St. John’s Episcopal Church, Henrico Parish

Annual Report
2020

Annual Congregational Meeting
January 24, 2021, 11:15 a.m.
via Zoom

Our Mission Statement
We are a caring, spiritual community,
joyfully embracing and nurturing all,
serving God, each other, and the community.

Our Welcome
Whoever you are,
and wherever you are
in your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here.
Table of Contents

Staff and Oversight .................................................................................................................. 4
Prayers for Annual Meeting .................................................................................................... 5
From the Parish Register .......................................................................................................... 6
Agenda ..................................................................................................................................... 7
2020 Meeting Minutes ............................................................................................................ 8
Vestry Nominees ..................................................................................................................... 10
Endowment Fund Report ........................................................................................................ 11
Rector’s Report ......................................................................................................................... 12
Wardens’ Reports ................................................................................................................... 14
Deacon’s Report ....................................................................................................................... 16
Associate Priest’s Report .......................................................................................................... 17
Ministry Reports ....................................................................................................................... 18
Worship Report ......................................................................................................................... 18
    Altar Guild Report ................................................................................................................ 19
    Choir and Music Report ...................................................................................................... 20
    Servers Report ..................................................................................................................... 20
    Weddings Report ................................................................................................................ 21
Faith Formation Report ........................................................................................................... 22
    Sunday Forum Report ........................................................................................................ 22
    Children’s Chapel Report ................................................................................................... 23
    Wednesday Faith Formation Report ................................................................................... 23
    Lenten Series Report .......................................................................................................... 23
    Inquirer’s/Confirmation Class Report ............................................................................... 24
Education for Ministry ............................................................................................................ 24
    Transformation and Recovery Group Report .................................................................... 24
Shrine Mont Report ................................................................................................................... 24
Newcomers/Visitor Report ....................................................................................................... 25
Fellowship Report .................................................................................................................... 25
Young Adults Report ............................................................................................................... 25
Outreach Report ....................................................................................................................... 26
Pastoral Care Report ............................................................................................................... 27
Care for Parish Administration ................................................................................................. 27
Communications Report .......................................................................................................... 27
Property Committee Report .................................................................................................... 28
Stewardship Report ................................................................................................................ 29
Finance Report ........................................................................................................................ 29
St. John’s Church Foundation Report ..................................................................................... 31
Closing Prayer and Benediction .............................................................................................. 32
The Parish Staff
The Rev. Amelie Wilmer, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Dorothy A. White, Associate Priest
Patty Duffy, Parish Administrator
Jim Bennett, Minister of Music
The Rev. Anne Lane Witt, Children’s Chaplain
Bella Smith, Chaplain’s Assistant
Qiyamah Stephens & Hillary Lebedun, Nursery Attendants
The Venerable J. David Curtis, Deacon, who blesses us by serving without compensation

The Vestry
August Butler, Senior Warden
Laura Streat, Treasurer
Paul Broughton, Junior Warden
Rita Driscoll, Register

Class of 2020
August Butler, Sr. Warden
Marc Dixon
Susan White

Class of 2021
Paul Broughton, Jr. Warden
Rita Driscoll
Marshall Schutt

Class of 2022
Michael Broda
Mary Garner DeVoe
Joni McKeen

St. John’s Church Endowment Fund, Inc.
Barbara Bayler
Victoria Hauser
Patty Soileau
Michael Broda
Jane Hunnicutt, Secretary
Pattie Tobler, Vice-President

Paul Broughton
Marshall Schutt
Susan White, President

2020 Diocesan Annual Convention Lay Delegates
Susan White, Delegate
Mary Garner DeVoe, Alternate

St. John’s Church Foundation
Jeffrey Gill, President
Samuel Baronian, Vice President
Sarah Whiting, Executive Director
The Rev. Amelie Wilmer
W. Wymond Cabell
Ashley McCune

Douglas D. Monroe, III, Immediate Past President
James Driscoll, Treasurer
David Cottrell
August Butler, Ph.D.
Frances Craigie Fitzgerald
Ned Moore
Lynn Anderson

Pamela Seay, Secretary
Sandra Treadway, Ph.D.
F. Willson Craigie
Caroline Marvel
Dan Roberts, Ph.D.
Prayers

A Prayer for the Parish
Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the indifferent, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for a Meeting
Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in our Annual Congregational Meeting that it may be for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—from the Book of Common Prayer
### From the Parish Register

**Since last Annual Meeting**
- Members (includes inactive): 426
- Members in Good Standing: 191
- Active Non-Members (see below*): 123
- Inactive Members (see below**): 235

**Increases in Membership (see below***)**: 4
- By Baptism and Confirmation: 1
- By Reception and Reaffirmation: 0
- By Transfer in: 2

**Decreases in Membership**: 2
- By Death: 2
- By Transfer out: 0

**Net Increase in Membership**: 2
- Marriages: 6
- 2018 Average Sunday Attendance: 93
- 2019 Average Sunday Attendance: 106
- 2020 Average Sunday Attendance: 109 (as of March 1, 2020)
- 2020 Average Sunday Online “Attendance”: 178
  
  *(via YouTube from March-December; not recorded in Parish Register)*

### Updating the Membership Database

Members in Good Standing are people who:
1. Have become formal members by transfer, baptism, or confirmation, or are deemed members by the rector (usually former Roman Catholics)
2. Receive communion at least three times a year, and
3. Provide financial support to the church.

*If you are part of our community and have not formally joined St. John’s Church, please call the Parish Office—it is easy to join and become a formal member.

**To meet our Bishop’s request, we “deactivate” the memberships of those who have not been in contact with the church for over a year.

***The 11 participants in our Inquirers’ Class this year have been active parishioners but have not yet been able to be officially confirmed or received by the Bishop due to COVID restrictions.

We continue to add past members to our database from the parish registers, with the goal that all who joined throughout the ages will appear in our database. Most of these individuals became members long ago but have lost touch with the church. Since they have not transferred out and notice of their death hasn’t reached us, we keep them on the “books” as inactive members.

Finally, and happily, when members with whom we have lost touch return to reconnect with us, their memberships are “reactivated.”
Opening Prayer

Determination of a Quorum

Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

Old Business

New Business

   Election of New Vestry Members

Finance Ministry Report and Presentation of the 2021 Budget

Senior Warden’s Report

Rector’s Report

Ministry Team Reports

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Adjournment
The meeting began at 11:50 a.m. directly after the Worship hour and lunch. There was a show of hands of all of the members of St. John’s Episcopal Church to confirm that there was a quorum. The Rector, Amelie Wilmer, and the Senior Warden, Horace Dowdy, offered prayers for the Parish and the Meeting. Jim Bennett, Minister of Music, led those present in singing several verses of “We Are Marching in the Light of God”.

A motion was then made to approve the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and the motion was approved unanimously by voice vote of members present. No old business was raised, and the meeting then transitioned to new business.

Amelie introduced the current vestry and announced the members who would be rotating off the vestry (Horace Dowdy, Jane Hunnicutt, and Jamie Isaacs), thanking them for their service. The new slate of vestry members was introduced: Mike Broda, Mary Garner DeVoe, and Joni McKeen. There was a motion for an up-and-down vote on the full slate, which was seconded and passed with no objections. The vote proceeded with a show of hands and the slate was accepted unanimously.

Marshall Schutt presented the budget showing how money had been spent in 2019, the current status of the pledges, and incoming revenues for 2020, and the expected expenses for 2020. Archdeacon David Curtis asked as Deacon that the church to perhaps revisit our Diocesan pledge, which has been static at $18,000 for the past several years. A motion was made to approve the proposed 2020 budget, which was seconded and unanimously approved via a voice vote.

The Senior Warden, Horace Dowdy, made a presentation to the congregation emphasizing the possibilities and blessings found in the church. He noted the energy and feeling of positivity and welcome in the church, saying this is what an “alive” church looks like.

Amelie gave the Rector’s ministry report, noting the highlights of the year, comparing the church of the future to a “school/studio of love”. Our role is to teach and model love to those in the surrounding community. Amelie then thanked Horace Dowdy for his service as Senior Warden, and the new Senior and Junior warden were announced to the congregation. The new senior warden is August Butler; the new junior warden is Paul Broughton.

Amelie then noted several highlight from the past year, including our Celebration of New Ministry with her institution as rector, the Service of Lament and Reconciliation (began with idea from our deacon, David), the addition of Dorothy White as Associate Priest, the development of fundraising in ways that are authentic to us (toffee sales, Brunswick Stew), continued collaboration with Saint John’s Church Foundation, and the addition of a new music partnership and concert series via Jim Bennett. She emphasized the value of ongoing ministries led by Ven. David Curtis and the children’s ministry led by Rev. Anne Lane Witt. She thanked our growing number of lay team leaders for their effort and engagement of new members. Over the past three years, attendance has increased almost 30%, and this year, we welcomed 11 new members into the Church through the Rite of Confirmation or Reception. Amelie then introduced the presentation of the Ministry Team reports, which this year were organized around the goals of the strategic plan. Each goal presentation was supplemented by PowerPoint slides and a written report in the Annual Report handed to all in attendance.

Amelie initiated the presentation on the Growth of the Worshiping Community. Highlights included a 30% increase in attendance over the past three years, and the active engagement of more than 40 newcomers.

Jane Hunnicutt then presented on the Care for Surrounding Community goal. First Fruits collected 3600 lbs. of canned goods, with a goal of 2 tons this year. Laundry Love continued to be supported and developed, and would begin again in February. Our partnerships with Re:Work Richmond and Bellevue School continued, and we began more engagement with the Anna Julia Cooper School.
Marshall Schutt returned to present on the Care for Finances goal. He highlighted a number of accomplishments this year, including reaching a “balanced” budget goal by only using 4.5% from endowment funds. Through the hard work of the Stewardship Committee and a new matching gift initiative, 23 parishioners pledged for the first time, and we are 18% ahead of last year’s pledges. This was a very strong response, and we will build off of that this year as part of a 2- or 3-year plan to continue to strengthen the church’s financial situation.

Marc Dixon then presented on Community Presence and Visibility. Our goal continues to be to increase our presence, both online and in the community. The website redesign is in the works and nearing completion. Future plans include search engine optimization, streamlining social media presence, creating a unified communications plan, and possibly creating a promotional video for the church. Next, August Butler presented on promoting Spiritual Formation and Growth. Highlights from the past year included robust Wednesday night/Adult Forum/Lent Programming, as well as the formation of a number of small groups, including a thriving EFM (Education for Ministry) group. The Shrine Mont Retreat continues to be a priority, with a small group formed to lead the planning of the weekend. Later on this year, a survey of the congregation’s faith formation needs is planned, as well as the possible inclusion of additional Saturday events.

Susan White then presented on the Care for Congregation goal. She summarized the past year’s activities as being about “fun, food, and a lot of love.” This included hosting numerous coffee hours, dinners, and special events. The Pastoral Care team continues its work under a new leadership structure. Young Adults, now under the leadership and coordination of Liz Broda, continued their regularly scheduled monthly get togethers and outings, including social, outreach, and spiritual formation events. Liz stressed the need for “all hands on deck” to help staff the children’s area at the Irish Festival on Mar. 21st and 22nd.

Marc Dixon (speaking on behalf of Jamie Isaacs) then returned to present about the Care for Facilities goal. Highlights included the restructuring of the property and maintenance budget to more accurately track specific expenses, and the installation of a new sound system in the church. Goals for the year include establishing sustainable and proactive maintenance and repair schedules. Words of thanks were given to all those who have helped at Parish workdays and to those who have helped in other times.

Finally, Paul Broughton presented on efforts to Care for Parish Administration. This is a newly formed set of goals that aims to determine how best to support our staff and make sure they are getting what they need to be successful. This includes the formation of a small committee to ensure Amelie’s care and support her in her efforts as Rector.

After the conclusion of the strategic plan goals, the meeting was adjourned. Amelie led the congregation in the closing Prayer for St. John’s and offered a benediction. Ven. David Curtis offered the dismissal.
Vestry Nominees

The Vestry has nominated the following members to serve on the Vestry:

**Brendan Cleary-Wildt** has been attending St. John’s since 2017. His then girlfriend and now wife, Andrea, brought him to the church not long after they met. Some say it is the ultimate test of whether a relationship is going to work or not. The welcome he received was far more than he expected. St. John’s was truly a place Brendan felt comfortable worshipping and expressing his faith. After growing up in the Catholic Church, he found his values diverging. The Episcopal Church, and specifically St. John’s, was the community he felt he was missing in his life. He and Andrea were married at St. John’s in 2019 and Brendan was received into the Episcopal Church that same year. He grew up in western Henrico and graduated from VCU. Brendan has volunteered on parish workdays, is involved with the Young Adults group, joined the A/V group, and has been a reader in virtual services.

Brendan and Andrea set down their roots in the Northside of Richmond. They enjoy the Brookline Park neighborhood more and more every day. With a teenager and an infant in the house, the pandemic has proven challenging. With the light at the end of the tunnel in sight, Brendan hopes to help bring the St. John’s community back together safely, but also continue the fellowship and outreach that makes the St. John’s family the beacon on the hill.

**Stewart Gamage** grew up a Presbyterian in Petersburg, but by high school had been wooed away by the local Episcopal church. Three basic inducements: dances after the football games on Friday nights; a robust Youth Fellowship on Sunday evening; and a powerful liturgy that spoke even to the heart of a teenager. After college I moved to the Fan only a few blocks from St. Mark’s. The congregation was diverse and led by a young, dynamic priest who organized the confirmation class and later married me and my husband. Alexandria was home for the next 25 years while I worked in and around Capitol Hill with Christ Church Old Town my anchor. Our two children grew up with the Christmas Pageant, starting as sheep and graduating as wise men! Shrine Mont, outreach in the community, and a relationship with the Society of St. John in Cambridge became the building blocks of my spiritual life. A job in higher education led to Charlottesville where I witnessed results of the march by white supremacists. The impact on the University and my home parish St. Luke’s were devastating and long-lasting.

Two years ago I decided to move back to the Fan — a decision based in part on the warm welcome I received at St. John’s. The clergy were engaging; the programs on Race and Reconciliation provocative. I’m home now and look forward to extending the same invitation to others.

**Victoria Hauser** has attended services at St. John’s since 2017 and became a member in 2019. She is active with the Young Adults group and Sunday Forum, and is an Education for Ministry student and co-chair of the Outreach Team. She grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and was raised in the United Methodist church. She is grateful for finding the welcoming, faithful, and dedicated community of St. John’s after an extended absence from being part of a church.

Victoria has worked in the historic preservation and architecture fields, and currently works at an engineering firm as a project coordinator. When not working or attending a St. John’s event (and prior to the pandemic!), she was often found volunteering with the local running community, including with Girls on the Run of Greater Richmond, a program for elementary aged girls to learn life skills while training for a 5k.

**Maureen Matsen** is a Richmond lawyer who has spent most of her career serving a variety of roles in Virginia government, currently as General Counsel to Christopher Newport University. Baptized in 1984 in anticipation of her wedding, Maureen began attending St. John’s with her husband, Michael, and newborn baby, Riley, in 1989. She was confirmed here in 1991, has taught Sunday School, sung in the choir, served on the vestry twice before and on a search committee for a new rector. She has also served on the boards of the Virginia Bar Association, Mentor Virginia, and The Healing Place (now a part of Caritas). Maureen was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Leesburg, Virginia, moving to Richmond to complete her undergraduate and graduate education. She lives on the Northside of the city. If elected, Maureen will do her best to faithfully serve God, her dear friends, and beloved church once again.
St. John’s Church Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund was established many years ago to manage gifts and bequests left to St. John’s and to invest the money in a manner to best increase the principle and provide funds for church activities and requirements. The current trustees of the fund are Barbara Bayler, Mike Broda, Paul Broughton, Victoria Hauser, Jane Hunnicutt, Marshall Schutt, Patty Soileau, Pattie Tobler, and Susan White. At least three of the trustees must be members of the Vestry, and each trustee normally serves a three-year term. The terms expiring in 2020 are held by Paul Broughton, Jane Hunnicutt, and Susan White. We thank them for their contributions and service. The Endowment Fund will be requesting the new vestry to nominate candidates for the vacant trustee positions.

The Endowment funds are managed and invested by Davenport & Co., following general guidelines set by the Endowment Board. The funds are audited on a quarterly basis by Harris, Hardy and Johnstone. Disbursement of the Endowment’s funds is the responsibility of the Endowment trustees upon request by the vestry; other funds (known as the vestry’s funds) are disbursed solely at the discretion of the vestry, but the investment of all the funds is the responsibility of the Endowment trustees. The Endowment limits the amount that can be disbursed annually from its “general” fund to 4.5% of the average of the last 12 quarters.

In 2020, the Endowment submitted a plan to the Commission of Architectural Review (CAR) to replace the deteriorating wooden fence around the back yard of the parish house property. After the plan was approved, Hurricane Fencing built the fence. A picture accompanies this report (Figure 1). The Endowment will continue to improve the yard so it can be a pleasant place for outdoor parish activities.

Two donors made generous gifts to the Endowment fund this year. The estate of Penny Cannon Hodge gave an unrestricted gift of $100,000. We are grateful that Penny thought to honor St. John’s in this way. We also received a second unrestricted grant gift of $6,500 from the Dr. Floyd and Doris Moore Charitable Fund. Dr. and Mrs. Moore were former members of St. John’s Church and we are thankful for their gift.

The total of all the funds at the beginning of 2020 was $4,044,431.44. Year-end reporting has not yet been received due to mail delays; the total as of September 30, 2020, was $4,090,083.42. The Endowment also owns the Parish House; its assessed value in 2020 was $739,000.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan White, President

Respectfully submitted,
Rector’s Report

As we navigated the events of this past year, I found myself drawn increasingly to passages from the Hebrew Scriptures composed by the people of Israel during times of exile. “How long will we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” writes the psalmist, who longs for the restoration of community and temple worship when exiled in Babylon (Ps.137). While our own situation cannot compare to the hardships of the Jewish diaspora during episodes of foreign invasion, we can certainly relate to their dislocation, disorientation and separation as we have endured the effects of the COVID pandemic. Nonetheless, we have been able to adapt, adjust, and exercise our creativity in much the same way the Jewish exiles did as they formed new ways of being community and worshiping God. This has taken resilience, resourcefulness, courage, and lots of love.

We began 2020 on solid ground, full of energy and ideas to support the active ministries of our growing congregation. Worship attendance, pledge levels and new member growth were as high as they had been in decades, and we were poised to expand our outreach, fellowship and formation efforts in new and exciting ways. The months of January and February included two beautiful weddings, an enthusiastic Annual Meeting, engaging Sunday Forum presentations, and the revival of our Laundry Love ministry. We began the season of Lent with well-attended Ash Wednesday services and Lent programming that included a collaboration with St. Peter’s Episcopal Church to explore our shared history. As I look back at where we began, I cannot be more thankful for the position of strength that enabled us to rise to meet whatever challenges would come our way.

Because then came COVID-19. And along with it, a new way of being church while facing wave after wave of viral, social, political and economic pandemic. Our worship, faith formation, and vestry ministry teams rallied quickly to accelerate their learning curve in video recording, Zoom technology, and YouTube production. (If you had told me nine months ago that I would be an expert at producing films and uploading them to YouTube, I would not have believed you!) Our congregation adapted too, with many of you learning technology that only your children or grandchildren dared to maneuver.

We journeyed through Lent, Holy Week, and the Seasons of Pentecost, Advent, and Christmas by worshiping online, learning online, and meeting online. Our vestry stayed in touch with members through phone calls. We communicated through emails and texts. Some of us wrote notes. Our Outreach Team established twice-monthly, socially distanced Food Pantry collections, providing over three tons of food to the Christ Ascension Food pantry while offering us a welcomed opportunity to see each other in person at 24th and Broad. Our Pastoral Care team delivered meals, sent flowers, and offered rides. Our Altar Guild decorated the church in step with our video recordings to enrich our worship with the symbols of each season. Book clubs met online and outdoors; Property Team members tended to the church grounds in shifts and small groups; parishioners met for walks or meals in parks. And when our Bishops permitted us to worship outdoors, a committee of dedicated parishioners planned, prepared and took the necessary health precautions to provide four outdoor services in the churchyard, including two Eucharists and a baptism on All Saints’ Day. The ushers even donned “usher” masks, thanks to Jane Hunnicutt!

This was also the year we made a commitment to educate and prepare ourselves for the work of racial reconciliation in response to the injustices and inequities we witnessed over the summer. From mid-August through early fall, dozens of members of St. John’s engaged in programming that explored the hard and heartbreaking history of the American church’s complicity in systemic racism. This inspired us to discern how we as a congregation are called to respond in ways that align with our own gifts and abilities. And it led to the formation of a Justice Ministry team under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Dorothy White, which includes collaboration with area churches in Richmonders Involved in Strengthening our Communities (RISC).

Another important goal we accomplished this year was the creation of our new website. Under the capable leadership and expertise of parishioner Bonnie Sampson and the faithful vestry support of Mary Garner DeVo, we were able to launch a website that truly reflects the spirit and welcoming personality of our congregation. Even better, it works!

Among the most encouraging surprises of this year was the number of newcomers who expressed a willingness to explore the Episcopal Church and membership at St. John’s, even without in-person worship or gath-
erings. This year’s Inquirer’s Class included 11 dedicated seekers, who met for eight Zoom sessions in the
summer and early fall. Many of them are eager to be received into the Episcopal Church when our Bishops
resume confirmations in September 2021.

Our positive and productive relationship with the St. John’s Church Foundation and their capable staff was
more important than ever this year as they responded to the loss of tours, re-enactments and visitors resulting
from the closure of our church grounds. Together we adjusted our budgets, managed expenses, and took the
steps necessary to ensure the safety of our employees and our church property. We also supported one another
in online communications and programming to reach the communities we serve. Because of this, both
Church and Foundation enter this year in sound financial and organizational health, and are eager to continue
pursuing our shared mission and vision, including outreach efforts in the community, preservation of our his-
toric church, and a more expansive telling of our story to include voices previously unheard. I invite you to
read the Property and Foundation reports for examples of this year’s achievements.

These are but a few of the ways we remained in community and worshiped God together, despite our dis-
tance, despite the tensions that continue to divide our nation, despite how much we truly miss seeing one an-
other in person and worshiping side-by-side. In the pages that follow you will learn even more about all we
were able to accomplish.

Of course, we could not have done any of this without the capable leadership of our Senior Warden, August
Butler, and our Junior Warden, Paul Broughton, whose complementary gifts offered direction, encourage-
ment and organization to the work of our fabulous vestry. We could not have done this without the financial
skills contributed by Lynn Anderson, our Finance Team Leader, and Marshall Schutt, Chair of Stewardship.
We could not have done this without the guidance of our Bishops who met with the clergy of the diocese
month after month; or without the tremendous gifts of our Associate Priest, Rev. Dr. Dorothy White, and our
deacon, Ven. David Curtis, whose preaching, teaching, and support of our ministries offered new blessings
each week; or without Rev. Anne Lane Witt, who lovingly ministered to our children every Sunday through
online Children’s Chapel. We could not have done this without our Minister of Music, Jim Bennett, who
courageously led our dedicated choir in creating music for our worship videos that warmed our hearts and
connected us to the beauty of our liturgy. Nor could we have done this without our videographers, Andy
Russell and, most recently, John-Michael Jalonen. Or without the faithful, steady, and persistent work of our
Parish Administrator, Patty Duffy, who has dedicated herself to St. John’s with love and care for the past
decade. But most of all, we could not have done this without the grace and gifts of God.

Thank you, dear people of St. John’s. It has been an honor to serve as your Rector during this challenging
year, and I am in awe of the many ways you rose to the occasion of being “Beloved Community” under the
most unexpected and unprecedented circumstances that most of us have witnessed in a lifetime.

In the words of Bishop Desmond Tutu:

“There is no such thing as a totally hopeless case. Our God is an expert at dealing with chaos, with broken-
ness, with all the worst that we can imagine. God created order out of disorder, cosmos out of chaos, and God
can do so always, can do so now—in our personal lives and in our lives as nations, globally… Indeed, God is
transforming the world now—through us—because God loves us.”

Yours in Christ,
Amelie+
Wardens’ Reports

Each month, I write a report for the vestry and try to conclude with a salutation that captures the spirit of the time (or at least how I am feeling). I managed to use a different one every month, with only one repeat, and I think they offer an interesting overview of the trajectory of this strange, difficult year:

1 Joyfully
2 Prayerfully
3 Gratefully
4 Patiently
5 Thoughtfully
6 Faithfully
7 Doggedly
8 Restfully
9 Reassuredly
10 Blessings

It was a useful exercise for me to look back over these reports because I don’t know about you, but I have a hard time remembering what January and February were like! We seem to have an infinite capacity for adaptation, which is our gift and enormous strength as a species, but it is one with which we must be cautious: It is very easy for us to get used to things. It’s a tricky balance to “rejoice in all circumstances” while not growing complacent. This is something I have grappled with a lot this year as we have tried to discern which of our “normal” offerings to adapt, which to let go, and what new things we can add.

So as we prepare to face the challenges and joys of 2021, I encourage you to stay flexible and adaptable, stay joyful for what is—and stay longing for what can be. “Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13b-14)

Thank you for the honor and privilege of being your senior warden this year. It was one I will certainly never forget!

Fondly,
August Butler
Senior Warden

My report is not required nor have I been asked to provide it. However, I feel called to submit a brief report to offer my perspective on St. John’s for 2020. In one word, REMARKABLE! We were not perfect but given what we were challenged with, we were REMARKABLE. This includes our clergy, our staff, our vestry and our parishioners. It was a true team effort of which we can all be proud.

As I reflect on 2020, I believe we should all be filled with GRATITUDE! During a very difficult year, we received so much from each other. Our parishioners were faithful in showing up for worship, for being there for each other, for accepting necessary change, for providing support for our community and to St. John’s, and for continuing their financial commitment to St. John’s.

Our vestry faced with never seen before challenges, were totally involved; taking care of the property, finding new solutions to new problems, caring about our parishioners, ensuring connections, working closely with the Foundation, and ensuring that St. John’s continued to be St. John’s. Everyone did their part but an extra “shout out” to August Butler, our Senior Warden. They were the right person to be senior warden this year; the technical skills, the quiet and thoughtful leadership, the support for people, new ideas and old ways, and the ability and desire to do whatever was necessary to keep us going.

Our staff, Jim and Patty, had to do their jobs in new and untested ways. They came through like champs providing musical innovation and administrative support. Finally, our clergy were unstoppable even when wrench after wrench were thrown into the gears of routine operations. In fact, beginning half way through March, there would be no more routine operations for the remainder of the year, and of course, that continues. Anne Lane found a way to provide “children’s chapel” remotely. Dorothy and David were everywhere,
at home, at church; reading, preaching, leading, and telling us “to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.”

And then there is Amelie. It seems as though she has been working 24/7 for St. John’s (that is us) since the word COVID first came into our vocabulary. She has been tireless, providing the leadership and energy to keep St. John’s operating and meeting the spiritual needs of us all. Not only did we continue services, but also were offered new opportunities for spiritual growth through Wednesday night faith formation, Sunday Forum, and compline. We are indeed fortunate to have had her at the helm for this year when we have been navigating uncharted waters.

I thank everyone at St. John’s for the care they have shown to everyone in 2020.

Paul Broughton
Junior Warden
Deacon’s Report

Grace and peace be with you this day and for all of 2021! 2020 was a challenging year, and the members of St. John’s rose to the occasion in many different ways. Thank you all for your witness to the Gospel and for the living out of your faith.

The vows of a deacon call him or her to “interpret the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world.” These vows ground deacons in servant ministry and in leading the church beyond its walls to the world around us. And the presence of a diaconal voice in our community, in our meetings, and from our pulpit adds additional dimensions to how we are able to engage this world.

I am grateful to Victoria Hauser and Patricia McNaught for their leadership of the outreach team in 2020. Lay leadership grows in our outreach ministries, and it was especially present in 2020. I invite you to read the Outreach Report to learn more about our ministries this year.

This year was like no other. We witnessed the triple pandemics of COVID-19, racial unrest, and economic uncertainty. We experienced an election season that demonstrated how divided we are as a nation. And still, to the best of our abilities, we tried to remain faithful to the Gospel and to Jesus.

Our First Fruits ministry this year saw an astonishing collection of 6,731 pounds of food. So many of you gave generously out of your abundance and, sometimes, out of your own need. I am deeply grateful for the ministers of grace who staffed the drop-off sites on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. They were out in the heat, the cold, and the in-between, living into their faith to care for others. Many of our members would drop off their donations and then linger for a bit, checking in and catching up. In a sense, we had “church” on a small scale, on the streets of Church Hill.

We continue our work around social justice at St. John’s. This past summer, we read The Color of Compromise and discussed during our Wednesday Faith Formation. Many of us struggled with the role of the Church in America to support and, at times, to promote racism, segregation, and white supremacy. We have gathered in prayer for justice and peace.

In October, I assisted with the Virtual Retreat, a first for St. John’s. While we missed the air and food at Shrine Mont, we created sacred space (albeit on Zoom) to engage with one another and to rest. The conversations were rich and meaningful, and many of us left refreshed and grounded.

I continue my work as Archdeacon. This work centers around supporting our community of deacons in the Diocese of Virginia. We held twice-monthly Zoom connection calls to check in with one another and offer support. This past June, the Community of Deacons organized a 12-hour virtual prayer vigil for justice, reconciliation, and peace. Around 300 people participated in this event. I also helped construct and lead a Virtual Retreat for the Community of Deacons in October.

Words cannot express the gratitude I have to God for allowing me to serve in this community. This community is engaged. We have different ways to live into our baptismal vows, as we address issues around racial, economic, and judicial inequality. And still, at the core of what we do is Jesus.

Justice, then peace,

The Ven. David Curtis
Deacon, St. John’s Church
Archdeacon, Diocese of Virginia
Associate Priest’s Report

The word that comes to my heart/mind about ministry is **kaleidoscope**. God has ushered me through a season of working primarily with children. Now, God is using those experiences to continue to teach me a new way of “seeing.”

Nothing that I have been through is wasted. I see a *constantly changing pattern* emanating from a kaleidoscope of views. Your kindness and support in allowing me to serve is a gift that enhances my life and purpose. I am grateful. Thank you.

Here is an overview of my service as Associate Priest for St. John’s Church in 2020:

- Started the year as a new member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of VA.
- Attended the “Rooted in Jesus” Conference in Atlanta whose focus was on ministry beyond the walls of our churches/parishes. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was among the speakers/preachers for this conference.
- Once online worship began, I adjusted to preparing sermons that had to be prepared and recorded days prior to Sunday morning.
- I preach monthly and teach for Sunday Forums and Wednesday Book Studies according to the St. John’s clergy schedule.
- Due to a joint request from Staff of the Diocese, I accepted the appointment as part-time Interim Vicar of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church.
- I am also serving as a Chaplain at Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School. My primary responsibility is leading weekly chapel services at least three times a month.
- Due to COVID restrictions, my physical presence at the church or office is based upon need.
- St. John’s launched a Social Justice Ministry Group whose focus is to assist in community efforts that are already underway. Through my attendance at the Rooted in Jesus Conference, I learned about RISC, Richmonders Involved in Strengthening Communities and we are now a member congregation. St. John’s has also been made aware of a social justice entity called Virginia Holistic Justice Initiative founded by one of our members, an attorney named Tom Barbour.
- I preach and teach monthly as a part of the ministry for St. Mark’s Episcopal Church.
- I attend staff meetings for the three churches, as well as the monthly Vestry Meetings for St. Peter’s.
- I attend and participate in Team Leader meetings for RISC.
- I co-teach classes at the Virginia Union Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology in support of The Rev. Dr. Robert Stamps. While I am not an employee of Virginia Union, I do receive periodic compensation for my efforts.
- I serve 10 hours per week for St. John’s and St. Mark’s and 12-15 hours per week for St. Peter’s.

Faithfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dorothy White, D.Min.
Ministry Reports

Worship Ministries

Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing (Psalm 100:2)

As we say in the Episcopal Church, “If you want to know what we believe, worship with us.” Our praying shapes our believing and lies at the heart of our shared life. At St. John’s we are dedicated to providing Spirit-filled worship services that welcome everyone, and when the Pandemic required us to discontinue in-person worship in March, we rose to the challenge of offering that gift of worship to members and friends through video technology. In addition to our regular Sunday services, special highlights for 2020 included:

❖ Third Annual Epiphany Bonfire and Service of Light with Procession of the Magi
❖ Two Ash Wednesday Services with Imposition of Ashes; “Ashes to Go” at 24th and Broad
❖ First Sunday in Lent with the Great Litany
❖ Online Palm Sunday, Blessing and Procession of the Palms, and Passion Narrative
❖ Online Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion
❖ Online Good Friday Evening liturgy
❖ Online Great Vigil of Easter with renewal of Baptismal vows
❖ Online Service of Commissioning our Vestry Members
❖ Online Pentecost Festival Eucharist with Spiritual Communion
❖ Four Outdoor services in the churchyard; two with Holy Communion
❖ Blessing of the Animals “on the go” for the community at 24th and Broad
❖ Online All Saints’ Day Service with Welcoming of New Members and Prayers for the Departed
❖ Outdoor All Saints’ Day Eucharist with Holy Baptism
❖ Online Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist with Spiritual Communion
❖ One outdoor baptism, and five weddings (three outdoors, offsite)
❖ Wednesday evening Online Compline services and special prayers services.

At the beginning of 2020, St. John’s entered the new year with the highest worship attendance in decades and robust energy for worship. The first week of January included a lovely wedding for a beloved couple in our congregation and a lively Epiphany Bonfire with a Service of Light, our third year of a “tradition” that has grown in attendance and is joyfully embraced by the community. Ash Wednesday services were also well attended, both inside and outside our church walls, as we offered ashes to passers-by in the neighborhood. We entered into the Season of Lent singing the Great Litany and looking forward to the stability or our liturgy to support us on our journey. And then, COVID came to Virginia and everything changed. Under the guidance of our bishops and for the safety of our parishioners, we suspended indoor worship and made the shift from in-person to online worship.

Through a process of trial and error, beginning with a few attempts to live stream services on Facebook, we began to pre-record our worship services and post them on YouTube with a premiere chat feature, thanks to the expertise of parishioner Andy Russell, who faithfully served as our video editor for eight months. We were blessed with beautiful Holy Week services recorded from the church that included a wide variety of our lay members and captured the essence of these ancient liturgies. In the following months, we engaged an even broader variety of parishioners as more of our worship was recorded from our homes. While not the same as worshipping together side by side, these video recordings connected us with one another with a level of intimacy and creativity that opened new doors for relationship. Together, we moved through Eastertide, Pentecost, Ordinary Time, All Saint’s Day, Advent and Christmas with the blessing of the hymns, readings, prayers, and images of each season. In Advent, we welcomed a new videographer, John-Michael Jalonen. Among the greatest blessings was the gift of music offered by Jim Bennett and our choir as they navigated the technology necessary to weave their voices and instruments together from remote locations to create the beauty of harmony. Attendance at our online YouTube worship averaged 178 for the year, a testament to their value and reach.

Beginning in March of 2020, our clergy began offering Online Services of Compline every Wednesday evening. These have been offered in a variety of formats, including via Zoom and through pre-recorded services that are uploaded to YouTube. This ancient liturgy of praise, prayer, and short passages from scripture
offers a gentle time for quiet reflection at the end of the day. Participation in these services ranges from 8-20 each week.

In the summer months, our bishops granted permission to offer COVID-safe, physically distanced outdoor worship services with specific guidelines. In response, St. John’s formed a regathering team to prepare the necessary procedures for safe worship, including an electronic reservation system to monitor attendance, a COVID symptoms check-in station, designated seating to ensure safe distance, touch-free bulletin distribution, mask wearing, and provision of sanitization supplies. A survey was conducted to discern the desires of our parishioners for in-person worship, and based on the results, we offered four outdoor services in the later summer and fall, two which included the Holy Eucharist and, on All Saints’ Day, the baptism of our newest member, Theodore Pole.

In addition to our corporate worship, several pastoral liturgies offered by the Rector have included the blessing of a home and the blessing of two babies born this year to parents in the congregation. Each were performed with physical distancing necessary to ensure the safety of the families involved. In addition, prayers for surgery, reconciliation, and other pastoral prayer were conducted by telephone or video conference.

Participation in one or more of our worship ministries is a life-giving way to serve our community and nurture your relationship with God. Even during this time of pandemic, opportunities to serve by supporting our online worship and outdoor services are plentiful. The Worship Team, consisting of the Rector, Deacon, Associate Priest, Minister of Music, and Ministry Team leaders, coordinates its efforts to enhance the worship experience for each liturgical season, utilizing the appointed lectionary readings and related liturgy, music, and special activities.

Altar Guild
(Catherine Brown, Ministry Team Leader)

Catherine Brown assumed Altar Guild Team Lead responsibilities on March 8, 2020, the last day of in-person worship at St. John’s. That day, members of the Altar Guild met for a brunch at the Quirk Hotel honoring Lisa Wood and Pattie Tobler for their years of dedicated service. Altar Guild now has four known vacant positions for our monthly rotation for preparing the church for Sunday services each week, as well as for weddings, funerals and other special services. Pandemic conditions have rendered the majority of Altar Guild activities to a full stop, and vacancies are qualified with “known” recognizing that it will likely be close to a full year of limited-to-no activity for the majority of our members. The length of time may result in more vacancies when we return to in-person worship. Current members are: Becky Gay, Catherine Brown, Elizabeth Schauer, Kathy Dixon, Laura Dixon, Louise Lee, Martha Broughton, Reeves McCune, Rita Driscoll, and Sarah Lineberger.

On May 30, the Altar Guild team convened for virtual fellowship over Zoom. Members were contacted again in the Fall for follow-up to indicate interest in helping with upcoming set-up for outdoor worship services. The majority were not comfortable given current pandemic conditions.

The majority of Altar Guild and Flower activities have been taken care of by Reeves McCune and Catherine Brown due to both availability and individual comfort performing tasks at the church during the pandemic. Reeves McCune continues to coordinate flower needs. This has included Lent, Holy Week, Advent and Christmas, and Reeves’s work has been readily apparent in our video recordings.

Altar Guild members and other servers have transitioned to our liquid candles. Upon return to in-church worship, re-training regarding the oil candles and other Altar Guild activities will be needed. Altar Guild expenses this year have been minimal and limited to flowers and greenery for special events, services, and holidays referenced earlier.

As noted in last year’s annual report, the sacristy space is quite limited for flower arranging and the cleaning and washing of communion serving pieces. I re-emphasize the previous message regarding the holy and reverent area ideal for sacristy space. Renovation is not a feasible or reasonable solution at this time, but I suggest future creative discussion about how to make physical and mental distinction between the sacristy,
server robing room, choir robing room, utility/mail/flower arranging space, and clergy robing room. The set-up, turnover, and clean-up of the altar is holy work, similar in spirit to receiving communion. In an ideal world, Altar Guild members would not have to wait for everything else to be done in order to work in the sacristy space and, with reverential and reflective hearts, prepare for and clean up after the “remembrance” of Christ. A solution for achieving the warranted reverence without capital renovation is possible with creativity, community, and collaboration.

The budget for 2020 was $4900 and actual expenses were $1800. All inventory will need to be checked for waste (e.g. stale wafers) and outage, and all textiles, hangings, and linens assessed for cleaning.

Choir and Music
(Jim Bennett, Minister of Music)

Several months ago, not long after Easter Day, I wrote to the congregation about the challenges of doing music ministry during this pandemic. In that communication, I discussed the steep learning curve for recording, the difficulty of maintaining connections with the community, the frustration with technology and the inability to sing in person. Now, months later and with an end to the pandemic nowhere in sight, I need to write again. I would like to be able to report that the music ministry is flourishing, that we are growing. The reality is we are managing. Managing to continue providing music for our online worship and a handful of small in-person outdoor worship services, managing to maintain some of the connections. There has been loss. Some choir members have no interest in participating in the recording of music for our worship, or they have trouble with the technology, or they moved away. The pandemic has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans and vaccines are just beginning to be distributed. We are unable to worship together in person, to join our voices in prayer and song.

Yet, there is also hope. And that is what we as Christians are called to, isn’t it? To choose hope? To choose life? The Resurrected Christ is the ultimate symbol of our hope. I also choose to see hope in the continued participation of several of our choir members, the willingness to sing a hymn (alone) into their phones. Hope in the texts, cards, and words of encouragement for me and the other staff and clergy. Hope in the continued financial support of St. John’s even though we don’t know when we’ll be able to gather in our church. Hope in the deep and strong spirit that permeates our shared life, despite the limitations we all face. Hope that so many of us choose hope, despite the harshness that is all around us.

This is my report on the music ministry of St. John’s. We are hopeful. May that be reflected in our hymns and songs of praise. Thanks be to God!

Verses 1 and 2 of Georgia Harkness’s hymn text “Hope of the World” which was commissioned for the 1954 Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches. Text ©1954, renewed 1982, The Hymn Society (admin. by Hope Publishing Company) Used by permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net #A-725321

Servers

Lay Readers – Our Lay Readers read the lessons and lead prayers at each service, with assignments scheduled in advance and communicated through the coordinated efforts of August Butler and our Parish Administrator, Patty Duffy. When in-person worship was suspended this year, many of our readers adapted by recording their assigned lections from home and submitting them to our video editor. A surprising benefit was the addition of several new readers and broader inclusion of our readers in the prayers and responses during the service.
**Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Visitors** - Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist at communion by serving the wine. Lay Eucharist Visitors take communion directly from the worship service to those in who request it, bringing the St. John’s community to those who cannot attend church on Sunday morning. Both LEMs and the LEVs are licensed by the Diocese of Virginia. In 2020, one LEM training was conducted at the beginning of the year and one LEV was trained in the summer to bring communion to hospice patients during this time of pandemic. The work of Eucharistic Ministers has been put on hold during our suspension of in-person worship, but we eagerly await their redeployment when we can regather. We encourage your participation!

**Acolytes** - Acolytes carry processional crosses, light altar candles, assist with the offertory, help prepare for communion, and assist with other duties as requested by clergy. They serve to make our liturgy ageless and beautiful and are essential to our worship. Any person over the age of nine (9) is encouraged to participate. During the time of pandemic, our acolyte ministry is on hold, but will resume once we return to in-person worship with a training offered in the early fall.

**Ushers** - Ushers play an important part in the worship experience. They assist by making those present feel welcomed, helping with name tags, handing out bulletins, answering questions, and distributing publications concerning current church activities. They also guide congregants to communion at the altar rail in an organized fashion, help with receiving the offering, and make sure attendees have bulletins and prayer books. In 2020, when the bishop permitted our churches to offer outdoor, COVID-safe worship, our ushers rose to the occasion. This included managing the COVID checklist and attendance roster during check-in, directing worshipers to service bulletins, assisting worshipers with distanced seating, guiding worshipers during communion, and assisting with signage.

**Greeters** - Members of this team greet newcomers as they leave our worship services, inviting them to offer their contact information, answering questions, and ensuring that the information is recorded and delivered to the office for follow up. This ministry is essential in assisting our Rector and Newcomer Welcoming team in reaching out to our visitors. The Greeter ministry will resume when we return to in-person worship.

**Prayer Ministry** – During worship each Sunday, members of our prayer ministry offer personal prayers during communion at the Colonial Altar. In addition, a prayer group is held every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Keeper’s Cottage. This ministry has also been placed on hold during COVID, with prayers for the congregation being offered from our ministers’ homes. If you are interested in participating or feel called to be a prayer leader when worship resumes, please contact Carolyn Dallas at ccdallas@yahoo.com.

---

**Weddings**
*(Lynn Anderson, Wedding Coordinator)*

One of the great gifts of our Historic church is the sacred setting it provides for the Blessing of a Marriage. A number of our current members were married at St. John’s, and it was through that experience that they chose our congregation as their church home. In January of 2020, two beautiful weddings were held at St. John’s, one which included many in our congregation. After March, due to the pandemic, indoor weddings for groups over 10 were suspended. Consequently, three small weddings were held offsite in parishioners’ homes or at outdoor venues, and one family wedding was held inside the church. Amelie is currently in the process of preparing three new couples for weddings in 2021, subject to the progress of the COVID vaccine. Lynn Anderson continues to do an excellent job of working with our Rector, Minister of Music, and the wedding couple to coordinate our wedding services, and will resume her duties when we return to in-person worship.

---

If you and/or your children are interested or feel called to help in any of our worship ministries, please do not hesitate to contact Amelie, Patty Duffy, or any member of our worship team - explore a new opportunity at St. John’s!

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Amelie Wilmer, Rector
Faith Formation

The concept of “faith formation” offers a holistic view of spiritual growth. It includes practices and opportunities such as learning, contemplation, praying, worshipping, celebrating, and serving that are the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all of creation. Every experience in our lives can provide us with the opportunity to deepen and express our faith.

Formal activities that fall within this ministry include those related to Sunday Forum, children’s ministries, weekday evening programming (including Bible and book studies, special presentations and workshops, Lenten series), the Shrine Mont annual retreat, the Inquirer’s (Confirmation) class, Education for Ministry, and recovery/transformation groups. During 2020, over 85 St. John’s parishioners participated in at least one of these programs.

Sunday Forum

This year’s Sunday Forum met throughout the year for five different themes anchored in Biblical study, modern spiritual questions, and the liturgical seasons. Meetings are intended to feature different speakers or leaders to stimulate thoughtful discussion for attendees’ spiritual growth. From January to March, meetings took place in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings between the 8:15 and 10:30 worship services; since April, they have been online via Zoom following the 10:00 service. Attendance held fairly steady over the year, ranging from 10 - 25 participants.

The year began with what has become a St. John’s tradition: a series through the Epiphany season on “Seeing God in a Different Light.” These weeks featured sessions facilitated by both members and friends of St. John’s, on stories and storytelling (Andy Pillsbury), a gender expansive lens (August Butler), the Holy Land Solidarity Cooperative (Dr. George Ghanem), the Shape Note tradition (Adrienne Robertson), Hinduism (Kedar Thoota), Laundry Love, and the Triangle of Hope (Dorothy).

The season of Lent began a series of meditations from the Society of St. John the Evangelist, “Stop, Pray, Work, Play, Love,” though this was cut short by our unexpected closure two weeks into Lent. We decided to focus our online gatherings on social connection and fellowship while we adjusted to the loss of our physical gathering.

After Easter, the Forum resumed with a focus on how to “be church” in the midst of unprecedented circumstances. This included Dr. Sam Adams on “Healing and Wholeness in Time of Uncertainty,” Judge Hannah Lauck on civility and social justice, and our own clergy on the early church and Jesus’ promise to his disciples to be with them in all circumstances.

As always, Sunday Forum took a break for the summer and the 11:00 Zoom hour was reserved for casual catch-up and conversation, though this took on new depth this year and often involved thoughtful reflections on the sermon and meaningful check-ins with our beloved parish family.

After the events of this summer, nationally and locally, racial injustice was top of mind for many, and we wanted to address this in our Sunday Forums. The program year began with a three-part series on Richmond’s racial history and our hope and responsibility for racial justice, led by Rev. Ben Campbell and our own Ryan Smith. This was followed by a series led by Dorothy, based on Henry Louis Gates’s series “The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross.” We then had a mini-series on “Justice, Mercy, and Mass Incarceration,” exploring the documentary Thirteenth and parishioner Tom Barbour’s nonprofit, the Virginia Holistic Justice Initiative.
The final session for the year was tied to Advent, with a series based on Jan Richardson’s meditations on the season through creative writing, art, music, and community. Participants engaged in “lectio divina,” or sacred reading, and had thoughtful, vulnerable conversations sparked by Richardson’s questions.

Programming and scheduling for all of this was overseen by a new Faith Formation Ministry Team, which met throughout the year. August Butler had to step aside from leadership in order to focus on Senior Warden responsibilities, and the committee is seeking additional members both for planning and, God willing, hospitality and physical set up.

Children’s Chapel

We have come through another year of Children’s Chapel at St. John’s, and I am humbled and very thankful. Five and a half years ago, I agreed to take on leadership of this ministry for a school year, not realizing how we would grow over this time. Thanks to everyone for your support. This year has largely felt like the “already, but not yet” of the Kingdom of God: we are planting and tending seeds during this time of online meeting, trusting that God will grow these seeds into good fruit.

There has been opportunity in the midst of challenge! In the summer, we began using the Lesson Plans That Work curriculum, written by the Rev. Shannon Kelly. This allows me to send out a lesson each week so that parents and children can engage our Children’s Chapel subject on or offline. The curriculum is lectionary based, with fun activities, and has four sets of lessons for each lectionary year: two Old Testament tracks, one for younger students and one for older, and two New Testament tracks in the same vein. The best part of this curriculum is that it is free for us to use with attribution. I invite you to check it out: https://lessonplans.episcopalchurch.org/year-b/

Again, I am so thankful for your support. If you have any questions about Children’s Chapel, please feel free to email me at annelanewitt@me.com

Wednesday Evening Formation

Our weekly Wednesday evening Programming continues to offer opportunities for learning and spiritual formation. These evening programs have been a place of welcome and engagement for our newer comers and have led us all into deeper relationships with one another, and with God. Each week, we gathered for study/discussion at 7:00; for the first 3 months of the year, this was in person, and is now online via Zoom and followed by an optional service of Compline. Programs were generally facilitated by Amelie, with assistance from our deacon, David Curtis, and members of the congregation.

On Wednesday evenings during the seasons Epiphany, Eastertide, and the summer months, except for a six-week break for Lent and adjusting to online gathering, we discussed the letters of Paul with the guidance of Marcus Borg’s *Evolution of the Word*.

Like our Sunday Forum, this summer revealed to many of us the deep injustices that have never been healed in our country. August and September saw us take on *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church’s Complicity in Racism* by Jemar Tisby, a hard and rich discussion that included many newcomers to St. John’s. October and November engaged a Womanist perspective of Scripture through the book *Just a Sister Away* by Renita Weems.

Wednesday formation in Advent tied in with our Sunday Forum series on Jan Richardson’s meditations.

Lenten Series

Our Wednesday Evening Lenten series was intended to bring us together for a potluck meal each week at 6:00 p.m. followed by a discussion of videos produced by St. John’s and St. Peter’s exploring “Our Lives,
Our Legacies,” the shared and disparate stories of our congregations through the generations. We were able to conduct two meetings before church closures in mid-March but, while disappointing, this turned out to be a blessing as it has given us more time to lay necessary groundwork for this joint venture. The clergy of both churches have been working closely to prepare for the time when we can gather in person with St. Peter’s.

Inquirers/Confirmation Class

Our yearly Inquirers classes are intended for those interested in learning more about membership in the Episcopal Church and might be considering Confirmation, Reception or the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. This year’s 11 participants had the distinction of being our first ever virtual Inquirers’ class! These folks, from all ages and religious backgrounds, met through July and August and had such good conversations that they met for two extra sessions. While the Bishop’s scheduled visit in November was not able to occur, we welcomed our newest members in a special acknowledgement during our All Saints’ Day service and St. John’s Celebration coffee hour, and they will be officially confirmed or received in 2021.

Education for Ministry

This was the second year of our Education for Ministry (EfM) group at St. John’s. This four-year distance learning certificate program in theological education is based upon small-group study and practice and is designed for lay people to discover and nurture their call to Christian service. The group is mentored by Deacon David Curtis and began meeting again in September, adding two first-year members for a total of 9 participants. EfM is designed to incorporate group members of all four years of study, so anyone interested in beginning their study next fall should contact David Curtis.

Transformation and Recovery Group

In response to a desire to form a community of support for those who have experienced abuse or trauma, a small group was established in 2018 to companion members through the process of transformation. The group continued meeting every 4-6 weeks in 2020, at first in person and then online via Zoom. Commentaries on the Book of Ruth and other Spiritual writings guided their discussions. The group will continue meeting regularly during 2021 under the team leadership of Catherine Brown, with Amelie, the Rev. Deacon Peggy Newman, and members of the group taking turns as facilitators.

Shrine Mont

On October 23 and 24, the annual parish retreat took place not at Shrine Mont, as usual, but on Zoom. Amelie, David, and Jane Hunnicutt led the program, which was framed by the book To Bless the Space between Us, by John O'Donohue. Twelve members of St. John’s were in attendance, and the weekend included icebreakers, individual retreat time, and the sharing and discussion of blessings. The group was small but vibrant, enjoying good fellowship and powerful conversation together.

Faithfully Submitted,

August Butler, Faith Formation Vestry Liaison
The Rev. Amelie Wilmer, Rector
The Rev. Anne Lane Witt, Children’s Chaplain
Newcomer/Visitor Ministry

Composing an annual report for our Newcomers Ministry is a challenge in the time of COVID-19. Our church services proceeded as usual until mid-March, when the church buildings closed at the direction of the Diocese of Virginia, and services went to YouTube format or to Zoom.

Despite these limitations and closures, we were able to attract 18 newcomers (12 pledge units) this past year, several of whom participated in our Inquirer’s Class. An indirect way to account for newcomers who have continued to be part of St. John’s is to look at who has made first-time pledge commitments this year, and four of those newcomers, or 2 couples, made pledges.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan White, Vestry Liaison

Fellowship Ministry

January began, as it usually does at St. John’s, with plans for the year. Interested persons met on January 19 to sign up for Special Events during the year, and Coffee Hour sign-up sheets started to fill in. Mary Garner DeVoe organized the lovely Brown/Giannini wedding reception held on Jan. 4, and Liz Broda organized the Epiphany reception after the January 5 Epiphany service. Daryl Joslin Quackenbush got the bean in the King cake and therefore would make the Epiphany 2021 cake.

February brought the Chili Cook-Off contest, and Susan White/Bill Thornton won, much to their surprise. Pancake supper was delicious and well-attended. Two Lenten dinners took place in March. Parishioners signed up to cover all the Special Events for the remainder of 2020. And then…COVID happened.

In accordance with the Diocese of Virginia COVID guidelines, no in-person gatherings or Special Events took place in the remainder of the year. Coffee hours met via Zoom format, usually in combination with Sunday Forum. These online gatherings were a great way for us to share and stay connected, with attendance ranging from eight to 25.

Mary Garner DeVoe donated a number of fresh, new white floor-length tablecloths this fall, which will spruce up our tablescape when we are able to meet again.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan White, Ministry Team Leader and Vestry Liaison

Young Adults Ministry

The Young Adults got through 2020 together with many fun events and gatherings. We started the year off right with the annual Super Bowl party at the Broda house, which included a ridiculous amount of food and an equal amount of fellowship. Our monthly coffee hours continued to be successful, with an increasing number of folks contributing yummy dishes regularly. We were organizing to lead St. John’s role in staffing the kids area at the (unfortunately canceled) Church Hill Irish Festival, and were hoping to sneak in some visits to the bouncy houses after the children had all left. Once quarantined, the Young Adults organized game nights via the Zoom and Houseparty apps, and appreciated the time spent “together.” When COVID numbers were lower in the fall, the group gathered for a socially distanced outdoor event in David Curtis’s backyard, and August was able to demonstrate their impressive beanbag toss skills. With numbers back up in December, the Young Adult Christmas Party returned to the Zoom platform but replaced the annual White Elephant goofy gift exchange with a charity “exchange,” where all who attended left the party pledging $15 to a charity dear to the heart of another member of the group. We also said goodbye to some beloved members who moved away, but also welcomed many new faces into the fold. The Young Adults group will remain resilient and collaborative in 2021, and hopes it will be safe to return to those beloved events like the National Night Out ice cream social and outdoor movie nights.

Lovingly submitted,
Liz Broda, Young Adults Ministry Team Leader
Outreach

Our outreach ministries take the love and spirit of St. John’s beyond our gates, with a special focus on deepening relationships in our East End neighborhood. Thank you to the many parishioners who give so much of their time and talents to enrich our efforts.

This last year included many accomplishments in the face of unprecedented challenges for our community.

**First Fruits:** Thanks to your faithful donations of food, we far exceeded our goal of 4,000 pounds, and provided 6,731 pounds of food for Christ Ascension’s food pantry. Our participation has been vital to the existence of their program which, during the pandemic, has seen a great increase in the numbers of people who depend upon it. Since 2015, we have collected over 15,100 pounds.

Beginning in March, First Fruits collections were held on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Donations were collected outside with participants observing social distancing requirements. Though much different than our typical donations during the Eucharist, the Saturday mornings have been filled with fellowship in the beautiful surroundings of the church and parish house. We are grateful for all who donated and assisted with collections during those mornings and plan to continue during 2021.

In addition to these regular collections, the Outreach team was also able to purchase fresh fruits and bread for a porch pantry in the Eastview neighborhood, and contribute food and cleaning supplies to the sharing circles at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. Additionally, canned vegetables were donated for the Chimborazo Elementary school Thanksgiving boxes to students and families, that were distributed in place of their annual dinner at the school.

**Laundry Love:** The monthly program was held at Richmond Coin Laundry and provided laundry services to allow neighbors to repurpose their money for other vital needs, while also building relationships with all those that attended. At the end of 2019, new logistics were developed to allow for smoother operations. The new system was utilized in early March 2020, but unfortunately the program was unable to continue during the pandemic. Utilizing remaining laundry supplies and coins, members of the Outreach team were able to assemble laundry kits for 34 families in June 2020. These were distributed through Peter Paul Development Center.

**Bellevue School:** Our neighboring elementary school is dear to the hearts of St. John’s members, and we continue to offer support during this unprecedented year of virtual learning that also included a new school principal and repairs to their building! School supplies were collected during the August First Fruits collections, and then distributed through the school. Snacks for teachers were also donated later in the fall.

**RE:work Richmond:** This relatively new organization housed at St. Peter’s assists East End families who seek to improve their lives by increasing their skills and education, and by obtaining better employment. In addition to financial support, a number of our parishioners are involved in volunteer activities such as resume writing and interview preparation, and Amelie serves on the board. Several Re: Work program participants have started their own small businesses, and our parishioners have also been able to help with marketing and graphic design support.

**Financial Support:** Along with our volunteerism, St. John’s provides financial support for Peter Paul Development Center, ACTS, and RE:work. Through a special grant for youth outreach, we also provided funds to Anna Julia Cooper School and the Richmond Bobcats, a youth sports league located in Southside Richmond.

Many thanks to all who support these important ministries!

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Hauser & Patricia McNaught, Outreach Ministry Co-Chairs
Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Committee is a vital part of the St. John's community and we have continued the ministry of caring for members in need over the past year. The committee members provided a variety of services including sending notes, cards and flowers; running errands; and preparing meals for those experiencing illness, bereavement, or the birth of a child. Team members rotate each month as point person for pastoral concerns. In addition, a member also sends weekly bulletins and news to parishioners who cannot attend services or access them online but wish to stay in touch. Meal calendars were also set up for those needing longer term meal support. Through regular communications with our Rector and the parish office we keep abreast of those at St. John’s in need of care.

We held a meeting outside on a beautiful day in October, and reviewed our monthly assignments, team guidelines and challenges during this time of social distancing. Though small, this 10-member committee does a great deal for our parish. St. John’s is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group. We encourage anyone interested in joining this ministry to contact Barbara Bayler or Rita Driscoll for further information.

Faithfully submitted,
Rita Driscoll, Vestry Liaison for Pastoral Care

Care for Parish Administration

Care for Parish Administration is one of the vestry’s strategic goals. It is based on the recognized need to support and assist the rector and all other staff in their work and in their lives. A secondary area of focus is helping identify areas where processes or procedures can be improved and/or documented.

As with every other aspect of the church, COVID-19 dictated what was done in this area in 2020. The vestry supported staff working from home after the state of emergency was declared and ensured that staff had the proper tools to perform their jobs. Prerecorded services and Zoom meetings and programs required the rector and staff to change their previous routines and adopt new ones. The vestry supported using diocesan and National Cathedral worship services so that the rector and other staff could take their vacations but still ensuring that parishioners could worship together on Sunday.

The rector and staff have been amazing in keeping worship, programs, and the everyday business of the parish going this year. It was not a case of things just being done to get by but rather looking at different ways to provide meaningful spiritual growth and keeping the parishioners connected to St. John’s and to each other.

We all owe Amelie, Dorothy, David, Anne Lane, Jim and Patty a huge expression of gratitude for a job well done in very, very difficult circumstances. If you have the opportunity, please tell them how much they are appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Broughton, Junior Warden

Communications

The events and changes surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic surely underscore the importance of our ability to communicate.

The Vestry and Rector agreed that the committee’s main focus was to have a new St. John’s website built and launched. No other projects were to be considered until the website was complete. Our new site went live in early fall. It is a beautiful representation and communication of St John’s. Words are insufficient to describe the dedication and work done by the team of Bonnie Sampson, Amelie Wilmer, Patty Duffy, and me (al-
though all I did was keep us on a timeline). We were blessed beyond expectation with the work of Bonnie – her time and talent are treasured gifts.

Matters of the recording of worship were handled by Clergy and Staff, assisted by volunteers. We are grateful for the skill and thoughtful manner in which our worship has continued during this unprecedented time.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Garner DeVoe, Vestry Liaison

Property

The properties and grounds of St. John’s church were, sadly, mostly empty in 2020. However, we saw great contributions from across the membership and many notable accomplishments throughout the year. We are grateful for the tremendous amount of stewardship and participation the congregation has provided. We work closely with St. John’s Church Foundation and the St. John’s Endowment Fund on many projects. The Foundation is responsible for all the historic aspects of St. John’s and they operate the visitor center and reenactments. The Endowment’s main focus is the Parish House.

Property Workdays
We only had two Parish Work Days in 2020, instead of our usual four – one in March and one in October. A highlight for 2020 – we had no trees fall, which was a blessing! Most of the work by the property committee was focused on keeping the church grounds looking good: trimming ivy, weeding along Broad St and 24th St, and keeping the Parish House backyard looking good after all of the work we put in during 2019.

Maintenance Events in 2020
• Replaced the Parish Hall hot water heater.
• Worked with our cleaning contractor and lawncare service to reduce costs when everything shut down.
• Coordinated with St. John’s Foundation to have the bell repaired.
• Created a COVID-19 seating plan for when the Church is able to have limited indoor services.
• Coordinated with St. John’s Foundation during Project Redcoat – a major project to repair the Church foundation.
• Routine maintenance on our heating/AC systems and fire suppression system for the Church building.
• Coordinated with St. John’s Foundation during the Church phone line conversion to FIOS.
• Coordinated with St. John’s Foundation to have new termite control systems installed on all the Church buildings and termite treatment on the Parish House.
• The Endowment replaced the backyard fence for the Parish House, completing the clean-up from the fallen tree in 2019.

Property Committee
Normally, we meet every month or two to identify and work on property projects. Until things get back to normal we will meet via Zoom every 2 – 4 months. Church Members with an interest in working on property projects are welcome to be on the Committee. We need your help! Contact Amelie and she will get you connected!

Looking ahead to 2021
Major projects are on hold right now, but there are always plenty of things that need work: Church AC, Parish Hall AC, woodworking projects, plumbing leaks, gutter issues, possible remodeling of the Sacristy… The list is always full of opportunities!

Our membership and staff have always stepped up when needed to make this one of the most inviting places in the city. It is a privilege to care for this rare heritage and a blessing to have so many hands, and we remain grateful for the ongoing work of the Archives Committee and the Cemetery Committee.

Faithfully Submitted,
Marc Dixon and Joni McKeen, Vestry Liaisons
The Stewardship Committee includes Marshall Schutt, Jay Rosenstock and Sue Schutt, and was greatly helped at times with assistance from Barbara Bayler, Denise Ekey and Jane Hunnicutt this year. Our Rector, Amelie Wilmer and Parish Administrator, from Patty Duffy, offered helpful guidance and critical support, as well.

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign, with the theme “One Together,” encouraged each of us to examine how we, individually and as a congregation, have found ways to love, learn, serve, adapt and grow together despite this year’s unusual and challenging circumstances.

The campaign kicked off on Sunday, October 11, and concluded on November 1 with the virtual St. John’s Celebration on All Saints Sunday. In the interim weeks, we heard personal testimonies from select parishioners about what makes St. John’s special and meaningful to their lives.

The Stewardship Committee established an ambitious goal of $200,000 for 2021, which represents a small increase over our 2020 commitments. As of this writing, St. John’s has received a strong response, with pledges for 2021 totaling $189,632 from 65 households. This result is 95% of our target, and I remain hopeful that some pledges will still come in and move us even closer to our goal. In past years, we have received pledges from more than 80 households, our congregation remains vibrant and connected, and I believe it is likely that we will receive additional commitments during the month of January.

This strong support will enable us to continue to fulfill our growing ministries at St. John’s and in our community and to support our leadership and operations. Your gifts are especially important this year, as we expect to continue to experience some income shortfalls as a result of the pandemic and restrictions on in-person gatherings.

Several factors have contributed to the success of the stewardship campaign so far this year. First, many loyal and longtime parishioners pledged once again and this group of returning donors on average have increased their pledges by 12% over last year. This group of returning donors includes a large number that we first welcomed to St. John’s last year and who made first-time pledges in 2020.

Second, we have had several first-time pledgers respond with cumulative commitments totaling over $6,000. This is a wonderful expression of the positive growth that St. John’s is enjoying, especially during a year in which we were unable to meet physically for most of the year. I believe these strong financial accomplishments are a testament to the important role St. John’s plays in the lives of all of us, perhaps even more so during these unusual times.

I sincerely thank each one of you that have made a commitment to St. John’s this year. Your commitment is dearly important to our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Marshall Schutt, Chair

St. John’s annual revenue budget for 2021 is $487,918.36. The budget draws from a wide variety of sources: pledges and gifts in the plate; annual disbursements from the St. John’s Church Endowment Fund; payments from funds controlled by the Vestry but temporarily invested with the Endowment; payments from the St. John’s Church Foundation, which due to COVID has not been able to run their historical operations; and several smaller sources.
Both the church and St John’s Church Foundation have been greatly affected by COVID-19. The Foundation’s contribution has gone down from $49,341.96 (2019) to $34,028.90 (2020) to a 2021 budget of $24,000.

We were fortunate in 2020 to receive $40,000 in Payroll Protection funds to keep us operating during COVID. We are grateful for Lynn Anderson’s and Marshall Schutt’s hard work for making this happen.

In 2020, we received pledges from 86 families totaling $199,042. Going into 2021 we are at 65 pledges totaling $189,632 so far. We hope to see additional pledges trickle in.

Historically, approximately one-third of our budget goes toward building and grounds: maintenance, repairs, landscaping, utilities, property taxes, insurance, etc., for the Church and Parish House. Due to these expenses, we continue to draw on funds held by the Vestry. Their funds are invested with the Endowment, but the Vestry has the ability to use them at any time. The largest and most important is the Woodson Fund, which came to the church several years ago in a truly amazing bequest. We have used money from this fund to balance the budget. The Finance Committee and Vestry have worked very hard to limit how much of the Woodson Fund we use.

Since we have not been able to use the church during COVID, some of our expenses have been lowered—utilities, landscaping, and janitorial services—while other areas such as video streaming services required additional funding.

2020 ST. JOHN’S REVENUE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM:</th>
<th>AMOUNT:</th>
<th>% of REVENUE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pledges</td>
<td>$ 195,183.01</td>
<td>39.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plate Offering</td>
<td>$ 22,087.96</td>
<td>4.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carry Over</td>
<td>$ 18,892.00</td>
<td>3.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower/Bldg &amp; Maintance Gifts</td>
<td>$ 827.00</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy White Compensation</td>
<td>$ 9,913.40</td>
<td>2.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gifts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPP Loan</td>
<td>$ 40,000.00</td>
<td>8.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>$ 101,767.92</td>
<td>20.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Payment</td>
<td>$ 34,028.90</td>
<td>6.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vestry Funds</td>
<td>$ 55,269.00</td>
<td>11.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Weddings, etc.)</td>
<td>$ 10,477.72</td>
<td>2.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$ 488,616.91</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to increases in our pledge and plate income, our future depends on continued funding of the endowment, largely by including St. John’s in wills, and on the performance of our investments.

We pray for the growth of our church family, which is more challenging with social distancing. Growth is essential to our financial stability. We hope to continue welcoming new members and showing them the love of God that surrounds all of us in this church.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Streat, Treasurer
St. John’s Church Foundation

The restoration of our Meneely Bell is complete. The Verdin Company completed the project this summer, delayed by a few months due to COVID-19. We held an online bell ringing ceremony with sixteen-year-old Madeline Herring and her family. Madeline spearheaded the fundraising efforts. She was the President of the Virginia Chapter of the National Society of the Children of The American Revolution at the time of the project. Madeline helped the Foundation raise over $21,678. This funding paid for the bell repair and allowed for the addition of the toller. Funds raised above and beyond the project costs are now in a Meneely Bell fund and will cover the annual maintenance costs for 4 years.

Foundation volunteer Lee Ball continued to work on the Graveyard Identification project with Church archives volunteers, until COVID-19 inhibited his onsite efforts.

The Foundation continued the Ground Penetrating Radar project in the graveyard. Phase II took place in October, delayed by a few months by COVID-19.

Amy obtained updated costs for the termite monitoring system on campus and for parish house building, and coordinated installation for church campus buildings. The Sentricon termite system was selected because it does not inject chemicals into the ground and is the preferred method of protection by other National Historic Landmarks including the White House, the U.S. Capitol, the Statue of Liberty, Independence Hall, just to name a few.

Project Red Coat is 95% complete. The project entailed the following:
• Removed the red paint from the brick foundation
• Repaired and repointed the brick foundation
• Repaired one rotating brick piers which were undermining the brick foundation
• Repaired a rotten wooden sill under the original 1741 section of the church
• Repaired brick retaining walls in the basement

The brick foundation is 99% covered with its new permeable coating. Due to a moisture issue at one section, a moisture barrier was installed to dry out one section of the foundation. Once this section is completed dried out, it can be coated.

The Foundation installed a security camera system with 4 cameras on the church campus. They can be monitored 24/7 and we held a training session for the Foundation staff and church volunteers.

Director of Operations Sarah White worked with Verizon to get the church phone line for the security alarm reconnected several times and was able to move the account over to the church. She also worked with Verizon to get Wi-Fi installed in the church for streaming services and programs and to monitor the fire and burglar alarm systems.

Foundation onsite operations and events were cancelled from March until October. We re-opened on a limited basis on Saturdays in October and November when we debuted new graveyard-themed tours. We held our annual Fancy Me Mad event virtually this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Swartz, St. John’s Church Foundation
Closing Prayer and Benediction

Prayer for St. John’s Church

(Said in unison)

O God, creator of life and giver of gladness, let us be your Beacon on the Hill,
Shining your light so brightly that others may come to know you, to love, and to be loved.
Help us to reach out to those around us,
Bearing fruit through acts of kindness, welcome, and fellowship. Amen

Blessing

As we come to the end of our time together,
may all that we discussed serve as a catalyst for growth in ministry in all areas of our lives.
As we go out, may we remember we do not go alone.
As we go out, may we remember we go with a mission given by God
As we go out, may we be filled with love, hope, and peace to share,
so that our lives and our ministries may be a light to the world.

+ And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord
Response Thanks be to God!