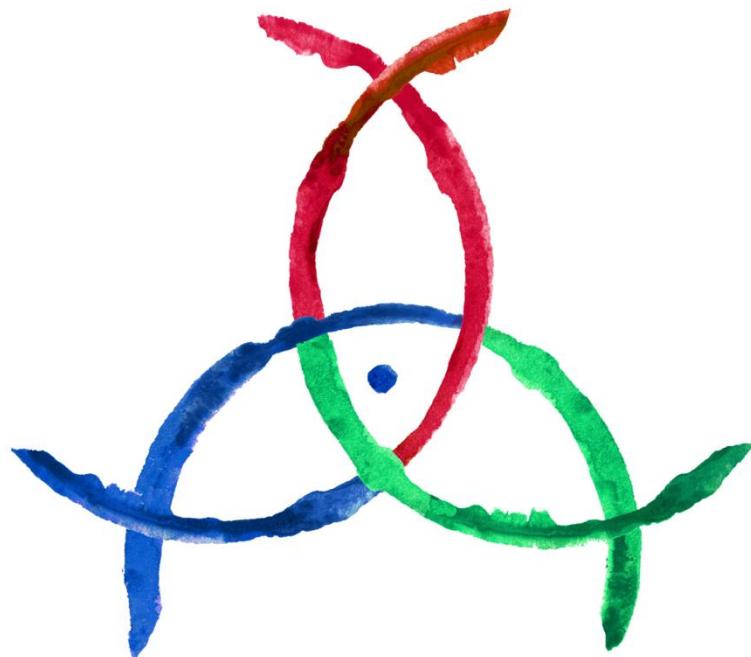


# 184<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## MINISTRY REPORT

---

*Sunday, January 26, 2020*



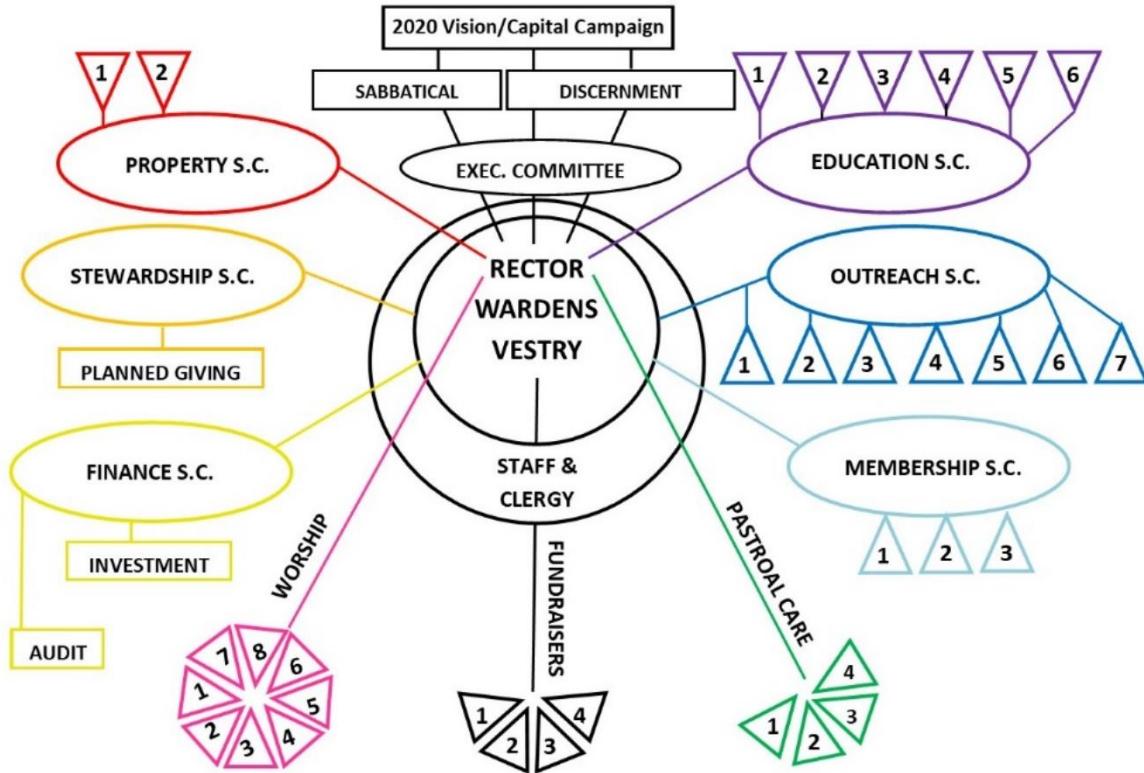
St. John's Episcopal Church  
234 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401  
(207) 947-0156 [office@stjohnsbangor.org](mailto:office@stjohnsbangor.org)

**Reports for the  
Program Year 2018 - 2019**

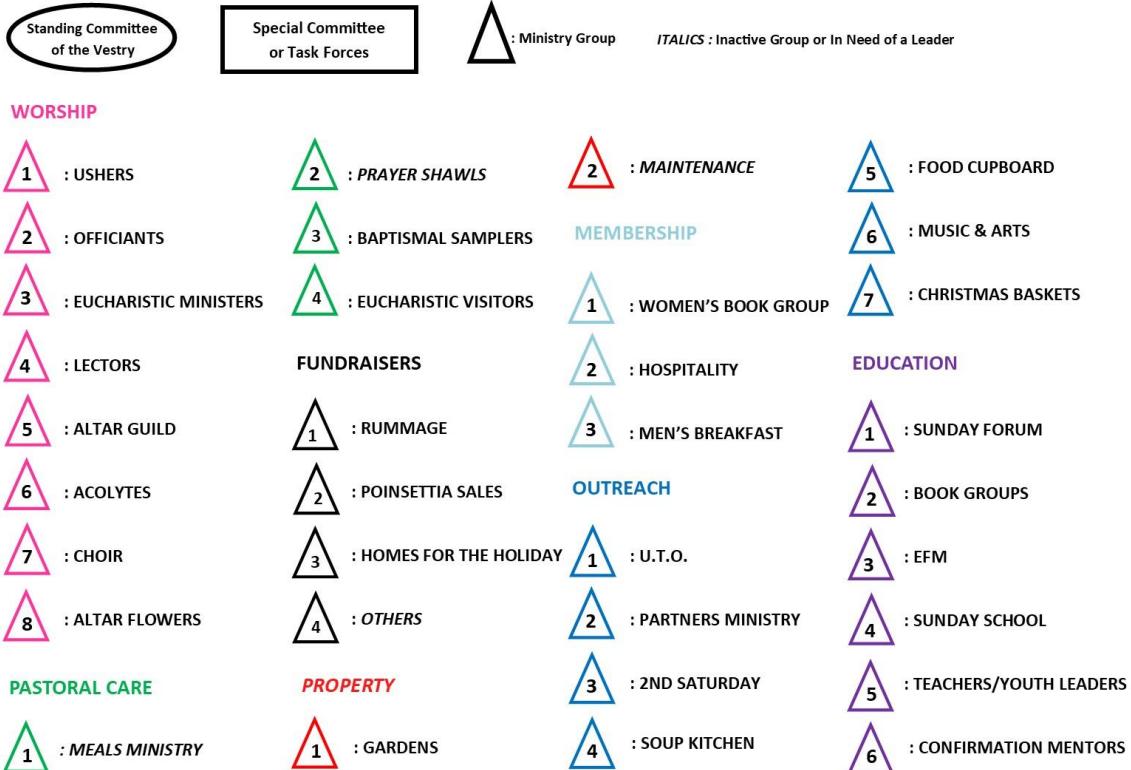
“Making God’s Love Known”

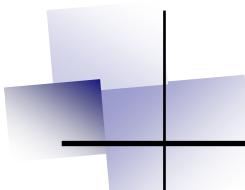
# Reports for the Program Year 2018-2019

## St. John's Episcopal Church Committee Structure



## LEGEND





# Reports for the Program Year 2018-2019

---

## **WORSHIP GROUPS**

### ***USHERS - Jim Blanchette***

**Membership:** We currently have 17 parishioners who usher for Sunday services and special events. This past year we welcomed 2 new parishioners to be part of our committee. We did have 5 ushers who stepped down. (Thank you to all who serve the parish and community in this valuable ministry).

**Mission & Purpose:** Greet people as they arrive at our church, pass out bulletins, assist new or visiting people, take the offering, guide people to communion, and handle any issues that may arise during the service.

**2019 Highlights:** Helped usher for special services such as Evensong, Holy Day Services and Funerals.

**2019 Objectives:** To have ushers at all Sunday Services and special services. This past summer was very difficult to find ushers for the 8:00 service but since we changed to only one service at 9:00 it made it easier for scheduling. I am hoping that this will be the case again next summer.

**Ministry Hopes for 2020:** Recruit new people, especially for the 8:00 service, to usher and keep all ushers informed of any changes to our procedures. We will continue to serve and assist St. John's parishioners and newcomers at all major services.

### ***EUCARISTIC MINISTERS – Anne-Marie Miller***

**2017-2018 Objectives met:** All services were covered even during significant weather challenges.

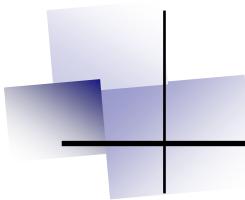
**Ministry Hopes for 2018 - 2019:** We will continue to fill the schedule as well as find volunteers for special services. Perhaps find another licensed chalice bearer or train a new volunteer.

### ***LECTORS - David Field***

**Membership:** 8:00 Service: David Field, Ross Moczo-Sterling, Cynthia Oakes, , Howard La Rue, Cindy Lufkin. 10:00 Service: Sarah Danser, Katharine Fodnaess, Jerry Lyden, Cassandra Palmer, Page Stevens, David Ulrich, Joe Wright, Eric Boberg, Susan Pearson, Joe Wright.

**Mission & Purpose:** To provide readers for the lessons at the regularly scheduled services on Sunday mornings, at the monthly Evensong services, and at special services during Holy Week and Christmas. At the 10:00 Sunday services, the lector also reads the Prayers of the People. Lectors also provide refreshments for the Sunday coffee hours in regular rotation with other Parish groups.

**Ministry Hopes for 2019 - 2020:** Continue to serve the Parish according to our mission and purpose and to maintain a viable group of lectors.



## Reports for the Program Year 2018-2019

---

### ***ALTAR GUILD – Cindy Lufkin***

Membership: Meredith Allbright, Patty Hamilton, Nancy Henry, Dillan Lee, Cindy Lufkin, Nancy Nicholson, Cindy Oakes, Lorraine Schinck, Candice Schoth, Sophia Steadman, Inez Toothaker

This important ministry cares for the linens and vessels necessary for Eucharists and other services at our church. We learn to do this with care and reverence, knowing that these are not everyday items, but ones set apart for use in worship. Church will happen without the altar guild, because God is where two or three gather, but having willing volunteers to serve adds to the beauty of church, so the congregation will have a respite from the world in a graceful gathered experience.

When I took over as leader almost a year ago, my first steps were organizing the sacristy and writing a new customary. The sacristy contains several items used in worship in years past, which might be reintroduced into use. For instance, women of the church made needlepoint hangings years ago, some of which can become banners; the descending dove at Pentecost has already been used. (And if you know the history of who made these items, or anything we have, please contact me.)

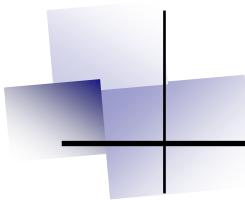
A booklet detailing how things are done – and there is quite a lot – should help ease new members into their tasks. We are always looking for new members, women and men, high-school age and older. Do not be scared off: not everyone does everything, such as taking linens home for laundering. God had given a variety of gifts to different people. All we ask is for your presence and willingness to learn, and give an hour or so a month of your time. So if you are looking for a behind-the-scenes opportunity to serve your church, the altar guild might be right for you!

### ***HEAD CHORISTER - Claudia Blanchette***

This is our second year with Dr. Webb Parker as choir director and Josh Singer as organist. Their wealth of musical knowledge, experience, and commitment to this ministry is an asset to St. Johns. Under Webb's direction leading us choristers of all ages, personalities, and singing levels has allowed us to make a worthy offering to this parish, community, and God.

The music we offer for the special services and seasons of the church year such as Advent Lessons & Carols, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Evensongs strengthens our faith. The hymns and psalms enhance the theology lessons and gospels for each service. Webb's Baptist upbringing shows in his deep knowledge of the bible, which he shares with us at most rehearsals. Hymns also unite us with the various ages of the parishioners in attendance and with the spirits of those that dwell in this holy place. We offered a service of Remembrance and Peace for the occasion of Veteran's Day in November 2019. Our choir is honored to sing for loved ones and the community at funerals, baptisms, and the annual Martin Luther King Service (unfortunately it was cancelled this past January due to snow storm).

One of my duties, as head chorister, is to lead by example, keep the choir organized in lining up on time before services and observing a quiet time before entering the church, answering any general questions, taking attendance, organizing the Easter Breakfast for choir & clergy, and ensuring everyone has proper vestments and music ready that is needed for that service.



## Reports for the Program Year 2018-2019

---

This summer, instead of the usual pick-up choir, any choristers who were in town and attending the service were encouraged to mingle with the parishioners and give a “good lead” to the congregation in singing where we were seated. It is wonderful to have Josh continue to play the organ during the summer months, when he was available. Hopefully we will grow in the number of choristers both adult and youth singers each year. Lastly, we always recite this Chorister’s Prayer at rehearsals and warm-ups:

**Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN**

Claudia Blanchette, Head Chorister

### ***ALTAR FLOWERS – Inez Toothaker***

44 sponsors for altar flowers from January to December 2019. Requests for sponsored flowers may be sent by texting [countrycottage11@aol.com](mailto:countrycottage11@aol.com), by calling 234-4101, or signing the chart at entrance of church.

### **PASTORAL CARE GROUPS**

#### ***PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING – Cindy Lufkin***

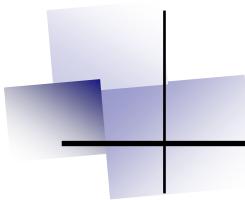
This group is on hiatus due to people being unable to gather. However, some of us knit shawls at home to be blessed at the Healing Eucharist on Wednesday, and are saved to be distributed to those in need of love and support in time of illness or to celebrate special events in their lives. If you are interested in gathering together for fellowship, knitting from home, or would like to arrange for the gift of a prayer shawl, contact me.

#### ***BAPTISMAL SAMPLERS - Nancy Henry***

We make a counted cross stitch sampler for a child that is being baptized in our church for a reminder of this special time. If anyone is interested in helping or learning how to do this, we would like to have you join us. Other members are Lura Williams, Cindy Lufkin, Inez Toothaker, and Nancy Henry.

#### ***EUCARISTIC VISITORS –Anne-Marie Miller***

Membership: Jim and Claudia Blanchette, Donna Demmons, Bruce Mallonee, Evelyn Robbins, David Ulrich, Anne-Marie Miller, Sheila Stratton.



# Reports for the Program Year 2018-2019

---

Mission & Purpose: To connect our homebound parishioners with us and we with them, by regular monthly visits with communion. *We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.*

Ministry Hopes for 2019 - 2020: To continue to connect with our homebound parishioners by sharing communion, and to train new members to this ministry.

## **FUNDRAISER GROUPS**

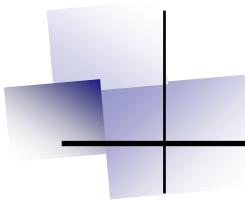
### ***RUMMAGE SALE - Claudia Blanchette***

Membership: Volunteers of women, men, and teens of the parish, organized by Claudia Blanchette, Nancy Henry, and Judy Jones.

Mission & Purpose: We have held two sales a year for many years: Spring & Fall. The money raised helps the budget of St. John's. The process of collecting, sorting, pricing, and holding the sale provides valuable fellowship for all involved. I try to keep an eye open for new parishioners and ask if they would like to help. I appreciate the core of faithful workers who show up each time. We share fun and get to have a deeper relationship with each other. We welcomed any able workers on set up days and sale day, whether they could spare only an hour or more.

The actual sale of items benefits the local community by giving them the opportunity to purchase useful household objects, books, toys, jewelry, bedding/linens, and clothes at bargain prices. The sales lighten the load of "stuff" in our homes and makes useful "treasures" from the items donated. We amazingly receive really good quality items from sources such as: people donating items from the death of a family member, households that are downsizing or moving, kids outgrowing clothes/toys, and just the process of people weeding out their excess/unwanted items knowing they will go to a good cause. We often even have a "Boutique" rack of items that are pre-priced such as leather jackets, LL Bean or other brand named clothes, and dresses that are fancy enough for prom or other occasions.

2019 Highlights: The items not sold from each sale are taken to organizations that benefit the Bangor community such as Salvation Army or Goodwill. We give blankets/towels to a pet shelter, and help families who can't afford anything. In the past we have donated remaining men's suits and ladies dresses to an organization who helps outfit people looking to interview for jobs, who can't afford expensive wardrobes to make that first good impression. The jewelry table is always fun and successful at our sales. Thank you to Inez Toothaker and her crew for arranging all the jewelry so beautifully. We really appreciated all who joined us in boxing up and cleaning up after our sales, making the process go so quickly. Thanks especially to some hearty "Dads" from the Sunday School group and other willing recruits that help Jim Blanchette with his truck and utility trailer with this process.



# Reports for the Program Year 2018-2019

---

Objectives met: Yes, we provided a much-needed ministry and raised \$2150 in the Spring and \$2455 in the Fall for a grand total of \$4605, our biggest year yet. Our sales have a reputation in the community for being well organized, good variety, fun, and great prices.

Ministry Future: The core group has been contemplating getting done due to our age and the immense task of setting up tables, racks, pricing, lugging etc. in such a short time frame (3 days) each sale due to working around John Bapst needing our undercroft to feed foreign students. It looks very hopeful that a new project: Thrift Shop at 234 French Street will be able to fulfill a need for “all year” donations and sales. We look forward to helping it be very successful for our church and the community. For more information see Mo. Rita.

## **MEMBERSHIP GROUPS**

### ***WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP – Jane Zenk***

Membership: Betty Calkins, Barbara Clarke, Fran Clukey, Katharine Fodnaess, Marisue Pickering, Lois Soule, Nancy Stine, Rev. MaryAnn Taylor, Cindy Tripplet, Dee Virtue, Jane White-Hassler, Jane Zenk

Mission & Purpose: St. John's Book Group has had another good year of meaningful reading, invigorating discussions and deepening friendships. We welcome all women to the group whether they can attend regularly or only occasionally.

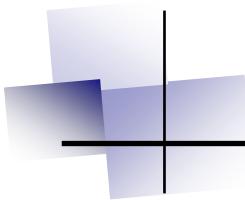
2018-19 Highlights: Books read this year include:

- *American Nations* by Colin Woodard
- *Someone Knows My Name* by Lawrence Hill
- *Sisters-in-Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World* by Linda Hirshman
- *1776* by David McCulloch
- *Living Buddha, Living Christ* by Thich Nat Hanh
- *Markings* by Dag Hammarskjold
- *The Air We Breathe* by Andrea Barrett
- *Women's Reality* by Anne Wilson Schaef
- *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren
- *Founding Brothers* by Joseph J. Ellis

Book for January 2020

- *Why Religion? A Personal Story* by Elaine Pagels

Objectives met: We were able to meet on the third or fourth Tuesday every month except December and July. In order to include women who prefer to drive during daylight, we have changed the meetings from evenings to afternoons. Most books are available on an electric reader or from a public library. New



# Reports for the Program Year 2018-2019

---

members are welcome.

Ministry Hopes for 2020: We hope to offer friendly discussion of a variety of current books.

## ***WELCOME COMMITTEE - Cynthia Oakes***

Members and Helpers: Cynthia Oakes, Nancy Henry, Shelia Stratton, Donna Demmons, Sara Lynn Brubaker.

Mission and Purpose: Is to greet new members and visiting people to our church and inform them about ministries, projects, outreach, education and events that we have to offer at the church and for the community at large.

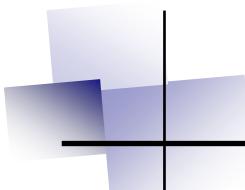
## ***MEN'S BREAKFAST - Jim Blanchette***

Membership: Open to all men of the parish. Our usual attendance is 8-10 with fewer numbers in the summer months.

Mission & Purpose: Fellowship on the second Wednesday morning of each month. We meet for breakfast at the Coach House Restaurant in Brewer at 7 AM. We discuss current events, church history, personal experiences, share stories, and occasionally invite guest speakers. We usually finish by 8 AM so everyone can go to work or continue with their day.

2019 Highlights: In January, Andrew St. Amant, an Anah Shrine Clown talked about what it took to become a clown. He became a member of the Master Mason in 2009 and became a clown in 2017. In February, we discussed the churches "Feasibility Study". We all agreed that we need to stay where we are and ways to raise \$1,500,000. There was some concern about if we could raise that amount. In April, Jim B. talked about his nice warm trip to AZ for 2 weeks to visit with his sister and son (Josh). Bill S. talked about going to his high school class reunion and how things had changed and gotten smaller. There was 6,000 students in his school and covered a full square block. In June, Jim B. shared with everyone the successful season of picking and selling fiddleheads. Don L. shared an incident at his house and leaving a pan of water on the stove and going outside. Suddenly the alarm went off and Don went inside and removed the pan off the stove. Then very shortly afterward the fire dept. arrived and blocked the road. No damage done though. In Dec. Don talked about the fundraiser on the House Tour. Jim B. talked about our vacation to Virginia Beach with their sons and family, birthday party to granddaughter and went to see and walk on the boardwalk.

Ministry Hopes for 2020: To continue our monthly breakfasts, whether we have just a few or a big group, and encourage more men from St. John's to join us. There is always good food, great and interesting conversations, and excellent fellowship. Also to have more speakers



# Reports for the Program Year 2018-2019

---

## **OUTREACH GROUPS**

### ***FOOD CUPBOARD - Jim Blanchette***

Membership: Members of St. John's

Mission & Purpose: To transport food given by parishioners at the church to the Bangor Homeless Shelter for the food pantry every Sunday.

2019 Highlights: This September for our 5th all parish food drive we FILLED the back of Jim's truck thanks to everyone in the parish that contributed food to the shelter.

2019 Objectives: The food donated was taken to the Bangor Shelter every Sunday after church. We had a very successful all parish food drive this September with a lot of food donated.

Ministry Hopes for 2020: To continue taking the food donated by the parish to the shelter and look forward to a 6<sup>th</sup> annual all parish food drive.

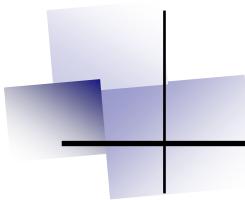
Ministry Hopes for 2018-2019: To continue taking the food donated by the parish to the shelter and look forward to a 4th annual all parish food drive next September.

### ***MUSIC & ARTS - Bruce Mallonee***

The Committee of Music and the Arts includes George Wright, Nancy Marks, Eric Steadman, Marsha Connors, Webb Parker, and Bruce Mallonee. We plan events, help sponsor Evensong and other receptions, and try to make sure our director of music and organist have the support they need. We also present performances that might draw the community into St. John's to enjoy our hospitality. Recent events include concerts by Les Petits Chanteurs, a youth choir from Haiti, and Dr. Parker's Bangor Area Youth Choir, as well as the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration on January 19. Upcoming events include Evensongs and a concert by the Baroque Orchestra of Maine on February 18. For Veterans Day we are planning an afternoon of poetry and reflection to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Finally, and most excitingly, we will host a concert on April 19 at 3 p.m., sponsored by the Collins Center for the Arts. That event will feature Stile Antico, an internationally acclaimed singing group that specializes in Renaissance polyphony. The combination of Stile Antico's splendid singers and our gloriously resonant, vaulted space should be sublime. We would welcome new members to our most enjoyable committee.

Bruce Mallonee  
Chair, Committee on Music and the Arts



## Reports for the Program Year 2018-2019

---

### ***OFFICE VOLUNTEERS – Vanessa Young***

Membership: Arlene Fletcher, Eileen Irwin, Cindy Lufkin, Cynthia Oakes, Page Stevens, Sheila Stratton, Inez Toothaker, Kristin Weeks and various volunteers from CourageLIVES.

Mission & Purpose: The office volunteers work to keep the office running smoothly. They accomplish this by answering phones, greeting visitors, making calls to assist the staff, assisting the rector to reach out to the membership through mailings, assisting in the assembling of Sunday's bulletins, hanging posters of upcoming events around the city, filing, and assisting the office staff as requested.

2018-2019 Highlights: Volunteers were tasked with a specific duty to help keep the work flow running smoothly. The volunteers have assisted the staff to complete countless tasks which we could not have finished in a timely manner without them.

2018-2019 Objectives met: The volunteers helped the members of the staff to efficiently run the office while saving the church money.

Ministry Hopes for 2019-2020: To continue to provide assistance to the staff and the membership of St. John's Episcopal Church. To grow the number of volunteers who assist weekly and those who are willing to substitute.