

St. John's Episcopal Church

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2023 Annual Reports

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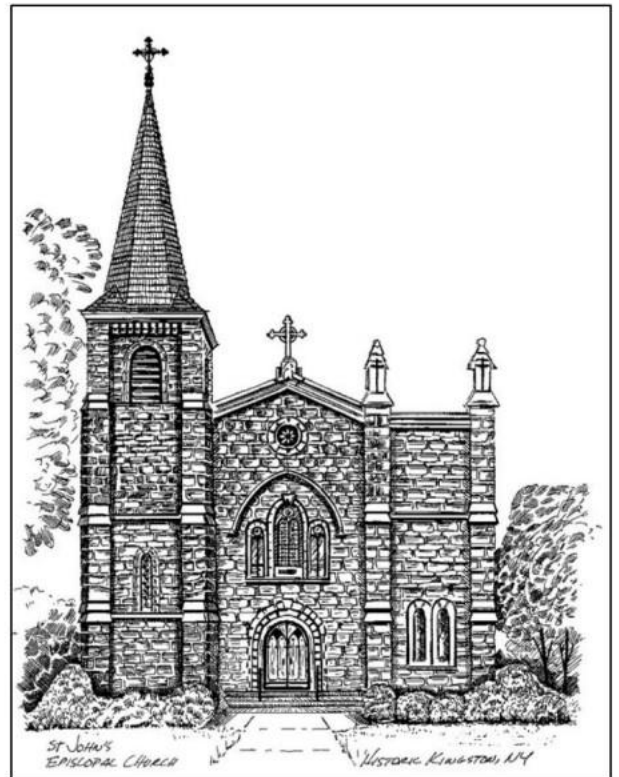
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THE MISSION OF ST. JOHN'S KINGSTON

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

2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

January 29, 2023

The 2022 Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Eucharist Rite II service on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Laura Ricci was the Clerk of the 2022 Annual Meeting and took the meeting notes.

2022 Annual Meeting packet: A hardcopy 2022 Annual Meeting packet of 2021 meeting notes, Rector's report, annual reports, and financial reports, plus the 2023 budget, was provided to attendees.

The Reverend Michelle Meech called the meeting to order at 10:16 am and announced the ballot box was open at 10:17 am.

Thirty parishioners were in attendance. A motion to accept the quorum was made by Wes Dangler and seconded by Claudette Ford. The vote was unanimously in favor.

A motion to accept the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes was made by Harry Lowe and seconded by Nilsa Rodriguez-Jaca. The vote was unanimously in favor.

The announced Vestry Slate was Leah Siuta – Warden (2 years) and Kathy Burdick – Vestryperson (3 years). Michelle advised meeting attendees to let the Clerk of the 2022 Annual Meeting, Laura Ricci, know if they have any addition nominations for either of these positions.

Michelle's Rector's Report is in the 2022 Annual Meeting packet. During the Annual Meeting she gave a combined sermon and Rector's Report Summary.

Michelle referenced the First Lesson reading from Micah 6:1-8 and the Gospel reading from Matthew 5:1-12, advising that we:

- Live our lives as if God matters.
- Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.
- Do this in community.
- Let God lead us.

We are in the midst of change. The world never stays the same. We continue our Christian hope. God loves us and is with us in the midst of this change. Change is an opportunity for our growth.

St. John's leadership has been exploring partnerships, specifically Holy Cross Santa Cruz in Kingston and Ascension Holy Trinity in West Park. Michelle also mentioned that Episcopal Churches in our region have come together in a Deanery where parishes can share resources. Michelle is the Dean of our Deanery in Ulster County.

Our St. John's leadership continues to look at our finances. In 2022 we created a Sustainability Task Force that has been looking at all of our church assets including our bank accounts and real estate, and considering our personnel.

Wes Dangler, outgoing Treasurer, discussed the Annual Meeting financial reports.

Wes advised attendees there are some corrections to the hardcopy 2022 Annual Meeting packet that attendees received at today's meeting. Specifically, in the Asset Report:

- On page 16, the 2022 Church Building Fund is \$10,809 rather than \$33,915.
- On page 17, the 2022 Total Restricted Assets are \$573,283 rather than \$592,165.
- On page 17, the 2022 Total Assets are \$695,287 not \$714,169.

Wes noted the 2022 Asset liquidation was \$79,500. The budgeted Pledge income number was not fully realized, there were unplanned expenses including tree removal, rectory work was done, and the cost of fuel and other utilities was greater than the budgeted amount. All spending was required.

In 2023 we have met our pledge goal and we are expecting increased kitchen rental income. There were some small salary increases. The expected deficit in 2023, which could result in asset liquidation, is expected to be \$110,730. This trend causes sustainability concerns.

Liz Moeller described the work of the Sustainability Task Force.

Sustainability Task Force members currently include Liz, Claudette Ford, Wes Dangler, and Lynn Dennison.

The deficits we have been seeing each year are not sustainable. Actions this task force has taken so far include:

- Met with Don Bell, our Merrill advisor, to discuss our short term needs and long term goals, and how to preserve our assets with the goal of our assets growing.
- Reached out to other parishes to know their situations and actions. Michelle is the Dean of our Deanery. Other churches are facing similar challenges. Discussions included how we can share our resources.
- Discussed different ideas including transitioning and potentially reducing Michelle's hours.
- Work here is in progress.

Liz made a "Call to Action".

- Our goal is to "Survive and Thrive".
- We are facing opportunities as well as challenges.
- We plan a St. John's Celebration of Talents in the form of a Ministry Fair.
- If you have a skill, ability, or talent, or just a willingness to help, please volunteer. There are many ways to help, including: cook, bake, office skills, maintenance, building and grounds.
- Sometimes you may be "voluntold", but best to not wait to be asked. Offer your help.

Michelle's continued remarks:

A reminder to: Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Salvation is not about individuals; it is about community.

The additional Kitchen rentals that we have lined up help our income, but we are aware that if our kitchen rental reaches a big enough number there will be tax implications.

We are involved with the Episcopal Church's Racial Reconciliation Program, "Beloved Community". This includes 4 tasks:

- Telling the Truth.
- Proclaiming the Dream.
- Repairing the Breach.
- Practicing the Way.

The Ulster Deanery is planning a Lenten group on this topic, meeting in community over Zoom with other congregations.

Clerk's Note: While not shared at the Annual Meeting, the Episcopal Church's "Beloved Community" website is <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community/>.

Thank you to many people! Michelle named a long list of people who are St. John's leaders and/or contribute significantly.

Clerk's Note: The complete list of people that Michelle thanks for 2022 is on page 6 of the 2022 Annual Meeting packet.

Michelle gave a special Thank You to our wardens, Lynn Dennison and Claudette Ford. She thanked them for their wisdom, faith, commitment, humor, honesty, forthrightness, kindness, compassion, and for working so well together.

At 11:35 am, with the ballot box having been open for over an hour, Michelle asked Laura Ricci as 2022 Annual Meeting Clerk if any additional nominations had been made for warden or vestry since the ballot box was opened at 10:17 am. Laura replied "no". A

motion for the 2022 Annual Meeting Clerk to cast one ballot on behalf of the congregation for Leah Siuta – Warden (2 years) and Kathy Burdick – Vestryperson (3 years) was made by Lynn Dennison and seconded by Barbara Johnston. The vote was unanimously in favor. Congratulations Leah and Kathy!

We continued the service, including:

- Celebration of Ministry:

Following page 19 of our service bulletin, Michelle offered a prayer of blessing for outgoing leaders: warden Lynn Dennison, treasurer Wes Dangler, and vestry member Sheena MacGregor-Pilz. Michelle noted that when she was called to St. John's seven years ago, Wes was warden and Lynn was chair of the church's Search Committee. They have both been in leadership positions since then. She is greatly appreciative of all that Lynn, Wes, and Sheena have done for St. John's.

It was noted that, once voted in by the Vestry, Keith Ferber will replace Wes as treasurer.

Lynn shared that she is grateful for Michelle and thanked Michelle for her leadership.

- Commissioning of the New Vestry:

Following pages 19 and 20 of our service bulletin:

Claudette Ford, the continuing warden, began the Commissioning of the New Vestry, presenting Leah Siuta – Warden (2 years) and Kathy Burdick – Vestryperson (3 years), and affirming that they have been elected by the congregation in accordance with the bylaws of our congregation.

Michelle continued the Commissioning of the New Vestry, receiving affirmative responses from Leah and Kathy to serve the congregation in these offices, and affirmative responses from the congregation to support them in their new roles. Michelle then completed Commissioning of the New Vestry.

A motion to adjourn the 2022 Annual Meeting was made by Bob Dennison and Paula Wisneski. The vote was unanimously in favor. The 2022 Annual Meeting adjourned at noon.

Kind Regards,

Laura Ricci, Clerk of the 2022 Annual Meeting

2023 RECTOR'S REPORT

Gratitude

My sincere thank you to all of these people who have been leaders of St. John's in 2023!

Wardens: **Claudette Ford and Leah Siuta**

Treasurer: **Keith Ferber**

Vestry Members: **Paula Wisneski, Nilsa Rodriguez-Jaca, Sara Hutton, Kathy Burdick, and Keith Ferber**. Also, **Liz Moeller** who stepped down from Vestry for personal reasons in October, but served for nearly 6 years as a faithful Vestryperson.

Bookkeeper: **Pat Allen**

Kitchen/Office Administrators: **Suzanne Campise and Brian Silver**

Director of Music: **Terry Earles** and all the members of the **St. John's Choir**

Occasional Music Leaders: **Ana Hernández and Sr. Helena Marie**

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

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

Usher Chairperson: **Paula Wisneski**

Pastoral Care Chairperson: **Laura Ricci**

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

Hospitality Chairperson: **Barbara Johnston**

St. Pauly's Steward: **Joe Siuta**

Stewardship Chairperson: **Kathy Burdick**

Memorial Fund Chairperson: **George Mine**

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

Outreach Coordinators: **Deacon Sue Bonsteel and Elaine Lawrence**

Buildings and Grounds: **Bob Dennison, Lynn Dennison, Roger Bonsteel, Claudette Ford, Leah Siuta, and Brian Silver**.

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

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.

2023 from the Rector's View

Re-shaping and Re-building Our Ministry Together

As I have been reporting over the last several years, financial sustainability remains a significant concern for the congregation of St. John's. This reality led the Vestry of St. John's to vote for a reduction in the Rector's hours/pay. After months of difficult and prayerful conversations, the Vestry settled on a 60% Rector, reducing the hours/pay by approximately 1/3, maintaining a full benefits package for the Rector, and increasing the number of Sundays off. This was effective on June 1, 2023.

This new reality for the life of St. John's has had necessary effect on our ministry. Without a full-time Rector, there are responsibilities that need to shift from the Rector's

“plate,” namely: administrative tasks, building oversight, events planning, and some worship leadership. This shift has been aided by 3 significant decisions:

- The hiring of a highly skilled Building Administrator – Brian Silver
- The addition of Morning Prayer to our regular cycle of worship along with the training of 3 lay worship leaders.
- Increase the administrative responsibilities of lay leaders

Hiring a Building Administrator

Rather than go through a hiring process, we decided to employ a temp agency – Normann Staffing – to find an effective Building Administrator for us. We needed someone who could be flexible with their time, had great people and project management skills, and a strong understanding of social media.

This turned out to be the best decision we made because we found **Brian Silver** who came as a temporary worker with us in April. It was soon very clear that this was a great match as this job complimented his other jobs as far as timing and responsibilities. And working with us is also helping him to learn more about property management. The Vestry decided to hire Brian onto our permanent staff in November of 2023.

Currently, Brian oversees the following (in approximate order of amount of time spent):

- Building Rental (has become very profitable for us)
- Building Maintenance (shifting main responsibility from the Wardens’)
- Basic parish communication – phone messages, emails, newsletter
- Supply Ordering

By Easter of this year, Brian will take ownership of the following which will complete his portfolio of responsibilities:

- Production of Worship Bulletins (shifting this off of the Rector)
- Communications Media (shifting this off of the Rector)

Need to be in direct communication with Brian?

- **Please use stjohnskingston@aol.com to be in direct communication with Brian about parish business.**
- **If you’d like to rent the space, use kitchenatstjohns@gmail.com to connect with Brian.**

Addition of Morning Prayer

Approximately 50 years ago, Morning Prayer was the primary Sunday service for the entire Episcopal Church. And it had been that way for centuries.

Morning Prayer is a part of what we, as Episcopalians, call the Daily Office (which also includes Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline). The pattern of praying

throughout the day is an ancient practice found in all major religions because it gives us pause to remember the source of our life – God. As such, it engenders gratitude, humility, a sense of balance, kindness, proper self-care, and compassion.

By participating in Morning Prayer regularly, St. John's isn't doing anything new. We are reincorporating a part of our worship life that has, unfortunately and undeservedly, been relegated to a kind of second-class status. However, I believe it's actually a privilege to have Morning Prayer, once again, as a part of our regular worship life.

Every time a month has five Sundays, we now have Morning Prayer on that 5th Sunday. By doing this, we expand the breadth of our worship, enabling the congregation to have a larger "vocabulary," if you will. Now, when the Rector has a Sunday off, a lay leader can step in to lead worship rather than pay for a supply priest to lead a Eucharistic service and it won't feel that different for us because it's a regular part of our worship lives.

We have three experienced lay leaders who are being trained to lead Morning Prayer – **Leah Siuta, Lynn Dennison, and Wes Dangler**. All three people are Sacristans and know the ins and outs of worship well. They all have a good sense of liturgical and congregational leadership. December 31, 2023 saw the first Sunday of lay-led Morning Prayer when Leah Siuta led on a 5th Sunday so that I could take a Sunday off. According to all reports, it was a beautiful service. I wish I had been in attendance!

Increasing Responsibilities of Lay Leadership – Events and Administration

In some ways, we are still recovering from the enforced isolation of the initial wave of the pandemic. Cindy Puetz retired in 2020 after 25 years of being our Parish Administrator at the same time that people's overall involvement with church life declined due to the limitations imposed by the pandemic.

As a result, most of the equipment, events, tasks, communication, etc., became the Rector's responsibility to coordinate, complete, or oversee in addition to the main responsibilities of a parish priest – teach/preach, lead worship, provide pastoral care. The Wardens took on a heavy load during this time as well. Now that the Rector position is at 60%, this level of responsibility is unsustainable.

The Vestry had two retreats in 2023 to discuss how to shift responsibility away from the Rector – the first in April led by the Rev. Alison Quin (prior to the change in hours/pay) and the second in November led by the Rev. Allison Moore (once the leadership began to live into the change in Rector hours). Now, St. John's is in the process of shifting primary responsibility of some of the significant aspects of parish life to lay leadership.

This requires two things: the willingness and skill of lay leadership and the willingness of the Rector (that's me) to let go of their sense of responsibility. It's not always easy. 😊

This is how things are shifting and, you can see, that parish life does require our lay members to utilize their gifts and exercise their ministry. All of the areas listed below previously relied heavily on the Rector's leadership and/or direct involvement. You'll also note that the Wardens have no primary responsibility, but will remain as support:

- Stewardship: Stewardship Chair with support from Stewardship Committee, Vesty, and Treasurer/Bookkeeper.
- Finances: Treasurer and Finance Committee with support from Bookkeeper and Wardens.
- Building Maintenance: Building Administrator with support from Wardens and Vestry.
- Parish Records and Reporting: Vestry Clerk with support from the Wardens and Treasurer.
- *Events: The Vestry will be focusing on this in the coming year.*

Important Financial Note

The St. John's budget is still unsustainable, even with the Rector at 60%. The Finance Committee is looking into ways to access the St. John's financial assets but we need to be cautious about this. Are we draining assets only to delay a more important conversation? If you have questions, please reach out to the Finance Committee and/or the Treasurer.

Wage Reduction Impact on Rector

Finally, because you are likely wondering... I am not independently wealthy so a 40% pay cut is not something I can live on. The Good News is that to help balance my income, I work for the Diocese of New York Canon for Transitions, Nora Smith. Canon Nora has me working with congregations who are in various states of transition because her job is too much for one person to accomplish. I'm still not at full time pay, working 60% for St. John's and 25% for Canon Nora, but it's a sustainable income for now.

Right now, in my job with Canon Nora, I'm working with; 2 congregations in northern Westchester County who are looking to share a full-time priest; a set of 3 congregations who are looking to develop a team ministry in southern Dutchess County, and several congregations in Rockland County who are all looking for ways to work together rather than in silos because many of them cannot afford clergy leadership. This is exciting work for me and I think it compliments my parish work well.

The Ministry of St. John's

Here is a recap of some significant St. John's events and happenings in 2023:

- Our ongoing relationship with **Radio Kingston** continues to benefit us. In early 2023, they began providing us with free technical support for our audio/speaker system. Clearly we have some opportunity here to make our system more

consistent but, we remain thankful for this relationship that also provides free internet for both the church building and the Rectory.

- February 22 was Ash Wednesday when we offered **Ashes to go** in front of our church building. Every year we bless and are blessed by well over 100 people who stop to receive ashes. This past year, we counted approximately 140.
- March 5 saw the much-anticipated return of the **Mac-n-Cheese Bakeoff**, benefitting our feeding ministry, **Angel Food East**. It was a lot of fun!
- In late March, we participated in Purple Sunday, an effort developed by the **Alzheimer's Association** to bring more attention to cognitive decline disorders. It was a well-attended forum and we're thankful for their continued work.
- Through the season of Lent we participated in an online **Lenten Learning Series** about Becoming Beloved Community with other congregations in the Ulster Deanery.
- Over a series of Sundays in February, March, and April, we offered our 6-part **Inquirer's Class** for those who are new to the Episcopal Church or wanted to have a refresher on various topics.
- For our **Holy Week** we shared our worship with Ascension/Holy Trinity in West Park. And our **Easter Sunday** was a blast – beautiful weather, full church, lots of food and eggs for kids to find, and the return of youth acolytes to our liturgical leadership team.
- In April, we hired our new **Building Administrator – Brian Silver** who jumped right in and is doing a fantastic job increasing the income from our kitchen and building rentals.
- Several people from St. John's attended the **consecration of the Rt. Rev. Matthew Heyd on May 20**. It was a fun day traveling on the bus and watching **Roger Bonsteel and Paula Wisneski** carry the banner for St. John's in the procession. Mostly, it was a really wonderful event to mark a new day for the Diocese of New York, helped by the powerful voice of the Very Rev. Kelly Brown-Douglas, preacher.
- On June 2, as a part of **Gun Violence Awareness Weekend**, our Social Concerns Committee helped to lead a vigil along with members of Congregation Emanuel of the Hudson Valley.
- In June we resumed the practice of regular **Bible Study** – on Sunday mornings in person and on Wednesday mid-day on Zoom.
- **The Rev. Richard Witt**, who leads Rural and Migrant Ministry, visited us on June 11. He preached and led an informational forum afterwards.
- On a very hot day, about a dozen people from St. John's joined hundreds of others from across the region at Christ Church in Poughkeepsie for the **Mid-Hudson Gathering** on July 29, to celebrate the transition from Bp Andy Dietsche's leadership to Bp. Matt Heyd's. And **Ana Hernandez** led the music!
- In August, we welcomed a new Episcopal priest to town – the **Rev. Eliacin Rosario-Cruz**, the new priest-in-charge at Holy Cross/Santa Cruz.
- Along with St. Andrew's in New Paltz and Christ the King in Stone Ridge, we participated in **Creation Care Camp**, where every morning young kids gathered

to learn more about the stories in the Bible and the care of creation together. We're really looking forward to this coming year's camp!

- On September 17, we saw the return of our **Neighborhood Block Party**. We had a blast welcoming hundreds of people to our sidelawn, offering free food, family fun, and connections to various service organizations in Ulster County.
- In preparation for Bp. Mary Glasspool's visit, we had a special forum about baptism on December 3 after worship called **The Waters of Baptism**. This was the same day we celebrated **St. Nicolas Day**.
- We had so much fun when **Bp. Mary visited on December 10!** We got to **baptize Stella and Roy Tervenski** and we received **Chris Kelly, Bruce Dodge, and Alec Tervenski** into the Episcopal Church. We also had our ever-popular cookie exchange!
- On Sunday, December 10 we hosted the **Rock Academy** and they gathered huge baskets full of personal items for the clients of the Ulster Immigrant Defense Network.
- And finally, our **Christmas Eve worship**: Family Service at 4:00 pm and Choral Festival Eucharist at 8:00 pm. Both of these services are becoming important to the larger Kingston community as they continue to grow in attendance. Well over 100 people attended our services on Christmas Eve.

In 2023, we were saddened by the deaths of three beloved long-time members, two of whom we haven't seen for a number of years as they had moved to be closer to their children who could care for them:

Janet Greer in July

Norm Goodwin in November

George Mine in December

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

Looking into 2024

The Vestry leadership will continue to work towards balancing responsibilities for parish life in addition to supporting a sabbatical for me.

Priests are offered pastoral sabbaticals after a certain number of years of service. Sabbath, essentially, means "rest." So, a sabbatical is an opportunity for the priest to do just that: rest, put down the responsibilities of parish life for a few months, perhaps do some traveling designed to deepen our faith, and slow down a bit. Pastoral sabbaticals are designed to help the priest return to parish life with a renewed sense of peace, balance, and clarity about God's call.

Look for more announcements about this in the coming months.

Thank you, all, for your trust and friendship as your priest. I remain humbled by this calling and my faith is renewed the more I know you as individuals and the community of St. John's. It's my privilege to serve.

Report of Church Services in 2023

Attendance

Sundays	1555
Weekdays	873
Total Attendance for 2023	2428
Total Communion for 2023	1670

Number of Services

Sunday Worship	53	
	53	<i>in person</i>
	0	<i>online</i>
Home Communion	9	
Weekdays	111	<i>1 hybrid</i>
<i>Centering Prayer</i>	41	<i>all online</i>
<i>Compline</i>	<u>49</u>	<i>all online</i>
Total Services		

As a part of the above services:

Baptisms	2
Funerals/Memorials	2

Attendance at Major Feasts and Significant Worship Services

Baptism of our Lord	35
Ash Wednesday	26
Ashes To Go	130
Palm Sunday	36
Maundy Thursday	18
Good Friday	12
Easter Vigil	30
Easter Sunday	80
Pentecost	23
All Saints	38
Christmas Eve Family	42
Christmas Eve Main	65

2023 Warden's Report

The Vestry of St. John's includes the following individuals who have agreed to serve in the management of affairs of the church by overseeing the budget and expenses, care of the buildings and grounds, and many other responsibilities. We work in concert with Rev. Michelle Meech on decision making for the development of programs and services. This year, the following people have served on the Vestry – Claudette Ford and Leah Siuta, Wardens; Keith Ferber, Treasurer, Kathy Burdick, Clerk; Sara Hutton, Nilsa Rodriguez-Jaca, Liz Moeller, Paula Wisneski, Vestry Members. We thank them for their service and commitment to St. John's.

Of significance is the thoughtful, yet challenging decision to address the budget deficit. Although we have much more to do, we have made some thoughtful changes including the transition from full-time Rector to having a rector serving at 60%. We are still evaluating how this is working, but we are confident that we will be able to work out something that will continue to be beneficial for St. John's. We thank Rev. Michelle as we have considered this decision for a long time and her support and flexibility has been instrumental.

In addition, we have faced many buildings and grounds issues (see Building and Grounds report) that have negatively impacted the budget and have needed thoughtful yet prompt decision making. There are many more major and minor repairs that need to be made to sustain the buildings and the vestry will need to consider a capital campaign to fund this. We are still evaluating our budget and making sure that we are living within our means.

We celebrate the success of our Kitchen rental program which has now expanded to rental of other spaces in the building. This program has financially supported our budget, but more importantly is helping us to bridge the use of our space to the community. We thank our Kitchen manager, Brian Silver, for his creative ability, excellent marketing skills, and gregarious personality in meeting the needs of our renters. Brian has also taken on some of the office manager duties which support the work of the church and Rev. Michelle.

A special thank you to Terry Earles as our Music Director. His direction of the expanding choir and beautiful talent as an organist has accentuated the worship experience for all of us. We appreciate the commitment of all who participate as Choir, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, Sacristans, Ushers, Lectors, Family Ministry leaders, etc. Your involvement in St. John's enhances our shared ministry.

Most importantly, we wish to thank The Reverend Michelle Meech for her devotion to the Gospel, her beautiful sermons and worship services, her Pastoral Care for all the members of St. John's and the Kingston community, and her work on a wider Diocesan level. Michelle continues to advocate for the dignity of all individuals and strives to make the love of our Lord known to all. Her continued leadership at St. John's is highly respected, valued and appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Claudette Ford and Leah Siuta

2023 TREASURER REPORT

St. John's 2023 Fiscal year saw a lot of challenges and opportunities. The year began with a deficit budget that we were able to supplement through our endowment, as well as unforeseen price increases and repairs to the church. Among those repairs were a roof repair, mold remediation in the food pantry and the removal of bats in the bell tower.

We were not without our successes though. St. John's met our pledge goal of \$65,000. We also had immense success with our rental program by more than tripling our initial expectations of \$5000 in rental income to \$16,884 thanks to the work of our rental manager.

We also made some changes to our operational expenses:

1. Our vestry stepped up to take charge of some leadership tasks that allowed Rev. Michelle to move to part-time.
2. We brought Brian Silver on as our rental manager which was highly influential in the success of our rental program.
3. Through the recommendation of Paula Wisneski we hired a handyman that was able to help us with smaller repairs avoiding the high costs of contractors.
4. We changed companies for both the lawn and cleaning contracts to ensure we were receiving better services and covering for additional services such as fall cleanup.

Going in to 2024, we still are facing a deficit budget and will need to draw from our endowment which is currently at \$74,000. We continue to take steps to make sure we are getting the most from our investments to offset the deficit. Among the steps we are taking are:

1. Meeting with our financial advisor at Merrill to discuss how we can improve the return on investment with our endowment.
2. Setting quarterly finance committee meetings so we have more eyes, more often on our budget.
3. Meeting with Key bank, which holds 2 trust for the church, to discuss how to get a better return on investment and the potential of breaking those trusts to further supplement our income.
4. Looking at consolidating our accounts into less banks to streamline our finances.

2023 ASSET REPORT – 2 PAGES

Unless Noted
January 21, 2024

LIQUID ASSETS	Asset Drawdown	Use Income		
FRANKLIN-TEMPLETON				
US Government Securities Fund 1108	5% of 3 yr avg	\$	-	
Memorial Fund 7779		\$	-	
Hoysradt Income Fund 9696	5% of 3 yr avg	\$	-	
MID-HUDSON VALLEY FCU				
Memorial Committee Checking		\$	1,100	
Memorial Committee Savings	Bishop Organ Fund \$13,946	13,614	\$	15,990
RONDOUT SAVINGS BANK				
Checking Account Balance		\$	(1,089)	
Total Liquid Assets		\$	16,001	
RESTRICTED ASSETS				
RONDOUT SAVINGS BANK				
Rondout Savings		\$	1,040	
Church Savings Acct. (Non- Restricted)				
Bishop Family Organ Fund-moved to MHVFCU				
Columbarium Savings Account		\$	15,550	
Columbarium Checking Account		\$	4,228	
Deacon Sue Community Action Fund		\$	3,844	
Church Building Fund		\$	5,015	
DIT	Yes	\$	34,683	

MERRILL-LYNCH

Endowment (4015) Cash/Money Accounts	5% of 3 yr avg		\$	675
Endowment (4015) Equity (Bonds) / Mutual Funds	5% of 3 yr avg			
Endowment (2107) Cash/Money Accounts	5% of 3 yr avg		\$	70,988
Endowment (2107) Equity	5% of 3 yr avg			
Capital (2105) Cash/Money Accounts		Yes	\$	1,429
Capital (2105) Equity (Bonds)		Yes		

PRIVATE BANK (KEY TRUST)

Hoysradt Trust		Yes	\$	189,997
Winter Trust		Yes	\$	217,641

MASS MUTUAL

Church Savings			\$	57,879
Outreach Endowment	5% of 3 yr avg			
St. Francis Fund	\$500/year			
Stained Glass Fund				
Flower Endowment				

TOTAL RESTRICTED ASSETS

602,968
TOTAL ASSETS
\$ 618,968
**MERRILL-
LYNCH**
\$ 73,091

2023 INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT – 4 PAGES

						Jan - Dec 23	Budget	% of Budget	
3	Income								
4		Giving							
5			Pledges			66,005	65,000	102%	
6			Non-Pledge Giving			1,961	2,000	98%	
7			Holiday Gifts						
8				Easter			0	350	0%
9				Thanksgiving			21	100	21%
10				Christmas			227	500	45%
11			Total Holiday Gifts			248	950	26%	
12			Plate Offering			2,207	1,800	123%	
13			Special Gifts						
14				Outreach			495		
15				Special Gifts - Other			0	250	0%
16			Total Special Gifts			495	250	198%	
17		Total Giving				70,916	70,000	101%	
18		Other Income							
19			Temporary Transfer			21,700			
20			Asset Liquidation			92,000			
21			Investments						
22				Fiduciary Trust			1,300		
23				Misc Interest			8		
24				DIT Short & Long			0	1,200	0%
25				MM Outreach Endowment			0	2,000	0%
26				ML Endowment Fund			8,500	8,500	100%
27				Franklin Hoysradt Income Fund			0	1,700	0%
28				Franklin US Govt Securities Fu			178	1,700	10%
29				Winter Trust A			2,250	7,700	29%
30				Hoysradt Trust			14,500	7,200	201%
31			Total Investments			26,736	30,000	89%	
32			Organizations						
33				Altar Guild			300	2,000	15%
34			Total Organizations			300	2,000	15%	
35			Hall Usage & Kitchen Rental			16,884	5,000	338%	
36			Fundraising						
37				Clothing Shed			1,308	1,500	87%
38			Total Fundraising			1,308	1,500	87%	
39			Other Sources						
40				Flowers			640		
41				Other Sources - Other			0	1,500	0%
42			Total Other Sources			640	1,500	43%	
43			Total Other Income			159,568	40,000	399%	

44		Directly Offset Income			
45		Episcopal Charities- AFE	8,069		
46		Family Ministry Events	406		
47		AFE Gas Reimbursement	1,680		
48		AFE Dumpster	2,606		
49		AFE Phone	306		
50		Other Income	0		
51		Altar Guild	560		
52		Outreach			
53		Christmas Offering	521		
54		Easter Outreach Offering	695		
55		Total Outreach	1,216		
56		Total Directly Offset Income	14,843		
57	Total Income		245,327	110,000	223%
58	Expense				
59		Reconciliation Discrepancies	36		
60		Ministry/Outreach			
61		Family Ministry Events	182		
62		Adult Education	845	100	845%
63		AltarGuild	3,484	2,000	174%
64		Welcoming	60	100	60%
65		Social Concerns	202	200	101%
66		General Outreach	1,000	1,000	100%
67		Diocesan Assessment	6,120	6,120	100%
68		Diocesan Convention	0	300	0%
69		Diocesan Programs	0	100	0%
70		Discretionary Fund			
71		Rector	1,500	1,500	100%
72		Total Discretionary Fund	1,500	1,500	100%
73		Hoysradt Trust Outreach	830	720	115%
74		Church School	0	500	0%
75		Youth Programs	0	100	0%
76		Communication/Advertising	626	2,000	31%
77		Music	88		
78		Rectors Salary & Related Exp.			
79		Salary-Rector	43,276	43,276	100%
80		Communications Allowance	704	1,200	59%
81		Insurance			
82		Medical/Dental/Vision	19,060	20,675	92%
83		Total Insurance	19,060	20,675	92%
84		Travel	0	300	0%
85		FICA Supplement	4,266	4,266	100%
86		Pension Premium	11,757	11,196	105%
87		Continuing Education	1,073	750	143%
88		Total Rectors Salary & Related Exp.	80,136	81,663	98%
89		Ministry/Outreach - Other	521		
90		Total Ministry/Outreach	95,594	96,403	99%

91		Support Staff			
92		Lawn Care	2,865	3,200	90%
93		Rental Manager	16,330	13,000	126%
94		Bookkeeper Salary	2,782	3,000	93%
95		Organist/Choir Director	16,800	16,800	100%
96		Supply Priest/Organist			
97		Supply Organist	500		
98		Supply Priest	1,344		
99		Supply Priest/Organist - Other	0	2,025	0%
100		Total Supply Priest/Organist	1,844	2,025	91%
101		FICA/Medicare			
102		FICA-Employer	1,387	1,300	107%
103		Medicare-Employer	447		
104		Total FICA/Medicare	1,834	1,300	141%
105		Insurance			
106		NYS Unemployment	120	300	40%
107		Property/Liability Insurance	15,790	15,000	105%
108		Workers Comp	651	600	109%
109		Disability Insurance	50	300	17%
110		Total Insurance	16,611	16,200	103%
111		Total Support Staff	59,066	55,525	106%
112		Operations			
113		Office Supplies & Equipment			
114		Web Site Maintenance	286	100	286%
115		Payroll Service	378	400	95%
116		Telephone/Internet	426	960	44%
117		Stewardship Envelopes	290	140	207%
118		Office Supplies	674	2,000	34%
119		Accounting	0	500	0%
120		Bank Service Charges	315		
121		Postage	198	250	79%
122		Office Supplies & Equipment - Other	526		
123		Total Office Supplies & Equipment	3,093	4,350	71%
124		Total Operations	3,093	4,350	71%
125		Facilities			
126		Kitchen Rental	2,141		
127		Maintenance Service&Supplies			
128		Dumpster	961	900	107%
129		Repairs , Supplies& Maintenance	7,720	3,500	221%
130		Cleaning Service	6,390	7,300	88%
131		Bell Maintenance Contract	0	750	0%
132		Copier Maintenance Contract	1,476	1,200	123%
133		Maintenance Supplies	2,134		
134		Paper Products	200		
135		Snow Removal	1,185	2,500	47%
136		Maintenance Service&Supplies - Other	3,738		
137		Total Maintenance Service&Supplies	23,804	16,150	147%

138		Fuel/Light/Water/Security			
139		Fire Alarm System	1,201	600	200%
140		Electric-Church	7,546	7,500	101%
141		Electric-Rectory	2,404	2,500	96%
142		Fuel Oil	13,144	11,000	119%
143		Gas-Rectory	3,104	3,000	103%
144		Gas-Church	284		
145		Water	933	850	110%
146		Total Fuel/Light/Water/Security	28,616	25,450	112%
147		Total Facilities	54,561	41,600	131%
148		Other Expenses			
149		Hospitality	705		
150		Special Events	694	200	347%
151		Fundraising Expenses	0	250	0%
152		Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees	964	300	321%
153		Miscellaneous Unbudgeted			
154		Flowers	303		
155		Altar Guild	358		
156		Total Miscellaneous Unbudgeted	661		
157		Total Other Expenses	3,024	750	403%
158		Directly Offset Expenses			
159		Block Party	3,951		
160		EDNY Facilitator Pension	264		
161		AFE Episcopal Charities/Other	8,100		
162		Easter Outreach	1,455		
163		AFE Phone	386		
164		Transfer to savings	8,200		
165		repay borrowing from savings or	10,000		
166		AFE Dumpster	2,882		
167		AFE Gas	1,876		
168		Outreach			
169		Easter Outreach Collection	300		
170		Total Outreach	300		
171		Total Directly Offset Expenses	37,414		
172		Total Expense	252,788	198,628	127%
		Net Income	(7,461)	(88,628)	8%

2023 Budget – 4 Pages

					Budget
3	Income				
4	Giving				
5	Pledges				50,000
6	Non-Pledge Giving				2,000
7	Holiday Gifts				
8	Easter				350
9	Thanksgiving				100
10	Christmas				500
11	Total Holiday Gifts				950
12	Plate Offering				2,000
13	Special Gifts				
14	Outreach				
15	Special Gifts - Other				250
16	Total Special Gifts				250
17	Total Giving				55,200
18	Other Income				
19	Temporary Transfer				
20	Asset Liquidation				
21	Investments				
22	Misc Interest				
23	DIT Short & Long				1,200
24	MM Outreach Endowment				2,000
25	ML Endowment Fund				8,500
26	Franklin Hoysradt Income Fund				1,700
27	Franklin US Govt Securities Fu				1,700
28	Winter Trust A				7,700
29	Hoysradt Trust				7,200
30	Total Investments				30,000
31	Organizations				
32	Altar Guild				2,000
33	Total Organizations				2,000
34	Hall Usage & Kitchen Rental				15,000
35	Fundraising				
36	Clothing Shed				1,500
37	Total Fundraising				1,500
38	Other Sources				
39	Flowers				
40	Other Sources - Other				1,500
41	Total Other Sources				1,500
42	Total Other Income				50,000
43	Directly Offset Income				
44	Episcopal Charities- AFE				
45	Family Ministry Events				
46	AFE Gas Reimbursement				
47	AFE Dumpster				

						Budget
48				AFE Phone		
49				Other Income		
50				Altar Guild		
51				Outreach		
52				Christmas Offering		
53				Easter Outreach Offering		
54				Total Outreach		
55				Total Directly Offset Income		
56				Total Income		105,200
57				Expense		
58				Ministry/Outreach		
59				Family Ministry Events		
60				Adult Education		100
61				Altar Guild		2,000
62				Welcoming		100
63				Social Concerns		200
64				General Outreach		1,000
65				Diocesan Assessment		6,120
66				Diocesan Convention		300
67				Diocesan Programs		100
68				Discretionary Fund		
69				Rector		1,500
70				Total Discretionary Fund		1,500
71				Hoysradt Trust Outreach		720
72				Church School		500
73				Youth Programs		100
74				Communication/Advertising		2,000
75				Rectors Salary & Related Exp.		
76				Salary-Rector		34,110
77				Communications Allowance		1,200
78				Insurance		
79				Medical/Dental/Vision		20,675
80				Total Insurance		20,000
81				Travel		300
82				FICA Supplement		3,986
83				Pension Premium		8,914
84				Continuing Education		750
85				Total Rectors Salary & Related Exp.		69,260
86				Ministry/Outreach - Other		
87				Total Ministry/Outreach		84,000
88				Support Staff		
89				Lawn Care		3,200
90				Rental Manager		16,200
91				Bookkeeper Salary		3,000
92				Organist/Choir Director		17,052

					Budget
93			Supply Priest		6,500
94			Supply Organist		500
95			Total Supply Priest/Organist		7,000
96			FICA/Medicare		
97			FICA-Employer		2,773
98			Medicare-Employer		
99			Total FICA/Medicare		2,543
100			Insurance		
101			NYS Unemployment		120
102			Property/Liability Insurance		16,000
103			Workers Comp		652
104			Disability Insurance		50
105			Total Insurance		16,822
106			Total Support Staff		65,817
107			Operations		
108			Office Supplies & Equipment		
109			One license-- hymnal use licese		290
110			Food Corridor software		2,336
111			Web Site Maintenance		300
112			Payroll Service		400
113			Telephone/Internet		450
114			Stewardship Envelopes		140
115			Office Supplies		1,000
116			Accounting		500
117			Bank Service Charges		200
118			Postage		125
119			Office Supplies & Equipment - Other		
120			Total Office Supplies & Equipment		5,741
121			Total Operations		5,741
122			Facilities		
123			Maintenance Service&Supplies		
124			Dumpster		900
125			Repairs , Supplies & Maintenance		5,000
126			Cleaning Service		7,300
127			Bell Maintenance Contract		750
128			Copier Maintenance Contract		1,500
129			Maintenance Supplies		
130			Snow Removal		2,500
131			Maintenance Service&Supplies - Other		
132			Total Maintenance Service&Supplies		17,950
133			Fuel/Light/Water/Security		
134			Fire Alarm System		600
135			Electric-Church		7,500
136			Electric-Rectory		2,500
137			Fuel Oil		10,704

						Budget
138				Gas-Rectory		3,000
139				Water		850
140				Total Fuel/Light/Water/Security		25,154
141				Total Facilities		43,104
142				Other Expenses		
143				Vestry expenses		1,000
144				Hospitality		200
145				Special Events		200
146				Fundraising Expenses		100
147				Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees		1,000
148				Total Other Expenses		2,500
149				Directly Offset Expenses		
150				Block Party		
151				AFE Episcopal Charities/Other		
152				Easter Outreach		
153				AFE Phone		
154				Transfer to savings		
155				repay borrowing from savings or		
156				AFE Dumpster		
157				AFE Gas		
158				Outreach		
159				Easter Outreach Collection		
160				Total Outreach		
161				Total Directly Offset Expenses		
162				Total Expense		201,162
				Net Income		(95,962)

2023 ANGEL FOOD EAST REPORT

Since 1993 Angel Food East has been providing nutritious, balanced meals for an underserved population in our community. What began as a program for individuals with HIV/AIDS (who had very little community support at the time) has evolved into a program for chronically ill and homebound people. This program would not be possible without the dedication of our many wonderful volunteer cooks and drivers, and our Board Chairperson, Lisa Hantes.

In 2023 we served approximately 18,000 meals to an average of 70 clients. Each client receives 5 meals per week, currently all delivered on Thursdays. We add grocery items periodically.

We served 150 Thanksgiving meals to our clients, and their guests, and we sent special treats at Christmas time. Each client receives a birthday cake as well.

Two long time pillars of the program stepped down this year. Roger Bonsteel, who had been our dedicated and efficient Treasurer turned that position over to Tricia Fusco. We thank Roger for his many years of service and thank Tricia for carrying this on so capably.

In September, due to many family responsibilities, our longtime kitchen manager, Cheryl McGahan retired. Cheryl put countless hours and her heart into running our kitchen and we are very appreciative of all she did.

Samantha Hamlin joined us as kitchen manager from mid September to the end of the year. In her short time with us she kept the program running very smoothly. We hope to hire a new kitchen manager in early 2024.

We thank Brian Silver, the parish admin and rental coordinator for his assistance with kitchen issues and with coordination of the kitchen use.

We thank all the community agencies who give many volunteer hours to AFE all year round.

The program relies heavily on grants, notably Episcopal Charities, the Food Bank, Dyson, and Markertek. This year we received a new grant from the Hover Foundation (in Germantown) and we received an ARPA grant from the City of Kingston.

2023 saw the return of the Mac n Cheese fundraiser at Keegan Ales! This is our major fundraising event and is a lot of fun. Mark your calendar for this year's event on March 3rd!

Many parishioners support AFE through volunteer hours and donations and we are grateful for your help. The Easter outreach offering was given to AFE this year. We are always in need of volunteers even if only for a few hours each month, or as a substitute cook or driver, when a volunteer needs time away. If have an interest in helping, speak to Michelle or to me. Visit our website (angelfoodeast.org) to learn more about Angel Food East or to get involved.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Dennison

2023 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS REPORT

Maintaining a large historical building is no small task! In addition to the church, the Vestry is responsible for the upkeep of the Parish Hall, Rectory, the gardens, and the lawn. We continue to rely on the help of a cleaning service, an on-call handyman, a lawn and groundskeeping service, snow plowing service and the help of the vestry and congregation.

As always, regular maintenance is expensive and a large part of our budget. However, this year we have been challenged by many unexpected issues that needed specialized attention and created unexpected expense. These include, but are not limited to

Bat remediation in church and patching of the church roof

Mold remediation and reconstruction in AFE pantry

Clean and patching of Kitchen roof

Repair of air conditioning unit in Kitchen

Repair of kitchen sink and grease trap

Replacement of outside lights

Oversite and maintenance of clothing shed

Repairing upstairs and downstairs toilets

Replacing filters in the rectory furnace

Annual servicing of 3 oil furnaces in basement

We wish to thank all members of the congregation who have helped or advised us on these projects. We are particularly thankful to Brian Silver, our Kitchen and Office Manager, for taking the lead on many of these projects and interfacing with community services. Thanks also to Rev. Michelle who usually is the first responder for false fire alarms as well as the point person for many projects. We do need more help from the congregation for minor jobs throughout the year. Please join us in caring for our Church home!

Respectfully submitted,

Leah Siuta

2023 COLUMBARIUM AND MEMORIAL GARDEN REPORT

St. John's established the columbarium in 1999, and created a garden space, 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 for visitors.

The columbarium consists of 60 vaults, each having 2 niches. Currently there are 20 vaults available and 4 separate niches. The purchase price for a vault is \$1500 and for a niche, \$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.

In the fall we accepted a bid from Anchor Fencing to repair the wooden gate and the fencing. We expect this work to be done early in 2024.

We thank Terry Earles for the many hours he spent gardening again this spring through the fall, keeping the garden beautiful and inviting. Several people offered their time to help with watering and weeding. Sarah and Dave Corrigan also offer their time and talents to keeping the trees and shrubs trimmed. Bob Dennison maintains the pond as needed. We thank everyone who gives their time to help with caring for this sacred space.

In 2023 there was one interment:

Norm Goodwin, who died on November 22, 2023, was interred on December 16, 2023.

The current bank balances, as of 12/31/23 are:

Checking: \$3,438.55

Savings: \$15,516.82 . **Total: \$18,955.37** (End of 2022 was \$18,393.78)

The current Trustees are Sarah Corrigan, Rev. Michelle Meech, and Lynn Dennison.

George Mine, who was a longtime Trustee, and who, with his family helped to establish the Columbarium in 1999, died in December. We all will miss him.

Please direct any questions or concerns about the Columbarium or the Garden to the Trustees.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of all the Trustees,
Lynn Dennison

2023 FAMILY MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT

This year continues to be an area of growth as we have welcomed new families and visitors. 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 activities supplement the program. Our children are learning The Lord's Prayer as well as Intercessory prayer. They give thanks to the Lord and 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 second Sunday of the month and join the congregation for Eucharist. Thank you to Sara Hutton, Paula Wisneski and parents for the volunteer support! We ask for more adults to participate as two adults are required at each activity. I am sure it will enrich your own faith as well!!

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 area with their parents with "quiet" activities. 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 (and their parents) 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

2023 ST. JOHN'S HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Thankfully, St. John's hospitality was able to be extended after church services with the help of various generous church members who offered to host, provide baked goodies, tasty foods, fruits, as well as serve hot coffee or tea to guests & members alike in the Parish Hall. During the summer months, iced tea, lemonade, and cookies were offered outside in the lovely garden trellis area. Cash donations have been encouraged via "The tipping Jar" to meet weekly expenses for basic supplies. This process has been fairly sustainable without dipping too much into the allocated budget for such. Beyond that, hundreds of coffee cups had to be ordered as well as a cake for special occasions. As chairperson, I welcome everyone to take a turn at hosting Social Hour, helping with setting up &/or cleaning up is always appreciated. The sign up list is in the Vestry Hall, so please don't be shy, try to be a do bee. Many blessings to those who contribute as they can & do, especially Kathy B., Patricia G., Ana H., Terry E., Wes D., Sue B., Lynn & Bob D., & Kajuan D.

Submitted by Barbara Johnston, Chairperson

2023 MUSIC REPORT

I have prayed often and listened to what God has in mind for me at St. Johns'. And I have come to the conclusion that as long as there is work for me here. Here is where I have been called to serve. And the pleasure of working for God in his choice of location is a pleasure indeed.

CHOIR

The number of singers has grown. We are trying to keep to our third Sunday as long as other meetings aren't scheduled at that time. I am encouraging our members to "enjoy" preparing for worship. We are now singing two anthems every week. We are having a forty minute rehearsal before church EVERY Sunday and after church on the third Sunday. I have been meeting with several who come on Thursdays to preview new selections. I endeavor to practice with groups of only altos, sop. tenor, and bass on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays.

Resurrection Choir

This includes ANYONE who is willing to sit in the loft and sing the hymns and say the prayers during funerals. Sometimes those who are grieving don't feel like singing, or in the case of low attendance, or perhaps those who attend aren't Episcopalians and the prayers and hymns are unknown. This makes for a sad situation. But with volunteers sitting in the loft **without robes** makes it seem that our congregation is there to serve and support.

Music for Godly Play

Leah Siuta teaches our little ones their music and I am grateful for her help and experience.

Bells

We have eight "ringers" now. And I mean ringers in the best tradition and meaning of the word. The bells are in pretty bad shape. Still we make music with them and have a good time rehearsing. We don't have a music library for bells at this time. I arrange hymns to suit ringing and save us money. I have a good relationship with the new Minister of Music at Old Dutch and will be borrowing from their library in the future. The same goes for choral music.

Choral Library

A few years ago all of the choir's music was in a three drawer filing cabinet and that in turn was stored in the organ chamber. I took this cabinet and had it moved into my office on the second floor. We have some very good music. But it only includes about two-three hundred titles, all of which are of the same traditional style. This is the SMALLEST collection I have ever seen in an Episcopal church. HOWEVER I am going to be able to borrow from the 2,000 title library belonging to Old Dutch and broaden the expression of what we now have into something more useful the Church today.

Organ and pianos

Al Tervenski [of our congregation] has been keeping our two pianos in good working order for **no fee**. The organ is a different matter. I spoke with Rosenberry and Myers about NOT tuning the organ in the summer as we are out of the church and in the parish hall. They told be that a lot of churches are doing just that and it does not cause an permanent damage and saves us half the tuning cost.

The garden

Sadly I say, that I cannot take as full a responsibility as I have in the past. I will try to water, keep the weeds down etc. But because ot some of the things that have happened with my health situation. that is going to have to do for me from now on. So sorry!

Guest musicians

Any high schooler or college student who wishes to play is more than welcome. Keep in mind that I don't know young people of that age. You can bring them to my attention and I will invite them. BUT we do not have a line in our budget for this expense at this time.

In conclusion

I do not work any kind of magic in the music program. I couldn't do ANYTHING without YOU! This is a church in which we worship and give thanks to God for our gifts and talents. Whatever we do, say, think, or present [music] is OF AND FROM US ALL. My thanks to each and every one of you.

My mind is always working toward new projects and ways of getting things done. It would be my desire that most people are content with the outcome.

Most respectfully submitted

Terry B. Earles
Minister of Music

2023 Outreach Report

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

In the powerful words of our Baptismal Covenant, we are reminded of our pledge to look beyond ourselves and share our abundance with others. In 2023 we were able to contribute to a diverse group of organizations and programs.

People's Place	\$400
Paws Unlimited	\$200
Companions of Mary the Apostle	\$100
Angel Food East	\$300
Ulster Immigrant Defense Network	\$300
Ryan's House, Saugerties	\$100
Trevor Project	\$100
Circle of Friends for the Dying	\$300
Radio Kingston	\$330
Center for Spectrum Services	\$300
Radio Kingston	\$180
Order of Saint Helena	\$150
Rural & Migrant Ministry	\$200
Kingston City Land Bank	\$150
For The Many	<u>\$150</u>

\$3260 total

Blankets for kids and teens were collected for Project Santa and a year-round food basket collected staples for our neighbors served by Peoples Place. Birthday paper products were also collected to help families celebrate their special day.

Our 2023 Easter Outreach collection was given to support the ministry of Angel Food East and the 2023 Christmas Outreach collection was given to support Episcopal Relief & Development.

Thank you to all who contributed to the special collections and to the many who lovingly and generously participated on the Outreach Committee.

Deacon Sue Bonsteel and Elaine Lawrence, co-chairs

2023 PASTORAL CARE REPORT

“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, the St. John's 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.

Our Pastoral Care team reaches 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. Those called to this ministry are truly a blessing in our midst.

Our Pastoral Care team includes trained Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) who take the love and Holy Eucharist from St. John's to those unable to attend church on Sundays, visiting the ill at home, in the hospital, or elsewhere, and trained Healers who administer a healing prayer and oil to parishioners at the third Sunday service of each month, sharing the healing power of Jesus Christ.

Cathe Decker, Lynn Dennison, Laura Ricci, and Leah Siuta are our Healers and our LEVs. 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. Plus Cathe Decker, Michelle Meech, 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 took the lead in distributing these gifts. Recipients were St. John's leaders, newcomers, and parishioners who faced challenges during the year. Many thanks to all parishioners who blessedly helped distribute and deliver these gifts.

For Christmas we sent Christmas cards to all St John's parishioners. These beautiful cards were created and donated by Cathe. Many thanks to Cathe for her Christmas card gift to St. John's, and to the Pastoral Care Team members and others for their enthusiasm as they prepared 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 has begun offering a "Longest Night" service, a calm, beautiful, and welcoming service of introspective music, readings, healing and candlelight. This year there were technical difficulties making this service happen, but it will be considered again next year.

Let us take a moment to give thanks for the loving care and compassion of all in our St. John's family 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 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 2024. 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 2024?

Laura Ricci, Pastoral Care Chairperson

2023 SACRISTAN REPORT

The sacristans are responsible for preparing the sanctuary for services and for serving at the altar during services, as needed. During the summer months many people assist with setting up for services in the parish hall and are grateful for their help. And we thank all who helped with preparing the church for Christmas services.

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

Kathy Burdick is our new Flower Coordinator, and we thank her for her service. Blooming Boutique provides our flowers, and they do a wonderful job and have been great to work with.

Flower memorials remain important and we include names in the Sunday bulleting each week. Donations are appreciated (usually \$50) and help with the cost of the flowers and other expenses of church services, including candles, oil, bread and wine, linens, etc.

We have been enjoying gluten free bread this year and we thank our bakers, Kathy Burdick and Tom Macdonald for this ministry. They might share their recipes if you ask!

We send a thank you to Rita Schabot who has been doing a magnificent job cleaning and ironing our linens.

This fall, with the assistance of the Memorials Fund, we ordered a new green stole and chasuble. The chasuble will arrive in early 2024. Gifts to the Memorial Fund help with these extra-ordinary expenses and are always appreciated. This is a wonderful way to honor a loved one.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Dennison