



**SAINT
JOHN'S
CHURCH**

LAFAYETTE SQUARE
WASHINGTON, DC

**ANNUAL
PARISH
REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR 2021

Rector's Report

Wardens' Report

Reports of
Parish Organizations

FEBRUARY 2022

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher
Rector

The Rev. William Morris
Assisting Priest for Engaging Local Communities

The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell
Priest Associate

Kaye Edwards
Assistant for Church Growth

Brent Erstad
Director of Music and Organist

Lyn Loewi
Associate Organist

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RECTOR'S REPORT

St. John's Annual Report, February 2022

Dear Members of St. John's,

The year 2021 turned out to be an eventful and challenging, yet ultimately successful, year for us as a church. We faced the ongoing and deeply disruptive pandemic, security threats especially at the beginning of the year, and a number of changes in staffing. But we ended the year with a fully open church, a restructured staff better positioned to meet our needs, a major capital donation for the bell tower, increased pledge revenues, and dynamic ministries that are living out our mission to be a beacon of grace for all people of this city and nation.

While on the one hand, we have become a "church without walls," on the other, we have learned this past year what a precious thing it is to be physically together.

We formed a Regathering Task Force, which helped us navigate bringing people back to church while minimizing risk. Likewise, thanks to the guidance of the Security Task Force, the fence and the boards that had been put up around St. John's are now long gone, and the church once again welcomes parishioners and the public to three Sunday services, weekday services, and a brand-new monthly evensong service that showcases St. John's exceptional music department. We expect there will be many opportunities to meet the spiritual needs of those workers and visitors who will be returning to our neighborhood over the course of this upcoming year.

As part of our call to strive to become the beloved community that God desires, and to work toward a world free from the human construct of racism, and the structures and policies which support it, we launched a second year of Sacred Ground, convened a special church-wide session with Hazel Monae, the Diocesan Missioner for Equity and Justice, and began revitalizing our involvement in Washington Interfaith Network and its racial, environmental, and economic justice campaigns. Our Refugee Committee has partnered with All Souls Episcopal Church to directly sponsor a new Afghan family, while our support of such ministries as the Bishop Walker School and Communities in Schools remains strong. This upcoming year we plan to look into our archives and engage with our history in regard to racism and the practice of slavery.

In late November we sadly said goodbye to RJ Gravina, who resigned to return to the Philippines with his family after nearly two decades at St. John's. He had started as a sexton and soon became responsible for our bulletins and other essential communications tasks.

While RJ is greatly missed, two new staff members have taken on aspects of his former role, both on a part-time basis. Anne Stone, who has longtime experience producing materials with other larger Episcopal churches, is now creating our bulletins. Steven Martin, in the new role of Communications Director, is assisting us in better harnessing technology so that we can spread our message more effectively. Also, Lisa Koehler, who has assisted with the needs of our music department, is becoming a full-time member of the staff offering program support. She will also help me as an executive assistant, something that I have needed during this exceptionally busy time.

This year we also bid goodbye to the Rev. Savannah Ponder, our Associate Rector, after having served St. John's previously as a Deacon and as a lay minister for children and families. She and her husband moved to New Haven, CT so that he could attend seminary and she could answer a new call there. We have since attracted strong candidates in a national search for a new Associate Rector and interviews are underway. Meantime, the Rev. Doug Kirby was able to step in as Interim Associate Rector at the end of the summer and served until the end of January. We are now welcoming the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell who will be with us until the new permanent associate is in place, which we expect to be by the end of the program year. Additionally, the Vestry has funded a part-time minister for children and families, which we believe will greatly benefit St. John's going forward.

In the music department, I am especially pleased that Brent Erstad will become full-time in his role of Music Director and Organist in 2022. Sadly, in the fall our Assistant Organist Samantha Scheff was hired away to become the Director of Music at a local church, but we were blessed to welcome Lyn Loewi into that role on an interim basis, and she has shown what remarkable musical gifts she brings. Fortunately now, after a hiring process which included other candidates from around the country, we have selected Lyn to become our Assistant Organist.

In 2022 the Vestry and I will begin a process of strategic planning with an outside consultant, Michael Coffin, who has recently done strategic planning for the Episcopal Church's College for Bishops. This year we will also tend to the needs of our church exterior, and especially the bell tower which is in need of repair.

I pray that as we settle into the changes we have experienced we will grow in our connection to one another and to God as we continue to worship, serve, learn, and share in fellowship.

I am grateful to our entire staff as well as our vestry and other lay leaders, who have worked very hard and very faithfully this past year. I want to draw special attention to Paul Barkett, who is finishing his fourth year as a warden. (This is in fact his second term as a warden, which has added up to an astonishing eleven years for him as either Jr. or Sr. Warden at St. John's!) He has been a loyal friend and a blessing to the church—and to me personally—and has served immeasurably. Please join with me in sharing your gratitude to Paul and the other highly devoted and effective vestry members completing their terms, Carolyn Crouch, Peter Odom and Scott Rabb. I look forward to working with Clark Ervin and Nora Rigby, who will be our Sr. and Jr. Wardens, respectively.

I believe that God is very present in our midst and has been this whole time as we have navigated surprising and difficult terrain. I am honored to serve you and everyone in this parish, and I look forward to how we continue to share the love and grace of Christ here in Washington, DC and beyond.

Faithfully,
The Rev. Rob Fisher

WARDENS' REPORT

St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community, and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.

Dear Parishioners:

Our new mission statement, set forth above, represents a major piece of work undertaken by the Vestry during 2021. Work on the mission statement began in May at a retreat attended by the entire Vestry, our clergy, and Bishop Mariann. It was refined over several months and finally adopted in October.

In addition to the mission statement, the Vestry undertook a number of other projects during the year. We authorized a comprehensive study of our roofs and received a report concluding that the church roof needs replacement. Through our Security Taskforce, we commissioned a comprehensive study of our exterior property and received a master plan which recommends security and lighting enhancements, which we hope to begin implementing in late 2022. We began discussions on renovating the bell tower and received a matching grant from the National Fund for Sacred Places to support that project.

In March 2022, the Vestry will again participate in a retreat with the focus on developing a strategic plan to guide us for the next 3–5 years.

We are pleased to report that St. John's continues to be financially sound, despite the disruption and uncertainty that the pandemic continues to cause. We finished 2022 with a surplus of approximately \$100,000. While most revenues and expenses were as expected, higher than anticipated pledge and non-pledge revenue combined with vacant staff positions accounted for the surplus. While the 2022 budget is balanced and addresses our most important priorities, there is some concern about the financial picture in 2023 so the Vestry will begin some planning exercises this spring to ensure that St. John's continues to be financially secure. Please see the Treasurer's Report on page 30 for more detailed financial information.

The end of the year is always a bittersweet time for the Vestry as we say goodbye to members whose terms have ended. Carolyn Crouch, Peter Odom, and Scott Raab are leaving the Vestry. The entire congregation is indebted to these three individuals who have in many, many ways contributed to our common life. We thank them for their service.

Finally, we want to express our profound gratitude to all of you for your continued commitment to St. John's Church as we continue to navigate these unprecedented and challenging times. It continues to be a privilege for us to worship and serve with you in this vibrant and sacred community on Lafayette Square.

Paul Barkett, *Senior Warden*
Clark Ervin, *Junior Warden*

REPORTS OF PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Adult Forum Committee

Speaker Series

The speakers for 2021 were as follows:

January 31—**James Lewis**, Professor of History at Kalamazoo College, spoke about his book titled, “The Burr Conspiracy: Uncovering the Story of an Early American Crisis.”

February 14—**Howard Means**, an author and former journalist, spoke about his book titled, “The Avenger Takes His Place: Andrew Johnson and the 45 Days that Changed the Nation.”

February 21—**Elizabeth Varon**, Professor of History at the University of Virginia, spoke on the topic, “Andrew Johnson’s Impeachment and the Legacy of the Civil War.”

February 28—**Brenda Wineapple**, an author, literary critic, and essayist, spoke about her book titled, “The Impeachers: The Trial of Andrew Johnson and the Dream of a Just Nation.”

March 7—**Edward Watts**, the Chairman of the History Department at the University of California, San Diego, spoke on the topic: “Why Rome’s Republic Fell and How it Might Have Saved Itself.”

March 21—**Sarah Stewart Johnson**, planetary scientist and Associate Professor of Biology at Georgetown University, spoke on the topic, “The Red Planet: The Search for Life on Mars.”

April 11—**George Will**, Washington Post columnist, spoke on the topic, “The Function of Conservatives: What They Exist to Conserve and What Only They Can Do.”

April 25—**Lisa Kirchenbauer**, Chair of the St. John’s Planned Giving Committee & 1816 Society and Founder and President of Omega Wealth Management, spoke on the topic of planned giving.

May 16—**Karen Travers**, White House Correspondent for ABC News, spoke on the topic, “Reflections of a White House Correspondent.”

May 23: **Susan Glasser**, Staff Writer for *The New Yorker*, and **Peter Baker**, Chief White House Correspondent for *The New York Times*, spoke about their biography of the former White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of State and Treasury titled, “The Man Who Ran Washington: The Life and Times of James A. Baker III.”

June 27—**Catherine Rampell**, columnist at *The Washington Post* and commentator for CNN and the PBS NewsHour, spoke on the topic, “The State of the U.S. Economy.”

September 12—**Madeleine Albright**, former Secretary of State, spoke about current issues in the field of foreign policy and national security.

September 26—**Ruth Marcus**, Deputy Editorial Page Editor and columnist at *The Washington Post*, spoke on the topic of “Politics and Policy in Washington.”

October 3—Elizabeth Rule, Professor at American University and Director of the AT&T Center for Indigenous Politics and Policy, spoke on the topic, “Native American History and Contemporary Indigenous Experience in DC and Beyond.”

October 17—Michael Molina, Head of School, Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys, spoke about the school and its impact.

October 24—Rebecca Carter-Chand, Director of Programs on Ethics, Religion, and the Holocaust at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, spoke on the topic, “Religion and the Holocaust.”

November 14—John More, parishioner, and **Amy Vruno**, and **Sidra Siddiqui**, organizers, spoke about the history of the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), St. John’s long involvement, and WIN’s future plans.

November 21—David Silverman, Professor of History at George Washington University, spoke on the topic, “The Real Story of Thanksgiving.”

December 5—The Rev. David Wolf, Executive Director of Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington, and **Ben Morgan**, a participant in the ministry’s programs, spoke on its mission of life change for those who are living in or on the edge of poverty in the DMV.

December 12—Lonnie Bunch, Secretary of the Smithsonian and former Director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, spoke about his work at the Smithsonian.

Due to the pandemic, most of the speakers for the year joined us virtually via Zoom. Beginning on September 26, the speakers joined us in person in the Togo West Parlor.

Adult Inquirers’ Classes

Due to the limited use of the church and Parish House to meet health and safety guidelines, the Spring Adult Inquirers’ class was held on Zoom. Sixteen adults, most of them newcomers to St. John’s, attended the class on three evenings. By the fall of 2021, the Rector was able to hold the class in person in the Parish House. Sixteen adults attended the fall class, led by the Rector. The class was 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.

Thirteen members of the classes took part in one of two Services of Confirmation at Washington National Cathedral, one on May 1 and the other on November 13. Three were baptized at St. John’s.

Kaye Edwards, *Assistant for Church Growth*

Book Group

The St. John's Book Group continued our tradition of fellowship in reading, meeting twelve times on the first Thursday of every month in 2021. We have about 20 participants on a regular basis, and we have 40 on the mailing list. We voted to continue meeting on Zoom instead of in-person to allow full participation of our colleagues.

In the spring and fall of 2021, we democratically selected our reading list for the next six months, and our 2021 selections reflect a wide range of cultural, historic and spiritual topics, both non-fiction and fiction. If you are interested in our reading lists, please contact Janet Edmond. After we read *Broke in America: Seeing, Understanding and Ending U.S. Poverty* by Joanne Samuel Goldblum and Colleen Shaddox, book group members organized a diaper drive during October 2021. With the generous support of the congregation, we made a significant contribution to mothers and babies in the DMV as we collected \$1,859 in cash, checks, and credit card donations in addition to the following product donations:

- Diapers: 1,786
- Baby Wipes: 972
- Adult Depends diapers: 60
- Period products: 2,991

Janet Edmond, *Chair*

Care of Creation Ministry

This group gathers around creation care questions, does advocacy and conservation work in our various communities, and shares that with one another. We are also a community of learners. Please join us in 2022!

We began 2021 with a presentation by Dr. Annie White on recycling. We also heard from members about the model work being done by the City of Orlando, FL to reduce carbon emissions. There, municipal bonds have been used to help retrofit older buildings. The city requires energy assessments of all buildings over 50,000 square feet and offers low interest loans to qualifying properties to make upgrades. Orlando has increased renewable power production and invested heavily in electric vehicles and the needed infrastructure for them. Staff meet regularly with neighborhoods on their objectives and get folks excited about the city's goals. Another presentation on geo-engineering laid out different potential options for getting rid of carbon and for managing the sun's heat, the costs, perils and possible unintended consequences as well as the international implications of these technologies; there are moral and social justice issues at stake. John More has led initiatives through WIN and Sierra Club to limit methane emissions and improve public health through conversion to electric utilities in low income housing.

Bishop Mariann announced a new Diocesan focus on creation care mission in November, and four representatives from this parish stepped forward to support this at the Diocesan level—Abbott McCartney, John More, Cal Trepagnier and Joanne Hutton.

Some members of this group organized a Science and Theology study group that convened this fall, using a text by John Haught, *Science and Faith: A New Introduction*. Dr. Tony Tambasco, a fellow GU professor and friend of Dr. Haught, has facilitated monthly discussion meetings, which will continue in 2022.

Joanne Hutton, *Convenor*

Christian Education

Children, Youth, Family, and Adult Ministries

The parish continued to offer formation and worship programs for children, youth, and adults, albeit in reduced numbers due to on-going concerns and mitigation measures for COVID infection. Reports on major ministries are below. We hope that, as vaccination rates rise and infection rates decline, our number of offerings and participants will increase, returning to approximate pre-pandemic levels. Two bright spots to highlight were our parish Adult Bible Study, which continued to flourish, and we were able to have our annual Christmas Pageant, which we were able to hold in person this year. Lastly, our parish thanks the devoted group of lay leaders who, despite the many challenges and changes of the past year, continue their steadfast commitment to leading these vital parish ministry programs.

Faithfully,

The Reverend Doug Kirby, *Interim Associate Rector*

Children's Ministries (Church School)

Katherine Raab, *Coordinator*

Church School (Godly Play) resumed at the beginning of the program year in the fall under the leadership of Katherine Raab. We continue to have a dedicated small core group of storytellers and doorkeepers who made this important ministry happen for the children of the parish. Each Sunday, there were three to six children participating in Godly Play lessons. The numbers were low possibly due to COVID concerns that we heard from some parishioners. As more younger children are vaccinated, and infections rates decline, we hope to see more children return to church school and the program offerings expand to near pre-pandemic numbers.

Youth Ministries

Matthew Taylor, Patrick Bond, and Becca Brown, *Coordinators*

After a year of gathering online, the youth were excited to return to in-person classes during the fall semester. A group of six youth decided to prepare for the Rite of Confirmation over the course of the program year in preparation for the diocesan-wide confirmation in May 2022 at Washington National Cathedral. Parishioners Matthew Taylor, Patrick Bond, and Becca Brown have lead the program and look forward to monthly gatherings with the youth and are planning a retreat prior to the confirmation service.

Family Ministries

Chrystal and John Martin, Laura and John Herzog, *Coordinators*

We were blessed this year to be able to have the annual Christmas Pageant in person on Christmas Eve, despite the uptick in COVID infections in the local area. The parish was overjoyed to see this cherished pageant return this year. Our parish thanks go to all who helped make the pageant happen this year, despite all of the challenges. Our thanks also go to the parents who allowed their children to be part of the cast and assisted in making it happen.

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Adult Bible Study

Jack Reiffer, *Coordinator*

The adult Bible Study group on Sunday mornings continued for a second year, mostly on Zoom. In the fall season some in-person attendance resumed as part of a hybrid approach. There are regular out-of-town participants who learned of this study group as the national profile of the congregation grew. This adult formation offering seeks to address both the goal to increase affinity groups within the congregation and the interest in Bible study options. Retired minister Jack Reiffer leads the class. A group of 25 persons receives the weekly study materials; average Sunday attendance is 10. The group studied the structure, audience, and themes for the Gospels of Mark and John, the history of Israel from the Conquest of Canaan to the Kingdom of David, the structure of the opening chapters of Luke, and the canticles in the birth narratives. Conversations typically explore the connections with the Sunday lessons and sermons.

Education for Ministry

Sixty-nine people have completed the Education for Ministry (EfM) at St. John's since the program first began more than 20 years ago. Eleven participants currently pursue their study and exploration virtually Monday evenings weekly throughout the school year. The program is led by mentor Carolyn Crouch.

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, and laughter 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.

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.

Contact Carolyn Crouch for more information or visit the EfM website (<https://efm.sewanee.edu>) to read excerpts from the curriculum.

Carolyn Crouch

Flower Guild

As in 2020, for the first half of 2021, Flower Guild members Pat Dalby, Joanne Hutton, and Katherine Kyle continued to arrange flowers in their homes since access to the church was limited. With the much-appreciated help of their dedicated husbands, they then transported the freshly made arrangements to the church and placed them in their proper places in time for Sunday services.

Fortunately, the virus eased in the heat of late summer, and other members of the Guild slowly began to participate. Flower arranging returned to the church basement. Folks were happy to return to some sense of normalcy arranging blossoms and greenery and participating in church life in person once again.

For a typical Sunday, two volunteers arrange a total of four arrangements: two for the main altar, one for the side altar, and one for the narthex. When requested, we also make small bouquets of flowers in take-home vases for parishioners who are unable to attend Sunday services.

A small and determined team came together to produce a glorious Easter in the spring and triumphed in the winter with regal shades of Christmas red nestled with bold hues of deep rich pink and orange. The vivid mosaic complimented the beauty of the sunlight streaming through the brilliant stained-glass windows which had been released from plywood protection earlier in the year.

A few of our members moved on to other pursuits during 2021. However, we were pleased to pick up four new members. The training process is exciting for both teacher and student. The delightful truth is that it is as much fun to teach a new skill as it is to learn a new one. It's also fun to get to know other parishioners!

A continued thank you to Anne Harrington who remains our Wedding Coordinator. We would also like to express our appreciation to our Sextons Javier (Victor) Obregon, Glynnis "GeeGee" Bryant, and David Gamboa, who support us each week and every week,

Making a Contribution

Each week parishioners have the opportunity to honor loved ones by making a donation to the flower fund. Contributors can sponsor the main altar or the narthex or all of the church's arrangements for a given Sunday. The names of designated loved ones appear in the church bulletin along with a 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. If you are interested in joining, please contact Flower Guild Chair Katherine Kyle for more information.

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Flower Guild Members

And a special thank you to all of our Flower Guild members who give up a piece of their weekend to serve our strong, resilient, and beloved St. John's.

Emily Louise Able

Sarah Agnew

Karolina Arias

Paul Barkett

Barbara Bulla Brown

Becca Brown

Jamie Finch

Barbie Harper

Anne Harrington

Lily Happi

Susan Heil

Haleigh Hildebrand

Amanda Claire Hoover

Joanne Hutton

Nicole Kleman Neufeld

Julia Koster

Elizabeth Lewis

Liz Morin-Burns

Allie Raether

Adelle Simmons

Ryan Toney

Susan Valaskovic

Pamela Farrell Venzke

Katherine Kyle, *Chair*

Pat Dalby, *Co-Chair*

Greeters Guild

We became head greeters during 2021 after greeting for five years at St. John's and five years in Atlanta at St. Luke's. This was a challenging year since we were returning to church after a year of worshipping from home!

We lost several greeters between March, 2020, and May, 2021, due to moves out of the district and a desire to remain socially distant, etc. Fortunately, we recruited a few new greeters through word of mouth and asking newcomers if they would like to greet. During our Ministry Fair we also had several people who signed up to greet on Sunday mornings. We are very blessed.

The role of the greeter is to make everyone who comes to our worship services feel welcomed. We stand at the table on the church plaza offering St. John's literature, masks, and hand sanitizer. We say hello to everyone who comes in and introduce ourselves to those people we might not know. For visitors, we ask where they are from and make sure to answer any questions they have about our church and its history. We also encourage everyone to wear name tags in case someone else might want to get to know them. Most people are happy to do so. We want people to know us as a welcoming community for all, and this ministry provides visitors and potential new members a first glance at St. John's. It is a genuinely fun ministry that gives you the opportunity to get to know lots of new people.

We now have 28 greeters and can always use more friendly faces. We try to have two greeters at both the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services so the more the merrier. Just contact either Peter or Eleanor if you are interested.

Peter & Eleanor Odom

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee's charge is to help the Vestry in carrying out its duty to provide oversight and management of the church's endowment. The members of the Committee in 2021, in alphabetical order, were Virginia Bader, Paul Barkett, Krista Becker, Justin Dean, Clark Ervin, Casey Evans, Lisa Kirchenbauer, Sara McGanity, and Richard Metzger.

Brown Advisory was retained by the church in 2011 to manage the day-to-day investment portfolio. The Investment Committee relies on the expertise and guidance of Brown Advisory to increase the value of the church's portfolio over time through capital appreciation and dividend and interest payments. The church's endowment is a crucial asset as it provides an annual income stream to support the church's operating expenses, at a historical cash equivalent of approximately 5% of the endowment's total value. In 2021, the church drew down \$827,916 from investment accounts to fund operations.

Investment Committee Meetings

The Investment Committee met twice with Brown Advisory during 2021 to review the church's endowment performance and discuss global and domestic trends that could affect it. The committee also met separately without Brown in December to consider potential options for updating the church's investment policy.

Market Conditions and Portfolio Performance

2021 was another strong year for the St. John's portfolio. The goals for the year included the following: 1) addressing the effects of inflation; 2) maintaining a reasonable allocation across asset classes; 3) limiting exposure to longer duration bonds; and 4) expanding the portfolio's global orientation with an emphasis on Asia. The total value of the St. John's endowment grew 12.8% (net of fees), representing \$998,000 in net market appreciation and income during the trailing twelve months ending in December 2021. The total value of the Quinby fund also grew 12.8% (net of fees), representing \$1,300,000 in net market appreciation and income during the same period.

The Investment Committee approved a rebalancing of the overall investment portfolio mid-year to take advantage of the stronger performing assets and lock in gains in areas such as U.S. large cap, growth-oriented equities.

Socially Responsible Investing

In 2021, the committee continued assessing St. Johns' current investment policy, which has been in place since 2014. The goals were to 1) determine if St. Johns' existing policy still accurately reflects the mission of the church and sense of the congregation through the lens of socially responsible investments; 2) compare the St. John's policy against the policies of both the larger Episcopal Church and Diocese of Washington; and 3) lay the groundwork for more formal recommendations to be presented to the Vestry.

Brown Advisory is currently researching additional comparative policies with an emphasis on Washington, DC-focused, not-for-profit entities. The Investment Committee anticipates bringing a report of its findings and recommendations to the Vestry in 2022.

Virginia Bader, *Chair*

Latrobe Fellowship for Young Adults

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 lives and on their spiritual journeys. Developing and deepening relationships with God and other young adults is very important to us. In a normal year, 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 faith, food, 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, several serve on Vestry, 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 and Grace's Table. As we move into 2022, you will continue to see young adults active and engaged in the good work that is being done in this church and community.

As with many other aspects of parish life, the Latrobe Fellowship adapted to the changes brought on by the worldwide pandemic to continue our ministry. The Fellowship was able to gather either virtually or for a few socially distanced events. The Latrobe Fellowship said goodbye to the Rev. Savannah Ponder and welcomed the Rev. Doug Kirby as our clergy representative.

Here are the events that the Latrobe Fellowship sponsored in 2021:

- January 6, 2021—Prayer Service (virtual)
- February 10, 2021—Prof. George Musgrove (virtual)
- March 3, 2021—Lenten Prayer Service (virtual)
- April 7, 2021—Easter Wine Tasting (virtual)
- May 19, 2021—Meridian Hill Picnic
- June 13, 2021—Sunday Brunch after Church
- July 11, 2021—Sunday Brunch after Church
- August 15, 2021—Sunday Brunch after Church
- September 8, 2021—Rooftop Gathering at Carl Ward's Home
- October 13, 2021—Outdoor Service of Holy Eucharist at Kate Benner's Home
- November 10, 2021—Rooftop Eucharist at Patrick Bond's Home
- December 8, 2021—Eucharist at St. John's and White Elephant Holiday Gathering

We are especially grateful to the following members of the Latrobe Steering Committee: John Derrick, Cal Trepagnier, Anna Wieger, Jess Unger, Claire Kim, and Matthew Taylor.

Kate Benner and Carl Ward, *Co-Chairs*

Music Ministry

After a year of operating largely online, 2021 saw the in-person return of many of our musical offerings. Though not without challenges, the ability to worship, sing, and create together has been a true blessing for our parish during a challenging time. I'm grateful for the many people who have supported our music ministries over the past year and in doing so have allowed us to sustain an active year of music ministry.

After having been suspended for the 2020–2021 season, our weekday concert series returned in November with a performance by the United States Air Force Strings. In December, the Navy Sea Chanters delighted the audience with a program of holiday favorites. Our annual service of Lessons and Carols and our Advent Party were also held in person this year after having been online offerings in 2020. To gather safely, we held the Advent Party on the plaza in front of the church for the first time. A hearty crowd of parishioners and guests enjoyed cider, cookies, and the singing of carols led by members of the choir. It was a joyful way to celebrate the season and to invite the neighborhood into one of our more beloved holiday traditions.

Our series of music festival services resumed in September with special music for Kick-Off Sunday. The Parish Choir was joined by a brass ensemble in singing many of our favorite hymns and choral warhorses including H.H. Parry's anthem "I was glad." In November, the St. John's Choir was joined by members of the Air Force String in presenting Marcel Duruflé's Requiem for All Saints' Day.

One of the highlights this year has been the addition of a service of Choral Evensong sung on the third Thursday of each month. This new worship offering, while enjoyed by many of our regular parishioners, is also intended as an outreach to the workday crowd in our neighborhood. We hope that this service continues to grow as the pandemic subsides and people begin to return to their offices downtown.

In November we said farewell to our Associate Organist, Samantha Scheff, as she began a new position as Director of Music at Grace Church in Alexandria. It would be difficult to overstate Sam's contributions to our music program in her nearly two years at St. John's. Her creativity, collegiality, and good nature helped us through the most difficult days of the pandemic and her musicianship was a blessing to our community each Sunday. We were fortunate to welcome Dr. Lyn Loewi as our Interim Associate Organist shortly after Sam's departure. Lyn accepted our call on short notice and moved from Denver, Colorado to help us get through Christmas. I'm personally very grateful for Lyn's presence, and I know that our entire congregation has enjoyed her excellent organ playing and sensitive accompanying of the choirs.

Our two choirs continue to anchor our music ministry. Our singers provide excellent choral music for worship services every Sunday of the year and for many occasions in between. Their adaptability and resilience over these past two years has been humbling, and their commitment to excellence is a blessing and healthy source of pride for our congregation. I'd like to recognize them individually here:

The Saint John's Choir

Sopranos Amy Broadbent, Kerry Holahan, and Tory Wood.
Altos Lisa Koehler, Charlotte Stewart, and Louisa Waycott.
Tenors Noah Calderon, Matthew Hill, and Ned Sieverts.
Basses Chuck Bowers, Justin Dean, and Christopher Jones.

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The Parish Choir

- Sopranos* Annette Anfinrud, Amy Broadbent, Whitley Herndon, Kerry Holahan, Julia Leonard, Christina Wilson, and Tory Wood.
- Altos* Alison Adkins, Sarah Banks, Thea Crouch, Wendy Fibison, Sara Joey, Lisa Koehler, Katherine McClintic, Virginia Pasley, LaFleur Paysour, Charlotte Stewart, Louisa Waycott, and Margo Wiegenstein.
- Tenors* Philip Anfinrud, Craig Burkhardt, Noah Calderon, Matthew Hill, Jack Reiffer, Ned Sieverts, and Tom Wade
- Basses* Samuel Berbano, Jeff Bozman, Justin Dean, Chris Jones, Chuck Bowers, Bill Josey, Henry Parkhurst, and Ryan Toney.

I'm ever grateful to our music administrator, Lisa Koehler, who has truly gone above and beyond to assure that this robust music ministry functions smoothly. It continues to be a privilege to work with our dedicated music staff, our clergy, and our choirs.

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Outreach Committee

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 2021, the Outreach Committee continued to build many of our long-standing partnerships in a continually changing world due to the global pandemic. The Outreach Committee moved much of its work online as it continued to support numerous projects throughout our community. The Outreach Committee also continued a new application process for ministries supported by the Committee. Dozens of parishioners and friends were involved in Outreach during 2021, and we supported and served a variety of communities in Washington, DC, South Africa, and Jerusalem. The Outreach Committee utilized a substantially increased budget of over \$97,000 during 2021, and the Committee is grateful to the Vestry for this generous allotment. The Outreach Committee also said goodbye to the Rev. Savannah Ponder and welcomed the Rev. Doug Kirby as our clergy partner. Our resources were allocated as follows:

EDUCATION: \$38,000

- Communities in Schools of the Nation’s Capital —\$19,000
- Bishop Walker School—\$19,000

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. Communities in Schools of the Nation’s Capital, an affiliate of the nation’s largest dropout prevention program, currently serves over 5,000 DC public school students in 12 schools. In the past year, the generous contribution

from St. John's was used in a variety of ways. Cardozo School was able to fill and replenish its Community Closet, supplying food, school supplies, and hygiene and home goods to the students. The school was able to purchase winter coats and winter clothing for 35 students, to provide winter break supplies for 75 students, and to have a holiday party for 20 families, all because of St. John's contribution. Volunteers from St. John's have participated in the program in a variety of ways, including helping at food markets and delivering materials to families without transportation. A pilot program to assist families with Medicaid applications and renewals is in the works. This fall, volunteering at CIS was identified as a possible "next step" for parishioners on the Sacred Ground journey. To that end, clergy and church members met with the CIS director and site coordinator for an informational meeting and tour of Cardozo School.

Bishop Walker School, born of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, is a tuition free institution for children in kindergarten through fifth 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 fifth grade. The Outreach Committee voted to increase our support for Bishop Walker School to promote its mission in the Diocese.

PARTNERSHIPS

Washington, DC

- Grace's Table—\$6,762
- All Girls Boy Scout Troop Washington, DC—\$2,000

South Africa

- Kwasa Centre, South Africa—\$15,000
- Clergy Education—\$2,500

Diocese of Jerusalem

- St. Paul's Shafr'Amr—\$1,000
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)—\$1,000
- Princess Basma Centre —\$1,500

This year the Outreach Committee continued to build our partnership with **Grace's Table**, an outreach ministry of Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. St. John's continued to support Grace's Table through the purchase of box lunches. Prior to the pandemic, this fellowship prepared and shared 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. Elizabeth Field volunteered to serve as a new coordinator for Grace's Table going forward.

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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 St. John's funds sent to Kwasa this year were critically important to help Kwasa respond to COVID. They enabled Kwasa to continue to provide classroom instruction and student feeding programs despite food shortages and high unemployment among parents due to the pandemic.

The funds for clergy development provided important tuition support for a seminarian from the Diocese of the Highveld, Teboho Molefe, at the only Anglican seminary in South Africa, the College of the Transfiguration.

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 led by a parishioner at St. John's, Craig Burkhardt.

HOUSING: \$9,000

- Rebuilding Together—\$9,000

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

EVENTS: \$1,000

- Annual Gift Drive—\$1,000

The annual **Christmas Gift Drive** collected hundreds of books, clothing, and other gifts for dozens of children. We worked with four organizations to collect children's Christmas wishes and distribute gifts, including the Bishop Walker School (BWS) and Communities in Schools.

IMMIGRATION: \$4,000

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.

At the end of 2021, the Refugee Committee voted to partner with All Souls, Woodley Park and St. Mary's, Arlington to form a Sponsor Circle to sponsor an Afghan refugee family in 2022.

DONATIONS: \$15,500

- Downtown Cluster of Congregations—\$7,000
- Samaritan Ministries—\$2,000
- Washington Interfaith Network—\$6,000
- Seabury Resources for Aging—\$500

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

In 2021, the Outreach Committee restarted our partnership with **Samaritan Ministries**, an Episcopal partnership that seeks to empower its participants, engage its partner churches, and identify the basic, systemic, and unmet needs of the community.

Parishioners of St. John's continued to advocate with **Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)** in 2021.

MOVING FORWARD

The Outreach Committee, under the guidance of the clergy, looks forward to continuing our work in the community and with our partnership organizations throughout 2022.

Matthew David Taylor, *Outreach Committee Chair*

Parish Lunch and Community-Building Potluck Events

The Sunday Parish Lunch is a wonderful and important fellowship opportunity at St. John's, which has had to be suspended due to continuing COVID precautions. In the fall we suggested buffet type food served on the patio, during which time the Bishop Walker School for Boys hosted a lunch outside.

Community-Building Potluck Suppers and other events outside church and in parishioners' homes are very popular. Many parishioners have requested them. Some events were being planned and scheduled until COVID spikes caused us to delay further.

We look forward to continuing these much-appreciated community-building activities as soon as it is safe.

Holly Sukenik, *Parish Lunch Coordinator*

Parish Register for 2021

TRANSFERS

Transfers into the Parish

Emily Louise Able—from The Church of the Resurrection, Greenwood, SC
Ellen Tabler—from Trinity Episcopal Church, Newtown, CT
Lauren Elizabeth Patterson—from St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Hickory, NC
Louisa M. Waycott—from St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Sun Valley, ID
Kate Huffman—from Christ and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, New York, NY
Kerri L. Stelcen—from St. John's Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, NY
Emily Ann Bruemmer—from St. James' Church, New York, NY
James P. Longley—from St. Matthew's Church, Bedford, NY

Transfers out of the Parish

The Harris Family (Christian, Annie, and Vivienne)—to Church of the Good Shepherd, Augusta, GA
Ann Bowman Andrews—to the Church of St. John the Divine, Houston, TX
Ailene Chartier Kane Rogers—to All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA
Jessica Johnson and children Catherine, Carter, and Caroline Kenny—to All Saints Church,
Chevy Chase, MD
The Guerin Family (Katherine, William Hunter, and William Hunter Guerin, Jr.)—to St. James
Episcopal Church, Richmond, VA
Stewart Lillard—to the Church of the Epiphany, Washington, DC
Leila Taaffe and Arthur Kellermann—to St. Paul's Church, Richmond, VA
Joy and Richard Nathan—to Bruton Parish Episcopal Church, Williamsburg, VA
Katherine Kehoe—to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Stuart, FL

CONFIRMATIONS, REAFFIRMATIONS, AND RECEPTIONS

Confirmations

Kimberly Garrington Dozier
Katherine Reed Seifert
Alexandra Rose Bernier
LaFawn Charisse Davis
Matthew John Ford
Michael Murphy McGregor
Sun Woo Park
Maria Claudia Bueno Persico
Ryan Randall Wagner

Receptions

Roslenn Minerva Richardson
Courtney Blair Severin

Reaffirmations

Elizabeth Wynne Oblinger
Lauren Elizabeth Patterson

BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS, AND BURIALS

Baptisms

Christopher John Gorud, *adult*
Kristian Aleksander Robischon
Katherine Doyle Papas
Robert Angus Rawlings
Bianca Celeste Hillery Gaziano
Anna Carroll Hallett
William Wendell Mackey
Sofia Melffi Tejera
Charles Campbell Sisson
Stephen Buford Smith III
Catherine Anderson Hughes
Grayson Krueger Arnold
Annalise Barrientos Arriaga
Matthew John Ford, *adult*
Sun Woo Park, *adult*
Abigail London Traxler
Ryan Randall Wagner, *adult*
George William Rabbe III

Weddings

Bailey Mara Thomas and William Rhys Dodd
Nora Christine Duesterhaus and
Everett Peter Laugh
Claire Yejie Kim and Jess Edward Christiaan Unger
Carrington Lynn Lyerly and
Hewlette Collier Connell
Branda Mae Czechan and Paul Winslow Mandelson

Burials, Funerals, and Memorial Services

Henry Charles Holder
Karen Hastie Williams
Neil Fletcher Wilson
Harry Reinhard Marshall, Jr.
Raymond Garcia
Dace Vidins
Maxwell Hudgins

Pastoral Care Ministry

Pastoral Care Ministry at St. John's Church compliments and supplements the work of our priests by contacting, visiting, and praying for members of the congregation. Ministry team members also pray regularly for all those listed in the weekly list of prayer requests. We hope it gives comfort and encouragement to know that on every day of the week there is someone from our team praying for all those who have requested prayers.

Although in-person visits are far more limited in this stretch, we look for safe opportunities to visit with those who would benefit from some company during long days in rehab or other confinement. Some members of the ministry team are also lay Eucharistic ministers; those visits to bring communion have been dramatically reduced to accommodate pandemic protocols.

We are especially grateful to our rector, Rob Fisher, for arranging memorial services for two members who died without any nearby relatives who could plan a funeral or memorial. These celebrations of the lives of Dace Vidins and Max Hudgins were precious moments in a challenging year.

Pastoral Care Ministry writes notes and delivers flowers at Easter (lily plants) and Christmas (poinsettia plants) for members of St. John's Church who have experienced a death in their immediate family and for those in rehabilitation programs or confined to home or medical facilities.

Leadership changes

In March Jack Reiffer replaced Thom Sinclair as chair of this ministry; Thom's current assignments as part of his path to ordination as a deacon included stepping aside from parish responsibilities at St. John's Church. The ministry team expressed thanks for all that Thom has done to establish this current version of pastoral care ministry at St. John's. We look forward to witnessing the exciting next chapter in his life and ministry.

In September Doug Kirby joined the staff as Interim Associate Rector, with this ministry as part of his assignment. The Reverend Kirby replaced Savannah Ponder, who left her position at St. John's Church for ministry in New Haven, Connecticut. The ministry team expressed their thanks for Savannah's help and guidance in this ministry, especially the various adjustments necessitated by the pandemic and our increased dependence on internet gatherings.

We are grateful for the staff support of Kaye Edwards, especially in a year with so many other changes and challenges.

Current Pastoral Care Ministry members are Laurie Adams, Wendy Fibison, Ann Gardner, Kristie Hansen, Anne Harrington, Joanne Hutton, Richard Price, Jack Reiffer (chair), Diane Spaulding, and Margaret Wiegenstein.

Jack Reiffer, *Chair*

Planned Giving Committee

As of the end of 2021, there were 55 existing 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. Another eight parishioners have indicated in their stewardship cards that they have added St. John's to their estate plans. We are grateful for this outpouring of both interest and action. This has been another challenging year to focus on some of these longer-term efforts as we have all grappled with the pandemic, economic, and political challenges for our church. In the next year, we are hoping to take a more proactive approach to our planned giving strategy.

Lisa A.K. Kirchenbauer, *Chair*

Properties Committee

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 of Operations, to implement its recommendations. The committee's members are Rick Busch, Barbie Harper, Joanne Hutton, Patricia Leslie, and Richard Grimmett, Chair of the Committee.

In 2021, the restrictions created by the coronavirus pandemic, as a practical matter, limited the committee's actions to support of previously agreed upon projects. The principal item in this category was the monitoring by the committee of the multi-year project of removal, restoration and reinstallation of the historic Lorin memorial stained glass windows of St. John's Church.

During 2019–2020, two windows, one each in the north and south galleries—the Buchanan and Turnbull windows, both of which needed substantial renovation work—were removed, restored, and reinstalled by our contractor, Shenandoah Glass of Front Royal, Virginia. These windows are part of the original, historic, Lorin windows group that were designed and fabricated in Chartres, France in 1883-1884 and all installed by 1885. For more than a decade, Shenandoah Glass has systematically restored and reinstalled nearly all of the original Lorin windows, as well as other, more contemporary windows, created by American companies. Shenandoah Glass has also installed custom-built, state-of-the-art, protective covers, called insulated glass units (IGU), on the stained glass 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. They also help protect the stained glass windows from physical damage. Indeed, it was one of these protective covers over the stained glass window in the stairwell facing the AFL-CIO building that was damaged by a vandal on May 30, 2020. But that protective cover prevented any damage to the stained glass window itself.

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During 2021, the last three of the historic stained glass windows of St. John's needing restoration were removed and restored. 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, designed by architect James Renwick, 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 the AFL side. All three of these stained glass windows needed long-deferred restoration work. That restoration work was completed by Shenandoah Glass in 2021. Those windows are expected to be reinstalled in January 2022. Their installation will complete the more than decades-long project of the Properties Committee to restore all of the stained glass windows in St. John's Church.

Other potential projects in 2022 that the committee may undertake will, necessarily, be constrained by the continuing issues caused by the coronavirus, and other pressing needs of the church.

Richard F. Grimmett, *Chair*

Racial Justice Initiatives

In July 2021 we finished the first cohort of Sacred Ground participants. More than 60 members of St. John's had participated in the program, which involved a year-long journey to explore issues of race and faith, and what these mean for us as a gathered community. Using as our base the program designed by the Episcopal Church, small dialogue circles studied together a wide range of materials designed to make us consider our response as individuals and as a community to issues of race in our lives, in our city, in our country, and in our church. The response was enthusiastic, and almost everyone stayed to the end of the program, many finding it genuinely transformative. In addition to the dialogue circle meetings, we also had a number of plenary meetings, and a successful evening spent discussing the African-American theologian, Howard Thurman, whose work *Jesus and the Dispossessed* underpinned the program.

I am pleased to say that more than 20 St. John's members are currently participating in a second cohort of Sacred Ground with a number of generous participants from the first cohort serving as facilitators for the new dialogue circles.

In November we had the first of our Faith and Race Theology Exploration mornings where, again, more than twenty of us gathered to meet with Hazel Monae, the Bishop's Minister for Equity and Justice, to talk about the place for truth and reconciliation in racial healing. Considering the documentary *Dawnland*, as well as considering precedents from South Africa and elsewhere, we had a rich discussion on how truth (real, radical truth and honesty) is the necessary predicate for reconciliation. We hope to have three to four meetings in 2022.

We have engaged with the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN), who came to do a relational training at St. John's in late November, following an earlier inspiring talk at the Speaker's Forum. A number of St. John's members are involved in individual WIN programs concerning affordable housing and environmental justice. We also expect to be involved with WIN in the lead up to DC's mayoral primary and elections this year. And we continue to seek a concrete project for St. John's members to be involved in.

In addition to our strong partnership with the Bishop Walker School, we have been exploring possibilities for engagement with Communities in Schools, but, unfortunately the most recent COVID surge has delayed further plans.

Finally, we continue (albeit rather slowly) to pursue plans to investigate in the church archives evidence of St. John's engagement with the African-American community in DC in the 19th century. That will begin to progress shortly.

The Rev. William Morris

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee's focus continues to be on annual giving. Receipts from pledges account for nearly half of the total budget at St. John's. Here is the record of pledge amounts received over the past few years:

Year	Pledged	Units
2016	\$1,025,960	427
2017	\$1,020,000	371
2018	\$1,035,765	375
2019	\$933,468	368
2020	\$940,383	336
2021	\$1,016,726	367

As of January 31, 2022, we have received pledges from 323 units totaling more than \$1,006,000 (as compared with 325 units totaling \$960,800 at this time last year). We've seen at least 50 new and/or reinstated pledges as of January 4 (as compared with 68 last year) and more than 90 increased pledges (as compared with 113 at the same time last year). The average increased pledge was nearly 25% higher than in the previous year.

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 2022, we ask you to carefully and prayerfully consider making a pledge. Any pledge, no matter the size, makes a difference!** For those who are in a financial situation allowing you to increase your pledge, this can really help us face the increased costs of our inflationary environment.

During the "off season" this past year, our committee made a number of revisions to our website to make both pledging and donating more straightforward. If you have any suggestions for continued improvements, please send them our way! Members of this year's Stewardship Committee and the list of people providing assistance to the committee include (but are not limited to) David Gallalee, Carter Keithley, Sara McGanity, Powell Hutton, Eleanor Odom, Matt Bode, Martha Ellison, Alfred Thesmar, Will Duthe, and Richard Metzger. We were pleased to once again benefit from wonderful stewardship testimonials—this year from Paul Barkett, Gail West, Laura Herzog, Desirée Stolar, Justin Dean, and Lauren Edwards.

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I especially want to recognize the outstanding support that the St. John's office staff has provided in facilitating our Stewardship work. Kim Carlson joined not only our regular Stewardship Committee calls but also worked closely with Rob and me through additional planning sessions—and dealt with my many (many!) email questions with grace. Charley Griffin has also been instrumental to the logistics of the process, and Kaye Edwards has brought to bear her longstanding relationships with and knowledge of so many parishioners. Preston Cherouny maintains records and makes the necessary financial reports to the appropriate church committees and the Vestry, while also fielding many questions with diligence. We continue to be blessed as a result of their hard work.

Rob deserves special singling out for his deep commitment to stewardship, his willingness to speak about it early and often during services, and his ability to carve out time for this committee during a year when so many other urgent matters needed his attention. We're planning to continue meeting through 2022 and will more regularly discuss stewardship with the parish community, while seeking to begin this fall's efforts earlier than last year. As St. John's continues to get back to more normal gatherings, we anticipate improving results again in 2022–23.

Faithfully,
Toby Stock, *Chair*

Sunday Liturgical Ministries

To say that the past year was characterized by change would be an understatement! Despite all of the changes—whether internally-chosen or externally-driven—our dedicated crucifers, chalice bearers, and readers/lectors remained a constant of excellence and reverence in worship for the parish. At the parish ministry fair in the fall, we had several new members sign up to become a part of these vital ministries. The parish implemented new liturgical practices (such as the lavabo bowl) or brought back pre-COVID customs (Gospel procession). To assist in training new and current members in parish worship customs, we held a training day in October. Additionally, we began to record our worship practices in a written Eucharist Customary that will help us train new members of these guilds and provide continuity of our customs as they continue to evolve. Unfortunately, we did not re-start our youth acolyte participation by the end of 2021. We eagerly anticipate and are planning to reinvigorate this ministry early in 2022. Our parish thanks go out to all of our crucifers, chalice bearers, readers/lectors, and soon-to-be youth acolytes for helping to lead our common worship.

In Christ,
The Reverend Doug Kirby, *Interim Associate Rector*

Crucifers

Kenny Kraft, *Coordinator*

It seems fitting that, during a period of change, one constant in our worship ministries is the cross. Despite all the changes to our worship liturgies and implementation of measures to prevent the spread of COVID, our crucifers continued to bear the processional cross with reverence and excellence for every service. In addition to leading the procession of choir and clergy at the beginning and conclusion of worship services, and receiving the offering from the ushers, the crucifers resumed the custom of carrying the Gospel book in the gospel procession.

Chalice Bearers

Joanne Hutton, *Coordinator*

Over the past year, our dedicated chalice bearers have shown admirable flexibility, indicative of their dedication to the important sacramental ministry while facing the challenges imposed by the pandemic. The parish incorporated new liturgical customs such as the lavabo bowl and returned to some pre-COVID customs in assisting the celebrant in setting the altar. While we were still administering the chalice, albeit in small white cups, our chalice bearers performed this sacramental role with the excellence they always have. Due to the rise in infections from the COVID Omicron variant, the parish suspended communion with wine as a prudent measure to prevent the spread within the parish. The parish continued with communion in one-kind—bread only—until the infection rates begin to decline.

Readers / Lectors

Martha Ellison, *Coordinator*

Our dedicated group of lectors and readers continued to assist in proclaiming the Word with excellence during each worship service. Whether reading the Old Testament scripture passages, Epistles texts, or leading the psalms, our readers continued the vital leadership in opening our hearts and minds and listening to God's Word. Their abilities to lead us in the prayers of the people helped us to respond to God's Word, lifting our praises, thanks, and intercessions to God. In the new year, the parish will have training for all lectors to continue to develop and refine their skills for this important role in the Ministry of the Word.

Youth Acolytes

Nora Haugh, *Coordinator*

Due to the pandemic and subsequent surges of infections, the parish continued its pause of youth acolyte participation in weekly worship services through the remainder of the calendar year. In the New Year, we plan to re-start and reinvigorate this vital ministry that incorporates our youth in leading worship. Parishioner Nora Haugh, who has graciously accepted the role of Acolyte Coordinator, will lead this reinvigoration. Efforts are underway now to ask previous youth acolytes who are still in the parish to return to this ministry, as well as recruiting new acolytes who are in the sixth through twelfth grades.

Tour Guide Guild

“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

St. John’s volunteer tour guides speak to visitors on the history, our various ministries, and our community outreach efforts. We conduct regularly scheduled tours on most Sundays following the 11:00 a.m. service, as well as specially scheduled group tours on weekdays.

Unfortunately, during 2021, as COVID precautions stayed in place and few visitors came to St. John’s, we were not able to conduct tours.

The good news is that we have an enthusiastic group of volunteers ready to greet visitors again when circumstances improve. New training materials are under preparation, and we are developing a proposal to create a self-guided audio tour accessible via cell phone. This would enable the thousands of weekday visitors to learn more about St. John’s and its ministry.

Many thanks to our volunteers: Richard Busch, Carolyn Crouch, Richard Price, Katie Adams Holder, Bill Josey, Kenlyn Klamper, John Lucio, Jacob Parcell, Allie Raether, Diane Spaulding, Matthew Taylor, and William Wolter.

Faithfully yours,
Karen Zachary, *Chair*

Treasurer’s Report

2021 Highlights

Despite the ongoing challenges that 2021 brought, St. John’s continues to be a financially sound church with substantial resources.

St. John’s received more pledges than budgeted in 2021. Given our reliance on pledges to meet operational needs, we are happy to share that the volume of unpaid pledges was 4.01% at the end of 2021. Down from 7.52% at the end of 2020. This significant decrease is primarily due to the ongoing improvements in our collections processes.

St. John’s returned to in-person worship in spring of 2021. Notably, non-pledge contributions and program/event income were both above budget; the increase in weddings and funerals at the church and return to services sooner than anticipated also resulted in additional associated expenses (e.g., valet and choir). However, Sunday offering revenue did not fully return at the anticipated rate; while increasing month-over-month as parishioners returned to in-person services, especially during the fall, offerings fell short of hitting the \$155,000 goal, reaching 89%.

Overall, the church, ended the year with a surplus of \$134,164.

Income

St. John's continued to operate on a modified accrual basis (switching from a cash basis in 2020). This has enhanced the accuracy of our financial reports and improved our financial reporting procedures.

Total pledges in 2021 (\$1,016,726) exceeded the budgeted amount by approximately \$43,726 (or roughly 4%). The number of pledging households increased to 367 units (up from 336), while the average pledge, \$2,770, decreased by roughly \$30 in 2021.

Non-pledge contributions (\$59,102) and program/event income (\$20,922) collectively surpassed budgeted levels by \$29,374. However, offerings lagged, only reaching \$137,735 of a \$155,000 goal.

Disbursements

The majority of St. John's 2021 program expenses (\$1,162,716) fell into four categories: Clergy (32%), Music (26%), Outreach (21%), and Program Support (8%). Other operating expenses include administrative, maintenance, unpaid pledges, and repair costs.

Overall, program expenses were 2% under budget in 2021. However, extra worship- and music-related costs were incurred due to resuming in-person gatherings earlier than expected. While there were unexpected costs, St. John's remained able to maintain its diocesan pledge and outreach commitments fully.

St. John's continued its ongoing schedule of repairs from the summer 2020 fire, most of which has been largely covered by insurance. Additionally, St. John's was awarded a FEMA grant to make several security updates across our building and grounds.

2022 Budget

The Vestry approved a balanced budget for 2022 based on an anticipated \$1,050,000 in income from pledges. The Vestry decided to continue to use a 5% factor to calculate the church's support from its endowment account. While the support ensures financial support for the church's primary ministries, the continued annual reliance at 5% remains a cause for concern.

The following are the principal changes in expenses and revenue:

- 3% increase in staff and clergy salaries.
- Outreach is at a tithe level of \$99,750, 10% of net pledge revenue.
- Diocesan pledge is \$145,000 (the same as in the 2021 budget).
- Full-time associate rector and director of music
- Two new part-time staff positions to streamline and evolve our current staff structure.
- 4% in reserves for unpaid pledge balances.
- Audits for 3-year period 2018, 2019, and 2020
- Updated weddings and funeral rates to reflect market demand

Casey Evans, *Parish Treasurer*

Sara McGanity, *Assistant Parish Treasurer*

Usher Guild

For the past 135 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. Ushers 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 its Sunday services. They may also volunteer to serve as ushers for funeral and memorial services, and other special events. Members of the Usher Guild usually sponsor one of the splendid festival music programs, including that 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, many Assistant Head Ushers and ushers have been certified in use of emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) techniques and automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment.

During 2021, almost 60 parishioners volunteered as ushers. The teams of ushers were led by Assistant Head Ushers Jeff Agnew, Matt Bode, Will Duthe, Bud Harrell, Graham Keithley, Richard Metzger, John More, Anthony Pegues, Nora Rigby, and Alfred Thesmar. Church growth continued to increase slightly during the year, despite lower attendance because of the unique COVID-19 pandemic health situation. The Christmas Eve pageant and Easter Sunday services are normally the most highly-attended regular services held at St. John's Church.

Ushers look forward each Sunday to serve the entire St. John's Church parish and surrounding community. I invite you to consider being part of this exciting and dedicated ministry. If you would like some additional information, please contact me at any time.

James H. Czerwonky, *Head Usher*

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

Vestry Nominating Committee

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 of the Vestry are Paul Barkett, Senior Warden, and Carolyn Crouch, Peter Odom, and Scott Raab.

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—Clark Ervin

Junior Warden—Nora Rigby

Vestry Member (three to be elected):

Anthony Anikeeff

Rick Busch

Casey Evans

Carter Keithley

Uche Onwuamaegbu

Karen Zachary

On Sunday, January 30, 2022, the candidates were introduced during the Speaker Series, and each candidate gave a presentation. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 6, 2022, and the results should be announced at the end of the meeting.

Paul Barkett, *Chair*

Washington Interfaith Network

In 2021, Washington Interfaith Network, Inc. (WIN) had to depend more on social media, phone banking, and Zoom meetings with a few outdoors in-person events. WIN still managed to achieve significant victories in the areas of racial inequality, DC budget priorities, affordable housing (including in particular public housing for the poorest families), and environmental justice and climate change objectives. in partnership with the DC Chapter of the Sierra Club.

New Environmental and Economic Justice Initiatives

WIN leaders, including from St. John's, formed a new action team to work on "Green Affordable Healthy Buildings". Their activities in conjunction with the DC Sierra Club included researching the health and environmental benefits of electrification of DC buildings (especially new and renovated affordable housing), conducting methane gas leak detection in DC neighborhoods, giving testimony to and attending DC budget and oversight hearings.

A second related initiative grew out of a recognition of the significant disparities in wealth in the District. WIN leaders embarked on a campaign to create opportunities for Black Home Ownership in the District, including related green housing and energy policies. WIN leaders are working to get DC to enact policies and funding to help Black and minority families of all incomes to afford to buy and maintain homes that are safer, greener, more economical, and healthier.

DC Budget Victories

WIN along with allies achieved a second year of significant wins through its "Budget to Build a Beloved DC" campaign. The budget that was passed included over \$400 million in increased funding for crucial affordable housing, and also immigration support, electrification, and community safety initiatives.

- A historic \$400M contribution to the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) for affordable housing and \$42M for project-sponsor vouchers to make housing deeply affordable to low-income residents
- \$352M in rent and utility assistance to prevent evictions
- \$67M to purchase buildings for permanent supportive housing or deeply affordable housing, and additional emergency and transitional shelter for victims of domestic violence
- \$113M to rehabilitate and develop replacement public housing.

Affordable Housing

WIN continued its long-term campaign for equitable housing in the District, focusing on requiring (1) deeply affordable and affordable housing in new developments and (2) preservation of public housing through renovations and new construction that maintains access for existing tenants.

WIN leaders were significantly involved in the first round of choosing developers for Reservation 13 near RFK Stadium. Their lobbying the DC Council, the Mayor, and District officials, attending community presentations, meeting with and evaluating the five developer finalists, and providing testimony as to which proposals met WIN's target of "1/3 deeply affordable—1/3 work force affordable—1/3 market-rate" resulted in the inclusion of that target in the developers selected.

Of particular note was that over 400 WIN leaders from over 35 member institutions (more than 85% of those attending) came together virtually and in person at the Reservation 13 Disposition Hearing to rally for affordable and equitable development on the land at Reservation 13.

Among other housing actions, WIN sponsored an outdoor rally at Benning Terrace Public Housing in November, where residents were able to obtain commitments from Director Donald of DCHA to fix long-standing critical heating, mold, security, and other issues. She also committed to 1 for 1 replacement when replacing the existing public housing units, and building new units first that would be available for existing tenants.

“Corporate Accountability & Racial Equity” (CARE) Campaign

In 2020 WIN launched a major campaign to obtain better racial equity in the areas of Black and minority businesses and workers in the District, especially in Wards 7 and 8. Its initial focus was on Pepco in the context of its rate increase hearings. In 2021, as a result of online organizing and testimony at the Public Service Commission, WIN leaders succeeded in having Pepco to bring to completion its commitments:

- A significant increase in utility services training for DC disadvantaged residents at the DC Infrastructure Academy
- Legislation to insure wages paid by contractors would be the same as those paid by Pepco and other DC utilities to their own employees (especially beneficial Black and minority employees and contractors)
- A donation of \$36 million from Pepco to a new Racial Equity Capital Fund to support minority businesses in under-resourced communities.

* * * * *

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 and corporate officials accountable in Washington, DC. WIN’s 48 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.

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

John H. More

WELCOME!

ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community, and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.

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.

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 Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

Vestry

Paul Barkett, *Senior Warden*
Clark Ervin, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Krista Rimple Bradley, Carolyn Crouch, Lauren Edwards, Wendy Fibison, David Gallalee, Peter Odom, Anthony Pegues, Scott Raab, Nora Rigby, Desirée Stolar, and Carl Ward, *Members.*

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*
Sara McGanity, *Assistant Treasurer*
Allie Raether, *Secretary*
Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

Head Greeters

Eleanor and Peter Odom

Worship and Program Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*
The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest for Engaging Local Communities*
The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, *Priest Associate*
Kaye Edwards, *Assistant for Church Growth*
Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*
Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

Staff

Kim Carlson, *Director for Operations*
Preston Cherouny, *Financial Secretary*
Sharlyne Griffin, *Operations Assistant*
Lisa Koehler, *Music Administrator*
Javier Obregon, *Sexton*
GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa, *Assistant Sextons*
Steven D. Martin, *Communications Director*
Anne Stone, *Publications*

Parish House

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