

2025-26 Annual Report

St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church



July 19th, 2026

627 North Deer Isle Road
P.O. Box 305
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www.stbrendansme-org

Our Mission

The Mission of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is to

• **love, praise, welcome and serve:**

• to **love** one another as Christ loves us,

• to **praise** God in all things,

• to **welcome** and affirm all persons,

• to **serve** the needs of one another and those
on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

Our Values

These are our **values** at St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church.

We will:

• **Welcome** others with **respect** and **compassion**;

• **Listen** to others with **trust** and **appreciation**;

• **Seek God's goodness** in each person;

• Strive for **consensus** and work **collaboratively**;

• Join in acts of **loving kindness**;

• **Share our faith** joyfully across the generations;

• **Engage** as many of our **parishioners** as possible, **year-round**, in our
common life and ministries;

• **Learn from our past** and look to the future with **hope**.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

St. Brendan's Mission & Values.....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Agenda.....	4
Minutes of the July 20th, 2025 Annual Meeting.....	5-6
Nominating Committee Report.....	7
Endowment Fund Report and Resolution.....	8-12
Pastor's Report.....	13-15
Report of the Senior Warden.....	16-17
Report of the Junior Warden & Buildings and Grounds.....	18-20
Treasurer's Report, Finance & Stewardship	21-23
Personnel Committee Report.....	24

Ministry Reports

Education & Spiritual Development Ministry.....	25-26
Outreach Ministry.....	27-30
Pastoral Care Ministry.....	31
Welcoming & Hospitality Ministry.....	32-34
Worship & Music Ministry.....	35-36
Prayer of Saint Brendan.....	37

St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting – July 19th, 2026

AGENDA

11:15: Call to Order & Opening Prayer

- I. Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting on July 20th, 2025
- II. Report of the Nominating Committee – Election of Vestry Officers and Member-at-Large & Convention Delegates and Alternates
- III. Resolution to Terminate the Endowment Fund
- IV. Questions for Ministry Chairs
- V. Other Issues to Address in the Coming Year
- VI. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

St Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church, Deer Isle, Maine

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Presiding - Reverend Donna Down

Present: 45+/- in person, several via Zoom, constituting a quorum

The Meeting was called to order at 11:37 AM, with no objections.

Reverend Donna Downs opened the assembly with a prayer.

BUSINESS

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting held July 21, 2024

ACTION: Skip Greenlaw moved to accept the minutes as presented. Pete Dane seconded. The body unanimously approved the motion.

2. Report of the Nominating Committee- Election of Vestry Officers, Member at Large and Convention Delegates and Alternates.

Barbara Kourajian presented the Slate of Candidates prepared by the Nominating Committee.

Senior Warden: John Arrison

Junior Warden: Allen Downs

Treasurer: Emily Hawkins

Clerk: Cindy Beyer

Vestry Member-at-Large (three-year term): Kassie Gray

Vestry Member, serving the second of a three-year term: George Pazuniak

Vestry Member, serving the third of a three-year term: Beth Carter

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Skip Greenlaw and Preston Carter

Alternates to the Diocesan Convention: Bunny Reardon and Jane LaChance

ACTION: The slate was moved by Pete Dane, seconded by Fay Beaudoin. The motion was unanimously approved by the body.

III. Questions for Ministry Chairs

John Arrison, Senior Warden addressed the body expressing gratitude for multi- faceted work of the ministries and various sub- committees throughout the year.

He highlighted the Welcoming & Hospitality Ministry for the new format for Coffee Hour. He presented Kassie and Fay a custom-made platter to recognize their efforts.

John opened the meeting for questions regarding the ministries and encouraged members to join a ministry by signing up. Several Ministry chairs encouraged folks to get involved with the scholarship program and to provide ideas to the Education and Spiritual Development Ministry.

IV. Other Issues to Address in the coming year- Tabled

V. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Hawkins, Clerk

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee presents the following nominees for Vestry officers, Members-at-Large, Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Among our considerations in the selection process were identifying parishioners who have not yet served on Vestry and involving newer members of our congregation.

We are pleased to present the following nominees to serve on the 2026-2027 Vestry:

Senior Warden: John Arrison

Junior Warden: Charlie Putnam

Treasurer: Emily Hawkins

Clerk: Cindy Beyer

Member-at-Large (1st year of 3-yr term): Nina Dayton

Member-at-Large (2nd year of 3-yr term): Kassie Grey

Member-at-Large (3rd year of 3-yr term): Skip Greenlaw

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Preston Carter, Jane LaChance

Alternate Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Damon Beyer, Del Bright

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Downs, Beth Carter, Julie Pierson, Bill Scaife

Endowment Fund Report

The vestry recommends that at its annual meeting on July 19, 2026, St Brendan the Navigator Church follow the guidance of the Endowment Committee and resolve to terminate The Endowment Fund of St. Brendan the Navigator dated August 12, 2014, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the terms of the Fund.

Resolution to Terminate

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the terms of the Endowment Fund of St. Brendan the Navigator dated August 12, 2014, the Endowment Fund Committee has recommended to the Vestry the termination of the Endowment Fund. The Vestry has approved this recommendation.

A copy of the governing document of the Fund is attached as Exhibit A.

A founder's description of the history of the Fund is attached as Exhibit B.

“Pursuant to Paragraph 4 of the Endowment Fund’s governing document, it is resolved to terminate The Endowment Fund of St. Brendan the Navigator dated August 12, 2014, tithing 10% of the funds appertaining to The Endowment Fund to outreach programs and allocating the remaining funds to the building reserve for upcoming major capital projects.”

EXHIBIT A:

Resolution to Terminate The Endowment Fund of St. Brendan the Navigator dated August 12, 2014

THE ENDOWMENT FUND of St. BRENDAN the NAVIGATOR Deer Isle Maine

(Created by Resolution of the Vestry of St. Brendan the Navigator August 12, 2014)

1. Purpose

This Endowment Fund of St. Brendan the Navigator ("The Fund") shall be a permanent endowment and shall be used to support the mission of St Brendan the Navigator as a parish in the Diocese of Maine for the future but shall in no event be used to pay for expenditures which would be part of a normal operating budget of the parish.

2. Administration, Investment Strategy

(a) The existing funds hereby transferred, and all future additions, to the Fund shall be subject to the provisions of this Declaration and shall be classified as a permanent endowment fund.

(b) The management of the Fund will be overseen by an Investment Committee consisting of four persons. One person shall be the Chair of the Finance Committee. The other three persons shall be appointed by the Vestry and shall be members of the congregation. These three persons shall be appointed to serve three year terms with one term expiring annually. If any person resigns, becomes unable to serve or is removed, then the Vestry may appoint a person to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. At all times at least two persons shall not be members of the Vestry. No member may serve more than six consecutive years. After a lapse of one year former members may be reappointed.

(c) Actions of the Committee will require a minimum of three votes.

(d) The investment strategy for the Fund shall be aggressive long-term to achieve maximum total return. The Fund will at all times retain a cash position of no less than 5% and no more than 10% of the value of the Fund.. The Committee may employ outside investment managers to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities.

(e) The Fund may be merged or commingled for investment with other Endowment or Restricted funds held by St. Brendan the Navigator but only with the approval of the Vestry.

(f) The Fund may not be pledged as collateral for any obligations of the Parish

(g) Donor(s) acknowledge and agree that in connection with the administration and management of the Fund the Committee may approve certain expenses against the Fund for administration, management and similar charges.

(h) The Investment Committee shall submit a report and accounting to the Vestry no less often than quarterly in such form as the Vestry shall require. The Committee shall submit a report and accounting to the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The accounting to the Congregation shall include a statement of receipts and disbursements for the year and a listing of the holdings, and if some of the Fund is managed by an outsider manager, a description of the holdings of the Fund which are invested in by the manager. The Vestry may instruct the Investment Committee to divest any interest in identified entities that the Vestry determines engage in or support activities deemed socially irresponsible or inconsistent with the mission of the parish. The Fund shall be subject to audit as part of the quarterly and annual audits conducted on behalf of the Parish.

3. Distributions

(a) Annual distributions from the Fund shall not exceed 4% of the average year-end balance of the three years prior to the applicable year. Any funds not distributed in a given year shall not be permitted to be distributed in subsequent years, that is, the annual distribution shall not be cumulative. Distributions in any event shall be no more than permitted by the laws of the State of Maine and the Episcopal Diocese of Maine.

(b) Annual distributions will be made as approved by the Vestry after a Congregational meeting to discuss the same. The Committee may establish a grant procedure to receive applications for funds and make recommendations to the Vestry prior to holding the Congregational meeting.

(c) No funds will be disbursed until the corpus is valued at over \$100,000.00 and the endowment has been in existence for two full years following a vote by the Vestry and the Congregation to create this Endowment Fund.

4. Amendment of the Terms of the Endowment Fund

If the Vestry determines that circumstances have changed so that the purposes for which this Endowment Fund is established become illegal, impracticable, or no longer able to be carried out, it shall appoint an Endowment Fund Committee consisting of four persons, one of which is a member of the Vestry, one of which is a member of the Finance Committee and two of which are members of the Congregation but not members of either the Vestry or the Finance Committee. The Endowment Fund Committee shall determine if any Amendment to this document is appropriate, and if so, shall make a recommendation for Amendment to the Vestry. Any recommended Amendment shall require the approval of the Vestry and the Congregation at a meeting duly called. Any amendment shall be in accordance with the constitution and canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine.

EXHIBIT B:
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND

When Lis was Senior Warden in 2012, she and I for some reason took to heart the provision embedded deeply in the Book of Common Prayer (page 445) requiring “The Minister of the Congregation...to instruct the people...about the duty of...all persons to make wills...not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.” We drafted and the Vestry adopted the Fund which was designed not to support the Operating Budget but to eventually be able to make a permanent annual contribution to projects that were to enhance the ministry of the parish to the larger community regardless of whether or not Saint Brendan’s as a worshipping community existed. Efforts were made to suggest to members to consider not only will provisions but consider other vehicles (life insurance, charitable remainder trusts, annuities) for making a long-term gift. There were some generous donors to the parish at the time who were getting up in age and the thought was to have this vehicle available for them to consider such a gift.

Then came the Time of Troubles. For two years the congregation was involved in a deep controversy that boiled over and threatened its very existence. Many left. Thoughts of an Endowment Fund were very far from anyone’s attention while this painful episode occurred, and it took several more years for the parish to achieve the health it has enjoyed thanks to The Rev. Edward Dufresne followed by the utterly amazing gift of Elaine’s presence.

So, for 2016 on the Fund, initially funded by an amount which we could identify historically as coming to the congregation via devises under wills, was invested and occasionally added to when a significant gift came its way due to someone’s death that was not specifically directed to an articulated purpose.

As a result, the Fund holds slightly over \$25,000.00, a far distance from the threshold of \$100,000.00 that must be reached before any distributions can be made. I do not know of any person who has in fact made any testamentary gift to this Fund. That now raises a philosophical question. In light of the lack of any demonstrated interest in actually contributing to this Fund after over 10 years of existence, is it “viable”? And this leads to a bigger question: does St. Brendan’s as a congregation

have any commitment to even have anything resembling an Endowment Fund as a matter of principle? Is a long term “permanent” fund to insure a kind of presence in the community regardless of its existence or health as a worshipping congregation even a desirable aspiration? Is this entire notion quaint and irrelevant?

Pete Dane

Pastor's Report

On-going wonders at St. Brendan...

- Simmering Pot every 4th and 5th Mondays of the month.
- Window Dressers Program (which made over 200 window inserts)
- Sharing our building with folks in the greater community at no charge (free-will donation gladly accepted).
- Offering space for the Syringe replacement program run by Opiate Free Island.
- Sunday worship so beautifully planned by the Worship and Music Ministry.
- A cadre of excellent priests willing to preach and preside on 2nd and 4th Sundays.
- Connie's musical gifts on the piano and the organ, as well as with the choir.
- Wednesday morning "Bible study," offering many varied opportunities for spiritual growth and learning.
- Silent meditation on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Celtic Eventide June – October (usually the second Sundays of the month).
- Advent and Lenten vespers in which lay folks provide our reflections/meditations.
- The Bone Builders program, which draws people from the larger community.
- The annual Women's Wilderness Retreat at Camp Bishopswood.
- Our Memorial/Meditation Garden, offering a quiet place for personal reflection, for memorial services, and for our 9:30 Sunday morning gatherings on the third Sunday of every month.
- Men's breakfast and women's breakfast, both held one Saturday a month.
- Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, which folks from St. Francis, Trinity and the Deer Isle Sunset Congregational Church attend.
- Our weekly newsletter, "The Navigator," which is the best church newsletter ever, thanks to Barbara Kourajian and Miriam Antich.
- Ministries (Outreach, Education and Spiritual Formation, Welcome and Hospitality, Pastoral Care, Worship and Music, Buildings Grounds and Technology, Finance) that do almost all of the work of the congregation.

- Our GPS (giving our priorities shape) efforts, capably and beautifully sustained by Bunny Reardon, who provides for us tangible ways of living out of the goals outlined in our mission statement (caring for creation, working on behalf of justice, and loving our neighbor).
- The excellent work done by our administrative assistant Lynne Witham and our cleaning expert Kristy Weiberg.
- So much good energy, good will, and tender care shared with both the folks at St. Brendan and with those in the larger community.

Highlights from the past year...

- The enormous amount of work that went into cleaning out our basement and having Eastern Mold Remediation rid it of all mold.
- Our reflectors/preachers at Lenten vespers from Calvary Chapel, the Reformation Branch of the Sunset LDS congregation, and the Stonington town office (what joy to welcome preachers from other congregations and organizations on the island).
- Our Stations of the Cross Art Show, in which 22 island artists participated, and which many local people came to see over the two-week period it was open.
- The official receiving of nine new members into the St. Brendan community.

Challenges...

- A parking lot that is too small to meet our needs.
- An aging congregation and the limitations of time and energy that can sometimes come with older age (but doesn't really seem to slow us down much at this point!).
- A community around us with many challenging issues that cause hardship: poverty, limited access to adequate medical care, transportation problems, food insecurity, etc. The needs are so great. Figuring out how best to partner with other organizations to address some of these issues is an on-going challenge.
- Finding ways to be an alternative to white Christian nationalism, environmental degradation, and racial and economic injustices propagated by our own government is also an on-going process of discernment. How to be an alternative voice and presence in the way of Jesus is extremely difficult. We

will continue to try to find ways of doing this work with the Diocese, the Maine Council of Churches, and other partners committed to justice and peace.

I am so very honored to pastor the St. Brendan community. It's hard to believe that I'm beginning my 7th official year with you. Every day I give thanks for our ministry together. It is a joy to be working with you as we seek to bear witness to the wild, windy, fierce and tender love of God made known most profoundly and deeply in the person of Jesus.

May we continue to journey into the unknown with St. Brendan, trusting that even in the darkness we are being led by the Spirit of Christ. And may we continue, in all we say and do, to tune our hearts to the music of heaven.

In deepest gratitude for you all,

Elaine

Senior Warden's Report

The parish of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is like no other church I have attended or served. Never have I been part of a church where so many parishioners take active and committed roles in the daily life and mission of the church. Unlike so many other organizations, the people of St. Brendan's exude a joy in the love of Christ, and of each other and our neighbors. We are blessed to have spiritual leadership in Pastor Elaine Hewes.

We care! We care about our community and loving our neighbor, in our making available our parish hall for so many different events, from showers to needle exchanges to art shows to arts presentations to non-profit organization meetings and dinners. We are engaged in our community, as we help keep Route 15 clean, serve on many different organizations' boards, and participate in community activities. We make and deliver about 55 quarts of soup for Deer Isle families (and about ninety more for Peninsula families). We pull volunteers together for our annual WindowDressers build of about 250 window inserts, so local families can save on their heating bills and put less carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. We donate about two-thirds of our outreach monies to local organizations and students, including \$9,000 this year for scholarships. We are here for the community.

We care! We care about God's creation. We care about our environment, whether it is keeping our road clean, bringing food waste to the transfer station for composting, buying organic food for Simmering Pot, or reducing our carbon footprint with solar electricity or working towards more carpooling. We care about our indigenous neighbors, who were long here before our mostly-European ancestors took the land. We work to be good stewards of our land, our air, our water, and our relationships with others that make up God's creation.

We care! We care about justice, real justice, not the "justice" made up by those who want power. We support efforts around the state to help immigrants, who are worthy of God's love as much as we are. Some of us stand out on the sidewalk to protest activities that harm our fellow human beings. We learn listening, and we are instilled with the love Christ teaches us. We do justice by respecting the dignity of every human being.

We care! We care about following Jesus and loving in the way he taught us. This is the underlying power of all that we do and are, and that love exhibits itself in so many

ways in our parish. We are all part of God's creation and family, and we love actively in our caring for each other. In times of loss, we support each other. In times of joy, we celebrate each other. We play and sing the songs that help us tune our spirits to the music of heaven, making our obedience count. We share our talents: in creating our worship services, in singing, in cooking, in building windows, in reaching out via Zoom, in wielding tools to fix things, in teaching, in reflecting in our Lenten and Advent Evensongs, in writing poetry, and getting up on stage in our first annual talent show!

We care! We care about how we are stewards of God's love and God's creation. We tithe. We set aside 10% of our pledge income for our outreach efforts in our local community and around the world. See how we make a difference in our Outreach Ministry report. We care about the property that we have for getting together to worship God and fellowship together. We put in a great team effort to prepare our basement for mold remediation. We put in many hours to make our church our lovely dwelling place. See the Junior Warden's report of the Building, Grounds & Technology Ministry. We set aside a special outdoor worship space in our memorial garden, thanks to artist James Boster and the memorial garden committee.

We give thanks! We are so blessed to have Elaine as our pastor. I could say that many many times and not get tired of saying it. We are blessed in our devoted vestry and officers for their leadership. We are blessed by our ministry teams and their leadership. We rejoice with gratitude as we give of ourselves, and share in the blessings God gives us.

Thank you! And as Tiny Tim said, "God bless us, every one!"

John Arrison

Junior Warden's Report

The junior warden is responsible for the physical resources of our parish, which includes managing our relationships with service contractors, insurance, security, and keeping up with overall systems maintenance. The junior warden, with the parish administrator and other leaders, supports the use of the parish facilities by other groups.

As chair of the BG&T, I was privileged to lead a team having deep experience and strong enthusiasm with sound judgment for ensuring that the parish needs were effectively met this past year. We balance the short-term need for repairs and maintenance with long-term planning and prioritization of improvements and physical plant developments. Building on the work of the team led by Lis Ingoldsby in 2024-25, we addressed several needs and began preparing for additional initiatives for the year ahead.

The mission of the Building, Grounds & Technology Ministry Team (BG&T) is to act in concert with the Vestry and other ministries to implement those actions needed to maintain and improve the Church's building facilities and grounds as well as the operations needed for support.

BG&T Members: John Arrison, Dan Bright, Preston Carter, Skip Greenlaw, Lis Ingoldsby, Jo Jacob, Richard Paget, George Pazuniak, and Charlie Putnam

Key Accomplishments

- Completed the basement mold remediation project started in 2025 as supported by a gift from Ron Dahlen and further budgeted by Vestry. Thanks to the planning and initial preparation led by Mike Hewes and John Arrison, the team disposed of all undesired items, removed remaining materials from the basement into temporary storage, and prepared for a professional mold remediation contractor. The contractor treated all basement surfaces and installed a moisture barrier and interior perimeter floor drain system with sump pump. We then installed an industrial grade dehumidifier with ducting to control humidity and prevent mold regrowth. We replaced stairs to the sanctuary at the west end and stairs at the bulkhead entrance. Further

basement refitments for electrical and plumbing are anticipated in the year ahead.

- Installed a new kitchen sink for Simmering Pot. With help from Steve Tuttle, we replaced a divided double bowl sink in the kitchen with a single bowl sink having a gooseneck filler faucet that facilitates soup preparation.
- Removed stored equipment from the corner of the parish hall. To prepare for the “Stations of the Cross” art presentation by local artists in the parish hall during Lent, John removed all stored equipment in the northeast corner of the parish hall and repurposed the pastor’s office for storage. A replacement table and the library bookshelves were moved to the conference room. Further plans are to manage the use of the conference room and pastor’s office for immediately accessible items only while storing other items elsewhere.
- To improve Zoom sound, inputs were revised/rewired to include the podium and altar microphones, and a new analog microphone replaced the Blue Yeti digital microphone.
- We had the first carpet, cushion and floor cleaning of the Sanctuary and Parish Hall since we acquired the facilities.

In addition to routine maintenance and minor repair items over the year, we:

- Replaced sconce lamps in the balcony.
- Purchased a portable lectern with microphone holder for the parish hall in support of community use.
- Purchased a computer projector for use in parish hall presentations.
- Installed shelving units in the basement for Simmering Pot supplies.

We continue to make available our facilities for use by the community. During the period May 31, 2025 to May 31, 2026, we hosted the following periodic events:

- Simmering Pot
- Bone Builders
- OFIP Syringe Exchange
- 4-H Club
- WindowDresser annual window insert build

In addition, we hosted the following individual events:

- Wedding
- 1 Bridal Shower
- 3 Baby Showers
- 1 Graduation Party
- 1 Family Party/Dinner
- 3 Memorial Services
- Jane LaChance's El Camino de Santiago presentation
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Parish Talent Show
- Stations of the Cross art exhibition and related dinners

Key projects for 2026-27 under evaluation:

- Obtaining additional space to address expanded parking needs.
- Replace windows and screens for the sanctuary.
- Paint sanctuary exterior trim and address siding repairs.

Thanks to all on the BG&T team for their support and guidance this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen Downs, Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report

My first year as Treasurer, I have worked with the Finance Committee (which Pete Dane and I co-chair), our financial institutions, and Carolyn Mor, our incredibly competent bookkeeper, to clarify the description of items on the balance sheet; initiated discussion with the Vestry and Finance Committee regarding whether the “endowment” is in fact a true endowment; and worked closely with Pete Dane to learn. The Audit Committee has reviewed our work on a periodic basis and has issued an affirming audit report for the 2025 fiscal year. St. Brendan continues to remain in compliance with Episcopal Diocese resource recommendations.

In the 2025 St. Brendan fiscal year we have completed a positive and generous budget in balance with a surplus of approximately \$17,500 which is to be applied mostly to additional outreach contributions in our current year. Yearly we continue to fund the \$10,000 Building Capital Reserve fund. The mold remediation project is complete; further improvements to the basement are under discussion. The Building, Grounds and Technology Ministry is exploring acquisition of more land to expand the parking lot; as well as the costs of expanding the parking and new windows in the church.

Our investment subcommittee has continued to attempt to accomplish socially responsible placement of our “endowment” and reserve funds. Our Genesis Foundation investment remains in place, of \$31,000 at a minimal rate of 2% which is rolled into principal to support Maine small town organizations tackling homelessness, poverty, and winter heating issues. After substantial discussion, the investment committee chose to reposition all our investment funds in more conservative and safer bank CD's or Treasury instruments in December 2024 in anticipation of possible financial instability in 2025. In Fall of 2025, the Investment Committee recommended that as CDs/Treasury instruments mature they be invested in the FTLX fund (or similar fund). The Investment Committee will be asked to revisit its recommendation in the fall of 2026

As mentioned in Pete Dane's nutshell Finance report for 2025, expenditures are in line with the budget for our current year. I am optimistic that we shall attain a positive result from our current year budget, if 2026 pledges are in fact paid as committed. Financial and investment reports are monitored monthly and are reported to the Vestry. Our continued financial success remains secure thanks to our competent administrative team and all Ministries' faithful compliance with our budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Hawkins, Treasurer

SAINT BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR			
FINANCE REPORT NUTSHELL VERSION			
2026 First Four Months			
	Actual	Budget for Current Year	Actual 2025
Total Revenue	120,942	193,419	190,525
Expenditures			
Diocesan Assessment	8,108	24,325	21,079
Clergy Expenses	18,489	53,520	49,192
Committee and Vestry	1,400	6,300	3,612
Office Expense	8,928	23,938	21,785
Building Operating	9,096	22,470	21,249
Building Repair [Note 1]	1,199	13,425	13,731
Outreach	7,085	21,057	18,198
Worship	10,865	33,713	24,182
Total Operating Expenditures	65,171	198,748	173,028
Note 1: "Building Repair" includes contribution to Building Contingency Fund which we have funded at least \$10,000 per year in recent years.			

SAINT BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR		
BALANCE SHEET 2026 first four months Summary		
Assets		
Restricted		
BHBT *5484 [Note 2]	1,397	
Fidelity Building Capital	147,579	
Portion of BHBT Checking for prepaid pledges (i.e. 2027 and beyond)		
Portion of Fidelity 8945 Prepaid Pledges (i.e. 2027 and beyond)	36,000	
Portion of Fidelity 8945 Restricted [Note 2]	45,000	
Fidelity "Endowment"	25,462	
Genesis Notes-Clergy Reserve	31,058	
Total Restricted	286,496	
Unrestricted		
BHBT Checking	12,115	
Portion of Fidelity 8945 not restricted		127,112
Subportion: 2025 "surplus"		15,747
Subportion: totally unrestricted and undesignated	111,365	
Total Unrestricted	123,481	
2025 "surplus" to be designated	15,747	
Prepaid/undeposited	585	
TOTAL	426,308	
Current Liabilities	(2,426)	
Note 2: Actual balance in Restricted is more than needed to cover the individual restricted funds. This has been adjusted since April 30		

Stewardship Report

St. Brendan's members are very generous people. More than 90 members pledged more than \$189,000 for the operation of our church in 2026. This is the largest amount of pledges in recent memory. Several of those pledges came from members who pledged for the first time.

Thank you to Pete Dane who wrote an inspiring pledge letter. Thanks also to Nancy Greene, Pete Dane, and Skip Greenlaw for writing thank you letters.

The Stewardship Committee

Personnel Committee

Members: Mickey Jacoba, Lis Ingoldsby, Judy Miller, Elaine Hewes

Responsibilities of the Personnel Committee:

To support the clergy with the following for employed personnel:

Review and approve job descriptions annually.

Review and approve the process for annual evaluations.

Review and recommend to the Finance Committee and Vestry annual compensation by September of each year.

Facilitate the hiring of new or open positions.

In 2025 the Committee:

Sent email reminders to the ministries in August regarding the need to conduct annual performance reviews, job description reviews/updates and to submit to the Committee any changes along with recommendations for annual compensation. Copies of the budget planning worksheet were provided as guidance.

Received ministry input, reviewed and concurred with recommendations submitted for budget adjustments for cost of living increases for the Pastor, Office Administrator, and Music Director.

Coordinated with the Finance Committee and Vestry with regard to recommended compensations.

On Behalf of the Committee,
Lis Ingoldsby, Chair

Education and Spiritual Development Ministry

This Ministry meets 4 or 5 times annually to consider topics, books and programs that might be of interest to the St. Brendan's community and the community at large. Please let us know of any topics that would interest you.

Programs offered for the year July 2025 – August 2026

Ongoing Year-round Programs:

Weekly Meditation/Silent Prayer – Mondays at 4:30 p.m. Zoom only

In-person Meditation/Silent Prayer – Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study – Wednesday's 10:30 a.m. to 12:00p.m. This time period is used for various forms of Bible study and also other related topics throughout the year.

The Library - The St. Brendan's Library has been moved into the old conference room.

Our Ministry asks for congregational input and support regarding the future life of the library: How should we go forward? What programs are needed? Who is able to offer leadership?, etc. The Ministry will offer background information and support.

Summer Only (in conjunction with the Worship Ministry)

Celtic Eventide – One Sunday evening a month at 5:00 p.m. from June through October.

Programs July 2025- Dec 2025:

July 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th– Philosophy of Love – Four sessions with Dr. Peter Antich

August 6th, 13th and 20th –Matters of Life and Death – Three sessions led by The Rev Alice Hildebrand

August - A two session discussion series was led by Joan Maxwell on the Ignatian approach to Lectio Divina during Bible Study

Sept – Advent - Pastor Elaine led us in Bible Study 101 using the book Manna and Mercy.

December — A three-part series for Advent using the weekly scripture readings and A SALT program called Heaven's Earthly Life : Wendell Berry and the Poetry of Advent.

Programs January 2026– August 2026

Bible study 101 resumed and continued into February meeting Tuesday evening by Zoom only.

January 14th - Phil Retberg from Quill's End Farm reflected on Wendell Berry.

January 21st, 28th and February 4th -Three sessions led by Dr. Pam Shellberg using the words of Isaiah, from the Bible.

March into April – Our Lenten Bible Study was again a SALT program developed for lent using the poetry of Wendell Berry and weekly lectionary readings.

June 3rd - “Messing Around with Biblical Text”, June 10 Herm Kidder will reflect on addiction, June 17 on silent prayer, June 24 on centering prayer.

July 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th – Phenomenology of illness – Four sessions with Dr. Peter Antich.

August 5 - Mickey, Pete and Mary Jane are planning a 2 session series on the play “Antigone.” The session will be a play discussion on lasting questions, such as, “What is worth dying for?”; Or “What would I die for”; Or “What does it mean and what are the consequences of living under the law?” The focus is on questions of value found in the play “Antigone.” This discussion will be held in the evening over dinner.

August 12th, 19th and 26th we are planning some walks with time for sharing reflections: a Creation Walk, a Cosmic Walk and a Narnia Walk. Details still need to be worked out. Walks in some of the IHT properties are also being considered. These walks might be at other times than the Bible Study time.

Members: Miriam Antich, Jack Beaudoin, Cynthia Beyer, Patricia Donahue, Marilyn Fuchs, Elaine Hewes, Mickey Jacoba, Joan Maxwell, and Woody Osborne and Peter Tarlton

Outreach Ministry

It has been an intense and busy year for the Outreach Ministry. We are a group of about 10 and meet once a month on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30. Members rotate the roles of chair and minute taker each month. Funding and programmatic decisions are made by consensus or by a strong majority. We address financial allocations approximately quarterly at the February, May, September and November meetings. New members are enthusiastically welcomed!

We strive to fulfill the mission of St Brendan's *"to serve the needs of one another and of those on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world"*. Those needs have been urgent and many.

This past year our members have coordinated monthly Simmering Pot meal preparation and weekly deliveries, the Window Dressers Build in November, Earth Day Clean up in April, a H.O.M.E. Craft Fair last summer (again this August 2026). We have encouraged advocacy at the local, state, and national levels for peacemaking, justice, Care for Creation, equity in health, education, and human rights through weekly GPS (Giving our Priorities Shape) action items in the Sunday Bulletin and Navigator. In June 2025 we invited Reverend Michael Ambler to address the whole community about the work of Restoration Laos. In October the former Diocesan public policy coordinator John Hennessey joined our Outreach meeting to inform us of the legislative priorities of the Maine Episcopal Diocese Public Policy Network. Dud Hendrick from Island Peace and Justice joined us in April 2026 to share his ongoing journey as a peacemaker.

We continue to remind ourselves and the larger community of our faith in - and followers of - the Gospel of Jesus through the rotating display of signs and flags on the church front lawn- Justice for All, Creation Care, Faith in Action, Love Thy Neighbor- and through the GPS action items each week. We hope you have found the suggested GPS invitations in the Bulletin and Navigator relevant, challenging, and motivating. Please get in touch with Bunny Reardon at bunnycello@yahoo.com to suggest ideas for these action items going forward.

We have carefully administered a budget, which is set by the vestry at 10% of all funds pledged to St Brendan's in a given year. The 2026 allocation is \$18,961. We research

organizations that are meeting the needs of our neighbors near and far and make financial donations to some of those organizations.

(See list at the end of this report for grants made since the last Annual Report.)

We have continued this year to follow a financial allocation guideline of 65% within Hancock County (local), 10% state wide, 10% national, and 10% world needs as we consider the needs of the homeless, the food insecure, the immigrant, the children of Deer Isle, tribal rights of the indigenous peoples of Maine, those who are suffering the ravages of war in Ukraine, the Middle East, the African continent, and disaster relief. We have made a large financial commitment to provide scholarships for local graduating seniors, for summer campers on island and for Camp Bishopswood. A large portion of those scholarships have been funded outside our budget by the sale of Laura Dahlen's beautifully painted gourds and the luminous paintings donated by Susan Mangam, as well as an added grant from the Vestry from the surplus of funds from 2025.

We are always open to hearing from you about organizations who could use our financial or volunteer support, and with whom you may have first-hand experience as a volunteer or donor. It has been a year of great upheaval in our society. The needs have perhaps been greater than ever before. The generosity of this community in giving of your time, talent and treasure has been an inspiration to the Outreach team.

Current members of Outreach:

John Arrison, Frances Barbour, Skip Greenlaw, Jo Jacob, Rich Paget, Steve Hayward, Charlie Putnam, Ann and Tom van Buren, and Bunny Reardon

Donations since 2025 Annual Report

Americans Who Tell The Truth	Brooksville, ME	US Social Justice	Nat'l	\$250
Bagaduce Equine Rescue	Brooksville, ME	Animal rescue	Local	\$250
Blue Path Service Dogs	Wappinger Falls, NY	Service Animal Training	Nat'l	\$500
Camp Bishopswood	Maine	Youth camp	State	\$1,000
Chase Memorial Library	Deer Isle, ME	Literacy	Local	\$250

College Scholarships	Deer Isle, ME	Education	Local	\$7,000
Community Compass	Blue Hill, ME	Community support	Local	\$1,000
DIS Schools	Deer Isle, ME	After School Program	Local	\$500
Episcopal Relief and Dev.	New York, NY	Wildfire Relief	Nat'l	\$1,306
Episc. Dio. of Jerusalem	Darien, CT	Medical Relief	Int'l	\$500
H.O.M.E.	Orland, ME	Food, Shelter / Heat	Local	\$500
Habitat for Humanity	Sedgwick, ME	Housing	Local	\$500
Hancock County Food Drive	Ellsworth, ME	Meals	Local	\$500
Healthy Island Project	Deer Isle, ME	Health / Nutrition	Local	\$1,500
Homeport Senior Housing	Deer Isle, ME	Housing	Local	\$1,000
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Proj.	Lewiston, ME	Legal / Immigrant Svs.	State	\$1,000
Island Community Center	Stonington, ME	Camp Kooky	Local	\$1,250
Island Heating Assistance	Stonington, ME	Fuel	Local	\$1,000
Island Heritage Trust	Deer Isle, ME	Wabanaki education	Local	\$500
Island Pantry	Stonington, ME	Food	Local	\$500
Jubilee Center, St. Elizabeth's	Portland	Relief / food	State	\$500
Konbit Sante	Falmouth, ME	Haiti / Healthcare	Int'l	\$500
Maine Council of Churches	Portland, ME	Church advocacy	State	\$500
ME Immigrant Rights Coalition	Portland	Immigrant Support	State	\$500
Maine Multicultural Center	Bangor, ME	Immigrant Support	State	\$500

Memorial Ambulance Corps	Deer Isle, ME	Community	Local	\$250
Opiate Free Island	DI / Stonington	Health	Local	\$250
Project Launch	DI / Stonington	Education	Local	\$500
Reach Performing Arts	Deer I / Stonington	Arts & Community	Local	\$350
Restoration Laos	Washington, DC	Clearing bombs	Int'l	\$500
Simmering Pot	Blue Hill, ME	Supplies / expenses	Local	\$190
Wabanaki Alliance	Stillwater, ME	Native American Rights	State	\$500
Wabanaki Reach	Old Town	Native American Educ.	State	\$250
Windowdressers	Searsmont / DI	Energy / Winterization	Local	\$266
World Central Kitchen		Food: Ukraine & Gaza	Int'l	\$1,500
			Total	\$27,862

Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Ministry team, consisting of 12 members and our Pastor, meets at 9 AM on the first Wednesday of every other month. We review our Pastoral Care list, discussing the needs of people for ministry, food, or whatever else. We prepare and deliver meals for those who are in need. We have acquired some casserole containers that can be used for meals, and simply returned to the church.

We respond to requests from our Pastor to attend to any needs among our members, and coordinate by email between meetings.

We maintain a Prayer List, adding new people upon request, with their consent, and remove those no longer in need of prayers. There are people on the list in addition to members of St Brendan's. Each of us tries to pray daily for those on the list.

We also maintain a Birthday Card List. Each member of the team is assigned a month during which she/he will send a card to everyone in the parish with a birthday that month.

This is a fulfilling ministry, and we urge anyone interested in joining us to contact Elaine or any member of the team. Members of the team are Miriam Antich, Martha Dane, Skip Greenlaw, Diane Greenlaw, Agnes Love, Carolyn Mor, Bunny Reardon, Jackie Wilson, Barbara Wright, Julie Pierson, Fay Beaudoin, Elaine Hewes and Nancy Greene, Chair

Submitted by Nancy Greene, Chair

Welcome and Hospitality Ministry

I. Committee Leadership & Administration

- **Co-Chair Transition:** Kassie and Fay successfully concluded their terms as ministry co-chairs. At the March 2026 meeting, Cindy Byers and Diane Greenlaw were warmly welcomed as the incoming co-chairs.
- **Budget Allocations:** The ministry originally requested a budget of \$2,300 in 2024, which was adjusted to \$2,700 by September 2025 to officially absorb the ongoing funding for Muffin Sundays. It was also suggested that any surplus, or unused money in our budget, be earmarked for the Women's Retreat Scholarship. We hope to contribute \$600 to the program.
- **Ron Dahlen Donation:** Having received a meaningful donation in memory of Ron Dahlen in the fall of 2024, the committee revisited how to honor his legacy. Strategic discussions included supporting future memorials and purchasing new small/luncheon plates. Other ideas such as holding a "Parking Pot Luck" with Calvary Church (with whom we share parking space when needed), or organizing bi-monthly community movie nights were brought up but remained at the "idea" level!
- **Facilities & Kitchen Operations:**
 - John spearheaded efforts to repair malfunctioning kitchen drawers.
 - To mitigate coffee spilling accidents, the kitchen has upgraded their coffee pots to three identically sized ones to ensure the basket fully engages without overflowing. Kassie investigated specialized BUNN flow-stop pots. They are about \$500. Our coffee maker continues to work well. The new co-chairs will have to assess a need for a new one.

II. Weekly Hospitality & Fellowship Sunday Coffee Hour

The ministry successfully implemented a streamlined management structure that heavily reduced stress and minimized scheduling confusion.

- **Volunteer Scheduling:** Skip has successfully managed the central scheduling, shifting away from messy physical sign-up sheets in the entryway to a unified, digital assignment list.
- **Beverage Logistics:** John coordinated coffee bean orders with 44 North, ensuring early-week pre-orders were ready for weekend service. The "Bone Builder Team" (Martha, Miriam, and Kassie) kept basic staples such as milk, half-and-half, iced tea, and lemonade consistently stocked.
- **Service Model:** A "full fare" spread and birthday celebrations were reserved for the first Sunday of every month, while the remaining Sundays focused on casual, voluntary food offerings. During peak summer seasons, operations expanded to utilize four display tables. One thing for sure, our

congregation has never gone hungry!

Muffin Sundays

This beloved neighborhood tradition was originally launched by Elaine.

- Elaine handled logistics in mid-2025, and John later took over winter pick-ups, ensuring the kitchen adhered to strict nut-free guidelines.
- Quantities tracked close to 8–9 muffins per Sunday through the winter, with plans to scale up volume to meet higher demand during the summer tourist season.

On-Call Emergency Teams

To smoothly manage unforeseen community events, dedicated rolling three-month response teams were formed. At our last meeting, no new team was assigned. We agreed on having only 2 people who can be called upon. It was also the general consensus that there are always people willing to pitch in. Future on-call teams will be assigned at the discretion of the new co-chairs.

III. Special Events & Seasonal Ministries

Summer Memorials & Celebrations of Life (2025)

- **Susan Wade Memorial (July 12, 2025):** The committee organized community-wide sign-ups to provide light refreshments, floral arrangements, setup, and cleanup.

Annual Lobster Picnic

- **Held on August 9, 2025, with John coordinating logistics, Miriam managing physical and online sign-ups, and Skip organizing seafood procurement utilizing foundational planning notes from Judy Miller and Jane LaChance.**

- We had a record number of attendees (>80) and donations to match (>\$1,000).
- Momentum was established early for the upcoming picnic, officially scheduled for Saturday, July 25, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

Window Dressers (Autumn 2025)

- The hospitality framework for Window Dressers was optimized to prevent food waste. The committee pared down unnecessary breakfast provisions, shifting focus exclusively to high-quality mid-morning snacks, mid-day snacks, and hearty vegetarian lunch options.
- As usual the event went on without a hitch, and about 250 inserts were built, and many fed!

Winter Presentation

- **El Camino Presentation (January 11, 2026):** Jane presented an hour-long reflection on her trek across the Camino de Santiago. The committee hosted a simple afternoon reception featuring cookies, finger foods, juice,

water, and iced tea.

IV. Major Outreach & Community Milestones

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner (February 17, 2026)

An exceptional success drawing an estimated 70-80 attendees.

- The event raised \$800, which was proudly donated to the Immigrant Rights Coalition of Maine.
- Of note, the kitchen experienced a massive rush on pancakes; Miriam, Cindy, and Jo saved the evening by whipping up extra batches at record speed. The community atmosphere was wonderful, with guests staying late to connect.
- After four incredible years directing this event, Jane stepped down from her leadership role. High school student Jonnie Wheaton demonstrated stellar dedication by working the floor from setup to cleanup and has been tapped to serve as co-chair for the next dinner.

The Inaugural St. Brendan Talent Show (March 1, 2026)

- Brainstormed by John in late 2025, this brand-new initiative became a rousing success.
- John persevered through winter logistics to recruit a wide array of parish talents.
- The impressive turnout and vibrant community reception have officially solidified the Talent Show as an annual St. Brendan tradition.

V. Looking Ahead

- **Upcoming Episcopal Visit (June 21, 2026):** The committee is preparing for a visit from the Bishop. While a full coffee hour spread is not required, designated hospitality ministers will prepare a traveling lunch box of sandwiches for his return drive to Portland.

The co-chairs end their 2-year term with the hope that the mission of St Brendan in fostering a culture of inclusion, respect, fellowship and care was maintained and carried forward. This however would not have been possible without our ministry members whose time, energy, kitchen assistance, and open hearts continue to make a profound and positive impact on the St. Brendan community and beyond.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kassie and Fay

Worship and Music Ministry

St. Brendan's Worship & Music Ministry this year consisted of Pastor Elaine Hewes, The Rev. Emily Blair Stribling, Connie Mayo, Bunny Reardon, Meg Graham, Bill Scaife and Pete Dane.

The Ministry meets monthly and engages in weekly email exchanges. Its annual Fall retreat in September is a time to review the past year and to consider how to craft plans for the new year.

Each week requires discussing and creating a weekly Sunday bulletin. We try to provide thought-provoking worship experiences for the congregation, not only for Sundays but for Lenten and Advent Vespers. This past Holy Week, for instance, Mickey Jacoba and Pete revived a little-used, but effective service, Tenebrae.

Throughout the year, the Ministry explores and discusses new ways to celebrate the Eucharist. Contributions from Elaine, Emily and lay members of this Ministry keep elements like the Affirmation, Prayers of the People and the Confession current and stimulating. We chant the Psalms responsively, after introducing this style a year ago.

The fifth Sunday of a month is celebrated as a Healing Service with priests and lay people offering individual prayers to congregants following the Eucharist.

The third Sunday of the month is dedicated to a brief service in our Memorial and Mediation Garden before the regular service - no matter what the weather. The service includes poems, prayers and silence. We continue to look for ways in which we can integrate the Garden into our liturgical and personal lives.

Underlying these activities is the consistently beautiful and engaging music produced by Connie, particularly her preludes and postludes.

Our choir is growing and making terrific music. It pops up once or twice a month, under Connie's leadership.

At the Vespers and the Celtic Evensong, St. Brendan is blessed to have reflectors

from the community share their stories. Elaine, with her wonderful skills, recruits people as reflectors to share their stories and perspectives.

We thank all of you who volunteer to be lectors, prayer leaders and chalice bearers on Sundays. We invite all members to let us know if they would like to be added to the rotation lists for any of these important tasks.

Bill Scaife, Yr. Obdnt. Servant

Prayer of Saint Brendan

*Lord I will Trust You
Help me to journey beyond the familiar
and into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You
To be stronger than each storm within me.
I will trust in the darkness and know
That my times, even now, are in Your hand.
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,
And somehow, make my obedience count for You.
-Amen*