

2018-19 Annual Report

St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church



July 28, 2019

**627 North Deer Isle Road
P.O. Box 305
Deer Isle, Maine 04627
207-348-6240
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 of 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**.



The Mission Statement and Values above (Goal #2 of the Renewal Plan) were unanimously adopted by the congregation of St. Brendan's September 10, 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

St. Brendan's Mission & Values.....	2
Agenda	4
Minutes of the July 29, 2018 Annual Meeting.....	5-7
Report of the Senior Warden.....	8
Report of the Junior Warden & Buildings and Grounds.....	9-10
Treasurer's Report.....	11-12
Audit Report.....	13
Report of the Nominating Committee.....	14
Search Committee Report.....	15
 Ministry Reports	
Education & Spiritual Development Ministry.....	16-17
Finance & Stewardship Ministry.....	18-19
Outreach Ministry.....	20
Pastoral Care & Welcoming Ministry.....	21
Worship & Music Ministry.....	22-23
Prayer of Saint Brendan.....	24

St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting – July 28, 2019

AGENDA

11:15 Call to Order & Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting on July 29, 2018

Report of Nominating Committee -- Election of Vestry Officers and
Members-at-Large & Convention Delegates and Alternates

Treasurer's Report

Search Committee Report

Comments/Questions for Vestry Officers

Comments/Questions for Ministry Chairs

Closing Prayer & Adjournment

Minutes of the Annual Meeting
St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church
Deer Isle, ME
Sunday, July 29, 2018

The 2018 Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. by Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby. A quorum was present – 34 members were in attendance. Vesta Kowalski offered an opening prayer.

Pete Dane moved to accept the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting; Miriam Antich seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Martha Dane moved and Miriam Antich seconded the motion to accept the Minutes of the Recessed Annual Meeting on September 13th. The motion passed.

Nominating Committee Report

Rich Paget presented the committee's recommendations for officers, members of the Vestry, and delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Convention for the ensuing year:

Senior Warden	Elisabeth Ingoldsby
Junior Warden	Josephine Jacob
Clerk	Barbara Kourajian
Treasurer	Nathan 'Pete' Dane
Members-at-Large	Tom van Buren (one-year term)
	Meg Graham (three-year term)
Continuing Member- at-Large	Miriam Antich (2 year term)

Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Skip Greenlaw and Ruth Robinson

Alternates to Diocesan Convention: Rich Paget and Josephine Jacob

There were no nominations from the floor. Skip Greenlaw moved the nominations be accepted; Pete Dane seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Pete Dane handed out the Treasurer's Report and highlighted the following:

The big liability for the mortgage is gone and we are debt-free. As of next month, even our intra-church loan will be paid in full.

The \$7500 deficit budget is not true because we have paid our Diocesan assessment in full. We are actually \$7500 better than our budget.

Pete remarked it was a very good year and the double assessment is gone and not carried over. He said there was nothing remarkable about the Statement through June 18th.

Jane March questioned why there was no equity line on Page 1 of the Report and suggested the equity line could be broken down into designated funds. Jane was invited to attend the Finance meeting for her input.

Skip Greenlaw moved and Stewart Pierson seconded the motion to accept the Financial Report. The motion passed.

Comments/Questions for Vestry Officers

Lis reflected on her year as Senior Warden. She extended her appreciation to the Vestry for their support and thanked Peter Tarlton and Rich Paget for their work as they are stepping down. She extended special thanks to our supply priests.

Comments/Questions for Ministry Chairs

Lis stated we have five active ministries. It's been a year of real transition -- we have accomplished a lot but there is still a lot to be done. We will be asking what we can add to our ministry descriptions to continue to make things happen.

Pete Dane reminded us this is the time to recruit new members to our ministries. In the next couple of months there will be an opportunity to sign up for a ministry or move to a different ministry.

Mickey Jacoba asked if the Building and Grounds Committee could prioritize and attach figures for the projects they are considering. Lis said that Meg Graham and Jo Jacob will be doing this. One priority that was mentioned: the stairs in front of the altar need to be broadened.

Woody Osborne reported that Outreach didn't reach a consensus on a program for their Ministry. The question was raised if the Vestry should determine the project(s) for Outreach. Mickey commented this would be a tremendous move from where we've been. It was felt this responsibility lies with the Outreach Ministry, as the role of the Vestry is to revisit the ministries on a yearly basis and consider leadership with fresh eyes. It was reported some mentoring of elementary students did happen. Skip Greenlaw invited the congregation to take part in this mentoring outreach.

Jo Jacob suggested that something we've been identified with can be a goal for Outreach but there are other possibilities. The Committee can be a conduit of other ways we can pitch in. She reminded us of the WindowDressers build which begins on August 22nd.

There was some confusion on the Outreach budget – was it based on a fiscal year? Calendar year? This needs to be clarified.

Review and Discussion of the June 24th Parish Forum Survey

Peter Tarlton presented the results of the Priestly Coverage and Sustainability Survey (see attached) and thanked everyone for responding.

Bill Scaife reminded us of setting aside 2% of the value of our building each year in a Capital Fund. He said nothing in the survey results talks about funds for the building. Peter Tarlton stated this supports the need for longer term planned giving. Jane March suggested designating some of the equity in the building towards this. Ruth Robinson stated we need a line item in the budget for the building.

Mickey Jacoba said we have a response; now we need to get on with this. She moved that the Vestry within the next month form a Search Committee for a one-third time priest. Miriam Antich seconded the motion. There was discussion on this which included deferring until it is clear that any collaboration with Castine is out of the question. The motion passed with 15 in favor, 10 opposed.

It was clear we were not comfortable with the close vote. Curtis Flowers asked if we could open the discussion so those opposing the motion could state their reason. Several reasons were given:

Can we come up with the necessary funding? We need to get the money lined up before the search.

Is it fair to hire a one-third priest if the job may require more?

We are an aging congregation – can we sustain this?

The Bishop asked us to think outside the box. There was a hope we could do this at St. Brendan's. This parishioner was not ready to vote for the conventional way we do church.

We're not there financially. A one-third priest is limiting us. Would a quarter-time priest be a possibility?

What do we want to be as a church? Our mission needs to be more clear.

Curtis Flowers stated all of this discussion is required as part of the process. She would like to see the process begin because she felt it was a good mechanism to address these concerns. Lis added the vote indicates there is enough to warrant further discussion and sorting through. Ruth Robinson commented you have to discount the projected figures from the survey. The Finance Committee normally discounts figures as much as 50% to be conservative. She cautioned about "financial fatigue" (going back to our parishioners too many times for money).

Judy Miller stated the Search Committee would address the above concerns. She suggested that perhaps "search" is the wrong word; "discernment" might more aptly describe the function of the committee. The committee would address: What do we want? This could take six months to a year to answer these questions.

Judy moved to rename the Search Committee to the Discernment Committee. Woody Osborne seconded the motion. More discussion ensued. There was still a feeling that even with the renaming of the committee, the charge of Mickey's motion was to hire a one-third priest. Mimi Gerstell moved to table Judy Miller's motion. Ruth Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed. Vesta mentioned we can decide whatever we want, but the Bishop will have a word as to whether we are ready to start a search. There is a diocesan process for hiring a priest.

Martha Dane moved and Curtis Flowers seconded the motion to reconsider Mickey's motion. The motion passed. Judy Miller then moved to form a Discernment Committee. Ruth Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed. The Vestry will name this committee.

Ruth suggested that any Discernment Committee needs to have finance people on it.

We closed the meeting by reading the Prayer of St. Brendan together. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Barbara Kourajian

Clerk

Report of the Senior Warden

St. Brendan's reached a significant milestone this year, accomplishing all eleven goals of the Renewal Plan, culminating with goal #5, confirming parish-wide support – financially and otherwise - for launching a formal search for a part-time Priest in Charge. This was realized after thoughtful parish conversations and a subsequent stewardship campaign, the results of which sent a resounding message of affirmation and support to move forward with a search. In addition, there has been the active engagement and involvement of parish members in our six ministries – the positive outcomes of which are clearly evident in the pages of this Report. The loyal commitment and work of this year's Vestry, along with all of the necessary but 'unsung tasks' done by so many have *all come together* to where we are today: standing as a testament and affirmation that the parish of St. Brendan's has been and continues to be blessed by the power of the Spirit, guiding us on a path forward, marked in part by a healthy growth in attendance, increasing approximately 20 percent over the same timeframe last year. There is an undeniable parish vitality, spirit and life: **good things are *continuing* to happen!**

A reflection on this past year's accomplishments cannot go without extending deep appreciation and gratitude for the encouragement and sage guidance of Fr. Edward Dufresne, The Rev. Vesta Kowalski and The Rev. Steve Hayward. Their support and input helped keep us on a positive track with the Renewal Plan and ministry work until each had to pull away for personal, work and health considerations. I believe our parish has learned a great deal from those who have served and guided us to this point which finds St. Brendan's in a healthy position to conduct a search for a dedicated priestly presence....one that will be collaborative, positive and spiritually enriching for our parish community over the long-term.

It has been a year of affirmations, however I suggest we now shift our view and sharpen our focus and energies on sustaining, maintaining and planning for the future. That said, I am pleased to share the good news that Fr. Edward Dufresne is interested and able to serve St. Brendan's once again as a Consulting Priest, in providing spiritual support and guidance (as his health allows) to the Vestry and Senior Warden, addressing ongoing administrative and ministry matters at the Vestry level. In conversations with Fr. Dufresne, he has also agreed to provide advice, spiritual support and guidance to the Vestry in preparation for a healthy transition of Vestry leadership and potential welcoming of Priest in Charge during 2019-2020. We are pleased and grateful Fr. Dufresne is able to step in and (*pending the necessary approval from the Diocese*) provide the needed priestly presence and guidance in moving us forward over the coming months.

What is once again abundantly clear is that we all share a *deep* love and caring for the health and well-being of St. Brendan's. More than ever I am confident the Spirit is onboard with us and will continue to guide us along our journey of faith in serving the needs of our members, the island, Peninsula and beyond.

Thank you to the entire Vestry for their willingness to serve, and to you - the members of St. Brendan's - for your trust and support.

Lis Ingoldsby, Senior Warden

July 30, 2018-July 28, 2019

Report of the Junior Warden & Buildings and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds completed several projects in 2018, some of which point in the direction of further possible improvements.

In August Ann Tarlton and Jo Jacob designed and executed a pocket garden in the unsightly area by the main steps to the new building, transforming it into a little oasis of tree, shrubbery, and ground cover. This summer we are completing the north side garden with additional shrubbery and ground cover and moving the large rocks.

After several incidents when clergy and servers tripped on the steps to the altar we had the steps redesigned to be both safer and more attractive. Made of cherry and no longer covered with carpet they offer an idea of how the whole altar area would look if we removed the remaining carpet and installed wood flooring instead. We are also exploring ways to improve the railing around the altar area. To spruce up the sanctuary, we will investigate the possibility of a work day to paint the floor and the pews. This would limit the cost to materials and rental for a sander.

Further measures intended to keep water out of the basement were completed in the fall when a new door was installed in the outside entrance to the basement. Except in the most severe rainstorms the door now blocks water that had been seeping in and gathering under the outdoor stairway. Some regrading of the runoff area remains to be done to keep out all water in periods of heavy rain.

A number of minor repairs have been required in the kitchen which has now been certified as a commercial kitchen. Both outdoor lighting and signage have also been improved.

The number one priority for this fall is the repair and, if necessary, painting of the exterior window sills and trim on the south side of the old church. This project was delayed by weather, but this year we will push ahead with this project and also investigate the state of the old church roof, which is shedding shingles in high wind.

An ad hoc library committee headed by Mickey Jacoba has moved the small library that has been shut in the church office since the move from the community center in Stonington out from behind closed doors. The books now housed in new shelving in the clergy office can be read on site and will soon be made available for circulation. Policies for soliciting and accepting additional books will also be worked out in detail before the summer ends.

To improve safety and accessibility we are seeking to install an automatic door opener and to improve the surface of the parking lot around the bottom of the steps, to avoid winter ice buildup.

A look at St. Brendan's financial statements for 2019 will reveal that the Finance Committee has followed through on the long-discussed plan to establish a capital account to cover any larger projects needed in the coming years. To this end \$50,000 has been set aside initially, with the agreement that we will budget for \$10,000 to be added annually.

Continued-

Report of the Junior Warden & Buildings and Grounds, cont.

The Committee will meet again soon after the Congregational Meeting. Anyone wishing to have other issues addressed or suggest other improvements should contact Jo Jacob or Meg Graham.

Hall Rentals

Happily, St. Brendan's is on the radar of community groups and individuals seeking a beautiful and accessible space for meetings, parties, and events, public and private. Our kitchen is certified for commercial production and we have fielded several inquiries about such use.

Along with the increased demand comes the need for more attention to cleaning and maintenance, as well as existing calendar bookings to avoid any conflict in usage. Receiving and responding to new requests for use of our building remains a priority in order to encourage and promote broader community awareness and usage.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo Jacob ,Junior Warden and Margaret Graham, Chair B&G

Treasurer's Report

I. The Causes for Celebration

Two Thousand Eighteen was a very successful year from the \$ perspective. We set aside funds to support a 1/3 time priest and put in a decent amount to cover Future Capital Costs for the building. **Thank you so much for your generosity!** It is truly a cause for celebration.

A nutshell summary of 2018 is attached. If you wish to review details, please contact me. The 2018 year end audit report is attached. Thank you, Luke Williams, Kathy Burton and Martha Dane for efficiently and timely reviewing on a quarterly basis the financial records. I will bet no parish in the Diocese can demonstrate such timely and conscientious audit work as this Committee has done for several years now.

II. The Challenging Stuff Addressed

Last year the question was whether in 2018 and beyond there was sufficient willingness and capacity to pay for the level of priestly presence we are seeking. And indeed, as the attached budget report for the first half of 2019 demonstrates, you have answered the call. The Search Committee can with a completely straight face represent that we are able to support the priestly presence we seek.

We can also state that funds are being budgeted from the Operating Account to address Future Capital Costs for the building. Few churches our size can honestly represent that this is being done.

Thanks are due to the assistance of the members of the Finance Committee this year: our Chair, Ruth Robinson, and members Meg Graham, Stu Pierson, Dan Reardon, Judy Miller and Rich Paget.

And, as always, a very special thanks is due Carolyn Mor for all her work doing the books throughout the year.

Nathan 'Pete' Dane, Treasurer

SAINT BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR
FINANCE REPORT NUTSHELL VERSION

Through June 30, 2019

	<u>Actual to Date</u>	<u>Budget to Date</u>	<u>Total Budget</u>
<u>Total Revenue</u>	66,251	49,653	102,056
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Diocesan Assessment	6,645	6,595	13,190
Clergy Expenses	15,110	17,533	35,626
Office Expense	2,528	5,573	11,148
Building Operating	6,770	7,289	14,578
Building Repair	1,392	7,100	14,200
Other	109	1,200	2,400
Outreach	3,496	4,289	8,577
Worship	5,822	6,455	12,910
<u>Total Expenditures</u>	41,872	56,034	112,629

Audit Report

March 14, 2019

We have performed a financial records Audit of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church, Deer Isle, ME, for the year 2018. Our Audit was made in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Maine.

In the Audit Team's estimation, the financial condition of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is fairly reported in the Treasurer's Report.

In 2018 the Audit was performed on a Rolling Quarterly basis. Each quarter's audit was completed within a few weeks after the close of each quarter. The fourth Quarter Audit was completed on March 14, 2019. This completed the Audit for the year 2018.

The Rolling Quarterly Audit process evens out the audit load during the year. It allows auditors to address any possible Irregularity sooner and the Treasurer to incorporate relevant changes. We use a checklist as a guide. Moreover, questions that arise are readily addressed by the Treasurer/Bookkeeper from memory.

There were no significant unresolved differences. We highly compliment our Bookkeeper, Carolyn Mor, for the completeness and accuracy of her records in addition to her cordial willingness to address any questions that were raised in the course of our audits.

Audit Team Member: Luke Williams

Audit Team Member: Martha Dane

Audit Team Member: Kathy Burton

Nominating Committee Report

For Senior Warden: Lis Ingoldsby

For Junior Warden: Josephine Jacob

For Clerk: Barbara Kourajian

For Treasurer: Bill Scaife

For Vestry Member -at -Large (3 year term): Tom van Buren

(Miriam Antich will be continuing, serving the third of a three year term)

(Meg Graham will be continuing, serving the second of a three year term)

For Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Skip and Diane Greenlaw

For Alternates to the Diocesan Convention: Ruth Robinson and Barbara Kourajian

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Miller, Ann Tarlton, Jackie Wilson and Pete Dane

Search Committee Report

At its January 31st meeting, the Vestry appointed Martha Dane, Curtis Flowers, Barbara Kourajian, Judy Miller, Bill Scaife, and Luke Williams as members of the Search Committee. The Committee began their work in early February and shortly thereafter met with Michael Ambler, Canon to the Ordinary, by Zoom conference to discuss the process of compiling our OTM (Office of Transition Ministry) Portfolio.

Canon Ambler visited St. Brendan's on March 31st to commission our Search Committee and to discuss the search process and the series of questions for our OTM Portfolio. A mailing to parishioners and an online form enabled everyone to respond to the questions. A parish meeting on April 14th gave members an opportunity to share their responses. Following this meeting, the committee went to work to craft our document. We were grateful for the input we received from nearly 30 parishioners giving us a wealth of information to work with.

The Search Committee spent the remainder of April and early May fine-tuning our responses. Once completed, the document was reviewed by Canon Ambler and presented to the congregation and Vestry. The Vestry approved the work of the Search Committee on the OTM Portfolio at their May 21st meeting. The job was posted on the Diocesan website mid-June.

This search process has brought new life to our website as the website is now part of a church's profile. The Ministry chairs have updated their pages and a new link dedicated to the Search has been created. A "Dear Candidate" letter, our OTM Portfolio, and information about Deer Isle are now available to a potential candidate or anyone wanting to find out more about St. Brendan's.

We are asking our parishioners to think of clergy they know who might be a good fit for St. Brendan's. Encourage them to visit our website and consider applying. Many of you have contact with priests outside of Maine. Spread the word! Please sing our praises to them! And, as always, please keep our search process in your prayers.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on the people of St. Brendan's and guide our hearts and minds as we seek to discern your will for our future and seek to be drawn closer to you. Amen.

The Search Committee

Martha Dane, Curtis Flowers, Barbara Kourajian, Judy Miller, Bill Scaife, and Luke Williams

Ministry Reports

Education & Spiritual Development Ministry

The mission of the Ministry is to further the mission of St. Brendan's by:

*Providing leadership through September, 2018 in achieving **Parish Renewal Plan Goal #2:** Establish a preaching, teaching, program emphasis and put in place a Christian Caring Team to promote a spirit of mutual respect, caring and encouragement in the parish.*

Ministry members plus Peter Dane met after the Sunday liturgy on June 30, 2019. At that time we discussed and firmed up most of our summer offerings.

Our ministry is happy to offer diverse offerings this summer and fall. This summer we hope some of our programs will bring in members of the larger community to St Brendan's Church. Besides educational and spiritual opportunities to enrich our parish family, we are looking to reach out and give others an opportunity to get to know us.

2019 Summer Offerings:

1. Monday afternoon silent meditation at the church at 4:30 facilitated by Woody Osborne continues. This group(now 3-4 years old) has grown bigger and does draw people from the community at large. Thank you to Miriam Antich for the "Silent Meditation" sign outside the church and Woody and Miriam's faithful presence.
2. Anne Cushman (former St. Brendan Church member) facilitated three discussion group meetings 6/17, 6/24 and 7/1 on selected parts of Thomas Merton's book, *Love and Living*. Fifteen people faithfully engaged with Anne and Merton wisdom on Mondays from 2:30-4. Several people from the Merton group stayed for silent meditation. This program was announced in the local peninsula papers and in the NorthEast Guild For Spiritual Formation (MDI) newsletter. One person from the Guild membership and two other non church members were part of the group. Many thanks to Anne for her inspired guidance.
3. Our annual parish book discussion group began 7/11 and will meet for seven weeks. This year The Right Rev. Sam Hulsey will lead the discussion of Richard Rohr's new book, *The Universal Christ*. Twenty people have signed up for this offering. We will start our weekly Thursday 5-6:30 p.m. gatherings at the Tarlton's home. If the group is too big, the meetings will move to church hall. Ann Tarlton has generously offered to host the group and facilitate when Sam can't lead.
4. The summer philosophy seminar with Trinity College philosophy professor Peter Antich PhD will be on Monday, August 12th from 9a.m.-noon, Peter will assign a sampling of readings from Hegel on the philosophy of religion. He will open with an introduction to Hegel and the readings and discussion will follow.
5. The Rev. Richard Mallory, Associate Rector at Grace St Paul's Episcopal Church in Tucson, AZ will offer three classes/discussion groups combining the Old Testament and depth psychology on the figures of Jacob, Joseph and Saul on Monday mornings, 9/2, 9/9, 9/16 from 10-11:30 a.m. Richard is a priest and psychotherapist. He is recommending two books for those interested in wanting background for the group: *The Man Who Wrestled With God and King Saul*, *The Tragic Hero* both by John.A Sanford, Episcopal priest and Jungian analyst.

Continued-

Education & Spiritual Development Ministry, cont.

6. The Rev. Richard Mallory will also offer time for “sermon talk back” for those interested during the coffee hour after the Sunday liturgies at which he is supply priest: 9/1,9/15,9/29. Participants will be able to raise questions and offer opinions about the sermon or anything else in the service such as the texts for the day: “It offers time for a give and take among parishioners and preacher.”

7. Some of the members of the ED and Spirituality Ministry and Worship Ministry will attend a Sunday 5:30p.m. Celtic Liturgy at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Rockland and have a short meeting with Rector Lael Sorenson about the impact of the Celtic liturgy on her congregation.

8. Joan Maxwell will give a free, public talk on “Supporting a dying loved one” ,7/31 St. Brendan’s Church at 5 p.m. Joan, a member of St Brendan’s, author and retired interfaith hospital chaplain has generously offered to share with us what she has learned about dying people’s emotional and spiritual needs and wants and what we can say or do to support a dying loved one. We will put an ad in *Island Ad-Vantages* and *Weekly Packet* and announce talk in “Coming Events” including the *Ellsworth American*.

Thank you to the generosity of all those stepping forward to facilitate these offerings. We are blessed.

Summer chair: Patricia Donahue

Members:

Joan Maxwell

Barbara Wright

Bill Scaife

Ann Tarlton

Mickey Jacoba

John Lofty

Finance & Stewardship Ministry

The mission of the Ministry is to further the mission of St. Brendan's by:

*Providing leadership through September, 2018 in achieving Parish Renewal Plan Goals # 4. **Develop and carry out an extended stewardship campaign** with person-to-person involvement to provide support for parish mission priorities and ministries, and # 5 **Confirm congregational support for, develop a realistic budget and financial projection for, and partner with the Bishop's Office for calling a part-time Priest-in-Charge.***

Your Finance Committee met monthly during 2018 and thanks go out to those who live away from Maine during the winter and participate by conference call. That is not an easy task and they do it religiously and well. Thanks also to our Treasurer, Pete Dane, for his willingness to work with this group.

As is our charge, we worked diligently to monitor the monthly budget operations at St. Brendan's. In addition, we have developed important tools for enhancing value with the capital we have, as carried on our balance sheet. These financial documents tell the financial story of our Church.

A successful Stewardship campaign allowed us to cover our operating expenses and to reserve money for our anticipated call for permanent clergy. Because we had a small surplus in 2018, the Committee asked the Vestry to allocate that amount to our Capital Reserve (*please note: the Vestry however allocated half to Clergy Salary Reserve and half to Building Capital Reserve*). We have been working with the Building and Grounds committee to fund what they consider to be priorities for caring for our physical plant. In addition, and thanks to the work of Jane March, we allocated about one half of the capital held by the Maine Community Foundation to our Capital Reserve. At this time, this is a paper transaction only, but we are working on making that an actual transfer to our Investment Account.

Last July, we deposited \$25,000 into an investment account at Fidelity. It consists of CDs only and we work hard to maximize interest rates on these notes, considering the interest rate environment. In one year, those notes have earned almost \$600 for the Church, which is income we have not had in the past.

Our investment account is also acting as a no-cost vehicle for parishioners who wish to fulfill their pledges by transferring stock. Last year, we established a formal procedure for translating stock into cash to maximize value for the Church. And we thank those who did so in 2018.

Finally, we are working to simplify our balance sheet and hope to complete this work in 2019. We are also accurately aware of our financial needs going forward should we call and engage a priest in 2019.

My thanks to a terrific group of people who comprise this Finance Committee. We can sometimes disagree on methodology, but we never disagree on our commitment to St. Brendan's.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Robinson, Chair

Dan Reardon, Meg Graham, Judy Miller, Richard Paget, Stewart Pierson

Continued-

Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Campaign set a goal of \$96,000 in order to have sufficient funds to begin a search for a part-time priest. There were 43 pledging units which represented an increase over last year. Several were new pledgers. The total pledged was \$96,306. *Thank you so much* for everyone's affirming support and generosity in helping us meet (and exceed!) our goal.

Last year we started the Stewardship Campaign in late August after a meeting in which it was approved that we should try to start the discernment process. The earlier start seemed to be helpful in getting the pledges in earlier. The committee decided to start the campaign in 2019 the day of the Annual Meeting.

The Stewardship Committee

Miriam Antich, Judy Miller, Pete Dane, Curtis Flowers

Outreach Ministry

In the 2018 Annual Report, the mission of the Outreach Ministry was written as follows:

To Provide leadership through September, 2018 in achieving Parish Renewal Plan Goal # 9: Develop one or two outreach ministries focused on the needs of residents of Deer Isle and the peninsula, ministries that, in addition to helping people in need, will begin to forge a 'parish identity' and provide a strong ecumenical, service and evangelism impact.

Based on extended discussions of the working group of the ministry, the essential mission is to guide funding and activities of St. Brendan's community service and engagement toward helping people in need. The evangelical mission is less defined or agreed upon.

From the late summer to the late fall of 2018, the outreach ministry conducted a community build of approximately 100 Window Dresser inserts under the direction of Jo Jacobs and Holiday meal distribution to over 20 families by Skip Greenlaw and Linda Sheperd. In January, Ann van Buren assumed the role of acting chair until September of 2019. Discussions renewed over questions of mission, use of resources and ways to engage personally as well as financially in community service projects, as well as the participation or leadership of the ministry in church based cultural and civic events. These discussions continue to date. In April and May, the committee awarded preliminary funding of unspent funds from the 2018 budget to support prison volunteer efforts, homelessness services and winter heating assistance for 2019-20, and from the 2019 budget, two High School graduate college scholarships and twelve summer camp scholarships were funded. All of these efforts continue past practices, but in an effort to expand engagement, we invited speakers from two funded organizations to speak to the congregation and community after services in June on the subject of incarceration (June 9th) and poverty and homelessness (June 23rd). Attendance at both events was excellent. In addition, the Outreach Ministry is supporting a cultural and educational program of poetry on the theme of the voyage of St. Brendan himself. Going forward, the ministry welcomes congregation wide participation in guiding the outreach efforts of St. Brendan's in the metaphorical voyage to a better world.

Fall 2018: \$2,206.46

Holiday Meals (Nov-December 2018) \$2,206.46

Spring 2019: \$4,250

Volunteers for Hancock Jail Residents	\$500.00
Island Community Center / Summer Camp	\$1,500.00
Island Heating Assistance	\$250.00
Deer isle Stonington HS Scholarship	\$1,000.00
George Stevens Scholarship	\$1,000.00

Many thanks to members of the Outreach Committee: Martha Dane, Skip Greenlaw, Jo Jacobs (Vestry member), Richard Paget, Julie Pierson, Bunny Reardon, Ann van Buren (Acting Chair), Tom van Buren (Vestry Liaison), Luke and Anne Williams and Jackie Wilson.

Pastoral Care and Welcoming

The mission of the Ministry is to further the mission of St. Brendan's by:

Promoting a spirit of mutual respect, caring and encouragement in the parish . . . [and making] . . . an intentional effort to include summer parishioners in the year-round life and ministries of St. Brendan's.

In 2019, the Pastoral Care Committee has continued its card ministry. We are hoping this card ministry will strengthen the connections between seasonal and year round members so that St. Brendan's can become part of everyone's worship family. We want each member of the parish to feel they are thought of, prayed for, and held in our hearts as valued members of St. Brendan's family.

That being said, I as co-chair of the committee wish to extend an apology to the June birthday members for not getting their birthday cards. Somehow, "life happened", and I didn't get it done. So a belated but sincere Happy Birthday to Charlie Egerton, Nina Dayton, Jean Wheeler, Stewart Pierson, Bill Scaife, Chick White, Julie Pierson, Bill Reardon and John Lofty .

We continue to bring communion to members unable to attend our Sunday worship service. Several parishioners have been trained so please don't hesitate to call if you would like us to come to your home. I can be reached at 460-7230.

Our struggle continues with identifying needs in a timely manner. Please let us know when we can offer help or encouragement. It might be a ride, a meal, a visit or a call or just an occasional card when you are in need of someone to reach out to you. We are a family in Christ and that means caring for each and every one.

Miriam Antich continues to do an outstanding job of keeping our prayer list updated, and we are very thankful for her ministry.

I would like to thank my co-chair, Carolyn Mor, for all her hard work this past year. Carolyn will continue as a member of the committee, but no longer as co-chair. Anyone interested in becoming co-chair, please let me know.

Pastoral Care is not just a committee. It is what every one of us do well at St. Brendan's. Reach out to one another and go beyond the simple hello. We are a family in Christ, let us all remember that.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Greenlaw, Carolyn Mor

Worship and Music Ministry

The mission of the Ministry is to further the mission of St. Brendan's by:

*Providing leadership through September, 2018 in achieving **Parish Renewal Plan Goal #8**, Continue to plan and implement parish liturgical and ecumenical celebrations that make for lively, joyous worship;*

The year 2018-2019: for St. Brendan's Worship Committee, a fantastic year and a fantastic committee. In October, 2018, the Reverend Vesta Kowalski left as our mentor to go to California but not before leaving us with her training and wisdom. We felt ready "to go it alone."

We have been busy; some interesting numbers:

54 bulletins (plus 4 to be ready for August) designed, proofed (proofed again), printed and ready for Sundays and for Special Services.

11 Committee Meetings

5 Lay-Led Services: Advent Vespers -- theme darkness/light; Morning Prayer Candlemas;
Morning Prayer Last Sunday after Epiphany; Evening Prayer Ash Wednesday;
Good Friday Evening Prayer -- Tenebrae

4 Nursing Home Services: Christmastide Lessons & Carols; March 3; Easter Sunday; June 16

3 Congregational Meetings

1 Special Training Session

- ◆ Our primary responsibility was to design worship services following our liturgical calendar. Highlighting our work in addition to the regular Sunday morning Eucharist were lay-led and special services. The Committee was rewarded with very positive congregational response.
- ◆ Congregational Meetings/Training/Other Programs:
A successful Eucharistic Visitors Training led by Reverend Vesta Kolwaski was held.
Guidelines for sending EVs out and for the care of the communion kit were established.

Two forums/discussions focusing on the document "Reclaiming Jesus" were led by the Reverend Steven Hayward. A creed based on this document was written by the Worship Committee and presented but did not receive diocesan approval for use.

The committee voted to omit the Lectionary Old Testament readings for a trial period during Advent. A congregational meeting to assess members' responses was held following this trial period. Overall reaction was positive with a few members noting that they missed hearing some familiar lessons.

A proposal to hold a five-week Bible study on the book of Amos was presented and given considerable time and thought by the committee. The proposal involved reading the book of Amos as the OT lesson for this time period. A draft letter to the bishop was brought to the vestry requesting permission to do this. The vestry strongly recommended the proposal wait for the installation of the new bishop and that the congregation be further informed before action be taken. The committee voted to terminate the proposal.

- ◆ Other Tasks and Activities:
The organ was repaired and tuned. Both pianos were tuned.
The Worship Committee took on the task of scheduling priests for Sunday service.
Advent materials for congregational use were selected and made available to the congregation.
The Worship section of the Web page was rewritten. Quarterly and Annual Reports were submitted.
The committee continued supporting and working with the altar guild.
Communication with each other (I didn't count my emails) and the congregation was ongoing.

Committee Members: Pete Dane, Barbara Kourajian, Connie Mayo, Ann Ottesen
Submitted by: Mickey Jacoba, chair and devoted scribe

Worship and Music Ministry Report, cont.

Music Report

Music at St. Brendan's in 2018 – 2019 continued to be an important aspect of all worship services throughout the year. The Sunday service followed the usual pattern of 4 hymns for congregational singing accompanied by the organ, service music appropriate to the liturgical season, and prelude and postlude played mostly on the organ, though occasionally on the piano.

The small, faithful choir of 6-9 voices met regularly on Wednesdays at 4:30 to learn and rehearse choral music. The choir sang during many Sunday services, accompanied by piano. Over the course of the year, the choir learned and reviewed numerous sacred songs by renaissance composers.

The church's 3 instruments are in good condition. The organ received needed repair to the swell box shades which was completed in the late fall by David Friedell.

Connie Mayo, Music Director

Altar Guild Report

A small but dedicated group of individuals comprise our Altar Guild.. This group prepares and cleans up the altar after each of our Sunday services with Eucharist. They are responsible for any special enhancements for our services: Advent wreath, table with the Tenebrae candles, etc.. The Altar Guild prepares the Communion Box for our lay Eucharistic visitors. Additionally, the Altar Guild coordinates flowers for the altar.

We extend our thanks to Ann Ottesen for her years of serving on the Altar Guild. Now with Ann's departure, we are looking for additional people to help with this important ministry.

The Altar Guild

Jo Jacob, Barbara Kourajian, Ann Ottesen, and Ruth Robinson

Prayer of St. Brendan

*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