

St. John's Episcopal Church

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2022 Annual Reports

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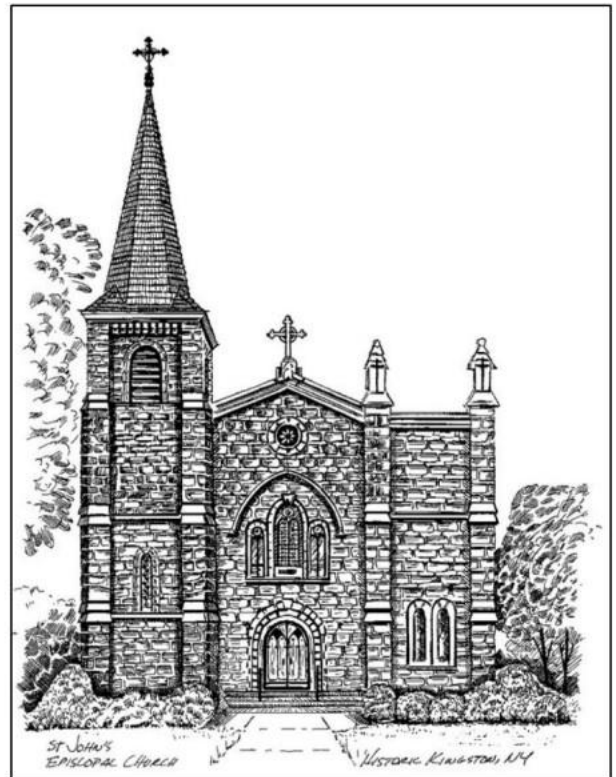
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THE MISSION OF ST. JOHN'S KINGSTON

We are called to know all our neighbors and be a bridge of God's Love; connecting, inviting, sharing, and serving each other and the diverse community of Kingston. We will do this by:

- Sharing our physical space and resources
- Being stewards of the arts
- Advocating for social justice
- Participating in inclusive and intergenerational worship
- Affirming everyone has a place at God's Table

St. John's Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting 1/30/2022

1. Annual meeting called to order at 10:09 AM. Meeting was held in conjunction with Worship service and was completed via Zoom platform due to Covid-19 restrictions. 24 individuals were in attendance. Leah Siuta offered to take meeting notes.
2. 2021 meeting notes and annual reports were made available to full congregation via email with hard copies available in the parish hall. 2021 meeting notes were approved based upon motion made by Laura Ricci, 2nd by Claudette Ford. No further discussion. Vote was all in favor, no one in opposition, unanimously accepted with thanks to Elaine Lawrence who took the notes at that time.
3. The chat room was opened for nominations for the Vestry seats.
4. Rev. Michelle Meech made a Rector's report, which is also included in the packet. She verbally reported on:

Review of 2021 – including the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the need to be flexible and pivot to and from in-person and zoom attendance for church services, meetings and hall use; the retirement of Deacon Sue Bonsteel in June; building and electronic damage and required repair due to a lightning strike in June; chimney repair work: restorative work of the Columbarium (thanks to Sarah Corrigan) and the garden with significant plantings and upkeep (thanks to Terry Earles); Bishop's visit and reception of new individuals; an active pledge campaign; St. John's community participation in the St. John's Harvest (thanks to Ana Hernandez) and organ fundraiser (thanks to Terry Earles); replacement of rectory furnace and much more.

Rev. Michelle further discussed areas that have been offered for Spiritual development including Centering Prayer, Bible study, Christian formation classes, Compline, Longest Night Service, All ages Christmas Eve Service with puppetry and a Christmas Eve service on zoom, etc. Rev. Michelle thanked the congregation, the Vestry, and all involved in all aspects of Christian Life at St. John's.

Looking toward 2022 – the focus of our campaign and outlook is Recommitment, Renewal, and Reconciliation. Rev. Michelle discussed that the building does not define us as we are the church individually and collectively.

However, we are also the stewards of the building and grounds. The Church building needs/repairs especially due to water damage by leaking flashings (material used where the roof meeting the walls and chimneys). An architect was called and did a formal review of all aspects of the building. A summary is in the annual packet and the full report is available as requested. In addition to needed and suggested repairs, the study also looked at accessibility issues such as the ramp and having an accessible bathroom. Consideration of access to more sustainable energy sources should be considered as well. The Vestry is looking into aspects of implementing a capital

campaign to raise funds which includes feasibility, discernment and implementation. Rev Michelle also described the efforts to implement a rental program of the commercial kitchen and other spaces which will expand outreach, support community needs as well as generate income. This will include hiring a part time Rental Manager. In addition, we are looking to hire a part time Church Sexton to assist with cleaning and maintaining the buildings and grounds.

Also, in 2022, we are working on increasing our Healing Ministry by offering programs, service, training, and opportunities for individuals to both give and receive the Ministry of Healing. Programs for children and people of all ages will be offered by Ama Suzanne and a grant through the Diocese of NY. This will include workshops, experiential and play based events and discussion at least four time this year. The first is 2/27 based on the theme of Noah's Ark. There will also be a retreat focused on Centering Prayer in May. Rev. Michelle is also involved in activities at the Diocesan level including being on the committee to elect a new Bishop

Rev. Michelle urges each of us to be a part of these open conversations and to look at our own pledge to recommit ourselves to supporting one another by enabling shared decision making, Our goal is to renew and recommit ourselves to moving forward in our shared ministry.

5. The congregation then participate in two "break out" sessions for small group discussion. Notes from each are as follows.

Group A

Financial Discussion-The \$35K asset drawdown needed to close the 2021 gap between income and expenses is reflected on page 18, Income and Expense Report for 2021, line 14, Asset Liquidation.

In addition to the \$35K asset drawdown to cover the 2021 gap between income and expenses, there was also an asset drawdown of \$20K to pay the architect who is advising us on solution(s) to our building problem(s) and an asset drawdown of \$7K to pay to fix the clogged chimney that needed to be unclogged and properly lined so our oil furnace that uses that chimney could again be operable. Our assets did well in 2021. Even with this \$62K asset drawdown, our total asset value increased.

The \$35K asset drawdown is reflected in the Income and Expense report because it was a result of St. John's Operating Expenses. The \$20K and \$7K asset drawdowns were not reflected in the Income and Expense report as they were Capital Expenses. For transparency reasons, we should consider how to reflect asset drawdowns for Capital Expenses in our St. John's financial reporting. One option is to list them as notes on the Asset Report. Another option is to list them in the Income and Expense Report as Directly Offset Income and Directly Offset Expense. Michelle asked Wes, Roger, and Laura to discuss this further outside of this meeting, to determine the best reporting of asset drawdowns for Capital Expenses.

Some parishioners received erroneous Pledge/Donation statements. The goal is for these to be distributed accurately and on a timely basis. We had a staffing issue causing challenges meeting this goal. If anyone is aware of their year-end Pledge/Donation statement being inaccurate, please let Wes or Michelle know directly to have your issue resolved.

Sexton- While Sexton is a new additional expense, the cleaning expense that we previously had will now be included in the Sexton budget. As we focus on more building rental use and income, the need for someone more focused on our building and grounds cleaning and maintenance is greater. Income from rental is also expected to be greater, to help offset this budget item. The search for a Sexton is underway, using primarily online webpages and social media to find applicants. St. John's has a number of applicants and has started interviewing.

Renters- The search for renters will wait for a Rental Manager to be found. It was noted that commissary kitchens are needed in our area.

Next Healing Service- Our Longest Night Healing Service on December 20, 2021, was well received. People have been asking when we will have our next Healing Service. We hope to have a Lenten Healing Service.

Kind Regards, Laura Ricci

Group B

In our discussion we talked mostly about the building project:

Review of hiring Marilyn Kaplan and that what she did was a full building assessment, and we will determine the scope of the work we want to do first, based on repairs that we consider essential and work we see furthering our mission, such as some of the accessibility issues. Someone pointed out the importance of taking care of the building before there is further deterioration.

Someone asked how much it will cost. We reviewed that the cost estimate in the report is an estimate for overall work on the building and that we will be narrowing the actual project with consideration of what resources we will have.

We talked about the capital campaign consultant we met with; we talked about the online seminar we went to last week about Sacred Spaces to say there will be grant money that we can apply for, and that the diocese will give us a grant for about a third of the costs. The diocesan loans come at a high interest rate, so they are not a first choice.

Someone mentioned that the ramp and parking lot are difficult for some people to use...dips in the parking lot can be difficult to navigate.

We then talked about the kitchen rental program and the hiring of two part time people.

Someone commented that hiring a sexton is a good idea. We discussed the impact of the kitchen rental program on AFE and how the two programs will work together.

Submitted by Lynn Dennison

6. Nominating committee presented their list of candidates as follows
 - a. Claudette Ford – Warden for two years
 - b. Paula Wisneski – Vestry for three years
 - c. Sara Hutton – Vestry for three year

There were no nominations from the floor. A motion to accept the above list of nominees for the Vestry was made by Laura Ricci and Seconded by Nilsa Rodriguez-Jaca. No further discussion. All in favor, no opposition. Vote was unanimous. Thanks were given to the three Vestry appointees.

7. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 was made by Harry Lowe, seconded by Wes Dangler and Elaine Lawrence. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Siuta

Rector's Report for 2022

Prelude of Gratitude

My sincere thank you to all of these people who have been leaders of St. John's in 2022!

Wardens: **Lynn Dennison and Claudette Ford**

Treasurer: **Wes Dangler**

Vestry Members: **Paula Wisneski, Leah Siuta, Sheena MacGregor-Pilz, Liz Moeller, Nilsa Rodriguez-Jaca, and Sara Hutton**

Bookkeeper: **Pat Allen**

Kitchen/Office Administrators: **Suzanne Campise and Lydia Picknell**

Director of Music: **Terry Earles**

Occasional Music Leader: **Ana Hernández**

Family Ministry Coordinators: **Michelle Hoffman and Leah Siuta**

Godly Play Teachers and Helpers: **Leah Siuta, Sara Hutton, and Paula Wisneski**

Ushers: **Joe Siuta**

Pastoral Care Chairperson: **Laura Ricci**

Prayer Chain Steward and Prayer Leader: **Cathe Decker**

Hospitality Chairperson: **Barbara Johnston**

Memorial Fund Chairperson: **George Mine**

Sacristan Leaders: **Lynn Dennison and Leah Siuta**

Outreach Coordinator: **Elaine Lawrence**

Buildings and Grounds: **Bob Dennison, Lynn Dennison, and Roger Bonsteel**

Sexton: **Alex Serrano**

Columbarium Board: **Sarah Corrigan, Lynn Dennison, George Mine**

St. John's Harvest Fundraiser: **Ana Hernández, Kathy Burdick, Barbara Johnston, Jeannette Baggot, Sara Hutton, and Jocelyn Bergen.**

To you all: My gratitude runs deep for your ministries of leadership and for the gifts God has given you to perform them with grace and wisdom.

2022 from the Rector's View

St. John's and Sustainability

(really, a conversation across the entire Episcopal Church)

The Vestry started 2022 with earnest discussion about our proposed building project, a project that would repair the worn flashing and eaves around our roof to prevent further water damage to the walls in various places around the sanctuary. Because this is a costly project, before deciding to embark on a Capital Campaign, the Vestry first wanted to take a hard look at our finances. The reality is that our assets are dwindling and our costs are increasing.

This inspired us to explore possibilities for collaborating more intentionally with nearby Episcopal congregations and included conversations with Holy Cross/Santa Cruz in

Kingston and Ascension/Holy Trinity in West Park (we had begun a conversation with Holy Cross/Santa Cruz in 2019 but the pandemic interrupted our progress). While these conversations did not produce any formal agreement, both of these congregations are very interested in pursuing a more collaborative approach to ministry alongside St. John's. Right now, Holy Cross/Santa Cruz is searching for their new priest and Ascension/Holy Trinity is welcoming their new priest.

The decision to embark on these conversations was twofold:

1. First, there is an obvious interest in these conversations from a financial standpoint. More and more congregations across the Episcopal Church (and most churches across the country) find ourselves in the situation of dwindling financial reserves and sharply increasing costs. The pandemic has been a flashpoint, demonstrating just how critical the circumstances are but, in reality, this has been happening over decades.
2. Second, when we look at mission and ministry across the Episcopal Church in places like the Hudson Valley, we can see that the need for the number of congregations we have no longer exists. When these congregations were founded 100-200 years ago, there were no cars and people walked to most of the places they went which means they rarely went to the next town over for any reason. When we recognize that churches no longer attract as many worshippers as they once did, for a number of reasons that have more to do with society than with Christianity or church, we have to take a long hard look at the reality that things need to change. Why do we have so many struggling congregations when we could have fewer, more robust congregations? Collaborations that follow this thinking would move members from focusing on resources so we can truly focus on mission and ministry.

All of these conversations the Vestry had took much time and emotional effort from the members, specifically the Wardens Lynn Dennison and Claudette Ford. Most of the Vestry's meetings this year were focused on this and I am extremely grateful for their vulnerability, their wisdom, their patience, their commitment, and their faith.

Where are we with the building project? Because of this larger conversation, the building project is on temporary hold. We want to have a better plan for our finances before we take on such a large project. But look for more in the coming months.

There will be changes at St. John's this coming year. The Vestry is still doing difficult work to determine the best way forward and has formed a **Sustainability Task Force**. This team is taking long, hard looks at our current assets and our budget to make recommendations to the Vestry for the future of St. John's. My deep thanks to Wes Dangler, Lynn Dennison, Liz Moeller, and Claudette Ford for beginning this work, and to all the members of this group as they continue working through 2023.

I say this now and will continue to say it as the discussion continues: I fully support the work of the Sustainability Task Force and I fully support the Vestry in their

decisions. I'm providing as much help and guidance as I can and also connecting them with diocesan and Church-wide resources. You will hear more about this at the Annual Meeting from one of our Vestrypeople and you will continue to receive updates throughout the year from the Vestry on the progress of this work.

Committee to Elect a Bishop

As I mentioned above, we are not the only congregation experiencing this concern. My work on the Committee to Elect a Bishop, while it didn't exactly open my eyes to this, it did give me a deeper understanding of just how many congregations in our diocese are dealing with financial concerns as well as a lack of permanent clergy leadership as a result. The Committee to Elect a Bishop was very involved work.

I was elected by the group to be the Secretary which meant that many of the more detailed administrative work fell to me and this was truly endless. But while it was challenging and time-consuming, it was really interesting and mostly fun work. I am grateful both for the opportunity to serve in this way and grateful it's over and I can now resume a more balanced schedule. Plus, I'm thrilled that we have elected the Rev. Matt Heyd as the Bishop Coadjutor Elect. He is a deeply faithful person who is thoughtful, smart, strategic, and he really listens. He will be consecrated as a Bishop on May 20 and will spend the next year working with the current bishop, Andy Dietsche, until Andy's retirement in early 2024.

However, the depth of my involvement with this, coupled with the illness of my mother, caused me to resign my position on the Diocese of New York's Delegation to General Convention. I was truly sad to do this but the good news is that my resignation meant that a person of color was able to go who also happens to be a deacon. God was at work in that.

Ulster Deanery

The clergy of Ulster County meet regularly in a group we call a "clericus" (which is a fancy Latin word for "meeting of clergy") and we discerned at our meetings last fall that we needed to call a larger group together that would include the lay leadership in our area. And we did just that. In March, June, and September of 2022 we held our first meetings of the Ulster Deanery. Three members of our Vestry currently attend the Deanery meetings: Lynn Dennison, Claudette Ford, and Liz Moeller.

Our first meeting included presentations from the Canon to the Ordinary John Perris who gave us some background and history on how Episcopal congregations in the US have developed over these 200+ years; Canon for Transitions Nora Smith who informed us of the current numbers of clergy and congregations who are struggling financially; and Canon for Congregational Vitality Victor Conrado who helped us to understand what a hopeful time this is because God is giving us the opportunity to re-form the church.

At all of these meetings, we spent time getting to know each other as ministers – lay and ordained – and getting to know our sibling congregations. We also started making some decisions about sharing ministry and resources so we are currently working to launch the following: A Deanery Newsletter and a Deanery Youth Group.

The Ministry of St. John's

Here is a recap of some significant St. John's events and happenings in 2022:

- We moved fully into **in-person worship** again after worshipping through Zoom a few times over the winter. This was such a welcome change!
- In early 2022, we were able to cancel our service with Spectrum internet because we have been gifted with **free internet** through a new Radio Kingston program. Both the Rectory and the church building are covered and the service is much better than it was with Spectrum. I'm proud that we have developed a wonderful relationship with Radio Kingston. They are amazing partners in supporting the community. You may recall in 2021, they dug through our yard so they could attach their solar field (behind the Rectory, under their tower) to the grid and use those credits to support people who need help paying their Central Hudson bill. Because of this relationship, in addition to helping the larger community of Kingston we are able to cut over \$3000 from our annual budget.
- March 2 was Ash Wednesday and we were able to resume our annual community service of **Ashes-to-go**, offering this blessing to over 150 people throughout the day.
- In April, we hired a **Kitchen/Office Administrator – Suzanne Campise**. Because Suzanne was due to give birth in June, we knew it was a temporary hire, but she was able to get the kitchen rental program up and running and hand it off to Lydia Picknell, in June. Lydia decided to head off to nursing school in January of 2023 and we were blessed to be able to hire Suzanne Campise back into the position. We redefined the position a bit so that she is doing some St. John's administrative tasks in addition to making sure the kitchen and other spaces in our building are rented out.

As I hope you can understand, kitchen rental isn't just about income, it's also about building community. One of our renters gifted us with pop-up tents that we were, in turn, able to loan out to Congregation Emmanuel for their Christmas Feast. Also, our first renter, Maria Bido, used the kitchen to prepare for the Hudson Valley's Mac n Cheese festival last April. She came in 2nd place!



2022 Building Rental Report: Total Building Rental: \$4,241.00

Kitchen Rental Total: \$2,290.70

25 inquiries resulting in 4 paying clients

Today: 9 clients are in process

Current clients: (2 occasional renters): Belle's Barkery LLC (pet treats), and Sue's Scrummy Savouries (meat and vegetable pies)

- In the spring we also hired a **Sexton**, Alex Serrano. After Alex left the position in the fall because of other opportunities, the Vestry reflected on how this trial run of employing a Sexton went and decided to hire professional services to clean the facility once a week and to do groundskeeping in the summer because it will be more cost-effective in the long run.
- **Easter felt like a true resurrection** in so many ways. We decided to do some underwriting of Radio Kingston, all the funds going to their Community Fund, to get our Easter announcements out there. And it felt so good to be in person for all of our Holy Week services (capped off by bubbly wine at the Easter Vigil!) Plus, Sue Bonsteel returned from her time away to worship with us again. And Easter Sunday was a truly festive day. The weather was beautiful, the sanctuary was packed with lots of people, we had a couple dozen kids searching for eggs in the Memorial Garden, and thanks to everyone at St. John's, we fed everyone with a beautiful Community Brunch. What a day!
- On June 4, as a part of **Gun Violence Awareness Weekend**, our Social Concerns Committee put up a display on the lawn to bare witness to the death of 21 people at the Robb Elementary School in Ulvalde, TX on May 24.
- Our Pentecost celebration on June 5 was a blast because we got to baptize **Frankie Flanagan** amidst a Spirit-filled celebration with balloons, bubbles, and speaking in tongues. So much fun!
- On June 24, **in response to the Supreme Court's decision to strike down Roe vs. Wade** and thereby putting the lives of hundreds of thousands of women in danger, we held a hybrid prayer service to pray and to grieve. It was clearly needed with over 80 people in attendance.
- Throughout the year, in addition to our supply priests who covered my vacations and absences (the Revs. Alison Quin, Janet Vincent, Joe and Joann Campo), we benefited from the reflections of some fine **guest preachers**:
 - The Rev. Richard Witt of Rural and Migrant Ministry on February 13
 - The Rev. Canon Victor Conrado on Ash Wednesday, March 2
 - The Rev. Dcn. Gene Bourquin, Pastoral Missioner to the Deaf on March 27
 - The Rev. Dr. Meg Stapleton Smith, faculty member at Fordham on November 27
- On Sunday, September 11, we held an incredibly successful **Ukraine Benefit Concert** that was sponsored by the Kingston Interfaith Council. Sue Bonsteel, Barbara Johnston, and Cathe Decker did an amazing job of gathering arts and crafts from local artists as well as Ukrainian artists from around the country. Ana Hernandez helped coordinate the music program. Radio Kingston supplied us

with technical assistance. In all we were able to raise over \$6,500! Thank you to everyone who helped, donated, and supported this event!

- We had 2 **St. John's Harvest Sales** this year: November 20 and December 11.
- Fall 2022 saw us return to our more robust schedule of **Christian Formation**:
 - For kids, we resumed both the All Ages Worship on first Sundays and Godly Play on third Sundays. And for adults, we offered the following programming:
 - Sept 25: When the Saints Come Marching In: Saints in the Episcopal Church
 - Oct 2: Gun Violence Workshop and Conversation
 - Nov 13: The Story of Historic Kingston with Steven Blauweiss
 - Nov 27: Advent Wreath Making
 - And in Advent we had something special every Sunday:
 - Dec 4: All Ages Worship and celebration of St. Nicholas
 - Dec 11: St. John's Harvest Sale and Rock Academy Youth Event
 - Dec 18: Cookie Exchange and Sanctuary Greening
- On Sunday, December 11 we hosted the **Rock Academy** and were able to gather huge baskets full of personal items for the Warming Shelter clients. Thank you to Liz Moeller for organizing!
- Our **Longest Night Prayer and Healing Service** on December 20 provided much needed balm for those who struggle during the Christmas holidays.
- And finally, our **Christmas Eve worship**: Family Service at 3:00 pm and Choral Festival Eucharist at 8:00 pm. For the first year, each service had the same number of people attending which means that whereas we used to have one large service, we now have two mid-sized services that serve different communities. It will be exciting to see both of these worship services grow in the coming years as we continue to move through the pandemic.

The pandemic has taken so much from us, including the ability to continue regular visits with those who suffer from long-term illnesses because we haven't wanted to further endanger them. In 2022, we were saddened by the deaths of three beloved long-time members that we hadn't seen for a while:

Ivy Scott-Young in February

Peter Nelson in November

Joan Murray in December

May they rest in peace and rise in God's loving Glory.

New and Upcoming in 2023

Already 2023 has been quite busy with something special each week: A "come-as-you-are" service on New Year's Day followed by the Baptism of Christ on January 8. On January 15, we Celebrated the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and, finally, we were blessed to honor the ministry and witness of the Companions of Mary the Apostle, our friends Shane Phelan and E. Broyles on January 22.

A new group has developed to respond to the extreme housing crisis in Ulster County. The **Kingston Housing Coalition** has representatives from every organization involved

with housing in Ulster County. They meet monthly here at St. John's. If you'd like to be on the list to be involved, speak with Rev. Michelle.

I am really looking forward to offering more **Christian Formation** opportunities in 2023! Here's a current overview:

- All Ages Worship: First Sundays – learning, engaged worship, craft activities.
- Godly Play: Third Sundays in the Godly Play Room above the Parish Hall.
- Leah, Sara, and Rev. Michelle are developing more kids programming. Watch for announcements!
- Adult Inquirer's Class: An opportunity to learn more about the Episcopal Church – Class dates posted soon!
- Rector's Forums: Fourth Sundays – learning opportunities for adults, presentations by Rev. Michelle and by community organizations.
- Becoming Beloved Community – using tools from the Episcopal Church to move our congregation through Anti-Racism and Racial Reconciliation programming.

Plus, we'll be receiving a **visit from Bishop Mary Glasspool** later this year on December 10. This means that anyone who wants to be formally received into the Episcopal Church or confirmed may be so on this date by Bishop Mary.

Finally, as most of you are aware, my mother Judie Smock has moved into the Rectory with Ana and me. Cognitive decline, memory loss, dementia, and Alzheimer's are difficult and debilitating conditions and diseases and we are currently in the process of obtaining an exact diagnosis for my mom's condition. I'm aware that I'm not the only person at St. John's who is a caretaker, either part-time or full-time to their loved ones who are suffering in this way. Nor is my mother the only person at St. John's who suffers. This has prompted me and a few others to begin looking into something new.

At the exact time I was trying to find places where my mom could spend social time (either respite or adult day care programs), I also started receiving emails from the Alzheimer's Association and the Office of the Aging. What I found out through our conversations is that *there are no operating respite or adult day care programs operating in Ulster County outside of Highland in South Ulster.*

The Office of the Aging tells us that the need in Kingston is significant. **Over the next few months, Sue Bonsteel, Lynn Dennison, Ana Hernandez, and myself will be figuring out how to get a simple respite program started here at St. John's.** We don't know what this will look like or what it will become. All we know is that God's Holy Spirit is calling us. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please talk to one of us.

Now, we move into our ministry for 2023 with many things to consider and also many things on the horizon. Thank you, all, for your faith and for all the ways you show up for one another!

Report of Church Services in 2022

Attendance		
Sundays	3607	
Weekdays	846	
Total Attendance for 2022	4453	
Total Communion for 2022	1341	
Number of Services		
Sunday Worship	51	
	48	<i>in person</i>
	3	<i>online, no Eucharist</i>
Home Communion	5	
Weekdays	105	<i>2 hybrid</i>
Centering Prayer	46	<i>all online</i>
Compline	51	<i>all online</i>
Total Services	161	

As a part of the above services:

Baptisms	1
Funeral/Memorial Services	2

Attendance at Major Feasts and Significant Worship Services

Baptism of our Lord	22
Ash Wednesday Services	36
Ashes To Go	154
Palm Sunday	36
Maundy Thursday	20
Good Friday	28
Easter Vigil	20
Easter Sunday	68
Pentecost	59
All Saints	27
Christmas Eve Family	38
Christmas Eve	45
Christmas Morning	12

WARDENS REPORT 2022 and BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT 2022

We are grateful that over the course of 2022 we were able to return to more in person services and activities while following necessary safety protocols. Last year's annual meeting was on Zoom and here we are all together for this year's event, with occasional online meetings being much more a matter of facilitating action and decision making rather than necessity.

The overriding issue for us this year has been assuring the sustainability of St. John's. In January the vestry met with architect Marilyn Kaplan to discuss the extensive building assessment she completed for us in 2021. This is a very helpful document for us to have as we address both the repairs to our facility as well as the improvements we would like to see.

Considering these projects led to many conversations about undertaking a capital campaign. Also in January we met with Maurice Seaton, who consults with churches for such endeavors. While this is still an active issue, as the year progressed, we became more focused on growing the parish and expanding our relationships with our neighboring Episcopal congregations. This, and our budgetary challenges, were the focus of our vestry retreat in March, held at the Huntington house on the grounds of Holy Cross Monastery.

As the leader of our association of Ulster County parishes (the deanery) Michelle initiated a series of meetings with the clergy and wardens of the parishes to begin to envision how we can work together, as many of us are facing similar challenges. The meetings are ongoing and broader in membership now. So far, a newsletter has been launched and a denary wide Youth Event was held at St. John's in December with the Rock Academy concert. Thanks, Liz!

Out of these meetings we began to explore with Holy Cross/Santa Cruz ways that we might work together. After prayerful discernment we decided this was not the right time for these conversations. Holy Cross/Santa Cruz have begun a search process for a new rector. We are hopeful that in the future the 3 congregations will become closer.

In the fall our focus became the 2023 budget and the best use of our financial resources. We have named a Sustainability Task Force to look both more broadly and in more depth at this issue. Currently Wes Dangler, Treasurer, Lynn and Claudette, wardens, and Liz Moeller, vestry person, serve on this task force. We are consolidating some of our accounts and continuing to look for ways to ensure we are financially secure for the next few years, as we look to begin our 3rd century in just under a decade: 2032.

The major building and grounds projects this year were the January installation of a high efficiency gas furnace in the rectory, by HWS contractors; long overdue gutter work at the rectory, by Brothers Who do Gutters; and the removal and trimming of a few of the trees on the driveway and parking lot by Malcarne Tree Service in the fall.

We hired a sexton, Alex Serrano, for several months who helped with our groundskeeping. Alex left in the fall for a new job. We also hired Suzanne Campise to help organize our kitchen rental program for the spring months, and she has returned in 2023. Lydia Picknell served as our part-time administrator in the intervening months. We thank them for their work with us.

Through the Kington Interfaith Council, the parish hosted a wonderful concert and craft sale in September to raise funds to help the children of Ukraine struggling with the effects of the war in their country.

And we offer thanks to Michelle and Ana, and the volunteers, for their work cooking, canning, and preserving so many goodies for the 2nd Harvest Sale this fall.

We thank Terry Earles for his dedication and talents in providing us with a wonderful music program, and for his skillful attention to maintaining our organ. Additionally, we thank Terry for his many hours of work establishing and caring for the beautiful perennial garden in the Memorial Garden.

We are grateful to have retired Deacon Sue rejoin the congregation in the spring. It is a pleasure to have her with us and we appreciate her support for parish activities.

We thank Wes Dangler for serving as Treasurer so faithfully these past few years.

We extend our deep gratitude to the 2022 vestry members, Sara Hutton, Sheena MacGregor-Pilz, Liz Moeller, Nilsa Rodriguez-Jaca, and Leah Siuta, for their commitment and hard work.

We are so grateful for Rev. Michelle's leadership over these past 7 years. She has brought us through challenging times and helps us focus on being the strongest Christian community we can be.

It is with very mixed feelings that I step down from many years on the vestry. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve St. John's in this way. I am especially grateful for my 3 years working with Claudette.

Lynn Dennison and Claudette Ford, Wardens

Asset Report – 2 pages

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

				Unless Noted December 31, 2022			Unless Noted December 31, 2021
		Asset Drawdown	Use Income				
LIQUID ASSETS							
FRANKLIN-TEMPLETON							
	US Government Securities Fund 1108	5% of 3 yr avg		\$	36,768	\$	42,124
	Memorial Fund 7779			\$	6,397	\$	7,736
	Hoysradt Income Fund 9696	5% of 3 yr avg		\$	36,011	\$	41,256
MID-HUDSON VALLEY FCU							
	Memorial Committee Checking			\$	515	\$	1,242
	Memorial Committee Savings	Bishop Organ Fund \$13,946	12,010	\$	17,148	\$	19,074
RONDOUT SAVINGS BANK							
	Checking Account Balance			\$	25,166	\$	21,763
Total Liquid Assets				\$	122,004	\$	133,195
RESTRICTED ASSETS							
RONDOUT SAVINGS BANK							
	Rondout Savings			\$	1,039	\$	1,039
	Church Savings Acct. (Non- Restricted)						
	Bishop Family Organ Fund- moved to MHVFCU						
	Columbarium Savings Account			\$	15,501	\$	15,482
	Columbarium Checking Account			\$	2,893	\$	3,980
	Deacon Sue Community Action Fund			\$	3,890	\$	3,887
	Church Building Fund			\$	10,809	\$	21,618
DIT			Yes	\$	31,070	\$	38,215
MERRILL-LYNCH							

Endowment (4015) Cash/Money Accounts	5% of 3 yr avg		\$	15,079	\$	5,130
Endowment (4015) Equity (Bonds) / Mutual Funds	5% of 3 yr avg					
Endowment (2107) Cash/Money Accounts	5% of 3 yr avg		\$	78,602	\$	186,380
Endowment (2107) Equity Capital (2105) Cash/Money Accounts	5% of 3 yr avg	Yes	\$	14	\$	1,728
Capital (2105) Equity (Bonds)		Yes				
PRIVATE BANK (KEY TRUST)						
Hoysradt Trust		Yes	\$	162,986	\$	209,317
Winter Trust		Yes	\$	190,676	\$	243,881
MASS MUTUAL						
Church Savings			\$	56,500	\$	67,954
Outreach Endowment	5% of 3 yr avg					
St. Francis Fund	\$500/year					
Stained Glass Fund						
Flower Endowment						
TOTAL RESTRICTED ASSETS				569,059		798,611
TOTAL ASSETS			\$	691,063	\$	931,806
MERRILL-LYNCH sub-total			\$	93,695	\$	193,283

Submitted by Wes Dangler, Treasurer

2022 Income and Expense Report – 4 pages

					Jan - Dec 22	Budget	% of Budget
1	Income						
2	Giving						
3		Pledges			61,498	75,000	82%
4		Non-Pledge Giving			2,538	1,000	254%
5		Holiday Gifts					
6		Easter			0	350	0%
7		Thanksgiving			35	100	35%
8		Christmas			715	500	143%
9		Total Holiday Gifts			750	950	79%
10		Plate Offering			2,427	1,000	243%
11		Special Gifts			2,400	250	960%
12		Total Giving			69,613	78,200	89%
13		Other Income					
14		Asset Liquidation			79,500		
15		Investments					
16		Misc Interest			20	15	133%
17		DIT Short & Long			1,245	1,000	125%
18		MM Outreach Endowment			0	2,000	0%
19		ML Endowment Fund			8,500	8,500	100%
20		Franklin Hoysradt Income Fund			0	1,700	0%
21		Franklin US Govt Securities Fu			2,059	1,700	121%
22		St. Francis Fund			500		
23		Winter Trust A			7,000	7,700	91%
24		Hoysradt Trust			9,250	7,200	128%
25		Total Investments			28,574	29,815	96%
26		Organizations					
27		Kitchen Rental			573		
28		Altar Guild			1,710	2,000	86%
29		Total Organizations			2,283	2,000	114%
30		Hall Usage & Kitchen Rental			4,241	12,000	35%
31		Fundraising					
32		St. John Harvest			1,306		
33		Clothing Shed			1,469	800	184%
34		Total Fundraising			2,775	800	347%
35		Other Sources			0	1,500	0%
36		Total Other Income			117,373	46,115	255%
37		Directly Offset Income					
38		Pool One			4,000		
39		Voices of Children Fundraiser			6,537		
40		ERD Ukraine Relief			1,564		
41		Episcopal Charities- AFE			15,000		
42		Family Ministry Events			3,000		
43		AFE Gas Reimbursement			2,746		

44			AFE Dumpster	2,903		
45			AFE Phone	620		
46			Other Income	123		
47			Special Gifts	125		
48			Total Directly Offset Income	36,618		
49			Total Income	223,604	124,315	180%
50			Expense			
51			Reconciliation Discrepancies	0		
52			Ministry/Outreach			
53			Adult Education	94	100	94%
54			AltarGuild	2,610	2,000	131%
55			Welcoming	0	500	0%
56			Social Concerns	282	200	141%
57			General Outreach	1,050	2,000	53%
58			Diocesan Assessment	3,753	3,753	100%
59			Diocesan Convention	300	300	100%
60			Diocesan Programs	0	100	0%
61			Discretionary Fund			
62			Rector	1,500	1,500	100%
63			Discretionary Fund - Other	79		
64			Total Discretionary Fund	1,579	1,500	105%
65			Hoysradt Trust Outreach	0	720	0%
66			Church School	127	100	127%
67			Youth Programs	54	100	54%
68			Communication/Advertising	1,970	2,000	99%
69			Music	0	1,500	0%
70			Rectors Salary & Related Exp.			
71			Salary-Rector	53,150	53,150	100%
72			Communications Allowance	1,170	1,200	98%
73			Insurance			
74			Medical/Dental/Vision	25,049	24,675	102%
75			Total Insurance	25,049	24,675	102%
76			Travel	300	300	100%
77			FICA Supplement	5,710	5,710	100%
78			Pension Premium	13,174	14,500	91%
79			Continuing Education	575	700	82%
80			Total Rectors Salary & Related Exp.	99,128	100,235	99%
81			Ministry/Outreach - Other	119		
82			Total Ministry/Outreach	111,066	115,108	96%
83			Support Staff			
84			Rental Manager	7,143	6,666	107%
85			Sexton	4,270	8,666	49%
86			Bookkeeper Salary	2,554	4,000	64%
87			Organist/Choir Director			
88			Salary	16,800	16,800	100%
89			Total Organist/Choir Director	16,800	16,800	100%
90			Supply Priest/Organist			

91			Supply Organist	150	600	25%
92			Supply Priest	1,426	1,250	114%
93			Total Supply Priest/Organist	1,576	1,850	85%
94			FICA/Medicare			
95			FICA-Employer	818	2,600	31%
96			Medicare-Employer	1,069		
97			Total FICA/Medicare	1,887	2,600	73%
98			Insurance			
99			NYS Unemployment	123	300	41%
100			Property/Liability Insurance	13,926	15,000	93%
101			Workers Comp	511	600	85%
102			Disability Insurance	69	300	23%
103			Total Insurance	14,629	16,200	90%
104			Total Support Staff	48,859	56,782	86%
105			Operations			
106			Office Supplies & Equipment			
107			Canon Copier	324		
108			Web Site Maintenance	0	100	0%
109			Payroll Service	402	400	101%
110			Telephone/Internet	2,148	3,000	72%
111			Stewardship Envelopes	145	140	104%
112			Office Supplies	556	1,500	37%
113			Accounting	0	500	0%
114			Bank Service Charges	60		
115			Postage	176	500	35%
116			Total Office Supplies & Equipment	3,811	6,140	62%
117			Total Operations	3,811	6,140	62%
118			Facilities			
119			Maintenance Service&Supplies			
120			Dumpster	829	805	103%
121			Repairs , Supplies& Maintenance	7,257	3,500	207%
122			Cleaning Service	2,755	1,000	276%
123			Bell Maintenance Contract	756	700	108%
124			Copier Maintenance Contract	544	1,500	36%
125			Paper Products	558	500	112%
126			Snow Removal	1,275	2,500	51%
127			Maintenance Service&Supplies - Other	258		
128			Total Maintenance Service&Supplies	14,232	10,505	135%
129			Fuel/Light/Water/Security			
130			Fire Alarm System	850	600	142%
131			Electric-Church	7,821	3,500	223%
132			Electric-Rectory	2,391	1,800	133%
133			Fuel Oil	10,093	8,250	122%
134			Gas-Rectory	2,845	2,500	114%
135			Water	779	800	97%
136			Total Fuel/Light/Water/Security	24,779	17,450	142%
137			Total Facilities	39,011	27,955	140%

138	Other Expenses				
139		Hospitality	125		
140		Special Events	256	200	128%
141		Fundraising Expenses	0	250	0%
142		Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees	299	200	150%
143	Total Other Expenses		680	650	105%
144	Directly Offset Expenses				
145		Voices of Children Fundraiser	6,537		
146		AFE Episcopal Charities/Other	19,000		
147		AFE Phone	407		
148		AFE Dumpster	2,486		
149		AFE Gas	2,566		
150		Outreach; ERD	1,564		
151		Special Gifts	1,293		
152	Total Directly Offset Expenses		33,853		
153	Total Expense		237,280	206,635	115%
154	Net Income		(13,676)	(82,320)	17%

Submitted by Wes Dangler, Treasurer

2023 Budget – 4 Pages

					Jan - Dec 22	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
1	Income						
2	Giving						
3		Pledges			61,498	75,000	65,000
4		Non-Pledge Giving			2,538	1,000	2,000
5		Holiday Gifts					
6		Easter			0	350	350
7		Thanksgiving			35	100	100
8		Christmas			715	500	500
9		Total Holiday Gifts			750	950	950
10		Plate Offering			2,427	1,000	1,800
11		Special Gifts			2,400	250	250
12		Total Giving			69,613	78,200	70,000
13		Other Income					
14		Asset Liquidation			79,500		
15		Investments					
16		Misc Interest			20	15	
17		DIT Short & Long			1,245	1,000	1,200
18		MM Outreach Endowment			0	2,000	2,000
19		ML Endowment Fund			8,500	8,500	8,500
20		Franklin Hoysradt Income Fund			0	1,700	1,700
21		Franklin US Govt Securities Fu			2,059	1,700	1,700
22		Winter Trust A			7,000	7,700	7,700
23		Hoysradt Trust			9,250	7,200	7,200
24		Total Investments			28,074	29,815	30,000
25		Organizations					
26		Kitchen Rental			573		
27		Altar Guild			1,710	2,000	2,000
28		Total Organizations			2,283	2,000	2,000
29		Hall Usage & Kitchen Rental			4,241	12,000	5,000
30		Fundraising					
31		Fall Harvest			1,306		
32		Clothing Shed			1,469	800	1,500
33		Total Fundraising			2,775	800	1,500
34		Other Sources			0	1,500	1,500
35		Total Other Income			117,373	46,115	40,000
36		Directly Offset Income					
37		Pool One			4,000		
38		Voices of Children Fundraiser			6,537		
39		ERD Ukraine Relief			1,564		
40		Episcopal Charities- AFE			15,000		
41		Family Ministry Events			3,000		
42		AFE Gas Reimbursement			2,746		
43		AFE Dumpster			2,903		

44			Other Income	123		
45			Special Gifts	125		
46			AFE Phone	620		
47			Total Directly Offset Income	36,618		
48			Total Income	223,604	124,315	105,000
49			Expense			
50			Ministry/Outreach			
51			Adult Education	94	100	100
52			Altar Guild	2,610	2,000	2,000
53			Welcoming	0	500	100
54			Social Concerns	282	200	200
55			General Outreach	1,050	2,000	1,000
56			Diocesan Assessment	3,753	3,753	6,120
57			Diocesan Convention	300	300	300
58			Diocesan Programs	0	100	100
59			Discretionary Fund			
60			Rector	1,500	1,500	1,500
61			Discretionary Fund - Other	79		
62			Total Discretionary Fund	1,579	1,500	1,500
63			Hoysradt Trust Outreach	0	720	720
64			Church School	127	100	500
65			Youth Programs	54	100	100
66			Communication/Advertising	1,970	2,000	2,000
67			Music	0	1,500	
68			Rectors Salary & Related Exp.			
69			Salary-Rector	53,150	53,150	56,530
70			Communications Allowance	1,170	1,200	1,200
71			Insurance			
72			Medical/Dental/Vision	25,049	24,675	20,675
73			Total Insurance	25,049	24,675	20,675
74			Travel	300	300	300
75			FICA Supplement	5,710	5,710	5,710
76			Pension Premium	13,174	14,500	14,500
77			Continuing Education	575	700	750
78			Total Rectors Salary & Related Exp.	99,128	100,235	99,665
79			Ministry/Outreach - Other	119		
80			Total Ministry/Outreach	111,066	115,108	114,405
81			Support Staff			
82			Administrator	7,143	6,666	13,000
83			Lawn Care	4,270	8,666	3,200
84			Bookkeeper Salary	2,554	4,000	3,000
85			Organist/Choir Director			
86			Salary	16,800	16,800	16,800
87			Total Organist/Choir Director	16,800	16,800	16,800
88			Supply Priest/Organist			
89			Supply Organist	150	600	
90			Supply Priest	1,426	1,250	1,125

91			Total Supply Priest/Organist	1,576	1,850	1,125
92			FICA/Medicare			
93			FICA-Employer	818	2,600	1,300
94			Medicare-Employer	1,069		
95			Total FICA/Medicare	1,887	2,600	1,300
96			Insurance			
97			NYS Unemployment	123	300	300
98			Property/Liability Insurance	13,926	15,000	15,000
99			Workers Comp	511	600	600
100			Disability Insurance	69	300	300
101			Total Insurance	14,629	16,200	16,200
102			Total Support Staff	48,859	56,782	54,625
103			Operations			
104			Office Supplies & Equipment			
105			Canon Copier	324		
106			Web Site Maintenance	0	100	100
107			Payroll Service	402	400	400
108			Telephone/Internet	2,148	3,000	960
109			Stewardship Envelopes	145	140	140
110			Office Supplies	556	1,500	2,000
111			Accounting	0	500	500
112			Bank Service Charges	60		
113			Postage	176	500	250
114			Total Office Supplies & Equipment	3,811	6,140	4,350
115			Total Operations	3,811	6,140	4,350
116			Facilities			
117			Maintenance Service&Supplies			
118			Dumpster	829	805	900
119			Repairs & Maintenance	7,257	3,500	3,500
120			Cleaning Service	2,755	1,000	7,300
121			Bell Maintenance Contract	756	700	750
122			Copier Maintenance Contract	544	1,500	1,200
123			Maintenance Supplies			
124			Paper Products	558	500	
125			Snow Removal	1,275	2,500	2,500
126			Maintenance Service&Supplies - Other	258		
127			Total Maintenance Service&Supplies	14,232	10,505	16,150
128			Fuel/Light/Water/Security			
129			Fire Alarm System	850	600	600
130			Electric-Church	7,821	3,500	7,500
131			Electric-Rectory	2,391	1,800	2,500
132			Fuel Oil	10,093	8,250	11,000
133			Gas-Rectory	2,845	2,500	3,000
134			Water	779	800	850
135			Total Fuel/Light/Water/Security	24,779	17,450	25,450
136			Total Facilities	39,011	27,955	41,600
137			Other Expenses			

138		Hospitality	125		
139		Special Events	256	200	200
140		Fundraising Expenses	0	250	250
141		Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees	299	200	300
142		Total Other Expenses	680	650	750
143		Directly Offset Expenses			
144		Voices of Children Fundraiser	6,537		
145		Episcopal Charities- AFE	19,000		
146		AFE Phone	407		
147		AFE Dumpster	2,486		
148		AFE Gas	2,566		
149		Outreach; ERD	1,564		
150		Special Gifts	1,293		
151		Total Directly Offset Expenses	33,853		
152		Total Expense	237,280	206,635	215,730
153		Net Income	(13,676)	(82,320)	(110,730)

Submitted by Wes Dangler, Treasurer

ANGEL FOOD EAST 2022

Angel Food East is now 30 years old and continues to provide meals for an underserved population in our community with remarkable resiliency, dedication, and hard work.

By continuing to follow all Health Department guidelines to keep our volunteers and clients safe, and with much support from the parish, we were able to keep the program open all year, serving on average of 70 clients. We again added grocery items and the occasional extra holiday and 'storm' bags. All deliveries to clients happen on Thursdays.

Our meal count for 2022 was 18, 189.

To accommodate our delivery schedule which requires more meals to be kept frozen, and our increase shopping needs, we purchased an additional freezer this year.

We extend a special thank you to Cheryl McGahan, the kitchen manager, and Lisa Hantes, the Board Chair and Program Director, and all the volunteers and Board members. We welcomed Sarah Lai-Torres who very capably fills in when Cheryl needs to be away.

Tricia Fusco, volunteer cook and Board member, maintains our website, our communications and completes our successful fall letter writing campaign.

In November we provided 131 beautiful Thanksgiving meals to our clients and their guests, and special treats were sent at Christmas time.

We thank all the community agencies who give many volunteer hours to Angel Food throughout the year.

The program relies heavily on grants, notably Episcopal Charities, the Food Bank, Dyson and Markertek. This fall we were the recipient of a \$50,000 community grant facilitated by Assemblyman Kevin Cahill. Look for improvements to the program in 2023!

Many St. John's parishioners support Angel Food through volunteer hours and donations and we are very grateful for your help. Our Christmas outreach offering was given to AFE this year. We are always in need of more volunteers, even if only for a few hours each month, or as a substitute when a volunteer needs time away. If you have a few hours and are able to help, please speak to Cheryl McGahan, or Michelle, or to me. In 2023 we hope to return to an in person fundraising event, such as our popular Mac n Cheese event. Visit our website (angelfoodeast.org) to learn more or to become more involved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Dennison

COLUMBARIUM AND MEMORIAL GARDEN - 2022 REPORT

St. John's established the columbarium in 1999, offering parishioners the opportunity for the burial of ashes on church grounds. The tradition of burial near a church is a very old Christian practice and a visible and spiritual sign of the Communion of saints. Together with the Memorial Garden, this provides a quiet and meditative space to visitors.

In 2022 there were no interments. (While Joan Murray died on December 31, 2022, her interment was on January 8, 2023.)

The columbarium consists of 60 vaults, each having 2 niches. Currently there are 21 vaults available, and 3 separate niches. Vaults can be purchased as one unit, or someone can purchase a single niche.

Expenses this year include \$400 for garden maintenance. We thank Terry Earles for the many hours he spent gardening from spring through the fall to make this space beautiful and inviting. Of course, gardens need attention and we thank all who help keep this space beautiful with lawn work, weeding, and maintaining the pond.

In 2023 we intend to repair or replace the wooden gate at the Albany Ave. end of the garden.

The current price for purchasing a vault is \$1500, and a niche is \$750. There are additional fees for engraving and at the time of interment. Applications to purchase space in the columbarium are available from the Trustees. Currently the Trustees, serving 3-year terms which began in January 2021 are George Mine, Sarah Corrigan, Rev. Michelle Meech and Lynn Dennison. If you are interested in serving as a Trustee, speak to Michelle or to one of the wardens.

The current bank balances, as of 12/31/22, are:

Checking: \$2892.66

Savings: \$15,501.12 **Total : 18, 393.78** (End of 2021 total was \$18,755.11)

Please direct any questions or concerns about the columbarium or memorial garden to the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of all the Trustees, Lynn Dennison

Family Ministries and Sunday School Annual Report

After a long season of COVID, our Sunday School program is again in-person and new families and children have been welcomed. We continue to use the **Godly Play** program for our young students. The children hear the Biblical stories in this rich thematic format, using beautiful materials. We have time for wondering and discussion, time for prayer, and time for our "feast". In addition, art, music, games, books, puppet play, and other media supplement the program. Our children are learning The Lord's Prayer as well as intercessory prayer. They give thanks to the Lord and also ask for God's help with the things they find most meaningful in their lives. Our toddlers are welcomed to the play area and join the Godly Play program as much as they wish. Currently we are meeting on the third Sunday of the month and join the congregation for Eucharist. Thank you to Sara Hutton and Paula Wisniewski for the volunteer support!

Rev. Michelle also offers an **All Ages Church Service** on the first Sunday of the month. The youth are encouraged to sit closer, watch and participate more actively. The sermon is provided in a story telling format, the prayers and the music are bit easier for the children. We also have a "**Prayground**" at all services which invites young children to sit on a special rug, close to the altar so they can see and experience the service. Quiet activity bags are available as well. All children are invited to the Altar to watch and participate in the Holy Eucharist

We have also shared the Christmas story in a special Family church service and this year included a Godly Play liturgy, familiar hymns and having the children actively participating in the celebration.

We thank the congregation for supporting our children as they learn the stories of the Bible, discern their faith, and are welcomed into an intergenerational community. This year, together, with Rev. Michelle, we will continue to implement more family programs and services, so that we truly are an intergenerational place of worship. We welcome ideas and suggestions from all.

Join us!!!!!!

Together in Christ,
Leah Siuta

Hospitality Committee

Just a brief note to thank all those parishioners who have actively participated in hosting Sunday coffee hour through the 2022 year. The sign up list for hosting has been posted in the vestibule for a few months at a time & that has been a fairly successful method to prepare for each Sunday. As chairperson, serving supplies have been ordered or purchased on an as needed basis. Some parishioners donate baked goodies & other provisions. Summer is a lighter fare. A tipping jar is provided for cash donations, which helps keep our pantry well stocked. Please consider signing up this year. Giving is as joyful as receiving, with many blessings!

Sincerely,

Barbara Johnston, chair

Memorial Fund

In 1989, St. John's created the Memorial Fund Committee to handle and appropriately use monies given to the church as memorial gifts, but which do not have specific instructions or designation for their use and to ensure that all gifts are properly acknowledged and that the families of the deceased are informed of all the gifts given to us in the name of their loved one.

This year, we are renewing the call for membership on this committee. If you would like to share in the responsibility of tending to memorial gifts, please speak with either Rev. Michelle or George Mine.

Memorial Funds are an important ministry of any congregation. From the ministry of stewarding a memorial fund, we learn about the care and commitment of those generations who have come before us and how much of a gift it is to be stewards of our temporal assets. It inspires us to begin thinking how we can contribute and encourage our friends and family to support a place that has meant so much to us in our lifetime.

The current balances in the Memorial Fund are: \$17147.56 in savings and \$514.63 in checking.

Submitted by George Mine, Chair

Music Department

It has been my pleasure, during this difficult time, to serve St. John's. This is especially true because all those I work with are working long, hard, and in faith. In this working environment it is worth whatever it takes to continue fostering a meaningful music program even with fewer people. I know that even with fewer people present, they are there because they want to be there.

In the fall attendance for the congregation was down a bit and singing was weak. So, I asked the choir to sit in the congregation and help with adding voices.

We are lucky to have enough good singers who sing well enough and are kind enough to lead us as Cantors for our Psalms and hymns. In the end I believe that this exercise on their part improved their own singing.

Now that congregational attendance has improved, I have the choir back in their pews. And don't they sound good and stronger? I have also begun to have willing singers who act as cantors sing a solo after my organ prelude. So please give them your attention.

Now as to the organ and pianos. I have had both pianos tuned by Alec Tervenski, who has done a good job and at no charge. We had Rosenbury and Myers take a look at the organ and make suggestions designed to keep it in relatively good working order. The estimate of work and the cost [\$25,000], reflected more of a "restoration" than what I had in mind. Luckily we have Dale Ziegenfelder [of Glenford] as a friend of St. John's. He took the list and went through it with me which took almost all summer. Hot! He has charged us for small, incidental replacement parts only.

Recently the organ company offered us a used console [keyboards] for \$500. This, course, did not include installation fees. I thanked them and refused due to the fact that we have far more pressing issues at the moment. Dale is willing to help us a short notice. Still tuning is a specialty which I am happy to have Rosenberry and Myers continue to do.

Respectfully and in faith,

Terry Earles
Organist/Choirmaster

Outreach 2022

St. John's mission is to know and serve God through serving others. We live out this mission within our parish and through various efforts that support those in our local community who are in need as well as those who live well beyond our borders. Outreach is the extraordinary way we encourage and support worthy programs and organizations by sharing our many blessings. We do this through the donation of outreach funds as well as actively participating as volunteers.

This year the following programs were supported:

The Kingston City Land Bank \$500
The Food Bank of SUNY Ulster \$200
Mothers Against Gun Violence \$250
The Kingston Interfaith Council (dues) \$100
Buffalo Survivors (TOPS Supermarket shooting) \$250

The Kingston City Land Bank (St. Francis Fund) \$500
Easter Outreach collection – Episcopal Relief & Development/Ukraine \$1564
Christmas Outreach collection (Angel Food East) \$521
Science is Real outdoor banner \$120

The Kingston Interfaith Council held a Benefit for Ukraine at St. John's on September 11th that raised over \$6000. The funds raised supported the work of Voices of Children which offers psychological counseling to children and their families caught in the tragedy of war.

We also supported the important work of Peoples Place by collecting backpacks and lunch bags for their Back to School Smart Starts program in August. In December we filled boxes with children's socks for Project Santa, another wonderful program of People's Place.

The Rock Academy held a fun-filled concert at St. John's in December and the price of admission for attendees was hygiene products to benefit the Warming Center.

The Outreach Committee looks forward to 2023 as we allocate additional funds to programs that meet our mission. We invite all interested to join us.

Report gathered and submitted by Dcn. Sue Bonsteel

Pastoral Care

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Matthew 22:36-40

To have the congregational strength to focus on the larger mission of the church, going outside the walls of St. John’s, we need to be strong inside. Pastoral Care is critical to our inner strength. It is critical that we spiritually care for one another.

In addition to our ordained Priest, our Pastoral Care team serves the parish within the framework of the ministry of Jesus Christ, offering prayers and confidential care to those facing life's spiritual, emotional, and physical challenges. Those called to this ministry are truly a blessing in our midst.

The St. John’s Pastoral Care team includes trained Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) taking the love and Holy Eucharist from St. John’s to those unable to attend church on Sundays, visiting the ill at home or in the hospital. With Covid-19, LEV home and hospital visits ceased in 2020, but LEVs resumed these visits in 2022. The Pastoral Care team continues to reach out, supporting those going through a life crisis; maintaining contact through phone calls, email and cards; supporting friends and family involved in caregiving; comforting the bereaved; and, of course, praying for one another.

Our trained Healers administer a healing prayer and oil to parishioners at the third Sunday service of each month, sharing the healing power of Jesus Christ. Our active Healers are Cathe Decker, Lynn Dennison, Laura Ricci, and Leah Siuta. We also help administer ashes on Ash Wednesday as part of St. John’s Ashes to Go.

The Prayer Chain is a sacred and life-giving ministry. As Christians, we are called to pray for one another. Our prayer chain leader Cathe Decker, and members – Jeanette Baggot, Susan Bonsteel, Lynn Dennison, Kajuan Douglas, Claudette Ford, Florie Holmes, T’Asia Holmes, Sara Hutton, Barbara Johnston, Elaine Lawrence, Laura Ricci, Nilsa Rodriguez, Leah Siuta, and Paula Wisneski - along with the Rector, kept us connected and spiritually supporting one another and those we love. As requests for prayers became known, prayer requests were sent to the Prayer Chain through email. A brochure of appropriate prayers is available, plus Cathe Decker, Michelle, and others blessed us with inspirational prayers.

Send prayer requests to the Prayer Chain by emailing stjohnsprayerchain9@gmail.com and cc’ing michelle.stjohnskingston@gmail.com, or by contacting Michelle, Cathe, or Laura.

If anyone would like to become a Eucharistic Visitor, Healer, or Prayer Chain member, please speak to the Reverend Michelle Meech, or Pastoral Care Chairperson Laura Ricci.

This year the Pastoral Care Team once again partnered with the Altar Guild in providing floral gifts at Easter and Christmas. The Altar Guild provided these gifts. The Pastoral Care Team provided cards and helpers to deliver these gifts. Recipients were St. John's leaders, newcomers, and parishioners who faced challenges during the year. Many thanks to the several volunteers who blessedly helped distribute these gifts to parishioners unable to receive these gifts at church.

For Christmas we sent Christmas cards to all St John's parishioners. These were beautiful cards created and donated by Cathe. Many thanks to Cathe for her Christmas card gift to St. John's, and to all Pastoral Care Team members for their enthusiasm as they helped prepare these Christmas cards for mailing.

In preparation for the Christmas season, and in recognition that this season can include sad, lonely, or difficult moments for people, St. John's once again offered a "Longest Night" service, a calm, beautiful, and welcoming service of introspective music, readings, healing and candlelight.

Let us take a moment to give thanks for the loving care and compassion of all who reached out to parishioners and our extended community in ways seen but also in ways not seen. There are many ways our faith community supported one another quietly and humbly. We were richer for it and so we give thanks to God for the goodness and kindness shown by so many of you. We had a wonderful year of caring and loving. Thank you for your ministry!

Pastoral Care meetings continue in 2023. Days and times will be announced. The Reverend Michelle Meech has offered to help organize education sessions as desired.

"Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law." Romans 13:8

How will you love one another in 2023?

Laura Ricci, Pastoral Care Chairperson

ALTAR GUILD and SACRISTANS

In 2022 we experienced a full year return to in person worship services with masks optional before the end of the year. The sacristans have become more accustomed to their roles in preparing the sanctuary for services and serving at the altar. During the summer months many people help with the setup of services in the parish hall and we are grateful for their help.

Currently the sacristans are Leah Siuta, Paula Wisneski, Wes Dangler, Laura Ricci, and Lynn Dennison. We thank each of them for their ministry. Training can be provided for anyone interested in this ministry.

Elaine Lawrence continues as our Flower Coordinator, and we thank her for her service. Flower memorials remain important, and names are included in the bulletin each Sunday. Flower donations (usually \$50 a Sunday) are appreciated and help with the expenses of church services, including candles, oil, bread and wine, linens, etc. In the spring our long-time florist, Ron Smith retired. We are now working with Blooming Boutique Florist and they are doing a wonderful job with our flowers.

This fall, with assistance from the Memorials Fund we purchased a fair linen for the main altar, and 2 new linens for the low altar.

We extend our gratitude to Rev. Michelle for her steadfast leadership of our worship services.

The Christmas outreach offering was given to Angel food East this year.

I thank everyone who serves on the altar guild/sacristan and we welcome new members anytime.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Dennison