

St. John's
Memorial Episcopal Church



2018 Annual Report
February 10, 2019

Seeking ❖ *Serving* ❖ *Celebrating*

St. John's Memorial Church
 ✨Officers and Staff for the Year 2018✨

INTERIM PRIEST	The Rev. William Cruse
WARDENS	Ken Bledsoe, Senior Warden Janice Hardy, Junior Warden
VESTRY	Nancy Abbott Kristin Canty Jason Farrar Carolyn Greenberg Kevin Haas Lynda Hammond Barry Hardy Pat Tarbutton John Woods
CLERK OF THE VESTRY	Barry Hardy
TREASURER	John Greenberg
ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER	Drew Kreisner
PARISH ADMINISTRATOR	Ellen Joyce
YOUTH MISSIONER	Megan Kendall
DEPUTIES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION	Leslie Boston Martha Anderson Kathy Lathrop

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2019 Nominations

WARDEN

- Two year term: Ken Bledsoe

VESTRY

- Three year term: John Greenberg
- Three year term: Kevin Haas
- Three year term: Amy Lynch

DEPUTIES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION

- Kathy Lathrop
- Julie Moya
- Janice Hardy

ALTERNATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION

- 1st Alternate: Ken Silber
- 2nd Alternate: Ken Bledsoe
- 3rd Alternate: Chuck Hardy

ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Ramsey, New Jersey

MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

February 4, 2018

This annual meeting was held in conjunction with the morning worship service, Barry Hardy, Clerk of the Vestry served as secretary for this meeting, and Senior Warden, Ken Bledsoe served as Chair. The meeting began at 9:50 a.m.

I Minutes of 2017 annual meeting were approved.

II Elections for Vestry - The following persons were nominated:

Janice Hardy - Warden Two Year Term

Jason Farrar - Vestry Three Year Term

John Woods - Vestry Three Year Term

Pat Tarbutton - Vestry Three Year Term

Kevin Haas - Vestry One Year Term

Since this was an uncontested slate, the congregation voted unanimously to elect the nominees for the terms specified above. Leonard Boma, quiet strength of the Vestry, retired with our great thanks and a departing gift. Leslie Boston, long time member of our parish and tireless worker and leader of many committees, resigned because she and her

husband are moving out of this area. She too was given a departing gift.

III Deputies to the Diocesan Convention

Martha Anderson

Kathy Lathrop

Julie Moya

Again, an uncontested slate, and the congregation voted unanimously to elect the nominees to serve as our deputies to the Diocesan Convention.

IV Alternate Deputies to the Diocesan Convention

1st Alternate Janice Hardy

2nd Alternate Ken Silber

3rd Alternate Ken Bledsoe

The nominees on this uncontested slate were unanimously elected to serve as Alternate Deputies to the Diocesan Convention.

V Diocesan Convention Reports – Martha Anderson, Leslie Boston, Kathy Lathrop, and Julie Moya represented St. John's. Our Deputies for this current year, Martha, Kathy, and Julie, will be on the committee to select a new bishop.

Leslie and Martha reported on their experiences at this year's Diocesan Convention. Part of their time was spent on the continuation of "Dwelling on the Word" which our representatives have shared with the vestry and also have initiated vestry participation in exercises in this activity.

Other subjects of the Convention were: Youth Mission Trips – St. John’s was mentioned as an example. There were two resolutions against Human Trafficking. One related to education and the other a code of conduct. Hotels and other agencies have signed on to the code of conduct. Another topic related to breaking the stained glass ceiling, i.e. salary gap between men and women and having more women considered for primary roles.

Martha suggested a situation of outreach where St. John’s could be of help. There is a program called “Lighthouse”. Their purpose is to help folks in detention centers who when released don’t have a support system. One church has a house available and does provide some settlement support – money, etc. We could join a group that has these larger resources but not enough for full funding.

VI Search Committee – The group has completed the self-study process. The parish profile will be on our website soon. The goal is to find three candidates to present to the vestry for approval.

VI Treasurer’s Report – John Greenberg, Treasurer thanked Nancy Abbott, Finance Chair for her guidance and oversight of our accounts. He also thanked Barry Hardy for helping with data entry. The property fund of \$28,559 was added last year to cover unexpected needs. There is a \$5,000 shortfall for funding the next phase of BBL construction. Nevertheless, construction for this phase will begin in June of this year. John also thanked the current and past wardens for their guidance. He also thanked Rev. Andersen for his support and enthusiasm.

The Treasurer's reports, both written and verbal were accepted as presented.

VII Wardens Report - The Wardens thanked everyone for their help and good feelings, even with many opinions. The atmosphere at St. John's seems to be healthy and upbeat. Their written report was accepted as written.

VIII The Nave Organ Project - Drew Kreismer explained what this project will accomplish. (See his written report on Page 20 of the Annual Report.) The Nave Organ will provide "surround sound" as it will be in two separate sections on either side of the church above the coat racks and will support congregational singing. In addition, it will enhance the appearance of those sections of the church. The conduit for the wiring is already in place. Hopefully, it will be in place this summer. The cost is approximately \$65,000. Many thanks go to Rev. Andersen who has offered significant seed money along with commitments from other generous parishioners and also from our Organist, Drew Kreismer.

IX Rector's Award - The Rector's award this year was given to Jim and Mary Welton for their overwhelming generosity of their time and "professional" work here at St. John's. Mary accepted for both herself and her husband each of whom were presented with a plaque.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry E. Hardy, Clerk of the Vestry

Warden's Report

Calendar year 2018 presented us with some new challenges and surprises which the Wardens met head-on with faith in God and knowledge that our outstanding clergy and Vestry would again get us through any difficulty.

Our ongoing search for a full-time Priest-in-Charge has been interesting, enlightening, frustrating, introspective, and evolving. We continue to be incredibly grateful for the spiritual guidance and leadership of Dick Andersen who stepped in as Interim Priest after months of supply priests following the departure of our former rector. Dick is St. John's own version of the *Energizer Bunny*; he just keeps showing up ever ready to do whatever is needed for us.

Father Bill Cruise came to us first as a supply priest either through coincidence or an act of God, depending on whom you ask. Bill had an immediate connection with our congregation, and before long we asked him to be our part-time Priest-in-Residence while we began the search for a full-time Priest-in-Charge. With the blessing of Bishop Mark Beckwith and the Diocese of Newark, we asked Bill to consider applying for the permanent position, which he did. After much prayerful and meditative consideration, Bill withdrew his name from consideration for the full-time position at the metaphoric same moment our Search Committee recommended him as the best candidate. While we were disappointed, we certainly understand and respect Bill's reasoning: his desire to continue his "other" calling as a Regional Director (Northeast) with The Kaleidoscope Institute along with the need to continue his sacred annual tradition of summers recuperating in the mountains of New Hampshire with his husband, John. There were no other candidates presented by the Search Committee as a "perfect" fit for St. John's. While we contemplated our next moves, Bill agreed to extend his contract through February 12th, 2019.

Our next moves involved a close look at our finances by the Finance Committee, Search Committee, and Vestry. Even with the generous response that we have had to our stewardship campaigns, our budget for a priest was at the low end of the scale necessary to call a full-time priest. We did not want to be stuck in the position of having to agonize over every line item in our already lean budget every single year. Since Bill is part-time and has been very successful as our priest, the Search Committee and Vestry began to consider having a part-time Priest-in-Charge. As we keep gleaning information and learning what the “new normal” is, we are looking for creative and possibly unique ways of keeping Bill with us. There is no question that everything Bill does for St. John’s is out of love for his fellow human beings, a true living example of the teachings of Jesus Christ. The Search Committee recommended to Vestry and Vestry agreed that the wardens should work with Bill to negotiate a contract for a model of ministry that works for him and for us. Those negotiations are about to begin. It is with gratitude that we thank the Search Committee, chaired by Martha Anderson, for their ongoing work with Pat Yankus, The Diocese of Newark, Wardens and Vestry of St. John’s to discern a direction for the future of St. John’s.

Just the day after we celebrated her ten-year anniversary as Parish Administrator of St. John’s, Ellen Joyce had a stroke and subsequently has had other serious medical issues that have caused her to miss significant time with us. We wardens were already well aware of the vital role that Ellen performs, but not having her loving, bubbly presence at St. John’s on a daily basis has really illustrated just how much she contributes. Fortunately, Bill Cruise is a former parish administrator, and with the help of the wardens, Drew Kreisler, Barry Hardy, John Greenberg, and Meg Acer from The First Presbyterian Church in Ramsey, Fr. Bill has been able to keep us all on task to get us through our daily business. At this time, we are uncertain about Ellen’s future return with us, but we continue to pray for her complete and speedy recovery. We miss her terribly.

On September 22nd, 2018, St. John's was well represented at the historic consecration of the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, The Right Reverend Carlye J. Hughes (Bishop Carlye). In addition to parishioners attending in the audience, Regan and Gretchen Quast and Emma Bledsoe were among the acolytes, Martha Anderson served as layperson and Chuck and Jan Hardy, John Woods, Andy Alt and John Harley sang in the choir. The music was extremely festive and the event was wholly moving as we felt the presence of the Holy Spirit at NJPAC. If you haven't seen footage of this holy event, it is available on YouTube through our diocesan channel.

We have made an effort to include our surrounding community in our events such as our musical, holiday fair, and outreach projects such as *Pedals for Progress* and *Rise Against Hunger*. In May, we held a Service of Gratitude to honor all the hard work of Ramsey first responders, police, firemen, ambulance and rescue squads, and borough leaders. The service was well attended by both parishioners and community members as evidenced by the impressive line of emergency vehicles parked along Main Street across from St. John's. It was very much appreciated by the honorees as we gave thanks to all who helped during the severe weather events of the past couple of years. In addition, we hosted a December Advent Lessons and Carols service at St. John's in conjunction with Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and The First Presbyterian Church.

Following a seemingly endless delay, our *Built By Love II* construction project is back on track. In addition to widening the hall between the church and parish hall, we will be adding an elevator between the first and second levels and constructing an ADA compliant restroom and two more new bathrooms in a new hallway off the parish hall. We will also be upgrading the electrical wiring and replacing the ceiling and lighting in the parish hall.

A wonderful idea by Charlie Ghosio led Sabrina Persaud to design a beautiful stained-glass art piece for the arched window just outside the parish hall. The theme of the window is our patron saint, St. John the Apostle. Once the elevator has been completed, the stained glass can be installed.

The new nave organ should be installed in time for Easter services! A labor of love with seed money provided by Dick Andersen, the congregation followed through with contributions totaling a little over half the funds needed for the project. Drew Kreismer generously contributed the balance. While we are still taking donations, we have enough to complete the pipework and cabinetry.

For the second year in a row, we were able to give staff a modest increase and to increase our diocesan share as outlined in the budget, which was proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by the Vestry to submit to the congregation. We were also able to make many improvements to the Ashton Martin House, both for safety concerns and for cosmetic enhancements.

The Holy Spirit is ever-present at our little church on Main Street. Our outreach programs and annual events continue to engage us with the community and feed us with spiritual growth. We are continually amazed at the level of enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by our wonderful parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Bledsoe and Janice Hardy
St. John's Wardens

Education Reports

St. John's Church School

2018-2019

The mission of the St. John's Church School is to help our children grow their faith in God through their learning and active participation in lessons about the Episcopal ministry, and through fellowship and outreach activities for the greater community.

The 2018-2019 Church School calendar year began on September 9, 2018 and will end on June 16, 2019, meeting for a total of 25 Sundays. 34 children are enrolled in the Church School program attending class sessions from 10:00-10:40 AM and joining their families during the Peace exchange to participate in the Eucharist at the 10:00 AM service. The children attend 10 *Family Services* on the third Sunday of the month, from September to June, participating as junior ushers, acolytes, and readers. Children in preschool, kindergarten, and grades one and two attend a chapel service on the first Sunday of the month led by Ruth Roshong and Lynda Hammond. Child-care for children under the age of three is provided every Sunday and during special seasonal services by our mature, adult child-care giver, Bushra Khawaja. St. John's Church School is blessed with a dedicated, energetic and creative group of volunteer teachers, desk attendants, project coordinators, and parents.

St. John's Church School's curriculum follows an Episcopal lectionary-based, age-based format. The children in our Baby Care program are involved in free-play with age-appropriate toys and activities, with opportunities to draw and color,

interact with one another, and listen to stories and music. The Primary Class (preschool, kindergarten, grades one and two) curriculum is a combination of “Godly Play” lessons and activities developed by Dr. Jerome Berryman, Episcopal priest and teacher, and the *Seasons of the Spirit* Episcopal curriculum. Age-appropriate stories, lessons, prayers, music and activities are incorporated into each class session. The children are encouraged to use various forms of creative expression to understand the message of the Bible story and lesson of the day. The *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum is lectionary-based with lessons centered on each Sunday’s readings and gospel message. Poems, art, and music enhance each lesson.

Children in grades six through eight are experiencing the interactive lectionary-based educational curriculum, *Seasons of the Spirit*. Each class lesson is based on the Episcopal three-year cycle of Sunday scripture readings and gospel message. Sunday lessons are enhanced with poetry, art, drama, music and interactive games. Through this curriculum our children learn about the teachings of God as found in the bible. The growing of their life of faith comes with the sharing of life experiences and hearing how the good news has been working in the lives of all people. Living out the good news by helping others and by caring for others is a part of every Sunday’s lesson. *Seasons of the Spirit* nurtures their faith through the understanding of the liturgy, ritual, imagination, and encourages Christian growth through worshipping, learning, and serving together. The children and youth are involved in *In-Reach* and *Out-Reach* projects throughout the church year which empower them to *live their faith*. Each class has access to a collection of Church School resource materials to enhance class lessons, special projects, and presentations.

During the summer months of July and August, the *St. John’s Kool Kids* program offers scripture-based activities for

children, preschool through grade 5 on Sundays, 10:00-10:35 AM, in the Parish Hall. The children join their parents at the Peace Exchange to participate in the Eucharist. Parents and teen volunteers coordinate the activities which include outreach projects, Holiday Fair craft sessions, music, and interactive games.

Highlights of the 2018-2019 St. John's Church School Year

- *Project Linus* - Fleece Blanket Project for Children with Medical Needs
- Child Development Center's "*Adopt a Family for Christmas*" - Outreach Project
- St. John's Annual Christmas Pageant
- "*Soup-er Bowl*" - Food Collection Project for Northwest Center for Food Action
- "*SMILE*" - Cards for Acts of Kindness
- Alleluia Banners for Lent and Easter
- Pancake Supper/Mardi Gras Celebration
- Palm Sunday Procession
- Easter Sunday Egg Hunt
- *Books for Kids* - Project for Ramapo College
- St. John's Church School's May Dinner for St. Paul's Men's Shelter
- Participation in St. John's Music Program: Cherubs, Choristers, Brass and Instrumental Ensemble
- Participation in St. John's Plays and Musicals
- June Celebration of the Church School Year

St. John's Church School Staff

Baby Care	Bushra Khawaja
Primary Class	Donna Rann and Julie Moya
Intermediate Class	Thomas Tarbutton
Middle School & High School Class	Megan Kendall
Youth Group	Megan Kendall

congregation, we were able to stay in the Christ Center at the camp. It's so inspiring to realize how many men, women and children we helped directly and/or indirectly!! Our work included the following agencies:

Food Bank of New Jersey - Hillside NJ

The Community Foodbank of New Jersey is the "powerful change agent that fills the emptiness caused by hunger with the basic human essentials that people need to survive." The Youth helped to sort and repack food for distribution to more than 900,000 hungry people in New Jersey.

Manna House Soup Kitchen - Newton

The mission of Manna House is to feed the homeless, elderly, mentally ill, the lonely, the poor of pocket and the poor in spirit as well as those who fall between the "cracks" for public assistance. The Senior Youth helped to set up, prepare and serve a ham and potatoes meal with fruit salad and dessert. They served about 35 individuals.

Haven of Hope - Hope

"Haven of Hope For Kids" is a small country retreat for urban New Jersey families caring for children with a life threatening illness. This program is the primary outreach program of St. Luke's Episcopal church and resulted from the collaborative effort of members of the parish and of pediatric social workers. This year we made lunch and participated in art projects with a teenage girl and her mother. She was very shy, and the youth did such a great job understanding her situation and did everything they could to help her feel comfortable and eventually she was able to open up and engage.

Crossroads Clean Up

Each year we "give back" to the camp in some way by helping with projects they need. This year we spent the day

clearing wood and debris to form a path where the campers can easily walk from the camp grounds to the outside chapel and lakefront. This is always a very physical day, and with the heat, many various moods are displayed but it is very important for our team building skills to work through these issues and take pride in the hard work they all did to accomplish a common goal.

My favorite part of the trip, aside from witnessing the care and responsible dedication these teens demonstrate with each task they are assigned, are the reflections they share at the end of each day and what these experiences mean to them! Please join me in recognizing and thanking this inspiring group of Youth for all of their efforts, and, more importantly, their positive, willing initiative, faithful and caring attitudes towards their responsibilities and the people they served!

Not only is this important work, but this week is a valuable time for our Youth to bond while spending time together in an informal way, enjoying fun activities, sharing thoughts regarding our faith while working alongside each other to help those in need!

As a way for our congregations and other youth to be introduced, we created a documentary video of our trip showing our mission work as well as the fun we had together which was presented to the congregation in September. Some of the youth were also able to share their personal thoughts during the presentation.

We continue our Mission work throughout the year assisting the Center for Food Action in Mahwah, providing and serving meals to the men at the St Paul's Shelter in Paterson, providing Parent's Night Out for the parents of our younger parishioners, as well assisting St John's in their "in reach"

events throughout the year – Spring Boutique, Holiday Fair etc.

We continue to plan monthly events and activities where both the Junior and Senior Youth can come together for fellowship and fun. We will continue our fundraising efforts for the 2019 Summer Mission trip through Bake Sales, Parents Night Outs, our Annual Fish and Chips and a possible Car Wash!

In January 2019, we began Confirmation classes with Father Cruse for 6 confirmands who are scheduled to be confirmed in May 2019.

I continue to enjoy building close relationships with this growing number of Youth to enhance their understanding of the Episcopal faith while strengthening their bond with each other through social activities and mission work that provide them with the understanding of the importance of doing Christ's Work in helping those in need.

BLESSINGS ~ Megan

Committee Reports

Music Report

The music program for any church should be a central component to successful worship. It is the fabric of the event, helping all to feel more fully engaged in their time together, and hopefully leaving those participants with something to take home in their hearts and minds. Such music can be choral, vocal, solo, organ, instrumental, celebratory, meditative, mournful, large group or small; presented by young and old alike. Whatever music is used at worship, it must be chosen with purpose, prepared with care, presented with sincere intent, and heard as an offering to God alone. It has been my goal for over three decades to make sure this is the case every time you enter the nave. Your full participation and continued support are always vital.

The Cherub Choir is in its 27th season and is composed of children aged 3-7. They rehearse weekly and sing once a month at the 10 AM Family service as well as Christmas and Easter. In addition to learning the basics of group singing, they learn about the church, God, and the love of Jesus through song. The group also serves as a training ground for the Choristers. They are led by volunteer directors Ruth Roshong and her daughter Renee Peters. We are indebted to them for this important ministry. The group has been able to sing a song, sometimes with the Choristers assistance at most family services. More children would benefit from this experience.

The Choristers is a choir for children ages 8-13. They rehearse weekly and sing at the 10 AM Family service once a month as well as most holy days. This group offers children the chance to strengthen sight singing skills while developing a sense of

true Christian commitment to the church and its worship. The Choristers has only 3 members this year. These are extremely good singers who are dedicated to their church, but only three singers do not really make a full choir. I wish that more families would take advantage of this wonderful learning environment and musical experience for their children. There is no cost to join and both choirs are led by professional educators. Your children are literally the hope and future of our church. Being active in their younger years is a rich investment for the rest of your child's spiritual life. Ask any adult choir member, and they will tell you that they sang in the children's choir in their home church. Give that gift to your child, and indeed, your church! Explain it to your child. They may not think it on their own!

Members of these two choirs and of our Sunday School presented the annual Christmas pageant, once again written and directed by Richard Davis. Carolyn Greenberg was the piano accompanist. This is a tremendous amount of work for which we thank Richard and his crew. The pageant took place on the Sunday before Christmas in the afternoon. It was followed by the annual Christmas Card Supper with caroling led by me. It made for a fine family day at church. It's a wonderful St. John's tradition.

The Senior Choir is for singers from young adult to age... The all-volunteer, non-auditioned group rehearses weekly and sings at every 10 AM service as well as most holy days from September to June. A less formal choir gathered for a few Sundays in July and August to lead our worship during the summer. The

Senior Choir is made of many committed members of the parish who are also incredibly active in other areas of church life as well. Their leadership in worship is invaluable. Our music library is kept in good order by our volunteer librarian

Ruth Roshong. I continue to greatly appreciate her "behind the scenes" ministry! Thank you, Ruth!

I remind everyone reading this that these groups are solely volunteer. The members who give regularly of their time and talents are indeed performing significant Christian service for the parish. In the same way, such groups exist only with volunteers, and new members are very much necessary as previous members "pass through the ranks." Happily, this year we gained three new members, each of whom wanted a strong choral program in a spiritually active church. We also have attracted one or two "part time" singers who can only commit some of their time. This is OK. We will take you with open arms whenever you are available. We need more members. Anyone can participate for any length of time. Simply come to rehearsals. You'll be glad you did. I accept all interested people and will personally work with you to make you feel prepared and comfortable to sing with this group. In spite of the common misconception, singing is a learned skill that I have committed my professional life to for nearly four decades. The only real requirement from you is your dedication to believe in yourself as a learner. I believe you can. Do you? Find out!

Once again Carolyn Greenberg presented the annual Spring Musical in June which drew a children's chorus, about 20 adults, as well a pit band. Many people participate in this event who may not otherwise be involved with a church. It's a great publicity tool to bring people into our family and engage them in a way they may be more comfortable with than what is otherwise perceived as traditional. With heroic effort, Carolyn led them in two wonderfully received performances in our air-conditioned church proper. The importance of Carolyn's ministry cannot be over stated. She is a substantial "force" of leadership among you. Thank you!

PipeScreams did not occur this year based on low audience attendance the last year we did this (2016). This Halloween organ concert features several organists (who volunteer their performances) and many actors from the church and community. This is a wonderfully unique ministry that we should offer because of our outstanding pipe organ, the largest in Ramsey. I hope to bring it back in 2019 featuring our newly installed NAVE organ.

Most members of the Senior Choir participated in the newly revived Community Thanksgiving Service, this year held at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church. A fine example of ecumenism, the choir was incredibly strong in numbers, and the congregation was far bigger than 2017. Hopefully this will continue, and more people will attend to worship with us. St. John's plans on hosting this event in Nov. 2019. Stay tuned!

The annual Messiah Sing did not occur in 2018. Instead we began what I hope will be a new tradition: a service of Advent Lessons and Carols. Although choirs from all four Ramsey churches were invited, only our choir and the Lutheran choir were present. Clergy from our church, the Lutheran Church and Presbyterian Church participated as well. The choir was well prepared, strong in number, and eager to do more things like this in the future. The congregation was woefully small. Why is that? Plans are underway for a lunch meeting with all Ramsey church musicians and clergy to discuss future projects for the upcoming program year. Together we make joy! Stay tuned.

This year was the third season of the children's instrumental ensemble, The St. John's Chamber Ensemble. The brainstorm of its conductor Ellane Klie, she prepares the group which performs beautifully every time. Ellane is "retired" instrumental music teacher and gifted educator who is

willing to share her gifts with the children of our parish. They have played with great success at family services, the Holiday Fair, an extended prelude at Christmas and will do so again in the Spring. Rehearsals are on most Sundays after church. It is a highlight of our parish when they play.

An important project was launched in Jan. 2018: The Nave Organ Project. I am THRILLED to say that funds totaling over \$70,000 to support it were generously donated by many church families and individuals and we are expecting completion of the project by EASTER 2019! Here is a little history of this project. As part of the Built By Love campaign, a wish list was assembled which included many "dream" projects. The result is a revitalized parish facility. It is proof that dreams can come true! One of the items on the dream list was a modest addition to our pipe organ, being called the Nave Organ. A conduit in the ceiling of the lower level was already installed during the BBL renovation. At the December 2017 vestry meeting, approval was given to pursue this project. The end result will be considerably enhanced support for congregational singing in our worship. Our present pipe organ was installed new in the Spring of 1999. The entire instrument is in the front area known as the chancel (choir loft) of our beautiful building. There the 1300+ pipes speak sideways, across the chancel, from both sides. The proposed Nave Organ will be a separate division mounted on either side, above the coat racks/shelves on the rear wall of the nave. It is a small division of approximately 220 pipes that will speak directly and gently to the congregation to support hymn singing. It will be played from our current organ console in the front.

A pipe organ serves many roles in the worship service. The primary purpose is to lead and support congregational singing. Our organ has always been at a particular disadvantage to do so because of its placement. It speaks

sideways, across the chancel, from both sides. The majority of its power and beauty is literally trapped in the chancel area by the arch. The organ's sound has to turn a corner and travel down the length of the church itself where the congregation sits, known as the nave area. The 1970 electronic organ which our current instrument replaced had a separate speaker mounted on the rear wall of the nave to support congregational singing. We now will place a pipe division at the rear of our church to fulfill this needed function. When the current pipe organ was built in 1999, funds were not available to install a pipe division on the back wall. We now will make this improvement.

The proposed Nave Organ will be two separate sections, each mounted on either side, above the coat racks/shelves on the rear wall of the nave. In total, approximately 220 pipes that will speak directly and gently to the congregation to support hymn singing. This is its primary purpose. Think of a good "surround sound" system on your TV. High quality, gentle sound envelops you as you watch TV. It isn't loud, just omnipresent because it comes from many directions. That is the purpose of the Nave Organ: To provide high quality, gentle, authentic pipe organ sound which surrounds the singer and compliments the existing organ in the front of our building, encouraging and supporting you to sing! Additionally, the pipes will greatly enhance the appearance of the rear wall. Inquiries were solicited over the past year with one being selected as the most desirable to construct and install the Nave Organ. This company is called Emery Brothers, Inc. and is located in Allentown, PA. They have installed and maintained pipe organs in the Philadelphia/New Jersey/New York City area for many years and recently installed a similar nave organ in Christ Church (Episcopal) in Short Hills, NJ. Their work is highly respected.

Such dreams require, vision, planning, commitment, and funding. While no formal fund drive/ money raising campaign really occurred, we raised the needed funds to complete the Nave Organ project. With significant funding for this project donated by members of our congregation, Drew Kreismer, our Organist/Choirmaster provided the additional monies needed to complete the project. Beautiful matching cabinets will also be built by the same organ company to house the books and items presently exposed on the open shelf on the back wall. A new rod for hanging coats will be installed in the same locations as the current ones.

This is my thirty-sixth year as your organist/choirmaster. I've said before that when sharing that fact with my musician colleagues, I find I am in the great minority of musicians who have stayed in one place for so long. I like working here! We have an excellent pipe organ (soon to be even better), a beautiful building, a well-equipped music library an exemplary choir room, an adult choir that reads well and enjoys being together, and enthusiastic children in our younger choirs. The strength of our annual pledge drive, EMV, proved his success with our parish. I very much look forward to working with the Rev. William Cruise each Sunday as our current interim priest. Bill is a college trained musician whom I have known via the church musicians "grape vine" for many years. His deeply sincere enthusiasm and true joy for leading worship are wonderful assets for our parish at this time. He plans worship thoroughly and thoughtfully and his energy for doing so is contagious! We are lucky to have him.

For all these things we are indeed blessed.

Respectfully submitted,
Drew Kreismer, Organist/Choirmaster

Outreach Committee

In 2018 Outreach received \$6,000 from the church budget & carried forward \$342.15 from 2018. Over the year we allocated this money to the following ministries: -

- Following the success of our student last year we gave St. Paul's Community Development Corporation (Paterson): \$1,500 for a scholarship to train 1 person in kitchen skills, enabling subsequent employment.
- Episcopal Relief & Development: \$2,500 for victims of hurricanes & wild fires in the USA.
- Helping Hands of Rockland County: \$1,100 towards the Hope Center Renovation Fund.
- Carryou: \$1,000 for the home in South Africa for children orphaned by AIDS.
- For the Bishop's Church Extension Fund (for churches in our diocese): \$250.

But St. John's Outreach is not only about Treasure, it also involves our Time and Talents.

During 2018 we gave our time & talent to: -

Rise Against Hunger (formerly named 'Stop Hunger Now') - we packaged 10,000 nutritious meals & raised \$3,543 to cover the costs of the food;

Episcopal Relief & Development - in addition to the grants above, we collected \$11,892 for the many people here in America who were victims of hurricanes, forest fires, floods & mud slides; [this included one donation of \$10,000]

Helping Hands - St. John's Parishioners helped serve meals at the new shelter in Pomona, NY;

North Porch Women & Infants Centers – we had a great time at the Christmas Card Supper AND collected \$528 to fill the gap during emergency situations when needy families are displaced or have shortfalls in their budget;

Pedals for Progress/Sewing for Peace – at our bike collection in May we collected 143 bikes (for Kosovo), 39 sewing machines (for Kosovo & Peru) & \$1,820 at that event to go towards the shipping costs. Tom Tarbutton collected 26 more bikes in the Upper Saddle River area which P4P picked up in November.

Center for Food Action– we enjoyed the fellowship of Summer Breakfasts during the summer AND raised \$1,049.25 to feed hungry neighbors;

Alleluia Fund - when the Bishop visited us, we collected \$429 which was donated to the Diocese's Alleluia Fund.

St. Paul's Men's Shelter in Paterson – we delivered delicious homemade monthly meals the first Wednesday of every month;

The Seaman's Church Institute - the knitting & crocheting group continued making hats & scarves.

In total St. John's Outreach money to ministries totaled over \$24,869.10 (including the additional \$1,000 from the church budget and the one-time donation of \$10,000).

So, congratulate yourselves for sharing your Time, Talent & Treasure to help people in need. Do come to the Outreach Coordinating Committee meetings on the third Monday of the month at 7:30. Your input is appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding the work of the ministries supported, please ask!

The Youth Group and the Sunday School were also very busy with numerous outreach activities which are not included in this section.

Kathy Fede & Christine Potts, Co-conveners, Outreach Committee.

Parish Council

The purpose of the Parish Council is to provide cross functional support and communications for St. John's committees. The council, which meets once per quarter, is working to ensure that all committees have documented purpose statements, descriptions of committee lead responsibilities and calendar of scheduled events, and that they provide committee meeting minutes to the vestry. In October of 2018 the committee heads were charged with creating a procedure notebook detailing how to do their job if they suddenly had to step down from their leadership position. Currently, this is a work in process.

The council works closely with the Parish Administrator to make certain that our parish calendar is correct, and events and meetings get onto the calendar and receive publicity.

Committee Participation

Outreach

Membership - Includes Greeters and Coffee Hour

Worship - Includes LEMs, acolytes, Altar Guild and ushers

Music - Includes choirs, musicals and chamber group

Property

Finance

Youth Group

Church School

Fundraising - Includes thrift shop, Holiday Fair and Spring
Boutique, plant sale
ECW
Men's Group
Stewardship
Communications - Includes calendar, publicity, web-site,
Facebook, and Eagle

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Welton, Convener

Property Committee

Committee members: Andy Alt, Barry Hardy, Jan Hardy,
Jorge Moya & Mary Welton

2018 was another busy year for the Church.

We completed many long-needed repairs and upgrades at
the AM House. Work included:

- New roof
- Upgraded electrical panel to 200 amps
- Repaired drywall and painted the entire interior of the
house
- Installed new carpet on stairs, landing and all bedrooms
- Installed new bathroom vent to the outside
- Installed new washer and dryer
- Rewired upstairs electrical circuit to work properly with
window AC units
- Installed new kitchen vent over stove
- Installed new kitchen entrance door
- Installed new front landing, stairs and walkway
- Installed new driveway

In the office, we moved all software programs and data files to the cloud. We no longer require the use of a server. This allows our staff to access their files and work from anywhere. It also simplifies our computer system. We now use just three simple desktop computers and a router. No real need for outside IT support.

We installed key fob readers on the kitchen door and upstairs Main Street door facing the parking lot. We also have a phone application that allows us to unlock and lock the four doors on key fob readers remotely.

Along the way many small items were fixed or replaced by our volunteer parishioners. Once again, I would like to thank Mary and Jim Welton along with Jorge Moya and Andy Alt for the many things you do.

John Greenberg
Property Chair

St. John's Search Committee

The Vestry of St. John's Church has affirmed the recommendation of the Search Committee to authorize the Wardens and Treasurer to negotiate terms and conditions of an 18-month contract with William Cruse as part-time Priest-in Charge.

Priest-in-Charge is a unique clergy category within the Diocese of Newark. It allows both clergy and congregation a period of time to discern whether the Priest-in-Charge is the best candidate to be called as Rector.

The Search Committee spent a year examining the strengths and challenges of our congregation and identifying the skill sets that we value in our priest. From this discernment

process we created a Parish Profile and a Ministry Plan as the first step in inviting candidates to apply for a full-time position.

Early on the committee recognized Bill Cruse as an outstanding candidate. We got to see and then to value his energy and enthusiasm. We heard him preach; we saw how he interacted with our staff, with Drew and Ellen; we saw him turn ideas into realities. His spiritual gifts, his leadership style, and genuine personality matched the criteria we had identified in our discernment process. Many parishioners went out of their way to voice their support of Bill.

In September we faced a reality that St. John's could not sustain the financial commitment for a full-time priest. One benefit of that change was that we could consider Bill for a part time position. Excelling as a Parish priest is just one aspect of Bill's ministry. He was very open about his commitment to his work with Kaleidoscope Institute and his need for summer respite family time. Our challenge became how St. John's could fit into Bill's professional life. Could we envision a clergy model that would allow Bill to be our priest and still fulfill his other commitments?

The Wardens asked Vestry to take a *Leap of Faith*; a new agreement would allow us to keep Bill as our priest and to see if St. John's can accept and adapt to the challenges of very different leadership model in July, August, September, and October.

There is much work ahead. The diocesan approval process is going forward. A formal agreement must be negotiated and signed when the current agreement expires this February. We will begin a search process to find an additional clergy person to officiate and assume pastoral responsibilities in the

summer. Most important, St. John's will continue to thrive under Bill's leadership.

St. John's Search Committee

Martha Anderson, <i>Chair</i>	Pat Yankus, <i>Diocesan Liaison</i>
Bob Carr	Jorge Moya
Jason Farrar	Sabrina Persaud
Jane Fraser	Virena Rossi
Amy Lynch	John Woods

Ex-officio members

Ken Bledsoe	Janice Hardy
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Guilds & Groups

Altar Guild

The dedicated members of the Altar Guild are responsible for the setting up of all services including Baptism, Marriage, and Funerals. We also care for the linens and order when needed. Your money from our Flower Fund helps to pay for these. This has been a quiet year with three baptisms and two funerals.

The Flower Fund is set up so that anyone who would like to have flowers on the altar for a particular Sunday may do so by filling out a Flower Fund form. They can be put on as a memorial or for any special event. When no one has requested flowers for a Sunday then the Altar Guild puts them on and uses the money in the fund. We are very grateful to Peter's Florist who supplied the beautiful

flowers. Unfortunately, they are no longer in business and we will miss them.

We are always looking for people who would like to assist in our wonderful way of helping our church. If you are interested in joining us, speak to the interim priest or any member of the Guild. Our names are listed in each Sunday's bulletin. We will welcome you with open arms. If you have any suggestions that would help make the services better, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted,
Vi Abrams

Christmas Card Supper

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2018 Christmas Card Supper. We had about 80 people in attendance, and we generously raised \$528 for North Porch Women and Infants' Center.

A very special thank you to all the volunteers who helped to prepare and clean up after the event. Much gratitude to Drew Kreismer and Carolyn Greenberg for their beautiful Christmas Carol music.

Kelly Jo Bledsoe

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Centered in congregations, ECW empowers women to do Christ's ministry in the world. The ECW vision is that the women of the Episcopal Church become a vibrant blend of all ages coming together to be a God-spark, shining and sharing the love of Christ.

St. John's ECW is part of the Diocese of Newark's network of Episcopal Church Women's groups, although our programs are developed independently of the larger church. We meet monthly from January to June to support each other in our spiritual journeys. St. John's ECW has long sponsored a film fest of movies and books that spark lively conversations about religious, spiritual, and moral issues.

The theme of St. John's 2018 ECW film and book season was "Discrimination and the Christian Response" based on Mark 12:31: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This seemingly straightforward verse has underlying complexities that are the basis for our spiritual journeys. We viewed and discussed the movies *Hoosiers*, *The Help*, and *Chocolat* and read and discussed the book *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford. We enjoyed an end-of-season dinner at Limoncello, Waldwick, NJ.

Our 2019 theme is a continuation of "Discrimination and the Christian Response". Last year's discussions were based on Mark 12:31: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This year we are taking it a step further with Philippians 2:3b: "In humility, consider others better than yourselves." These verses provide a compass for following Jesus and spreading God's love in our world. This is always easier said than done, of course. We will use these verses as a basis for discussing the complexities of our spiritual journeys.

Our 2019 season:

January 7: My Left Foot

February 4: The Man Who Knew Infinity

March 4: Elephant Man

April 1: Book discussion: *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly

May 6: United Kingdom

June 3: End of season dinner

All women of our parish are invited to the meetings of the Episcopal Church Women of St. John's. Our meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at St. John's and begin at 7:00 PM. Although our program builds on a theme, you do not have to attend all the meetings to participate. We welcome you to any meeting that you can attend. We hope that you will join us and bring your friends.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Hardy and Marilyn Bartholme

ECW Co-chairs

Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Readers

St. John's has a dedicated group of parishioners who serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and Lay Readers (Lectors) at our services. Here is brief description of their duties.

The role of the LEM is to assist the priest in leading church services and administer the consecrated elements of the Eucharist. They may administer the consecrated bread and wine at any celebration of the Eucharist in the absence of the priest. Lay Eucharistic Ministers are licensed by the diocesan bishop for a period of five years.

2018 Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Martha Anderson	Chuck Hardy
James Frosco	Amy Lynch
Lynda Hammond	Ron Roshong
John Woods	

The role of the Lector is to participate in a shared ministry by reading aloud appointed scripture lessons from the Old and New Testaments. All parishioners are invited to join in this ministry.

2018 Lectors at 8:00

Lenard Boma	Helene Heschle
Marina Boma	Maryann Molnar
James Fraser	Christine Potts
Jane Fraser	Virena Rossi

2018 Lectors at 10:00

Martha Anderson	Bill Lathrop
Ken Bledsoe	Kathy Lathrop
Robert Clooney	Jen Lepori
James Frosco	Renee Peters
Kevin Haas	Ron Roshong
Chuck Hardy	Ken Silber

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Anderson & Christine Potts

Finance Reports

Finance Committee

Report from the Finance Chair and Treasurer --- 2018

Results

Finance Team --- The Chair of the Finance Committee is Nancy Abbott. John Greenberg is our Treasurer. Ellen Joyce is our Bookkeeper. Finance Committee members include Barry Hardy, Bill Lathrop, Gail Washburn, Jan Hardy and Bob Carr, with invaluable support from our dedicated team of Counters.

Income --- Our total general operating income was \$362,912. We received \$21,592 more than budget for 2018. This was due to pledges received after the budget was finalized, parishioners who donated on a regular basis but did not pledge (this amount was not in the budget) and increased student parking rent collected.

Expenses --- Our total general operating expenses were \$352,374. Our expense budget for 2018 was \$341,392. We were over budget by \$10,982. This deficit was due to a shortage in BBL Phase II. We transferred funds from our General Operations expenses for 2018 to make up for the shortfall for BBL Phase II.

General Operations Fund --- We had a 10,537.00 surplus in 2018 (This surplus includes the funds we transferred to BBL Phase II). This brings our general operations fund total to \$76,280.00 to start 2019.

Property Fund: We created a property fund in 2017. It has a current balance of \$36,591. The Property Committee

generated a long-term expense report that will cover all major repairs/replacements for all three buildings we own through the year 2050. Based on the amount of money we currently budget to transfer annually to this fund, we should be able to pay for all projects from this fund without doing any capital campaigns. This could never have been accomplished without the generous pledges we all make to our church.

2019 Budget --- We have prepared a zero balanced budget for 2019. The staff will be given a 2% raise. We have increased our Diocesan Share to \$22,000.

Statement of Revenue and Expenses for 2018 & 2019 Budget

	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Budget 2019
<u>Revenue</u>			
Pledges	\$201,280	\$244,894	\$218,000
Regular Givers *	\$12,165	\$7,235	\$0
Plate	\$5,862	\$5,457	\$4,500
Misc. Donations	\$326	\$57	\$500
Holiday Giving	\$2,454	\$2,600	\$1,100
Holiday Fair	\$13,263	\$11,559	\$10,000
Rent Ashton Martin & Rectory	\$67,200	\$65,992	\$66,000
Rent Parking Lot	\$4,860	\$8,308	\$6,500
Rummage Sale	\$3,338	\$4,219	\$3,500
Misc. Fundraisers	\$3,884	\$4,127	\$3,500
Spring Boutique	\$2,443	\$3,263	\$2,000
Men's Club Flower sale	\$550	\$807	\$500
Church Use Fees	\$1,030	\$1,680	\$800
Altar Guild	\$0	\$2,205	\$1,400
Miscellaneous Income	\$1,207	\$387	\$200
Bank Interest Received	\$67	\$118	\$50
Total Revenue	\$319,929	\$362,908	\$318,550
<u>Expenses</u>			
Rector	\$64,215	\$42,512	\$52,382
Other Clergy	\$19,598	\$3,125	\$3,900
Staff Expense	\$87,333	\$95,940	\$100,674
Vestry Expense	\$54	\$1,500	\$1,500
Property	\$60,114	\$72,689	\$74,045
Services	\$11,628	\$13,936	\$17,900
Diocesan Meetings	\$760	\$0	\$1,370
Diocesan Share	\$7,500	\$18,480	\$22,000
Mortgage	\$11,868	\$11,867	\$11,868
Outreach Grants	\$6,903	\$6,007	\$6,000
Altar Guild Expense	\$0	\$1,923	\$2,500
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$5,470	\$5,845	\$5,950
BBL Phase II	\$0	\$50,000	\$0
Building Fund Replenishment	\$0	\$28,500	\$18,461
Total Expenses	\$275,443	\$352,324	\$318,550
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$44,486	\$10,584	\$0

St. Johns Episcopal Church - Ramsey NJ
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2018

Monday, January 21, 2019

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets			
1001.0	TD Bank Checking - Gen. Op.	220,050.54	278,828.85
1004.0	Wells Fargo Endowment	76,082.64	75,973.00
1005.0	AM House Escrow	1,770.00	1,770.00
1006.0	Rectory House Escrow	5,775.00	5,775.00
1100.0	Rectory	103,625.42	96,771.26
	Total Assets	\$407,303.60	\$459,118.11
Liabilities			
2002.0	Mortgage on Rectory	103,625.42	96,771.26
2005.0	A-M Escrow	1,770.00	1,770.00
2005.5	Rectory Escrow	5,775.00	5,775.00
2007.0	Prepaid Pledge	8,930.00	5,000.00
2009.5	PrePaid Payables	342.15	0.00
	Total Liabilities	\$120,442.57	\$109,316.26
Fund Balances			
3000.0	General Operations	65,742.39	76,280.16
3002.0	<i>Special Funds Restricted Balance</i>		
3002.1	Capital Campaign Phase I	24,702.50	0.00
3002.2	Rector's Discretionary Fund	506.50	0.00
3002.4	Music Fund	6,892.00	47,294.10
3002.5	Bridge Fund	280.00	290.00
3002.6	Memorial Garden Balance	50.00	50.00
3002.7	Youth Group Balance	2,275.00	1,306.00
3002.8	Memorial Fund Balance	5,190.00	5,190.00
3003.0	Property Fund Balance	28,559.00	36,591.09
3003.1	Capital Campaign Phase II Balances	75,471.00	105,373.50
3003.4	Outreach Passthrough Fund Balance	670.00	0.00
3003.5	Endowment Fund Balance	76,082.64	75,973.00
3003.8	ECW Fund Balance	0.00	111.00
3004.0	Stained Glass Balance	0.00	900.00
3004.1	Men's Club Balance	0.00	443.00
	<i>Total Special Funds Restricted Balance</i>	<i>\$220,678.64</i>	<i>\$273,521.69</i>
3003.7	Men's Club Fund Balance	440.00	0.00
	Total Fund Balances	\$286,861.03	\$349,801.85
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$407,303.60	\$459,118.11



ST. JOHN'S MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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