

St. John's Episcopal Church, Henrico Parish

Annual Report 2018

Annual Congregational Meeting
January 20, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

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.

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The Parish Staff

The Rev. Amelie Wilmer, Rector
Patty Duffy, Parish Administrator
Jim Bennett, Minister of Music
The Rev. Anne Lane Witt, Children's Chaplain
Qiyamah Stephens, Nursery Attendant
The following bless us by serving without compensation:
The Rev. Dr. Lindon J. Eaves, Priest Associate
The Rev. William Pickering, Priest Associate
The Rev. Dr. Dorothy A. White, Priest Associate
The Rev. Deacon J. David Curtis, Deacon

The Vestry

Jane Hunnicutt, *Senior Warden*
Laura Streat, *Treasurer*

Horace Dowdy, *Junior Warden*
Rita Driscoll, *Register*

Class of 2018
Irvin Dallas
Rita Driscoll
Ryan Smith

Class of 2019
Horace Dowdy, *Jr. Warden*
Jamie Isaacs
Jane Hunnicutt, *Sr. Warden*

Class of 2020
August Butler
Marc Dixon
Susan White

St. John's Church Endowment Fund, Inc.

Paul Broughton, *Secretary*
Jane Hunnicutt
Susan White, *President*

Irvin Dallas
P. Maxwell

David Ekey
Tim Smith

2018 Diocesan Annual Convention Lay Delegates

Jane Hunnicutt, Delegate
August Butler, Alternate

St. John's Church Foundation

Jeffrey Gill, *President*
Samuel Baronian, *Vice President*
Sarah Whiting, *Executive Director*
The Rev. Amelie Wilmer
Anne Geddy Cross
Ashley McCune

Douglas D. Monroe, III, *Immediate Past President*
James Driscoll, *Treasurer*
John B. Werner, *Trustee Emeritus*
Lynn Anderson
Horace Dowdy
Ned Moore
Pamela Seay, *Secretary*
David Cottrell
Caroline Marvel
Christopher Peace
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)	411
Members in Good Standing	152
Active Visitors (see below*)	53
Inactive Members (see below)	259
<i>Increases in Membership</i>	21
By Baptism and Confirmation	8
By Reception	9
By Transfer in	4 (1 transfer also reaffirmed Baptism)
<i>Decreases in Membership</i>	4
By Death	1
By Transfer out	3 (2 inactive members)
<i>Net Increase in Membership</i>	17
Marriages	7
2016 Average Sunday Attendance	83*
2017 Average Sunday Attendance	90*
2018 Average Sunday Attendance	93

**Includes Christmas Eve and Christmas Day attendance numbers*

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.

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.

*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.

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."



Agenda

St. John's Episcopal Church, Henrico Parish
Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 20, 2019, 11:30 a.m.

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn, "Let it shine"

Determination of a Quorum

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Old Business

New Business

Election of New Vestry Members

Finance Ministry Report and Proposed 2019 Budget

Senior Warden's Report

Rector's Report

Ministry Team Reports and Presentations

Closing Prayer and Benediction

Adjournment



2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

St. John's Episcopal Church

January 21, 2018

Drew Lineberger, Senior Warden, announced that there was a quorum present, so he called the meeting to order. Amelie opened the meeting with a prayer, and Jim led us with a song, "This Little Light of Mine".

Drew called for a motion to approve the 2017 Annual meeting minutes, and they were approved. There being no Old Business, the meeting proceeded to New Business. The Vestry members were introduced. Drew asked for Sue and Barbara to step forward and recognized them with a huge thank you for devoted, meaningful service throughout the last three years. New Vestry nominations for three-year terms were August Butler, Marc Dixon, and Susan White. This slate of nominations for the class of 2020 Vestry was enthusiastically approved.

Lynn Anderson, chair of the Finance Committee, reported on the budget for 2018. Pledging units are up 9.5% to 69 pledges totaling \$157,249. We begin with a net zero budget and we are on a cash basis with funds from last year. Endowment grants have grown with a 5% increase since last year. \$84,268 is the amount that we are allowed to take from the endowment this year. The Foundation grant will contribute \$49,345. Vestry funds of \$65,574 to be used add to a total of \$451,357 total income. Expenses total to \$451,357. Zero Budget this year, and all is looking good. We should be able to fund all programs for 2018. Lynn thanked Amelie for all her contributions.

Drew presented the Senior Warden's Report. Highlights included goodbyes and hellos with first saying goodbye to Laura Inscoe. We were then blessed to say hello to Bill Pickering who stepped in as our Interim Supply Priest. Bill brought experience, grace, and humor and helped us approach our transition with courage and positive energy. During this time, Barbara worked diligently with the search committee including Paul Broughton, Irvin Dallas, Sue Schutt, and Sara Lineberger in order to find our new priest. God shined his light on this parish when we found Amelie on May 30th. We said goodbye to Karla Hunt, and she is now preparing to be ordained to the diaconate. We also enjoyed two music ministry leaders, first, Martha Burford and now, Jim Bennett. Attendance at St. John's is now going up at the rate of 11%. Drew welcomes our new Senior Warden, Jane Hunnicutt and new Junior Warden, Horace Dowdy.

The Priest-in-Charge report by Amelie began with her observation that we are shining like a beacon on the hill, and she is hearing so many comments by others that there is a warm, joyful spirit present here.

Amelie expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome she has received from the congregation and patience as she has learned names, and for trusting her with our stories and prayers, engaging in the search for a new Minister of Music, and developing relationships with the staff of the St. John's Church Foundation. She noted the new accomplishments for the year, including the Parish House renovation, worship service changes, and introduction of new services such as an Epiphany bonfire. Much has been done to review our ministries and look for new ways to invite people in. Most of our newer comers have already become part of our many ministries. We have prayed, worshiped, blessed animals, shared food, worked on the campus, and cared for our community and one another.

Another initiative has been to create a survey addressing needs and wishes of the parish when it comes to our Sunday morning worship. After prayerful consideration of the results, beginning on Lent 1, we will shift our early service to 8:15 a.m., begin Adult forum at 9:30, and begin the second service at 10:30 a.m. This will be a trial until Memorial Day weekend, and then we can reflect and revisit during the summer months. Also, we hope to experiment with a 5:30 p.m. contemplative service on Saturday or Sunday evenings, on a monthly basis. Amelie thanked our Deacon, David Curtis, for his relentless contributions. She also expressed gratitude for our talented and supportive associated clergy.

Together, we have creatively managed our challenges, said goodbye to two members, and welcomed five new babies. She is thankful for the opportunity to serve here at St. John's. Finally, a special thanks to Drew Lineberger for all his work, support, expertise, and contributions.

Amelie led us in saying the prayer for St. John's.

Dismissal and response was enthusiastically led by David and the members present.

An Annual Meeting business item that was overlooked on the agenda for January 21 was addressed via email with the congregation the week of January 26th:

There currently exists one seat on the vestry that was vacated in 2016; the term expires on December of 2018. Last year, Drew Lineberger filled this seat. This year, the vestry has nominated Rita Driscoll to complete the term, in accordance with Canon 11 of the Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese of Virginia.

An email vote was conducted with the congregation, and Rita was elected by a vote of 46 out of 46 responses, which exceeded the 10% quorum required.

Respectfully submitted,
Rita Driscoll, Register



Vestry Nominees

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

Paul Broughton

Paul has been an active member of St. John's since the mid-1980s and has previously been on the vestry, serving as both junior and senior warden. He is currently a Lay Eucharistic Minister, crucifer, acolyte and reader during worship services and also serves on the Endowment Fund. He was part of the search committee that brought Amelie to St. John's.

After 45 years with the Commonwealth of Virginia, Paul retired from the Department of Corrections in 2015; serving as the Human Resources Director the last 25 years. He is a graduate of the College of William and Mary.

Paul and his wife, Martha, have lived on Church Hill since 1972 and have one daughter, Rebecca.

What he likes most about St. John's: It is a big tent where everyone is welcomed, and there are numerous and varied ways to learn and practice our faith.

Rita Driscoll

After working in Chesterfield County schools, Rita and her husband Mark retired and moved to the Fan where they have enjoyed renovating their home and getting to know the new neighborhood. With two of their five grandchildren living nearby, they stay busy. Rita worked part-time with VCU, supervising student teachers and has enjoyed time in our local high schools. Also, being part of a working art studio has given her so many challenges and such joy, and she is a believer that it's never too late to find new directions.

Rita serves on the Altar Guild and is part of the Pastoral Care team. Rebuilding Richmond Together is one of her favorite outreach events, and she has been a team leader with the St. John's group for the past three years. Because she has never served a full term on the vestry, she is ready to begin that commitment now.

Marshall Schutt

Marshall was raised in the Presbyterian Church, and his parents are both examples of Christian service and steadfastness. His father, Ed, is a career church organist and choirmaster and currently serves at Westover Episcopal Church in Charles City. His mother, Sue, has always been an example of a faithful steward of her time and resources to the church. He and his wife, Katherine, sought a church community after their first child was born. They visited St. John's one morning just hoping their infant wouldn't cause too much of a stir during the service. This church's warm reception that day made it easy for them to return. Marshall was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 2013 and has previously led St. John's Stewardship Committee and served as an Endowment Trustee. Today St. John's is an important part of his family's life, and it continues to help him along in his own spiritual journey.

Marshall founded an investment management business, Schutt Capital Management, nearly 10 years ago, and previously worked at an investment banking firm. He and Katherine have two daughters, Evie (6) and Sawyer (3), and they live in Church Hill. He enjoys spending time with these three, exercising outdoors, and reading.



St. John's Church Endowment Fund

2018 Report

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: Paul Broughton, Irvin Dallas, David Ekey, Neill Goff, Jane Hunnicutt, Paul Maxwell, Tim Smith, and Susan White. At least three of the trustees must be members of the Vestry, and each trustee serves a three-year term. The terms expiring in 2019 are held by Irvin Dallas, David Ekey, and Tim Smith. 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 are 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 and ½ per cent of the average of the last 12 quarters.

In 2017, The Endowment approved to Fund \$186,427 to cover the cost of the renovation of the Parish House. Of this amount. \$120,478 was funded in 2017 and \$65,949 was funded in 2018.

The total of all the funds at the beginning of 2018 was \$3,920,684, and at the end of the 2018, the total was \$3,461,555.35. The Endowment also owns the Parish House which has a value of approximately \$578,000.

Respectively submitted,

Paul Broughton, Secretary



Rectors' Report

What an honor it has been to serve as your Priest-in-Charge, and now as your Rector. Over this past year, I have been greatly blessed by the deepening of my relationship with our congregation, and in the new relationships that have been developed among us as visitors become regular worshipers and then full participants in our ministries. I have learned much from you and have grown with you. I cannot imagine life without the dear people of St. John's who are now my church family.

I am told over and over again that the joy that is felt in our congregation is palpable. There is a Spirit in this place, they say. This is something that is expressed by those who visit us from out of town, but it is also something our longtime members say freely. The truth is, joy is something you cannot fake; either it is there, or it is not; it must be authentic. At this stage of my life and vocation, I'm not sure I could do ministry in any other kind of environment or in any other kind of way, so I thank you for this incredible opportunity. I hope you have some idea what a gift this is.

Among the greatest blessings of our congregation is our ability to offer welcome and hospitality, a blessing that changes lives. This happens, not only during our Sunday coffee hour, but any time we gather to support one another in gain and loss, in joy and in sorrow – whether it is a baptism, a visit from our bishop, a farewell event for a departing parishioner, or the memorial service of a beloved member whom we have lost. All of this reminds me of a statement I heard many years ago: "Sometimes we are astonished when we learn that although we did not actually 'do' anything for a certain individual, our simply being present or showing up allowed something to shift in his or her inner landscape that made space for deeper transformation. Sometimes we discover that in simply being present to one another that we experience the Divine in them that awakens the Divine in ourselves."

As I said last year, one of my guiding principles as your pastor is to support each of you in becoming more fully who you were created to be and, in turn, supporting the ministries of the congregation in reaching their full potential. This means that things will change! I have greatly appreciated your openness to new ideas and opportunities, which has carried over into my work with our vestry, ministry teams, staff, and associated clergy as we have explored creative ways to energize and engage our existing and new members. Nearly everyone who has come to us this year has become an active participant in one or more of our faith formation, outreach, fellowship, worship, music, or young adults' ministries. Our Inquirer's class was the largest in years, with 16 participants.

This collaborative work has resulted in continued expansion, variety, and participation in our regular Wednesday evening programming; a more integrative and thematic approach to our Sunday Forum; the introduction of new services such as the Epiphany Bonfire and Service of Light, new Holy Week liturgies, Summer Saturday Evening Contemplative Services, and Vigils for social justice. The initiation of our first Great Vigil of Easter, the central baptismal liturgy of the Church, was among our greatest accomplishments. This service was embraced and embodied beautifully by our choir, servers, clergy, and the members and friends of St. John's who participated. It was holy, joyful, and life-giving; and I hope it is here with us to stay! I cannot say how grateful I am to our Minister of Music, Jim Bennett for all he did to help create this service, and all he continues to do to bring creativity, joy, and reverence to our worship, our fellowship, and our faith formation programming.

This summer, we were gifted with the presence of Sarah Kye Price, who served her Mid-Atlantic placement here as a Seminarian Intern. Sarah offered her gifts through preaching, liturgical planning, support of our outreach discernment process, and in facilitating a four-week book study: "Stranger God: Finding Jesus in disguise." Sarah has made a home in each of our hearts, and we are eager to invite her back to assist in our ministries as her bi-vocational priesthood develops.

Another initiative I have been honored to encourage and support has been the discernment of our call as a congregation to outreach in the Richmond community. I am grateful to David Curtis and the outreach team for their organization of two presentations this past summer on the ECS (now RE: Work Richmond) and Circles RVA programs. Each was remarkably well attended by our members and friends of St. John's and the thoughtful discernment process has led us into deeper individual relationships with both organizations, and a congregational commitment to support the Re:Work Richmond program being launched at St. Peter's. Since that time, two Asset Mapping workshops have been conducted to discern the gifts we can offer, and I have accepted a position on the RE:Work Richmond board. We are now in the process of compiling the results of our Asset Mapping workshops and will begin mobilizing congregational participation once the program is launched in February.

I am also grateful for the completion of the renovation of our Parish House offices in February of 2018, which has significantly enhanced the working environment for our staff, our Parish Archives, the St. John's Church Foundation, and our tenant, James River Writers. Along with this major change in our work space, we continue the process of working with Patty Duffy, our dedicated Parish Administrator, to improve the functionality for our existing administrative processes, including communications, record-keeping, scheduling, finance, maintenance of office equipment and supplies, and other support functions. I continue to maintain a positive and productive relationship with Sarah Whiting, the Executive Director of St. John's Church Foundation, and her capable staff. We regularly explore ways to build upon our shared mission and vision, including outreach efforts in the community, improvements to the church, and sharing of best practices for stewardship, communications, and community building.

The Associated Clergy at St. John's are among our richest blessings, and it is an honor to work with the Revs. Dorothy White, Bill Pickering, and Lindon Eaves as they offer to preach, preside at worship, assist with Adult Forum, and provide their wise counsel. The contributions of our deacon, the Rev. Deacon David Curtis, are invaluable, from assisting with weekly worship and preaching, to orchestrating our outreach efforts, engaging in social justice activities, participating in our faith formation and fellowship activities, caring for our members, sending us out "to love and serve Lord," and making us laugh.

Above all, my greatest joy has been to get to know, love, and walk alongside you, wrestle with the challenges, embrace the blessings, laugh, shed tears, problem solve, and create. Together we laid to rest two beloved parishioners and a dear family member and welcomed five of our youngest and two adults into the household of God through the waters of baptism. We gave thanks for the diaconal ordination of our beloved parishioner, Karla Hunt, and for the ministry of our Summer Intern, Sarah Price, who was also ordained. We stood in celebration with Bishop Jones as we 15 new members were Confirmed, Received or Re-Affirmed. Our list of newcomers grows daily, and our Sunday attendance has increased 20% over the past two years. We enter 2019 full of new life, hope and vision, ready to roll up our sleeves to create the resources necessary for a growing congregation. This is an exciting time for St. John's. Thank you for this opportunity to be your rector, your priest and your friend.

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Amelie A. Wilmer
Rector, St. John's Church



Senior Warden's Report

What an amazing year at St. John's! We began the year unveiling our newly renovated Parish House. Throughout the year, we've welcomed numerous new parishioners, shared our thoughts in faith formation, accelerated our outreach in the community, and worshipped together with vibrant, meaningful services. All this, while continuing to discern how to continue to grow, to thrive, and to serve in the future.

As we embrace new opportunities, I realize our great strength remains in our faithful fellowship and shared desire to support one another. And supporting one another, newcomer, visitor, or long-time member, St. John's is truly a welcoming and nourishing community.

I have deep appreciation for Amelie's tremendous dedication and leadership. She is always there for us, faithfully and skillfully providing the guidance our church needs to thrive. We're blessed also to have beautiful, impactful music, thanks to Jim Bennett and our choir.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Senior Warden. I'm especially grateful to have had the opportunity to witness firsthand the thousands of ways you, our church family, give so freely in talent, time, service, treasure, and presence. We're blessed to have one another!

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Hunnicutt, Senior Warden



Deacon's Report

Grace and peace be with you this day and for all of 2019! I am still humbled and grateful for the opportunity to serve and to be a part of this caring community of faithful and faith-filled people. Over and over again, I have seen the Kingdom of God come about through your efforts, your love, and your actions. 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 us in servant ministry and in leading the church beyond its walls to the world around us. I hope my ministry here is allowing us all to hear those needs, concerns, and hopes more clearly and, once we hear those voices, we respond by living into the “I will, with God’s help” part of our Baptismal Covenant.

2018 was a time of transition and change for outreach. August Butler assumed leadership and led the Outreach team faithfully and creatively as we met to discuss our mission and our lives together. This summer, a small group met to discuss outreach at St. John’s. Between that small group and conversations in our larger group, we have moved more towards relational ministries. Instead of sending funds to an organization only, we want to build relationships of presence, of self, of love, in addition to our financial contributions. We continue to discern how God is calling us to relationship.

This year, I worked with our community to discern working with non-profits that assist people to achieve financial and employment goals. These ministries are aimed at moving people from where they are now on the economic ladder to reach their goals. We heard from Circles RVA and from Episcopal Community Services (now, Re: Work Richmond). After hearing from both, we discerned a call to work more closely with Re: Work Richmond. We followed up by hosting two asset mapping sessions; both were well attended and productive.

While there was change, we also had consistency. Laundry Love RVA, now fully led by St. John’s, had an amazing year. We served 574 people, washed 1,219 loads of laundry, and dried 1,258 dryer loads. In the midst of all of the laundry, we are building relationship and community.

Additionally, our First Fruits ministry collected an amazing 2,119 lbs of food in 2018. This is an increase of 604 lbs, or a 40% increase, over 2017. Our goal for 2019 is 3,000 lbs. If you have not yet done so, I encourage you to consider joining the \$5 Club. The \$5 Club is simple: pledge to yourself that you will spend \$5 every month to help feed those in need.

I continue to stand for the Gospel in the public square. I marched with our bishop and other clergy at the Richmond March for Our Lives rally in April 2018. I led a group from St. John’s to stand in solidarity with families that had been separated while attempting to cross the border. I stood with survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School shooting in front of the NRA. I sat with The Rev. Dr. Dorothy White in Charlottesville, as we attended a service of healing a year after the tragic events there in 2017. Members of St. John’s and I stood with our Jewish brothers and sisters after the killings at Tree of Life Congregation. And, I led a group of St. John’s members to worship with our Jewish brothers and sisters at Temple Beth-El as a sign of unity and support.

In the larger diocese of the church, I worked with the Community of Deacons to build community and ministry. I organized meetings of the deacons for a place for us to support one another in our various calls and ministries. I attended the Annual Convention this year and organized the Community of Deacons Tuna collection. I attend the Central Richmond Region meetings to support our regional community.

I am grateful for the support and love that you have provided me this year. 2018 was a year of personal transition, change, and loss. I said goodbye to two very close friends who died too early. I also presided at the funeral of a friend’s spouse who also died too early. But throughout all these changes, St. John’s continues to support me and to welcome me into greater community. Thank you for all the support you have given me this year.

I am also very grateful for Amelie's support of my ministry at St. John's. She continues to invite me to participate fully as the deacon of this community. She provides opportunities at St. John's for me and other clergy to preach, to teach, to share, and to be part of this community. I am so very grateful for her presence and her leadership, and I look forward to working with her to support this community in 2019.

I look forward to working alongside you all as we find and provide hope, as we change the world in small ways and in large ways, and as we bring about the Kingdom of God.

God's peace,

The Rev. Deacon David Curtis



Ministry Reports

Worship Ministries

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

As you often hear 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 anyone and everyone. In addition to our regular Sunday services, special ministry highlights included:

- ❖ First Annual Epiphany Bonfire and Service of Light
- ❖ Jazz Eucharist and Jazz Vespers Service with the Deanna Witkowski Trio
- ❖ Two Ash Wednesday Services with imposition of ashes;
- ❖ “Ashes to Go” in the community.
- ❖ Palm Sunday, Blessing and Procession of the Palms, and Passion Narrative
- ❖ Maundy Thursday Holy Eucharist
- ❖ Good Friday Stations of the Cross and Evening Good Friday liturgy
- ❖ Our first Great Vigil of Easter at St. John’s
- ❖ Easter Day Eucharists with Holy Baptism
- ❖ Pentecost Festival Eucharist
- ❖ Community Hymn Sing, “Songs from around the World,” sponsored by our Choir
- ❖ Summer “Second Saturday” Evening Contemplative Eucharists
- ❖ Evening Prayer Vigil for the March for Our Lives initiative
- ❖ Shrine Mont Parish Retreat Eucharist
- ❖ Blessing of the Animals for the community with song and fellowship
- ❖ All Saints Day Eucharist with Rite of Holy Baptism and Prayers for the Departed
- ❖ Bishop’s Visitation with Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation
- ❖ Thanksgiving Day Eucharist
- ❖ Church Hill Advent Vespers Service with St. John’s Choir and Bellevue Elementary Chorus
- ❖ Advent 4 Eucharist and Thanksgiving for the Birth of Child
- ❖ Christmas Eve Family Service and Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist
- ❖ Six baptisms, three funerals, and six weddings (two offsite)

In 2018, St. John’s introduced two new services: An Epiphany Bonfire and service of light, and The Great Vigil of Easter. We also enriched our Holy Week services for fuller expression of the rich liturgical resources available in the Anglican Tradition. Each of these changes added meaning, depth and beauty to our existing liturgies and greater opportunities for congregational participation. During the summer, we updated all of our training and procedures manuals for those who serve in worship at St. John’s to unify our customs and incorporate changes to help our service flow more smoothly. We held training sessions for our Ushers, Acolytes, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers in August, and welcomed over 10 new participants into this ministry. This year, we will hold periodic trainings for new servers and lay readers, and an added training for Eucharistic Visitors.

Participation in one or more of our worship ministries is life-giving way to serve our community and nurture your relationship with God. The Worship Team, consisting of the Rector, Deacon, 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

(Lisa Wood, Ministry Team Leader)

The Altar Guild is responsible for maintaining all supplies necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist and other services conducted in the church. Lisa Wood, Team Leader, prepares the schedule for four teams, plans meetings, communicates with members, works with our rector to update the Altar Guild Manual, and prepares orders for supplies as needed.

The 13 members of Altar Guild have regularly assigned weeks for their duties. Some examples of work done by Altar Guild are: setting the altar for all services and cleaning up afterwards; ordering and arranging flowers for Sunday services, weddings and funerals; preparing for baptisms, weddings and funerals; cleaning and ironing altar linens; maintaining liturgical hangings; decorating the church for Christmas and Easter; and polishing the silver and brass. This ministry brings order and beauty to all the services at St. John's.

Our manual is treated as a living document, and updates are made according to changes in procedures. The team met this year in advance of Holy Week to review liturgical customs and prepare for new services that were added. This year St. John's invested in liquid candles to light our worship experience. They don't drip, don't smoke, don't change size and therefore, don't require replacing. As a group we purchased a pair of new brass torches, which use liquid candles. This is our gift to St John's.

This report would not be complete without mentioning our gratitude to those without whose help St. John's would not look so beautiful at the great celebrations of Christmas and Easter. Thank you to Horace Dowdy, Pattie Tobler, Reeves McCune, John King, Joni McKeen, Jim Carpenter, Patricia McNaught, and all those who offered their helping hands. Thank you to Andy Pillsbury for refinishing the bench used for displaying plants at Christmas and Easter and for re-gluing a very wobbly table. We are especially grateful to David Curtis, who always shows up and fills in where needed, purchases our communion wine and hauls it up to the sacristy. A host of other decorating elves also showed up with helping hands to help decorate the church this past December. Bravo!

We still pray for a sorely needed renovation of the sacristy.



Choir and Music

(Jim Bennett, Minister of Music; Horace Dowdy, Vestry Liaison)

St. John's music ministry encompasses the choir and instrumentalists in our weekly worship, and various programs offered to our congregation and the Richmond community. The choir sings during weekly and special services, offering a variety of music styles from traditional to contemporary. The choir practices on Thursday evenings and just before the Sunday morning service. Special musical ability is not required in order to participate; interested singers and instrumentalists are welcome to be in touch with Jim Bennett. In addition to singing and making music, we include time regularly for fellowship and prayer. 2018 was a year of continued growth in the music ministry. To kick off the new program year in the fall, the choir met at Richmond Hill for a Saturday retreat. We sang through some of our upcoming anthems, enjoyed the beauty of the chapel and grounds, joined in noon prayers with the residents and community, and shared a delicious meal.

After he accepted a job in Washington, DC, we bid a farewell to our beloved Tevin Ware. We also welcomed a few new people, including DeVonté Saunders and Raymond Elmore, who support our tenor and bass sections, respectively. Soprano Emma-Claire Polich, who previously sang with us, returned for a few months. We're currently looking for someone to fill her position.

We continue to present a variety of musical formats and styles, adding instrumentation when appropriate, and welcoming special guests who have joined for our regular worship cycle. In January we were joined by the NYC-based Deanna Witkowski trio. Deanna presented at the Adult Forum, and with her trio, led our Sunday morning worship and later a Jazz Vespers. This was an excellent opportunity to welcome visitors from the surrounding community.

Other music offerings included “Hymns from around the World” in June, music for our Summer Saturday Contemplative services, and a concert with Drew Willson in September. A musical component has also been added to some of the Wednesday evening programming, including Lent Suppers and book studies. Song and guitar accompaniment have added a joyful dimension to our annual Blessing of the Animals. The choir sang during Holy Week services and for the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. This year, we were delighted to welcome the Bellevue Elementary School Chorus to sing during the December Church Hill Vespers; plans are in the works for them to be with us again this May.

We continue to believe that improving the quality of our musical instruments is essential to our efforts to expand and grow the music ministry. The current digital piano needs to be replaced with a real (acoustic) piano. Over several months in 2018, we had the opportunity to work with organ expert David Storey concerning the need for a replacement for our current 1905 Stein tracker organ. We had the opportunity to listen and play a slightly older but fully restored Johnson & Son tracker organ in Baltimore; Mr. Storey has recommended this to us as a good option. A capital campaign to collect the remaining funds is needed to purchase and install the Johnson & Son organ and a piano.

Improving and upgrading the sound system in our sanctuary is something that the music ministry supports and needs. Well-placed microphones, along with an updated amplifier and speakers, will allow the congregation to better hear the words spoken and the music offered. Research and discussion to this end happened over the past year; plans are underway for improvements to be made in 2019.



Servers

Lay Readers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers/Visitors – Our Lay Readers read the lessons and lead prayers at each service. 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 the LEMs and the LEVs are licensed by the Diocese of Virginia. In 2018, we updated our LEM Manual and held a training for participants in August. Continued training for an LEM training for these ministries is scheduled throughout the year, and 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.

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 during communion to the altar rail in an organized fashion, help with receiving the offering, and making sure attendees have bulletins and prayer books. Usher training was held in August and continues throughout the year.

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.

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 year, we added a new prayer leader to serve during our 11:00 a.m. service. If you are interested in participating or feel called to be a prayer leader, please contact Carolyn Dallas at ccdallas@yahoo.com



Weddings

(Lynn Anderson, Wedding Coordinator)

One of the great gifts of our Historic church is its appropriateness for the Blessing of a Marriage. Many of our members were married at St. John’s, and it was through that sacred encounter that they chose our congregation as their church home. In 2018, four weddings were held at St. John’s, and two of these couples were received into the Episcopal Church as full members of St. John’s during our Bishop’s visit. In addition, Amelie presided at two weddings held in off-site locations. Amelie is now in the process of preparing four new couples for weddings in 2019. 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.

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, worshiping, 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 Adult 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, and recovery/transformation groups.



Adult Forum

This year’s Adult Forum, or Sunday Forum, met throughout the year for seven different series 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. As usual, meetings took place in the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings between the 8:15 and 10:30 worship services. Attendance increased slightly over last year, averaging just over a dozen each week, mostly members of the congregation, but also including members of the community.

The year began with a series on “Epiphany: Seeing God in a Different Light,” featuring sessions on storytelling and spirituality (facilitated by Rachel Pater), Islam (facilitated by Imam Greg Abdus Salaam), art (facilitated by Sarah Masters), and music (featuring Deanna Witkowski as part of her jazz liturgy visit).

To prepare for the next series in February, titled the “Lenten Journey: Then and Now,” Amelie offered a session on the rite of Reconciliation. The Lenten series took up the lectionary Gospel reading each week for more in-depth discussion. Sessions followed from the Rev. Dorothy White on “The Wilderness” (Mark 1:9-15); the Rev. Bill Pickering on “Take up your Cross” (Mark 8:31-38); Denise Bennett on “Wholly Present to the Holy Presence” (John 2:13-22); the Rev. David Curtis on “What does it mean to be saved” (John 3:14-21); and David Curtis, August Butler, and Bill Thornton on “Losing your life to find it” (John 12:20-33).

In April, we heard a series on “The Emergent Church: Schools of Love?” kicked off by two sessions from Amelie to ground the series in the writings of Brian McLaren, one of today’s leading speakers in the emergent church movement. Discussions in subsequent sessions were led by the Rev. Bill Pickering and Denise Bennett.

The month of May closed out our program for the season with a three-week series titled “On the Way with God’s Pentecost People: Exploring the Acts of the Apostles.” All three sessions were led by Dr. John Carroll.

After the summer break, the Forum resumed in September with a series on “New Voices from Old Places: Emerging Christian Leaders.” Sessions included investigations of Bishop Michael Curry, Bishop Carlton Pearson, and the Rev. Richard Rohr, facilitated by Sarah Kye Price, Dorothy, and Amelie, respectively. In October, Amelie led a session on the Blessing and Spirituality of Animals in time for St. Francis Day. In the latter part of that month, we hosted a series on “Faith and Advocacy,” with sessions led by parishioner Bud Oakey and a panel including Bud, Maureen Matsen, and David Curtis. November brought us a series on “Prayer from Different Angles,” as the Rev. Janet Legro led a session on the Contemplative Tradition, followed up by a subsequent session on that topic led by Don Alexander. Rounding out that series was Andrea Bleck-Smith’s session on Yoga and Bodily Prayer. The final session for the year was tied to Advent and the lectionary, with a series on “Songs in Waiting” the Canticles of Luke. Throughout December, we heard from Amelie on the Song of Zechariah, Dorothy on the Song of Mary, Amelie on the Gloria, and Denise Bennett (complete with harp) on the Song of Simeon.

Programming, scheduling, and hospitality for all of this was overseen by an Adult Forum committee, which met throughout the year. The committee is still seeking lay leadership for this ministry. In the meantime, the Rev. Amelie Wilmer has continued to spearhead it.



Children’s Chapel

Our preschool and school-age children continue to be guided by the Rev. Anne Lane Witt each Sunday at the Children’s Chapel during the first half of worship. The gatherings were sometimes small but sometimes very large, with up to eleven children! Anne Lane took advantage of snacks and the outdoors to keep the energy flowing while she offered programming tied to the lectionary during Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Advent, and more. She has been able to adapt her programming to the variety of needs and ages of the children who attend. One highlight was the making of a gingerbread house during Advent for the theme of “preparation.”

Anne Lane also coordinated our annual Easter Egg hunt in April, which was a success, and she assisted with the children who participated in the Christmas Eve nativity story (a highlight of our Christmas services!).

We are thankful for all the many ways the St. John’s community has supported the formation of our younger members—the donation of materials and snacks and bringing our members among them. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Anne Lane at annelanewitt@me.com or drop by to hang out one Sunday.

For our youngest children, Qiyamah Stephens continued serving faithfully as a loving nursery attendant.



Wednesday Evening Formation

Our weekly Wednesday evening Programming continues to grow in participation and breadth of opportunities for learning and spiritual formation. During the year, over 50 members of St. John's attended at least one or more of our weeknight programs. 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 supper at 6:30 and study/discussion at 7:00, and in December, Centering Prayer was added to the evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Programs were generally facilitated by Amelie, with assistance from our Deacon, David Curtis, our Seminarian Intern, Sarah Price, the Rev. Janet Legro, and members of the congregation.

We began the year with a study of the Book of Mark, to correspond with our gospel readings for Year B. After a break for our Lent Program, we resumed our discussion of book of Mark through the spring. During the summer, we shifted to the Old Testament with a brief study of book of Habakkuk, and then welcomed Sarah Kye Price in leading a four-week discussion of *Stranger God: Meeting Jesus in Disguise* by Richard Beck. Sarah's choice was a perfect fit for St. John's with 15-20 attending each week. Jim Bennett added a musical dimension by leading us in songs related to our topic at the beginning of each session.

Our Summer formation concluded with two presentations on opportunities for outreach ministry: Episcopal Community Services (ECS) and Circles RVA. These presentations were very well attended, and concluded with time for reflection, prayer, and discernment.

Wednesday formation in the fall began with a three-week study of the Book of James, followed by a five-week study of the book *Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error* by Kathryn Schulz. This was another very well attended series, including members of the congregation who had not previously attended Weeknight programs. Our fall program concluded with a second Asset Mapping Workshop, facilitated by David Curtis and Amelie.



Lenten Series

During our Wednesday Evening Lenten series, we gathered each week for a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by a discussion facilitated by our clergy, lay leaders, and talented friends of St. John's. Together, we explored the five questions that are central to our baptismal covenant and our identity as followers of Jesus. We also learned more about the origins of Lent and Holy Week in the early church as a time of preparation for baptisms that took place at the Great Vigil of Easter, and asked ourselves, "What does this preparation mean for us, today?" As we answered these questions, we became more prepared for our "first" Easter Vigil at St. Johns. Facilitators included the Rev. the Bill Pickering, the Rev. David Curtis, the Rev. Amelie Wilmer, Denise Bennett, and Rachel Pater. Each session began with an opening hymn led by Jim Bennett and ended with Compline.



Inquirer's/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 class was one of our largest, with 16 participants from all ages, stages, and religious backgrounds, including 8 young adults, two mothers with their teens, and a few "over 50s". The class met for seven sessions, culminating with our visitation from Bishops Jones on November 11, 2018. Of the participants, five were confirmed, nine were received, and one reaffirmed her baptismal covenant. In addition, two children of parents being confirmed or received were baptized.



Survivors Recovery/Transformation Group

In response to a growing recognition of the need for support for those recovering from abuse or trauma, a small group was established to companion members through the process of transformation. The group began meeting in October and selected the book *How then Shall We Live?* by Wayne Muller to guide their discussions. Amelie and Rev. Peggy Newman are the current facilitators. After the group completes this initial series, it will discern the next steps for opening the program to wider participation.



Shrine Mont

On October 19-21, the annual parish retreat took place at Shrine Mont. Jane Hunnicutt and The Rev. David Curtis led the programs there. Sixteen members and friends of St. John's were in attendance, and the weekend included icebreakers, devotionals, a program on "Sabbath", hikes, a labyrinth walk, porch time, and worship at the Cathedral on Sunday morning with Church of the Good Shepherd, Md. and the congregation of the National Cathedral. This was our first experience with a fall retreat, which is a busy time of year at Shrine Mont and quite a bit cooler, but clearly a better weekend for us than Labor Day. The only conflict, going forward is our Laundry Love ministry on the third Sunday of the month. We will attempt to secure another October weekend at Shrine Mont, but it is likely that this will be the only option available to us in the foreseeable future, given the long-term nature of Shrine Mont weekend assignments.

Faithfully Submitted,

Ryan Smith, Faith formation Vestry Liaison

The Rev. Amelie Wilmer, Rector

The Rev. Ann Lane Witt, Children's Chaplain



Newcomer/Visitor Ministry

During 2018 this ministry has worked closely with Rector, Amelie Wilmer and Susan White, vestry liaison, to insure anyone new or visiting St. John's Church is welcomed to the church. After each worship service at St. John's greeters and or ushers submit names to Patty Duffy from the pew cards or names gathered on the greeter registry.

Amelie personally writes an email to each newcomer/visitor within the week, and in 2018 this email was followed up by Susan White every couple or three months with another email inviting them to upcoming events. Many of our Newcomer/Visitors have expressed interest in more information about St. John's, and Amelie works with each to translate this into membership.

Newcomer/visitor Attendance at St. John's increased in 2018 with more than 65 visitors this year who have joined our mailing list and who have continued attending. Over 30 of our newcomers have already become engaged in ministries at St. John's, including Altar Guild, Weekly Faith formation, Shrine Mont, Inquirer's Class, Outreach, Choir, Serving in Worship, Young Adults ministry, Hospitality, Special Events, and Parish Work Days.

We are fortunate at St. John's that our parishioners present a welcoming environment with a committed parish membership that invites the seeker, welcomes the guest, and guides the newcomer into a friendly parish with opportunities to serve and share.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue H. Schutt, Chair

Susan White, Vestry Liaison



Fellowship Ministry

It has been my privilege to serve as the Chair of Fellowship Ministry for the past three years.

Over the past year, I have observed that through this vital ministry of hospitality, members of our church family, newcomers, and visitors are attending more coffee hours and church events to spend time with people who enjoy being together for worship and service.

The function of Fellowship includes: stocking and cleaning the kitchen; washing linens; overseeing 52 coffee hours; preparing for special events (receptions, Region dinners, etc.); preparing for the annual church celebration in November in connection with Stewardship and Bishop's visitations; preparing the Stars and Stripes Picnic in July; preparing the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper in February; preparing the Homecoming event in September; and facilitating the Lenten Dinners. All of these duties were performed with the help of Vestry members and volunteers from the congregation who assisted me. This year, we divided weekly coffee hour duties among ministry teams, with members of each team collaborating to host coffee hours on a rotating basis. This has been a great step toward sharing this important ministry, and we hope this pattern can continue.

Recently I have worked with Amelie and Susan White to provide a smooth transition, as I am resigning this ministry as of Shrove Tuesday this year; Susan White will oversee Fellowship. A planning meeting with existing and new participants in the fellowship ministry has been planned for Feb. 3. We three are confident of parishioner support and participation in this vital ministry of hospitality.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue H. Schutt, Chair, Fellowship
Susan White, Vestry Liaison



Young Adults Ministry

In 2018 the Young Adult Group has continued its mission to provide another level of community spirit for the young adult congregants of St. John's and to encourage the participation of young adults in service to the community and spiritual growth. We are currently seeking a new Ministry Team leader for this ministry, or a team of leaders, and welcome your interest.

This year we held a variety of events monthly that were either social, informative, or service oriented:

January:	Epiphany Bonfire, Service of Light, and Reception; a first for St. John's.
February:	Super Bowl Party at the home of Mike and Liz Broda; bring on the chili!
March:	Dinner and Conversation with Amelie about our images of God.
April:	St. John's Rebuilding Richmond project
May:	Parish Work Day
August:	National Night Out giving away free ice cream to our neighbors
September:	Cook out at the home of Heather Jones and Michael Nesossis
October:	Parish Work Day
December:	Holiday party with White Elephant gift exchange; bring on the mayhem!

Faithfully Submitted,

The Young Adults Ministry Team



Outreach

Following an aim to be more intentional with our mission and relationships in our own neighborhood, the Outreach team refocused St. John's efforts in 2018 and saw deepening relationships with Church Hill neighbors and organizations.

Your outreach accomplishments in 2018 included:

1. **Bellevue Elementary School:** We continue to expand and strengthen our relationship with Bellevue. In spring 2018, we made approximately 60 lunches for students and teachers of the Saturday Academy held at Bellevue, which provides additional tutoring and support to students in preparation for standardized testing. In July and August, we collected school supplies. In the fall, we continued providing protein-rich snacks for the teachers at Bellevue, as well as preparing small gifts for Teacher Appreciation Week in April. We also invited Bellevue Elementary's Music Department to partner with us for our annual Church Hill Vespers Service; Carolyn Dallas and Jim Bennett both worked with Bellevue to arrange student participation, which included a meal for families before the service. Carolyn Dallas maintains Bellevue's clothes closet and volunteers at Bellevue (and was recognized in April as Volunteer of the Year). Please contact Carolyn if you are interested in volunteering, tutoring, or assisting at Bellevue.
2. **Laundry Love:** 2018 marked the fourth year of Laundry Love RVA. Our intent is to build relationships while providing funds for laundry so that families will repurpose funds that they would have spent on laundry for other needs, such as food, gas, or rent. We meet every third Saturday of the month, from 11:45 to 2:00, at Richmond Coin Laundry. You can help by being friendly while handing out quarters at the laundromat, or by engaging the children with our newly implemented activities table. We can always use liquid detergent, bleach, and dryer sheets, as well. In 2018, we assisted 574 people with 1,219 washer loads and 1,258 dryer loads. Thank you to all who came out during 2018 to support this ministry! David Curtis heads up this ministry, and he welcomes questions and volunteers.
3. **Peter Paul Development Center:** Building on years of relationships begun by and nurtured by many members of St. John's, we continued that legacy this year by providing backpacks with school supplies. Barbara Bayler and Jane Hunnicutt headed up the "Silver Bells" program for Peter Paul, in which we adopted four seniors and provided a happier Christmas for them. Barbara and Jane, with Ed Schutt on the keyboard, also led St. John's as we assisted with a (postponed) Christmas lunch for the senior's program. Our sincere thanks to all who led and supported these ministries with Peter Paul. If you would like to know more about Peter Paul, or if you are interested in building our relationship with Peter Paul, please see Barbara Bayler.
4. **First Fruits Sunday:** In 2018, the deacon challenged the congregation to collect 1,500 pounds of food. And we did! We collected a total of 2,119 pounds, 168 of which were through the Reverse Advent Calendars. In 2019, David has challenged us to reach 3,000 lbs!
5. **Rebuilding Together Richmond:** In April, we again joined members of St. Mary's, Goochland to participate in Rebuilding Together. This program assists seniors who meet a needs assessment to continue living independently in their homes by making needed repairs. Members repaired electrical works, cleaned gutters, improved landscaping, removed debris and trash, and completed other needed tasks. Our thanks to Rita Driscoll and Laura Streat, who led this effort, and to all who helped to minister in this tangible way.

6. Re: Work Richmond (Episcopal Community Services): In summer 2018, St. John's discerned a call to join St. Peter's and St. Stephen's in a newly formed nonprofit aimed at surrounding families in the East End with a network of neighbors who can provide support that many of us take for granted, particularly related to employment barriers. Amelie is serving on the board, and opportunities for member engagement will follow soon.

We also want to acknowledge all the members of St. John's who provided time, talent, and treasure in supporting these ministries. Your continued generosity allows this community to reach out to those in need with love. Thank you so very much!

The Outreach Team meets roughly every other month, usually at 7:00 p.m. during a weeknight. Everyone is welcome to attend. Meeting dates and times are listed in the weekly email and in the weekly bulletin. Building on a legacy begun in 1611, St. John's will actively live out the Gospel in 2019. You are invited to help bring about the Kingdom of God in Church Hill.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to lead the outreach efforts this year. My thanks to Patricia McNaught and Victoria Hauser who will co-lead the Outreach Team in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

August Butler



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 home visits, sending notes, cards and flowers, running errands, and preparing casseroles for those experiencing illness, bereavement, or the birth of a child. Through our Lay Eucharistic Visitor Ministry, we assist the Rector in bringing home communion to those unable to travel to church. A team member also sends weekly bulletins and news to parishioners who cannot attend services 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 in early April to welcome new members. Though small, this ten-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 Reeves McCune for further information.

Faithfully Submitted,

The Pastoral Care Ministry Team
Reeves McCune and Patty Soileau, Co-Chairs



Communications

The Communications Committee shares the news of St. John's with our communicants, friends, and neighbors. We keep people informed about what is going on at the church and announce upcoming events and projects. Our primary instruments of communication are the weekly e-Newsletter and the bulletin insert, published by Patty Duffy, the Parish Administrator. In addition, we continue efforts to improve our communications with more frequent updates to our website and regular postings on Facebook, and by engaging more of the Church Hill community through event flyers in local stores, postings on Church Hill's "Next Door" news feed and hanging banners for special events. Last year, we began a redesign of the church's website to better tell our story to potential new members and to continue to engage our existing congregation and hope to complete that project in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc Dixon, Vestry Liaison for Communications.



Property

The properties and grounds of St. John's church were very busy in 2018. We saw great contributions from across the membership, several emergencies, many notable accomplishments, and some ongoing challenges. We are grateful for the tremendous amount of stewardship and participation the congregation has provided.

Accomplishments

The most sizable accomplishment was the complete renovation of the Parish House at 2319 E. Broad Street which was completed in March 2018. It was graciously funded by the St. John's Church Endowment. Like most renovation projects, the project took longer than we thought and involved a few more expenses than we thought (including the unexpected need for new upstairs flooring). But we believe the result presents a much more welcoming home to the congregation, the staff, the St. John's Church Foundation, and our other tenants. Reyes Drywall and Construction conducted the work under Ashley McCune's supervision. We received project management assistance from Nicole Rutledge, who did interior design and moving logistics among many other tasks. So many other members of the congregation and the staff pitched in whenever they could. Work began in November 2017 and was finally completed in March. During the work, all the second-floor offices were relocated to the ground floor, and then the process was reversed. Of special note was the move of the church's archives in the midst of this—cabinets and boxes and stacks of delicate original records, which the Archives committee keeps watch over on our behalf. And the choir room was displaced for all the renovations. Yet when all the dust settled, we now have:

- a new kitchen, including appliances, furnishings, fixtures, countertops, and flooring
- 3 refreshed bathrooms plus one new bathroom upstairs
- 4 new HVAC systems
- new lighting and electrical wiring
- new wood flooring upstairs and refinished wood flooring downstairs
- new window glass to replace large cracks, and new blinds
- new pipework and plumbing
- a fresh coat of paint throughout
- repointed masonry on portions of the exterior south side.

In other words, we have a bright and clean space of which we can be proud.

In the same vein, Patsy Elmore oversaw a team which completely overhauled the overgrown **front gardens of the Parish House**, using their own labor and funds raised from friends. The new beds were completed just in time for the bishop's visit.

At the **Parish Hall**, new exterior lighting was installed and the drafty door threshold was repaired. Another accomplishment, the resolution of which is still pending, was the diagnosis of the **organ and acoustic difficulties** in the church sanctuary. Our church organ is old but not rare/historic, and it is very troublesome to play and maintain. Horace Dowdy led a team that found a replacement organ in Baltimore (an 1891 Johnson & Son) that would serve as a much better instrument with a much longer life. Members of the team visited the organ with good results, but the vestry is still looking into financing plans. Horace's team also looked into improving the acoustics of the sanctuary. The team has contracted for the installation of a new sound amplification system with microphones which should help the space. Work on all this will need to continue into 2019.

An overflow of **handyperson tasks** was accomplished, including furniture repairs, blind repairs, door repairs, lighting repairs, railing repairs, and the relocation of a family of birds from the sanctuary's wall. Special thanks to Andy Pillsbury, Paul Broughton, Jamie Isaacs, Horace Dowdy, and Marc Dixon for working on so many of these needs.

Other accomplishments came via the fellowship of 3 **Work Days**: one in March, one in May, one in July. Volunteers at these workdays refurnished and cleaned the Parish House, hauled away trash and debris, shredded outdated documents, planted trees along the Broad Street sidewalk, cleared and trimmed the Parish House rear yard, pruned trees in the churchyard, cleaned out beneath the sanctuary and Keeper's Cottage, and prepared meals for the volunteers. These were enjoyable and gratifying events.

With financial assistance from both the congregation and the Foundation, a roofing company secured the gutters around the new sanctuary roof.

We are grateful for the ongoing work of the **Archives Committee** and the **Cemetery Committee**.

We got Wi-Fi in the Parish Hall and sanctuary. And light in the vesting room. Woo-hoo!

The Foundation arranged for the renovation of its actors' studio (the second floor of an outbuilding on the church grounds), installation of a new HVAC unit there, and the repair of its porch.

Emergencies/repairs

Our first emergency of the year came in the form of a failure of the sewer line running from the Parish House to the street. So in January, Ashley McCune oversaw a construction firm excavating beneath the foundation to replace the old terra cotta pipes. It was a costly repair, but staff members are glad not to have to walk across the street for the restroom, which they did for several weeks. The Parish House's incoming water pipes also froze during this time, and the hot water heater went out, so it was quite a plumbing extravaganza.

That same January, two pumps for the boiler heating the sanctuary failed, resulting in only partial steam heat circulating to the church (and cold temperatures indoors). Ashley worked with our heating contractors to replace the pumps and restore the warmth. Jim Bennett kept an eye on the fluctuating thermostat from his chilly seat at the organ.

The heat also failed in the Parish House in January in the midst of repairs, but that was a quicker fix thanks to Ashley and Patty.

At the Parish Hall, we had a critter situation in the crawlspace that became complicated. After the critter was moved out, the HVAC unit serving the nursery side of the building was replaced.

The elevator and elevator doors continued to be troublesome, but Horace, Patty, Jamie, Ashley, Paul, and others arranged for its repair.

A summer storm brought a tree limb down on a gutter at the Visitor's Center. Members of the congregation took care of several leaks from the summer rain around the gutters of the Visitor's Center.

Horace found a contractor to investigate the aging condition of our church tower bell, which dates to 1850. The bell needs a new clapper and a new wheel/headpiece in its housing. The bell will need to be used carefully until then.

Looking ahead, the congregation and the vestry will need to continue working toward a workflow/sexton solution to address the heavy volume of property issues that continue to arise. And much planning will need to be done for the organ. The Foundation will also begin underpinning engineering work beneath the sanctuary soon.

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.

Faithfully Submitted,

Ryan Smith and Jamie Isaacs, Vestry liaisons



Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee consisted of Barbara Bayler, Jane Hunnicutt, Horace Dowdy, Irvin L. Dallas as chair, and Amelie Wilmer, now Rector. It was a great team!

The Stewardship 2018 campaign, with the theme “*All Hearts Open*” ended December 31, 2017, and generated \$158,874 from 73 households, which was slightly greater than our proposed budget \$157,646. The amount helped to sustain our ministries and support our Parish operations.

For the 2019 Stewardship Campaign, the committee was joined for the second time by the Vestry, Finance Committee, and chairs of St. John’s various ministries to develop the targeted pledge amount. It was truly a great collaboration of the St. John’s Church leadership.

The Stewardship Committee kicked off its 2019 campaign with a parish celebration. During the campaign, we had special guests Julie Simonton, Director of Congregational Development & Stewardship for Virginia Diocese, and Richard Jones, Parish Giving Adviser for the Diocese of Hereford, Church of England. With grace and humor, Julie and Richard provided us with guidance and creative ways to improve our hospitality, engagement in ministry, and spiritual health through Stewardship.

The 2019 theme of the campaign was “*Now into the world*.” The theme was adapted from the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia’s stewardship initiative.

“Now into the World” is a call to move more deeply into the generous people we already are.

As of January 18, 2019, 71 households have pledged a total of \$156,675, bringing us to 84% of our goal of \$186,325 for the pledge-income portion of the 2019 operating budget. As we enter the new year, we remain hopeful that we can achieve this goal. During the campaign, you heard stories and witnessed how St. John’s Episcopal Church is always *into the world* through ministries that transform lives at our church, in our local community, across Virginia, and around the globe. We are excited about connecting with each of you, we are excited about this year at St. John’s, and we are so, so glad you’re here!

Respectfully submitted,
Irvin L. Dallas, Chair



Finance

St. Johns annual budget is just under \$450,000. 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 runs historical operations; and several smaller sources. All of this is separate from the Foundation's capital campaigns, which has provided the church's buildings with general upkeep and major improvements such as paint, roofing, the renovation of the sounding board, and shoring up of supporting walls.

In 2018 we received pledges from 73 families. Going into 2019 we are at 71 pledges totaling \$156,675 so far. In order to reach our budget, we hope to receive an additional \$28,813.

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. If we spend five percent or more per year, we will begin draining our emergency funds. Of note is that in 2017 and 2018, the endowment granted \$186,427 to fund the cost of the Parish House renovation.

2018 ST. JOHN'S REVENUE:

ITEM:	AMOUNT:	% of REVENUE:
Pledges	\$ 161,733.32	38.33%
Plate Offering	\$ 18,295.92	4.33%
Designated income	\$ 16,365.59	3.88%
Endowment	\$ 102,164.00	24.21%
Foundation Grants	\$ 49,341.96	11.70%
Vestry Funds	\$ 65,574.00	15.55%
Other (Weddings, etc.)	\$ 8,402.09	2.00%
TOTAL	\$ 421,876.88	100%

The amount of pledges combined with plate offering cover less than half of the annual operating cost. The Foundation's payments are critical for upkeep and financial health. Our future depends on continued increases in pledge commitments and funding of the endowment, largely by including St. John's in wills; and on the performance of our investments.

The growth of our church family should contribute to our financial stability. We need 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

Our First Annual Benedict Arnold's Raid event was held on January 5th. The event was a success despite temperatures below 20 degrees. We partnered with the Park service and split the event between St. John's and Chimborazo Hospital. In 2019, because of the Federal Government shutdown we held the event at Historic St. John's Church.

Our "Give Me History!" program serving Richmond-area Title I elementary schools provides Standards of Learning-based history lessons that give economically disadvantaged elementary and middle school children an educational boost. In 2018, 2,295 students from 27 schools and their teachers attended "Give Me History!" from 27 schools. Since 2009 we have served over 47,000 students and their teachers with this program.

"Fancy Me Mad," our annual Poe Tales/ Graveyard Tour, was held on October 20, 2018. We had a sell-out crowd of nearly 350. Guests perused the tombstones and listened to residents of the graveyard tell stories from their lives. All our popular spirits were in attendance. It was a successful event!

"Adopt- A-Grave" is a great success. We have adopted and restored 11 grave markers. Three more grave markers have been adopted and await repair in the spring. Please contact Foundation Executive Director Sarah Whiting at 804-649-0263 or swhiting@historicstjohnschurch.org for more information on the program. There are plenty available for adoption.

MC1200 Architectural Engineers have surveyed the thick coating of red paint at the foundation at the west and south of the church. It's been determined that the paint is causing damage due to trapped moisture. Enochs Construction Co. has been retained to determine the safest way to remove the paint and for masonry repairs. We await their estimates for fundraising purposes.

The Foundation retained the services of Geologist Dr. Brian Whiting to do GPR (ground penetrating radar) in the churchyard. He has determined that we have a significant number of burials in the test areas surveyed. The Foundation is working to secure funding to do further GPR in the entire graveyard. The results so far show that the graveyard may have more burials than we had anticipated.

Volunteer Lee Ball continues his research to help find the names of those who are interred in graveyard. He is continuing the work started by previous volunteers. The results of his work will add to our knowledge of the graveyard and help us create new programs about Richmond's first graveyard and public cemetery.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Swartz, Preservation



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!



