where it was last year at this time, and the total number of pledges is decidedly lower.) Let me add how incredibly grateful I am to the many who made a pledge to St. John's for the first time this year, or who increased their pledge. (More than 130 pledgers are in one of these categories!) Because we are facing an ever increasing cost of doing business, we have looked for sensible ways to trim the budget wherever we can. You can read more of the details in the Treasurer's report. We are also taking advantage of prior year surpluses, but we likely won't be able to do that next year. The good news is that we have a balanced budget, and I feel confident that we have the funds that we need for the year ahead. For the future, though, we will be looking for new opportunities to increase revenue. Also, we will engage some new practices in how we do stewardship.

There is much more to say, but I will close by simply thanking our Sr. Warden, Richard Metzger, and Jr. Warden, Paul Barkett, whose faith, giftedness and dedication to St. John's are inspiring. I also give thanks for our three departing vestry members, Wande Johnson, Virginia Bader and Audrey Wood Corcoran.

There isn't room to list the scores of others who make St. John's the thriving church that it is, but I can simply say that it is a deep blessing and an honor to be called to do ministry in this place, at this time, and with all of you.

Faithfully,
The Reverend Robert W. Fisher

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear Parishioners:

2019 was an exceptional year in the life of our parish – we completed the rector transition process by welcoming the Reverend Robert W. Fisher, our 15th Rector, his wife, Sarah Wood, and daughter, Zoe. Even as we celebrated Rob's arrival, we were faced with the difficult task of saying goodbye to our thoughtful Interim Rector, the Reverend Bruce McPherson, our talented Director of Music Ministry, Michael Lodico, and our beloved Assistant Rector, the Reverend Andy Olivo, all of whom contributed immeasurably to our common life together during their time at St. John's.

In addition to calling our next Rector, the Vestry authorized two additional significant projects in 2019: the updating of our accounting systems and the application for a grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to upgrade security around our campus. We owe our thanks to Kim Carlson, Director of Operations, for her invaluable leadership on both of these projects. You will hear more about the modernizing of our accounting systems at the parish's annual meeting, but suffice it to say that the last update to our financial systems occurred about 40 years ago, so this was a much-needed improvement. I am also very pleased to report that the Department of Homeland Security late in 2019 awarded St. John's a grant of \$100,000 for security enhancements, many of which will be implemented in 2020.

While our church is blessed with an endowment which supports our operating budget, pledges from parishioners remain a substantial source of our annual income. During 2019, the church experienced a decline in pledges, both in dollars and pledging units, a trend that has become a significant concern. The discussion of the 2020 budget during the parish's annual meeting will highlight some difficult compromises that were necessary to produce a balanced budget. Both understanding and reversing the pledging trend will be a primary focus for the Vestry in 2020.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our very able, hard-working staff, both lay and ordained, who day in and day out assure that we and our buildings are well cared for. It is a privilege for the Wardens and Vestry to work with them and to serve you in this historic center of mission and ministry on Lafayette Square.

The annual meeting is always a bittersweet time for the Vestry because the terms of three of the current members come to an end: Virginia Bader, Wande Johnson, and Audrey Wood. We, as a congregation, are indebted to these three individuals who have contributed in many ways to our community life. We will miss their presence on the Vestry.

Finally, I have been very honored to have served as a Warden of St. John's for the past several years, the last two as Senior Warden. I have been the grateful beneficiary of the unwavering support of remarkably gifted and diverse Vestries, particularly during the transition to our new Rector. I also have been very appreciative of the words of encouragement as well as constructive criticisms I have received from many in the congregation during my term. I leave this privileged position secure in the knowledge that St. John's future under the leadership of our new Rector is in very capable and faithful hands.

Richard Metzger
Senior Warden

ACOLYTES AND CRUCIFERS REPORT

Our nineteen acolytes and nineteen crucifers contribute to the ceremony of our services, setting the tone of reverence and solemnity. Those who volunteer for this duty are essential to our worship at St. John's; imagine a procession without our beautiful ornate cross or our brightly lit torches! 2019 was another successful year for this program.

Two acolytes serve as torchbearers at the head of the procession as our worship service begins, and one acolyte carries the clergy cross which precedes the clergy as they walk into the church. The torchbearers have also been given an additional duty this fall, leading students to the Children's Chapel during the 11:00 a.m. service. We were sorry to lose a large number of acolytes this past year, due to relocation, college and other activities. They were: Clark Agnew, Alexander Anikeeff, Helene Burwell, David Estes, Adriana Leckow, Kosi Onwuamaegbu, Obi Onwuamaegbu, and Gus Tierney. While they are all sorely missed, we welcome new members Charlie Bader, Zoe Fisher, Charlotte Galm, and Lily Venzke. The acolytes for 2019 were:

Hugh Agnew
Audrey Anikeeff
Charlie Bader
Reese Crochet
Walker Crochet
Thea Crouch
Zoe Fisher
Charlotte Galm
Spencer Galm
Carolyn Gardner

Ben Garland
Caroline Huettner
Alexander Lehmann Weng
Oliver Lehmann Weng
Sebastian Lehmann Weng
Claire Montgomery
Cooper Thesmar
Elizabeth Thesmar
Lily Venzke

Our crew of crucifers is comprised of strong-armed men and women, many of whom have made carrying the processional cross their special ministry for years. We were sorry when Devin Urness stepped down, but we thank Edward Dennis, Nora Duesterhaus, Won Yong Shim, Dax Tejera, Carl Ward, and Hilary West for joining the group. The crucifers for 2019 were:

Paul Barkett
Matt Bode
Edward Dennis
Nora Duesterhaus
Andrew Hunt
Stewart Jeffries
Kenny Kraft
Leo Lex
Paul Mandelson
Brandon Montgomery

Eric Peters
WonYong Shim
Thom Sinclair
Dax Tejera
Andrew Tomlinson
Carl Ward
Hilary West
Wendy Fibison
Michelle Mangrum

I'd like to extend my appreciation to all acolytes, their parents, and to all crucifers, as well as to RJ Gravina, Program Coordinator, who keeps us all in line! We are always open to newcomers, young or old, who would like to participate in this ministry; training sessions can be easily arranged.

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.

2019 Adult Forums

- **January 20: General Eric Schoomaker**, former Commanding General, United States Army Medical Command. He addressed advances made in trauma care in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.
- **January 27: Vestry Candidates' Presentation.**
- **February 10: Mark Updegrove**, President and CEO of The Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation. He spoke on *George H.W. Bush: President and Patriot*. Mark talked about George H. W. Bush's presidency as well his life of service (including his military service in WW II) and the values he instilled in his son, President George W. Bush.
- **February 17: The Rev. W. Bruce McPherson**, St. John's Interim Rector. He spoke on *Congregations and Their Life Cycles*.
- **February 24: Warren Finch, Jr.**, Director of the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library in College Station, Texas.
- **March 3: Peter Bergen**, CNN National Security Analyst and terrorism expert. He spoke on *An Update on Terrorism*.
- **March 10: The Rev. Susan M. Flanders**, Episcopal priest at St. Columba's Church who works on issues surrounding end-of-life spirituality, choices, and care. She spoke on her latest book, *If I Ever Lose My Mind: Aid in Dying with Advanced Dementia* and her topic was *Dementia: A Quandary of Compassion*.
- **March 17: M. Salih Sayilgan**, Professor of Islamic Studies at Wesley Seminary. He spoke on *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations in America*.
- **March 24: Dr. Brahmachari Sharan**, Hindu Chaplain, Georgetown University and **Dr. Anthony Tambasco**, Theology Department, Georgetown University.
- **March 31: Dr. Ian Markham**, Dean, Virginia Theological Seminary. He spoke on *Why Interfaith Dialogue Matters to the Episcopal Church*.
- **April 7: Frank Sesno**, Director of the School of Media and Public Affairs at George Washington University and former CNN reporter.

- **April 28: Karen King**, Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard Divinity School. Trained in comparative religions and historical studies, she pursues teaching and research specialties in the history of Christianity. She spoke on *Death and Life: Some Lesser Known Views from the Early Christians*.
- **May 5: Eric Schwartz**, President of Refugees International and the former Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration. He spoke about the current refugee crisis.
- **May 12: Kathryn Keane**, Vice President of Public Programming at the National Geographic Society and Director of the National Geographic Museum. She spoke about the museum's exhibit titled, *The Queens of Egypt*.
- **May 19: Susan Page**, Washington Bureau Chief, USA Today. She spoke on her book, *The Matriarch: Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty*.
- **September 8: Margaret Carlson**, columnist for the Daily Beast. She was the first female columnist at *Time* magazine, a columnist at Bloomberg View, a weekly panelist on CNN's "Capital Gang" and managing editor at the *New Republic*. She spoke on *The 2020 Elections*.
- **September 15: Kate Andersen Brower**, author and journalist. Kate is the author of the New York Times bestsellers *The Residence* and *First Women*. She is a CNN contributor, covered the Obama White House for Bloomberg News, and is a former CBS News staffer and Fox News producer. She spoke on *America's First Ladies*.
- **September 22: Adam Rothman**, Professor in the History Department at Georgetown University. He spoke about the history of slavery at Georgetown and how the university is addressing it now.
- **September 29: Dr. Michael Witmore**, Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library. He was formerly professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and before that he served as associate professor of English and assistant professor of English at Carnegie Mellon University. He spoke on *The Folger and Shakespeare*.
- **October 6: Jeffrey Rosen**, American academic and commentator on legal affairs. He is a professor of law at the Law School of George Washington University. He spoke on *The New Supreme Court Term*.
- **October 13: Anthony Williams**, former mayor of the District of Columbia, for two terms, from 1999 to 2007. He spoke on the *State of the City*.
- **October 20: Ashok Kumar Mirpuri**, Ambassador of Singapore to the United States. He spoke on *Reflections from Embassy Row: A Discussion with the Ambassador of Singapore*.

- **October 27: Jane Clarke**, award-winning and widely published poet, reflected on the role of poetry in helping us respond to loss, with a reading from her recently published second collection (*When the Tree Falls* / Bloodaxe Books 2019) and her illustrated group of poems inspired by a First World War family archive (*All the Way Home*, Smith | Doorstop 2019). She spoke on *Give Sorrow Words*.
- **November 3: Robert Musil**, President and CEO of the Rachel Carson Council (RCC). He is the author of *Rachel Carson and Her Sisters: Extraordinary Women Who Have Shaped America's Environment* and *Hope for a Heated Planet*. He spoke about how Rachel Carson's environmental ethics and spiritual values are critical to current environmental justice concerns for people of color and low-income communities.
- **November 10: Peter Marra**, Director of the Georgetown Environmental Initiative, Georgetown University Professor, and former Director of the Smithsonian's Migratory Bird Center. He spoke on *The Decline of North American Birds* whose huge decline shows that loss of biodiversity across both terrestrial and marine biomasses is perhaps the greatest conservation challenge the world faces in the 21st century.
- **November 17: Reid Detchon**, Senior Advisor for Climate Solutions at the United Nations Foundation. He has also served as Executive Director of the Energy Future Coalition, a non-partisan domestic policy initiative, and as chair of the Environment Committee of the Diocese of Washington. Reid is a co-founder of the Environment Committee at St. Columba's Episcopal Church and a founding board member of Interfaith Power and Light. He spoke on *What's God Got to Do with It? Protecting the Environment as a Matter of Faith*.
- **December 8: The Rev. William Morris**, St. John's Assisting Priest for Engaging Faith and the Workplace. He spoke on *Engaging Faith and the Workplace*.
- **December 15: Stewart McLaurin**, President of the White House Historical Association. He leads the Association's non-profit and non-partisan mission to support conservation and preservation at the White House with non-government funding. He spoke on *The White House Historical Association*.

Clark Ervin
Chair

ADULT INQUIRERS CLASSES REPORT

Interim Rector Bruce McPherson and Assistant Rector Andy Olivo led the spring adult inquirers' class in 2019. Fifteen adults, most of them newcomers to St. John's, attended the spring class, held March 23 and March 30. The fall class was led by the Rector, the Rev. Rob Fisher. Fifteen newcomers participated in the fall class, held on October 5 and October 19. 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.

Twenty-three members of the classes took part in one of two Services of Confirmation at Washington National Cathedral, one on May 11 and the other on November 2. At the May 11 service, four adults were confirmed, four were received, and one reaffirmed her baptismal vows. They were joined by two members of a youth confirmation class. In November, nine adults were confirmed, three were received, and two reaffirmed their baptismal vows. Two members of the youth confirmation class were also confirmed at the November service.

Kaye Edwards
Assistant for Church Growth

BOOK GROUP REPORT

In 2019, the St. John's Book Group met ten times on the first Thursday of every month. We took a summer recess in July and August. The Book Group sponsored a Parish Lunch and went to the theater to see *Assassins*, a play tied to a biography we read. We are eclectic readers and our list of books ranged from religious studies to contemporary fiction.

Leila Taaffe
Chair

CARE OF CREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Care of Creation is a new ministry at our parish, growing out of leadership at the diocesan level by Abbott McCartney, who saw an initiative passed at last year's annual convention encouraging parishes to recognize creation care in liturgy and with a Season of Creation. We began organizing in March, and our conversation focused quickly on single-use plastics. Parish staff, Kim Carlson in particular, were wonderful in moving to reduce and remove nearly all single-use plastic products from all our events and purchases. The Rev. Andy Olivo gave stewardship of creation special mention in Prayers of the People.

We have also attempted to educate ourselves and fellow parishioners on many issues, acknowledging that we all have a great deal to learn about living more lightly on this earth. Accordingly, we have produced weekly messaging to parishioners in the e-Word and bulletins, on topics ranging from minimizing plastics, food choices, and landscaping with native plants to "nature deficit disorder." Powell Hutton has done much of the word-smithing on these messages, which are cached on St. John's website for parishioners to use for their own outreach.

Clark Ervin kindly coordinated with John More to produce a series of three well-attended Adult Forums in November. Robert Musil spoke about Rachel Carson's ethic and his advocacy work with the Rachel Carson Council. Peter Marra described reasons for the well-documented loss of three billion birds and what seven things we can do to make a difference. Reid Detchon further described the faith-basis for protecting the environment and the involvement of Episcopal institutions in environmental activism.

Rachel Carson Council produces a weekly newsletter of articles from the press here:
<https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/>

Information from Dr. Marra's talk is available at this site: <https://www.3billionbirds.org/>

Reid Detchon edits a diocesan e-newsletter describing activities, pending legislative initiatives and closing with a meditation, approximately monthly; if you wish to receive it, email him at reid.detchon@gmail.com and ask to be added to his distribution list.

Our final initiative was to prepare a sustainable luncheon for the parish to launch the New Year. We learned a lot and thought a lot about what this meant. Special thanks to Livy More and Sandy Graves for their leadership, and to all on the committee who supported it.

If you would like to be part of our work and planning in 2020,
Email Joanne Hutton at joannerhutton@gmail.com.

Joanne Hutton
Chair

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT

From January-July, Christian Education continued to take place during the 11:00 a.m. service (or 10:30 a.m. summer service). Classes were utilizing Godly Play, Sparkhouse Lectionary, and Confirm not Conform curricula.

This fall, we have added new ways to support our younger families in making afresh the most important commitment—to continue to worship God and grow in belonging in a family of faith. In order to support this growth in worship and belonging, we started a few new ways to do our faith formation programming. This came as a result of many months of meetings, phone calls, emails, and surveys. Thank you again to everyone who has shared your hopes, dreams, and needs. This program year's structure is a result of your dedication, honesty, enthusiasm and willingness to grow.

At the request of many parents and church school teachers, we added a Formation Hour for Church School from 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. that utilizes Godly Play curriculum. This is for several reasons. First, it is so that children and youth are getting quality formation that is less rushed than what can happen in the abbreviated time during a service. Second, it makes it possible for people who attend both the 9:00 a.m. service and the 11:00 a.m. service an opportunity to learn and grow through intentional formation time. Finally, it makes it so that there are opportunities for every member of the family – both the adults and children – to engage in formation through either the Speaker Series or Church School. We are calling this 10:00 a.m. hour the "Formation Hour." For youth, there has been a Third Sunday class gathering, two overnight retreats diocesan-wide, and two service projects.

Another focus that became clear was the need to receive the gifts of children in the context of the liturgy on Sunday mornings. During the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services, we began providing Liturgy Bags for young children with engaging educational materials inside. During the 11:00 a.m. service, we now have a "Children's Chapel" that is led by both church school teachers and a rotation of all of the clergy. Children are now invited to begin worship in the nave at 11:00 a.m., leave their pews during the Gospel procession, and move from the nave to the parish house. There, they are hearing an engaging children's sermon on the scriptures for the day and practicing how to be in worship.

In December, we celebrated Christmas with an incredible pageant for children. Special thanks go to Laura Herzog, who coordinated the costuming, and Chrystal and John Martin, who directed the pageant with clarity, dedication, and genuine care for the children.

Nursery

Attendants Jessica Ortiz, Eric Zavala, and Bibian Arriaga are present each Sunday from 8:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for children under the age of three. A plan for improvements was made in the Spring/Summer to refresh the nursery, which will be implemented after paint and wall repairs are complete.

Special thanks to all who served with ministries with children and youth.

2018-2019 program 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.

2019-2020 Program Year:

Katie Adams, Beth Couturier, Nicole Crochet, Laura Doucet, Anna Ehrich, Kings Floyd, Carrie Garland, Susan George, Debby Hailey, Laura Herzog, Joanne Hutton, Emily Lucio, John More, Owen Owunwanne, Katherine Raab, Cate Rooney, Hap Rigby, Nora Rigby, Matthew Taylor, Anna Wieger, Sarah Wood, and Keiko Yoshino.

The new change in structure of how Christian education takes place is one way that I believe St. John's can continue to grow in welcoming and receiving the gifts of our youngest members. I am very blessed to be on this journey with you.

The Rev. Savannah Ponder
Deacon for Ministries to Children, Youth, and Families

CHURCH GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Church Growth Committee has worked on how the committee can be focused and effective in engaging members, newcomers, and the broader community in St. John's. We have observed that "church growth" can mean lots of things, from literal growth in numbers to growth in our faith lives to enriching our community.

Where the committee has been historically successful is when we reach across silos of committees and ministries. Meanwhile, the committee's core portfolio also includes a broad swath of work. We want to continue that collaborative legacy along with the core ministry of welcome and engagement without becoming an "everything committee" or trampling on the important, ongoing work that so many people do in our parish.

To accomplish this, the Church Growth Committee is transitioning to become a venue for coordination among the various groups working on communications, community building, and/or cultivating faith. Some of these are existing, such as the Greeters ministry; others may need to be formed. The goal is that these is where the work gets done, and the Church Growth Committee can help align efforts and identify gaps.

The first new example of these groups is the Communications Technology Team, consisting of Sarah Banks, Andrew Hunt, and Katherine McClintic. Other likely working groups might cover welcoming visitors and newcomers, managing the tangle of subscription and member lists, and producing content for publications, the website, and social media.

Active Growth Committee members are: Lauren Edwards and Andrew Hunt, Co-Chairs; Kaye Edwards, Staff Representative; Andrew Clarke; and Quin Woodward Pu.

Andrew Hunt
Chair

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Parish support of the Education for Ministry (EfM) program, in its twenty-sixth year at St. John's, has a robust legacy. Sixty-six 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. Ten participants currently pursue their studies and explorations one evening weekly throughout the school year, three of whom are scheduled to graduate in May of 2021. 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 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 (Carolyn.crouch819@gmail.com) and Lyle Elder (D.Lyle.Elder@gmail.com), for more information. You can also visit the website at www.sewanee.edu/EFM/ to find out more and read excerpts of the curriculum online.

Carolyn Crouch and Lyle Elder
Co-Chairs

FLOWER GUILD REPORT

Flower Guild members find friendship and fulfillment in serving St. John's Church through this creative ministry.

Many changes happened in 2019. Guild members along with the rest of the St. John's community were elated over the completion of the parish house renovation. While still awaiting the final rehab of our "space," an area off the dining room nicknamed "The Cellar," Guild members are happy to have finally consolidated all of our supplies and containers. Thanks to the help of Sextons, every Saturday morning the dining room is temporarily converted into a place where hard working Guild members transform the buckets of flowers and greens into the lovely arrangements that beautify our church.

For a typical Sunday morning, two Guild members meet on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m., working together to create four arrangements: two for the main altar and one each for the side chapel and narthex. Arrangers fill four small take-home vases with blooms to be delivered by parishioners to some who cannot attend services.

Special Observances

For special occasions like weddings and celebration of life services, as many as three to four members work together to lovingly create more elaborate floral offerings. We give family preferences regarding color and even flower choice great attention on these important occasions. We thank Anne Harrington who continues to serve as our Wedding Coordinator, communicating the wishes of the happy couple to the assigned Guild team.

Christmas and Easter bring our Guild members out in full force. After extensive planning for the flower orders and a week-long effort of conditioning the flowers and prep work, many busy hands converge on the church. With an abundance of blooms and greens, the Guild adorns the sanctuary and surrounding spaces with wreaths or garlands and floral arrangements that enhance the worship experience for parishioners and visitors alike. Collectively, volunteers spend over 45 hours preparing for these holy occasions.

This year brought an additional celebration in September as we rejoiced in the Installation of our new rector, Rev. Robert W. Fisher. We observe Lent and Advent by the exclusive use of green foliage.

Making a Contribution

Each week parishioners have the opportunity to honor loved ones by making a donation to the flower fund. Your contribution sponsors the main altar or the narthex or all of the church's arrangements for a given Sunday. The names of your loved ones appear in the church 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 all interested parishioners to join the Flower Guild. Whether by acquiring a new skill or expanding on existing talent, being a member of the Guild is a rewarding way to volunteer at St. John's. Experienced members mentor newcomers, training them as they gain skills and confidence. Many members enjoy expanding their knowledge by attending flower arranging classes, especially those offered at the National Cathedral. Some members have attended flower schools as far away as California, London, and Paris! If you are interested in joining, please contact Flower Guild Chair Katherine Kyle for more information at carsonkyle@gmail.com.

Sexton Appreciation

The Flower Guild would like to acknowledge the hard work of our dedicated Sextons who go above and beyond each week in their support. We would not be able to do what we do without their help. Thank you to Javier (Victor) Obregon, Glennis "GeeGee" Bryant, and David Gamboa.

A Special Thank You to our 2019 Flower Guild Members

Sarah Agnew
Karolina Arias
Paul Barkett
Barbara Bulla Brown
Becca Brown
Thea Crouch
Jamie Finch
Barbie Harper
Anne Harrington

Lily Happi
Susan Heil
Amanda Claire Hoover
Tara Hupman
Joanne Hutton
Kristin Josey
Nicole Kleman Neufeld
Julia Koster
Elizabeth Lewis

Liz Morin
Mary Raether
Allie Raether
Laurie Rossbach
Adelle Simmons
Jennifer Urquhart
Pamela Venzke

Katherine Kyle
Chair

Pat Dalby
Co-Chair

GREETERS MINISTRY REPORT

Members of St. John's Greeters Committee warmly welcome guests, parishioners and potential new members each Sunday for the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services during the regular schedule and the 10:30 a.m. service during the summer schedule. Greeters welcome parishioners and visitors as they enter the church. After the service, they stand next to the large "Ask Me" sign where Welcome Cards are available to anyone who is interested in membership at St. John's. In addition, there is a "rover" who walks amongst the crowds to make sure everyone feels welcomed and not standing alone. Greeters encourage newcomers to attend the Forum after the 9:00 a.m. service and the Hospitality Hour and Parish Lunch following the 11:00 a.m. service, so that newcomers can meet parishioners and we can learn more about our guests' interests.

Since we live in a vibrant, international city, we unfortunately lose greeters who move away from Washington for new opportunities. In addition, the Greeter Committee, like the Usher Guild, needs to have "a deep bench" as four Greeters are required for most Sundays. 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 to welcome and the service provided is invaluable. We often hear new parishioners say they joined St. John's because they felt so welcomed.

Please extend a warm thank you to the following members of our Welcome Team for doing a wonderful job:

Katy Bubolz
Andrea Charters
Garry Dalby
James Doyle
Caroline Faris
Andrew Hunt
Kat Kehoe
Patricia Leslie
John Lucio
Sara McGanity
Eleanor Odom

Peter Odom
Laura Patten
Susan Petniunas
Raymond Petniunas
Kerri Stelcen
Desirée Stolar
Leila Taaffe
Brenda Wolter
Willy Wolter
Rick Young

If you are interested in joining the Greeters team,
please contact Kat Kehoe at katkehoe@gmail.com

Kat Kehoe
Chair

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 2019 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 2019 with representatives of Brown Advisory. The discussion during these meetings primarily covered 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 the income needs of the church. The Committee generally seeks to maintain a portfolio balance of 60% equity and 40% fixed income investments. 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. Strong equity growth in US large cap stocks has continued and thus Brown Advisory continues to rebalance the portfolio to reduce the church's risk exposure and to support the Parish House renovation and operating budget income needs.

Market Conditions and Portfolio Performance

The market continues to be headline driven in 2019 with a lot of ups and downs, but 2019 in total has been a strong performance year for stocks. The church's asset allocation is currently holding reserves in the "liquidity bucket" so assets are available when investment opportunities arise and to ensure funds available 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. The church pays a quarterly fixed interest rate of 2.7% on the outstanding amount and the loan, is held as fixed income asset in the Endowment Account. In 2019, quarterly interest payments were made to the Endowment Account and the loan remains an asset in the account. The principal of the loan will be repaid from Capital Campaign pledge payments that are not used for renovation expenses.

Changes to Investment Income Calculation

In consultation with Brown Advisory, the Committee explored different methods of calculating the income draw from the endowment. For many years the church had calculated its income by using an average of the current and prior two-year December 31st account balances and multiplied that by five percent or other amount determined by the vestry. This smoothing policy minimizes the effect of major fluctuations in asset value on the church's budget. To further smooth out the effects of market changes and improve the budget process, the Investment Committee recommended that the account average of 12 preceding quarters be used to determine the income distribution from the endowment. The Vestry subsequently approved this change to Investment Committee procedures.

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 7:00 p.m. 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 2020, you will continue to see young adults active and engaged in the good work that is being done in this church and community.

The Latrobe Fellowship was happy to return to the newly renovated Parish House in 2019. As part of the move, the Fellowship continued to experience an increase in new attendance and participation. The diversity of events led to a wide range of opportunities for different types of participation for those who chose to attend. As part of the 2019 program, the Fellowship said goodbye to the Rev. Andy Olivo in the Spring and were happy to embrace the arrival of the Rev. Rob Fisher and the Rev. Jane Hague in the Fall. Here are the events that the Latrobe Fellowship sponsored in 2019.

- January 9, 2019: Champagne Tasting
- February 6, 2019: Trivia Night
- March 3, 2019: History of St. John's
- April 1, 2019: Sandwich Wednesday
- May 5, 2019: Goodbye Party for the Rev. Andy Olivo
- September 11, 2019: Latrobe Wine Tasting
- October 2, 2019: Lafayette Square Ghost Walking Tour
- November 6, 2019: Trivia Night
- December 4, 2019: White Elephant Gift Exchange

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

Andrew Tomlinson and Matthew Taylor
Co-Chairs

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT

The music ministry contributes to the worship life of St. John's Church by providing musical leadership every Sunday of the year, as well as for feast days, weddings, memorial services, and parish social events. We remain one of the few churches in the area that supports both a fully professional choir and a robust volunteer choir. Though they typically sing separate services on Sunday mornings, our choirs collaborate on special projects throughout the year and contribute in unique and important ways to the mission of our shared ministry.

The music ministry entered a period of transition in August with the departure of Michael Lodico who served St. John's faithfully for ten years, first as Associate Director of Music, then as Director of Music. We celebrated Michael's service to the church on October 10th with a Music Festival Service followed by a reception in his honor. I took over as Acting Director of Music immediately upon Michael's departure and continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve in this capacity. A special word of gratitude is owed to Lisa Koehler and Tory Wood who have been invariably helpful in their respective roles on the music staff. Their hard work and collegiality have been a true blessing throughout this time of transition.

In October we began the search for a new Assistant Organist. After fielding an impressive pool of applications from around the country (and one internationally), we conducted a round of Skype interviews and invited three finalists to audition in person. The Rector and I agreed emphatically that Samantha Scheff was the right fit for the musical life and culture of St. John's. After surviving four months with one organist, we were elated to officially welcome Sam to St. John's on January 1, 2020.

The Parish Choir

- Sopranos: Annette Anfinrud, Whitley Herndon, Margaret Leer, Julia Leonard, Margy Love, Kathy Luhrman, Gay Pasley, Alyssa Tomlinson, Tory Wood, Quin Woodward Pu, and Christina Wilson.
- Altos: Alison Adkins, Sarah Banks, Krista Bradley, Cay Buser, Thea Crouch, Wendy Fibison, Sara Josey, Julia Kerrigan, Ashley Kitchelt, Lisa Koehler, Katherine McClintic, Virginia Pasley, LaFleur Paysour, and Margo Wiegenstein.
- Tenors: Philip Anfinrud, Craig Burkhardt, Noah Calderon, Jack Reiffer, and Tom Wade.
- Basses: Jeff Bozman, Justin Dean, Chris Jones, Bill Josey, Ryan Toney, and Peter Wu.

The Saint John's Choir

- Sopranos: Dena Goodman, Anne Sutton, and Tory Wood.
- Altos: Lisa Koehler, Charlotte Stewart, and Louisa Waycott.
- Tenors: Noah Calderon, Johnathon O'Neal, and Ned Sieverts.
- Basses: Chuck Bowers, Justin Dean, and Christopher Jones.

Music for Festival Services

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and friends of St. John's as well as our Ushers Guild, we are able to augment our music on Music Festival Sundays, Easter, and Christmas Eve with instruments including strings, brass, and percussion. Music Festival Services in 2019 included:

- March 3 – Festival Service with the Dan Dufford Jazz Ensemble and combined choirs
- March 31 – Durufé Requiem with the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra and St. John's Choir
- April 21 – Music for Easter Day with choir, brass quintet, and timpani
- May 12 – Music for royal occasions featuring Grayston Ives' *Missa Brevis*
- July 7 – Music for Independence Day with fife and drum
- October 20 – Music of William Bradley Roberts sung by the combined choirs
- November 3 – Music for All Saints' Day featuring Rheinberger's *Cantus Missae*
- December 15 – 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

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.

First Wednesday Concerts

In 2020, we marked the start of our eleventh year of midday concerts which attract parishioners, tourists, neighborhood professionals, and a loyal following of residents from local retirement communities. There were eight First Wednesday Concerts in 2019 which featured musicians from our music staff as well as outstanding artists from our region and beyond.

- January 9 – Organist Colin Lynch of Trinity Church, Boston
- February 6 – Baritone Bob McDonald in a program of music from Broadway
- April 3 – Percussionist Tom Maloy and Michael Lodico
- May 1 – Trumpeter Chuck Seipp and organist Lisa Galoci
- June 5 – The United States Air Force Strings with pianist Brent Erstad
- October 3 – The United States Army Chorus
- November 6 – Organist Tom Sheehan of Washington National Cathedral
- December 4 – The Episcopal High School Chamber Choir led by Brent Erstad

In addition to the Concerts listed above, the St. John's Choir performed Benjamin Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* with the Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra on April 7th. This performance featured several of our staff singers as soloists and was a musical highlight of the season.

It continues to be a privilege to work and make music at St. John's. I'm grateful to the Rector, staff, vestry, and especially to the congregation for your continued support of this music ministry.

Brent Erstad
Acting Director of Music 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 2019, the Outreach Committee continued to build many of our long-standing partnerships, and renewed or initiated other important partnerships. The Outreach Committee was delighted to meet again in the fall of 2019 in the renovated Parish House and began planning for 2020. Hundreds of parishioners and friends were involved in Outreach during 2019, and we supported and served a variety of communities in Washington, DC, South Africa, and Jerusalem. The Outreach Committee utilized an increased budget of \$103,200 during 2019, and the Committee is grateful to the Vestry for this generous allotment. Our resources were allocated as follows:

EDUCATION: \$35,000

- Communities in Schools of the Nation’s Capital \$15,000
- Bishop Walker School \$15,000
- 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 2019 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 Episcopal 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. The Outreach Committee voted to increase our support for Bishop Walker School to promote its mission in the Diocese.

In 2019, 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: \$31,000

Washington, DC

- Grace's Table \$6,000
- All Girls Boy Scout Troop Washington, DC 1,000

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 Jerusalem

- St. Paul's Shafr'Amr \$1,000
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) \$1,000

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 5–8 volunteers purchased and prepared the food, and then gathered with guests to eat and socialize together. The number of guests has varied from about 50 to 70, 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 2020.

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 visited in January 2019. The pilgrims from the 2018 and 2019 groups have hosted several events including parish lunch and Latrobe Fellowships to discuss their journeys.

We also continued a relationship with the **All Girls Boy Scout Troop of Washington, D.C.**, which is lead by a parishioner at St. John's, Craig Burkhardt.

HOUSING: \$12,000

- 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 continued 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) \$1,200
- Clothing Drive -
- Annual Gift Drive \$1000

St. John's resumed our tradition of hosting a spring **Clothing Drive**, which collected numerous articles of professional and business clothes for both men and women in association with Pathways to Housing.

The annual **Christmas Gift Drive** collected over 800 books, clothing, and other gifts for more than 200 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 14.

IMMIGRATION: \$5,000

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 committee continued their work in 2019 by supporting several refugee families in the Washington metropolitan area by providing clothes, furniture, and other housing necessities.

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 2019, the Outreach Committee our partnership with **Seabury Resources for Aging**.

Several Outreach Committee continued to advocate with **Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)** in 2019 and prepared for more involvement in 2020.

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, with the help and guidance of the Rev. Jane Hague, implemented a new process for parishioners and organizations to apply for partnerships with the Outreach Committee. A successful trial was conducted during the 2020 Budget Planning process, and we look forward to new opportunities for service in 2020.

Matthew David Taylor
Outreach Committee Chair

PARISH LUNCH REPORT

The Sunday Parish Lunch is a wonderful and important fellowship opportunity at St. John's. Following the completion of the renovation of the Parish House in the Fall 2018, Parish lunch resumed in January 2019. There continue to be occasional snags as parishioner/hosts adjust to the new kitchen layout and equipment, but on the whole, they are going well, and parishioners are happy to have that fellowship opportunity return. Attendance is not as consistent and strong as it was previous to the renovation break. This is a time of rebuilding.

The Community Building Potluck Suppers we initiated during the renovation period were so popular it was decided to continue. Community Building Potluck Suppers morphed into a "Meet The New Rector" series during the summer. The Parish was very interested in meeting our new Rector, the Rev. Rob Fisher and his wife Sarah Wood and their daughter Zoe. Those were very popular, attendance was outstanding. Interest was so high and Rob & Sarah found them so productive in meeting the parish that they were continued through the Fall.

Special appreciation is extended to the following individuals who organized, cooked and hosted these events during which over 700 (450 at Parish Lunch and 250 at Potlucks) parishioners enjoyed fellowship:

Laurie Adams and Matt Bode
Cay Buser
Church Growth Committee
Crucifers
Carrie and Jim Garland
2018 and 2019 Holy Land Pilgrims
Nancy and Frank Klotz
Lyerly Family
Gay and Bob Pasley
Alma and John Paty
The Church School
The Crouch Family
The Greeters
The Parish Choir
The Rector Search Committee
The Refugee Committee
Robin and Chuck Schwartz and the Chili Cook Off team
Stewardship Committee
Pamela and Patrick Venzke
St John's Vestry
Gail West
Miller Winecoff and Friends

Holly Sukenik
Parish Lunch Coordinator

PARISH REGISTER REPORT

Transfers into the Parish in 2019:

Hunter Elizabeth Hardinge – from Christ Church, Prince George’s Parish, Rockville, MD
Richard C. Duer – from St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Eugene, OR
Gale Arnold – from Christ Church, Georgetown, Washington, DC
Katherine Hantson – from St. John’s Cathedral, Denver, CO
James W. Rice – from St. John’s Episcopal Church, Ross, CA
Carter Edward Keithley – from Washington National Cathedral, Washington, DC
Hunter Anderson Johnston (Youth) – from St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Alexandria VA
Toby William Stock – from Christ the King Episcopal Church, Sturgeon Bay, WI
Susan G. Herrington – from St. James Church, James Island, SC
Nora Dueterhaus – from the Church of the Advent, Spartanburg, SC
Johnathan Miller – from Trinity Cathedral, Miami, FL
The Simonds Family – Anne Martin Simonds, William Haskell Simonds, Jr.,
William Haskell Simonds III, Harrison Holt Simonds, Katherine Wallace
Simonds – from St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls VA
George William Raabe, Jr. – from St. John’s Episcopal Church, Southampton, NY

Transfers out of the Parish in 2019:

Page Evans (Corey) – to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Richmond VA
Isabelle Corbett – to the Church of the Incarnation, New York, NY
Douglas and Jane Alspach – to St. Paul’s Memorial Church, Charlottesville, VA
Virginia Penick Parra – to Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Little Rock, AR
Lena, Adrian, and Adrian, Jr. Collins – to St. John the Divine, Houston, TX
Greg L. Soltis – to St. James Parish, Wilmington, NC
Laura Donovan Atkeson Haupfear – to All Saints Episcopal Church, Clinton, SC
Margaret and Parker Moore – to St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Port Royal, SC
Sandra Cunningham and Philip Willauer – to St. Alban’s Church, Washington, DC
John and Laura Brooks – to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lexington, KY
Gregory Randall – to St. Thomas Episcopal Church, St. Petersburg, FL
William Yale – to St. Alban’s Anglican-Episcopal Church, Tokyo, Japan
Michael A. Andrews – to The Church of St. John the Divine, Houston, TX
Carolyn Elizabeth Buser – to St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Highland, MD

Confirmations, Reaffirmations, Receptions, Baptisms, and Funerals in 2019:

Confirmations

Leonardo Ruben Arriaga (Y)
Melanie Kathleen Dalby
Spencer Rea Galm (Y)
Dustin Nicholas Gardner (Y)
David Benjamin Garland (Y)
Adrianna Polanska Leckow (Y)
Austin Wehle McLaughlin
Julie Hock McLaughlin
Alexander Lehmann Weng (Y)
Oliver Lehmann Weng (Y)
Sebastian Lehmann Weng (Y)
Anna Meryem Wieger
Allison Deborah Childress
Susan Mary George
Elizabeth Scott Johnson
Lara Cathryn Kanitra
Francis Emmanuel Macasaet Lagera
Susan Alexander Morefield
Erika Lynn Bryant Northcutt
Zachary David Northcutt
Louisa Rathbone Tierney
Sophia Ann Vandergrift
Shelby Anne Wilcox

Receptions

Garry Maurice Dalby
Jeffrey Thomas Hantson
Morgan Emily MacIver
Daniel Moser Parrish
Jennifer Marie Egsgaard
Kevin Edward Kozlowski
Nicholas Alexander Robischon

Reaffirmations

Hillary Lamb Garber
Emily Danielle Price
Audrey Archer Trotman

Baptisms

Sophia Ann Vandergrift (A)
Reed Alexander Barnes
Magnus Ferdinand Javiel LeCompte
Georgia Wilson Rawlings
William Hunter Guerin, Jr.
Mae Lawrence Pappas
Thomas Paslar Nuzum
Sebastian James Gonzalez
Charlotte Anne Rhodes
Luca Michael Russo
George Sigvart Olson Miller
WonYong Shim

Blessing of a Baptism

Iona Rosalinda George Lagera

Weddings

Robin Dorothy Anderson and Charles Warren Schwartz
Brittany Leigh Prime and George William Rabbe, Jr.
Rebecca Sara Fraser Gribble and James Wolcott Rice
Ella-May Seth and Edwin John U
Lara Cathryn Kanitra and Kevin Edward Kozlowski
Diana Gordon Brown and Kirk Keith Clark
Kathryn Gene Adams and Paul Charles Holder

Funerals

Valerie Crotty
John Chester Culver
Richard Perham Ellison
Carroll W. Owens, Jr.
Margaret Ellen Parke
Marialice Bathrus Williams

PASTORAL CARE AND LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTRY REPORT

Pastoral Care at St John's is a vibrant ministry. The clergy work in tandem with the Pastoral Care Ministry to share communion and visit the sick and those who are not able to join us on Sunday morning. We also deliver flowers and make phone calls.

The Pastoral Care Ministry expanded in 2019. We are grateful for Thom Sinclair who chairs the group; the other members of the team are Mary Jane Checchi, Ann Gardener, Kristie Hansen, Joanne Hutton, Richard Price, Jack Reiffer, and Diane Spaulding. Kaye Edwards serves as the staff assistant in partnership with the Rev. Rob Fisher and the Rev. Jane Milliken Hague.

A subset of this group serves as Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs). They have been especially trained to offer the sacraments to those who are sick. Almost every Sunday we send forth from the altar one or two LEM's to carry communion to those who cannot make it to church and yet still are vital members of St John's. They share communion, they read scripture, they say prayers, and most importantly, they remind those they visit that they are loved by the church and God. We are grateful for this dedicated corps who have committed themselves to this special ministry.

For those who are grieving, we offer a series of books named "Journey Through Grief" which offers suggestions for handling loss in the first year of a loved one's death. If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, please let us know. In addition, the lay members of the Pastoral Care Ministry continue to do a wonderful job of counseling and sharing their own experiences with those who are grieving.

The ministry of Pastoral Care is a shared call for every member of the Body of Christ. Please pray for all those who are in need and who are listed in our Sunday bulletins. Keep watch with the clergy and the Pastoral Care Ministry for those who might be in need of some care. The only way that we can truly know if you or a friend is sick, in the hospital, or celebrating a special occasion is if you tell us. Please be in contact with the Rev. Jane Milliken Hague at jane.hague@stjohns-dc.org.

The Rev. Jane Milliken Hague
Interim Associate Rector

PLANNED GIVING REPORT

As of the end of 2019, there were 57 members of our parish who have committed to providing a legacy to St. John's through their estate planning bequests as part of the 1816 Society. In 2019, gifts in memory of St. John's parishioners who have recently died totaled approximately \$43,000 of which \$25,000 came from 1816 Society member bequests. Now that our new Rector is in place, the Chair will be working with Rob to revitalize our planned giving education and outreach. In addition, as a part of the Chair's participation in the Faith + Finance initiative with the Financial Resource Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, we expect to bring more financial education to St. John's in the near future.

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 works directly with Kim Carlson, Director for Operations, to implement its decisions. The Committee's members are Rick Busch, Barbie Harper, Joanne Hutton, Patricia Leslie, Richard Metzger, Sam Watson, and Richard Grimmett, Chair of the Committee.

The principal actions taken by the Committee in 2019 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 2019 two windows were removed from the Organ Bay area--the Abert and Crane windows--renovated and reinstalled. All of the Stained-Glass Windows on the main floor within the church are now restored. During 2019, two windows, one each in the North and South Gallery, the Buchanan and Turnbull windows were removed. Both have required substantial renovation work. They are scheduled to be reinstalled early in 2020. The Markoe window in the South Gallery on the H Street side of the church has been restored and reinstalled. All of these restored 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 restoration and reinstallation of the two Gallery windows is completed, only three of the historic-Stained Glass windows of St. John's 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 2019 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 2020.

Richard F. Grimmett
Chair

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Stewardship Committee's focus continues to be on annual giving. Receipts from pledges account for approximately 43% 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); 2017 (\$1,020,000.00 from 371 units); and 2018 (\$1,035,764 from 375 units).

As of January 14, 2020, we have received pledges from 270 units totaling \$815,183 (plus a \$15,000 expected gift from a donor-advised fund). Of those 270 pledges, 86 of them were increases over the prior year, while only 34 were decreases. Pledges have not been coming in as quickly as in past years. For example, by Jan. 23, 2019, we had received pledges from 311 units totaling \$864,377; and in the prior year at the same time, 375 units totaling \$1,035,764.

Typically, parishioners continue to submit pledges 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 2020, we ask you to carefully and prayerfully consider making a pledge. Any pledge, no matter how small, makes a difference!**

Stewardship Committee members carried out the annual canvass in December this year; typically this would start earlier. Members of this year's Stewardship Committee and the list of people providing assistance to the committee includes (but is not limited to) Krista Becker, David Gallalee, Carter Keithly, Lisa Kirchenbauer, Sara McGanity, Powell Hutton, and Martha Ellison. We are truly grateful for their faithfulness and support—with particular thanks going to Ralph Olson for giving his time to educate at least one of the new co-chairs in advance of the handoff. We were also pleased that so many members of the Vestry volunteered to make outreach calls.

I especially want to recognize the outstanding support that the St John's office staff has provided in facilitating our Stewardship work. RJ Gravina, Evangeline Gravina, and Sharlyne Griffin have been instrumental to the logistics of the process, Kim Carlson provides critical accounting and forecasting help, Kaye Edwards has brought to bear her longstanding relationships with and knowledge of so many parishioners, 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. We should add that Rob hit the ground running this year and has a deep commitment to stewardship, which we believe will make a huge difference in the years to come.

Faithfully,

Hilary West and Toby Stock
Co-Chairs

TOUR GUIDES' REPORT

During 2019, St. John's volunteer Tour Guides spoke on the history and current activities of the church and its outreach efforts to more than 200 guests from this country and around the world. We welcomed visitors from the District of Columbia and at least 14 states – California, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New York, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. We conducted regularly scheduled tours on most Sundays following the 11 a.m. service, as well as specially scheduled tours on weekdays.

In early January, at the request of the St. John's Search Committee interviewing candidates for our new rector, Valerie Crotty, then Tour Guides chair, and Rick Busch provided a special historic background briefing for that group. In June, a group of Assistant Attorneys General from across the United States, in town for one of their periodic meetings, requested a tour of the church and parish house St. John's. Forty-seven individuals attended this mid-week tour conducted by Rick Busch. Carolyn Crouch led a special tour for 45 Montgomery County, Maryland, school teachers, and Karen Zachary guided an educational tour for 40 students and teachers from the Lorien Wood School in Vienna, Virginia.

In May, the Washington Theological Consortium held its annual friends event in the Togo West Parlors of the Parish House, which included a presentation on "Faith of the Presidents" by Dr. Robert Prichard, Arthur Lee Kinsolving Professor of Christianity in America at the Virginia Theological Seminary. Following the meeting and refreshments, approximately 50 guests joined Karen Zachary for a tour of the church.

The committee is in the early stages of developing a plan for offering self-guided tours, accessed via cell phone podcast technology, to the many thousands of visitors who come to St. John's during the week or on Sundays when there is no regularly scheduled tour.

Thank you to the wonderful team of Tour Guides who served during 2019: Rick Bush, Valerie Crotty, Carolyn Crouch, Pat and Garry Dalby, Betty van Iersel, Mac Johnston, Jacob Parcell, and Richard Price.

Karen Zachary
Chair

IN MEMORIAM

Our group was particularly saddened this year by the passing of two of our members: **Valerie Crotty**, the guiding light and long-standing chair of the committee, and **Betty van Iersel**, one of our most active and dedicated volunteers. Their absence will be felt by all of us in this group and indeed by the entire parish.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." -1 Peter 4:10

Following the arrival of the Rev. Rob Fisher, our new rector, Karen Zachary, Tour Guides Chair, participated in his Installation Service.

TREASURER'S REPORT

2019 Highlights

St. John's continues to be a financially sound church with significant resources. The downward trend in pledges, in both units and total pledges, however, is a cause for concern.

In 2019, St. John's began transitioning from a cash accounting basis to a modified cash basis, which is a combination of cash and accrual accounting. We believe switching accounting methods will enhance the accuracy of our financial reports and improve our financial reporting procedures.

Income

2019 saw a decrease in total pledge income, but an increase in regular plate offerings and holiday offerings from prior year. Final pledge income (\$943,777) exceeded the budgeted amount by approximately \$23,477 (3% greater than budget), but fell short of 2018 pledge income (\$995,135) by \$51,358. Regular plate and holiday offerings (\$174,369) fell behind the budgeted amount by approximately \$5,631 (3% less than budget).

Additional income sources included other contributions of \$118,529 and program and event revenues of \$33,638. Both categories increased by \$56,172 and \$27,249, respectively, from prior year.

Disbursements

A majority of St. John's 2019 operating expenses (\$2,045,110) fall into four categories: Clergy (21%), Program Support (33%), Music (19%) and Outreach and Education (19%). The balance of the expenses consists of administrative, maintenance, and repair costs.

In 2019, funds were allocated to various Outreach and Education initiatives. Expenditures in that total included:

- Diocesan Pledge: \$135,091, a decrease of \$43,818 from the prior year due to a prepayment for 2019 made in 2018
- Parish Outreach Committee: \$106,521 (to fund numerous grants, programs and donations), a decrease of \$19,756 from prior year but aligned with 2019's budgeted amount
- Formation: \$115,893, an increase of \$9,804 from prior year
- Church School and Adult Education: \$19,559, an increase of \$661 from prior year

2019 Surplus

Overall for the year, operating income exceeded expenses by \$1,890, compared to a \$90,237 surplus in the prior year.

2020 Budget

The Vestry approved a balanced budget for 2020 with the use of approximately \$120,000 from reserve funds provided by surpluses from 2018. The budget for 2020 is based on an anticipated \$910,000 in income from pledges, which is a reduction from the pledges received in 2019. The following are the principal changes in recurring expenses from 2019 that are included in the 2020 budget:

- ✓ Staff and clergy salaries have been budgeted with an increase of 2.6%, as recommended by the Diocese.
- ✓ Outreach has been reduced to a tithe level of \$91,000, which is 10% of projected pledges (a decrease from the 2019 budget of \$105,000).
- ✓ Diocesan pledge has been reduced to \$140,000 (a decrease of \$10,000 from the 2019 budget).
- ✓ The budget for the clergy has been reduced in 2020 as a result of the departure of Jane Hague during the year, and the transition of Savannah to a full-time position.

In light of the downward trend in pledges, the Vestry decided to use a 5% factor to calculate the support the church would receive from its endowment accounts in 2020. In prior years, the church has been slowly lowering the endowment support from the traditional 5% factor. Using a lower percentage for the 2020 budget, however, would have reduced the support available for the church's principal ministries.

Casey Evans
Parish Treasurer

USHER GUILD REPORT

For the past 133 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. Over 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 Sunday services (7:45, 9:00, and 11:00 a.m.), January through May and early September through December, and at each of the Sunday services (7:45 and 10:30 a.m.) in June, July, and August. They may also volunteer to serve as Ushers for funeral and memorial services, 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 2019, over 60 parishioners served as Ushers. The teams of Ushers were led by Assistant Head Ushers Jeff Agnew, Bud Harrell, Robyne Johnston, Graham Keithley, Richard Metzger, John More, Ellen Parke (deceased in January), Anthony Pegues, Nora Rigby, Robin Schwartz, Alfred Thesmar, and Samuel Watson (deceased in December). 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. I invite to consider being part of this exciting and dedicated ministry. If you would like additional information, please contact me at any time (jczerwonky@verizon.net).

James H. Czerwonky
Head Usher

* Information was sourced, in part, from Green, *The Church on Lafayette Square*; Harper, *Years of Change*; and Grimmert, *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. 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 Virginia Bader, Richard Metzger (departing as Senior Warden), Wande Johnson and Audrey Corcoran Wood.

On Tuesday, December 3, 2019, members 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 – Paul Barkett

Junior Warden – Jeff Hantson

Vestry Member (three to be elected):

Laurie Adams

Michelle Magnum

John More

Anthony Pegues

Jack Reiffer

Carl Ward

Richard Metzger, Senior Warden, introduced the candidates at a Forum on Sunday, January 26, 2020 and each candidate gave a presentation. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 2, 2020 and the results should be announced at the end of the meeting.

Virginia Bader
Chair

WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK (WIN) REPORT

In 2019, Washington Interfaith Network, Inc. (WIN) focused on three major issues in the District – jobs, immigration, and affordable housing (including in particular public housing for the poorest families), as well as conducting other local actions on neighborhood issues.

St. John's has been a member of WIN since its founding in 1996. Parishioner John More, who serves as Treasurer of WIN, coordinated the participation of St. John's in WIN.

HOUSING

The District of Columbia (and the nation) has an affordable housing crisis. Affordable housing has been a major agenda since its founding in 1994. With the return of prosperity to the District and the huge increase of housing costs, affordable housing has become even more of an issue.

In 2019 WIN leaders began a campaign to address the need to make more workforce housing available and to address the potential loss of public housing. WIN conducted bus tours of the areas of the District along the waterfront, near RFK Stadium and Reservation 13, and across the Anacostia where development, gentrification, and deteriorated public housing threaten to drive even more residents from DC. More than 500 WIN leaders and allies took the tours. WIN leaders are also participating in door-knocking campaigns inside DC public housing units to create advocacy groups to demand that DC not only renovate existing units without displacement, but increase the numbers.

In 2019 WIN leaders have been meeting (and will continue in 2020 to meet) with DC elected officials to ensure that development of one of the last remaining large developments – Reservation 13 next to RFK Stadium – has at least 3,000 affordable units. This effort is timely in that Mayor Bowser has committed to creating 30,000 affordable units over the next years.

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS AND DC GENERAL

DC has seen double-digit spikes in homelessness in the past few years, driven in part by the loss of affordable housing. A significant majority has been families with children. DC has been placing homeless families in the DC General Family Shelter. DC General is dilapidated, dangerous and located on the same property as the District's jail, morgue and methadone clinic. WIN and its allies have campaigned to close DC General, fire the contractor managing the facility, and place the families and children in suitable housing.

WIN made homelessness a top issue in the 2014 Mayoral election. Mayor Bowser has since followed through with her commitments to close down the dilapidated and dangerous DC General shelter and replace it with smaller, better family shelters in all eight Wards. Over the past years WIN leaders have participated in Ward actions to offset opposition. In 2019, WIN celebrated with the Mayor the openings of three replacement shelters in Wards 4, 7, and 8.

JOBS

WIN leaders continued to provide support for local transit workers for reasonable work conditions, building on their 2018 success in protecting the jobs of 200+ DC Circulator Bus workers and improving the wages and health insurance of DC Streetcar workers. WIN's 2019 campaign supported Northern Virginia bus personnel in their achieving a recently announced historic agreement with their WMATA subcontractor. WIN leaders linked good jobs to good public transit so necessary for poorer communities in the DC area. WIN and sister IAF organizations in Virginia and Maryland were part also of the pre-2019 campaign to acquire \$500 million new funding for WMATA system-wide repairs and improvements that are now ongoing.

IMMIGRANT LEGAL SERVICES FUNDING

WIN leaders supported inclusion in the 2020 budget of \$2.5 million in funding for immigrant legal services by attending budget hearings with immigrant and legal services allies in 2019. DC Attorney General also met with WIN to promise his support for immigrant rights. WIN continued organizing for immigrant legal services for the 2021 budget – increased to \$5 million because of the need.

What is WIN?

WIN is a broad-based, multi-racial, multi-faith, strictly non-partisan, District-wide citizens' power organization, rooted in local congregations and associations. WIN is committed to training and developing neighborhood leaders, to addressing community issues, and to holding elected DC officials and staff accountable. WIN's 38 dues-paying members, including St. John's, represent 25,000 families in every section of the District and reflect its theological, racial, geographic, and economic diversity. WIN is an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation.

For further information, contact John More at 202-256- 1515 or email at morej1@mac.com.

John More
Chair



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 has up-to-date information about the Church including the weekly calendar, the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, the music calendar and newsworthy events.

Vestry

Richard Metzger, *Senior Warden*

Paul Barkett, *Junior Warden*

Virginia Bader, Andrew Clarke, Audrey Wood Corcoran, Carolyn Crouch, Lauren Edwards, Martha Ellison, Jeff Hantson, Wande Johnson, Peter Odom, Nora Rigby, Jessica Sanchez, and Desirée Stolar.

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Andrew Tomlinson, *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

Sharlyne Griffin

Receptionist

R. J. Gravina

Program Coordinator

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

Glynnis Bryant and David Gamboa,

Assistant Sextons

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