



RECTOR'S REPORT

Calling This Congregation Back to Life

The Very Rev. Daniel Green

In last year's Annual Report we were able to celebrate the notable accomplishment of ending 2018 with our operating budget in the black, the first time that had happened since the reconstitution of St. John's Episcopal Church after the schism in 2006. I noted that the growth and development that brought us to this point was remarkable, given that the general prospect for Episcopal churches, and historic faith communities across the board, is one of declining membership and resources. Given that we exist in a region with some of the lowest rates of organized religious participation in the country, our return to fiscal and organizational viability is especially hard to explain.

If pressed to account for it, there are different reasons we might give, such as the depth of our roots in the soil of Petaluma and reserves of social and financial capital built up over more than 160 years, or the extraordinary generosity and dedication of many courageous and committed visionaries in our diocese and our parish. But what I usually say is simply that God has a purpose for calling this congregation back to life, and it is our willingness to hear and follow that call that has energized our undertaking with the power of the Holy Spirit. So while 2019 saw a return to our normal pattern of running an operating deficit, we ended up significantly less in the red than we had feared we might. And this also is a pattern—numerous times over the recent period we have projected single-year losses of \$15,000 to \$20,000, only to find unexpected windfalls and stepped-up contributions from new and continuing members that narrow the gap.

In the meantime, we keep working at more clearly discerning God's purpose for us, and doing our best to carry it out. In the first months of 2019 our Methodist partners decided to discontinue their involvement in the Interfaith Food Pantry, precipitating an overdue reckoning about our own participation in that ministry. After conversations with key leaders, and a call to the congregation that received a robust response, the vestry determined to renew our commitment to the program for another year and re-evaluate again in 2020.

We continued our plan of expanding the use of Cram Hall by the wider community, in a way that is financially and administratively sustainable for us. Encouraged by earnings from our facility rental program that exceeded our growth projection for the year, a subgroup of the Buildings and Grounds Committee developed changes to our Facility Use Policy, and rental rate structure, which have also gone into effect in the New Year.

The monthly Sacred Circle Dance event is now formally integrated into our alternative worship ministries program, and a new monthly Evening Prayer and Potluck service was added in October. We experimented with new models for small-scale fundraising efforts, which also raise our public profile and benefit our neighbors, such as the Pop-up Rummage Sale that took place in July.

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The Mission of St. John's Episcopal Church Is to Bring Christ to Life.

Celebrating the mysteries;

Honoring the beauty and wisdom of every person;

Healing the soul; and

Serving the peace and renewal of the Earth.

RECTOR'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

All of this took place in the context of the Strategic Planning project of listening to voices both within and outside the congregation and working them into an actionable narrative about who we are, what we are called to do, and who is our neighbor. These, of course, are themes we have been reflecting on together for over a decade, but going through this structured process helped us talk about our identity and mission with a renewed seriousness born of years of shared experience. We recommitted to a long-term future for St. John's, and to the practical steps we need to take over the coming years to do our part to secure it. At the retreat in September after receiving the Strategic Planning Team's report (and here I want to extend particular thanks to Monty Sullivan, Emily Betts, and Jason Klein for their leadership on this project, as well as everyone who attended meetings, completed surveys, and contributed their ideas, hopes and fears about our future), the vestry prioritized those actions and in the following months it began preparing the next round of steps to go be-

yond the ones listed in the preceding paragraph.

The hiring of Elizabeth Voetsch as our Parish Administrator on January 7 was a major new investment in the human resources we will need to keep following Christ in the way of resurrection and renewal that has brought us this far. I am grateful to the members of the Vestry and Finance and Personnel Committees for their support and good work in helping this to happen. The same goes for Canon Andrea McMillan and our new Bishop Megan Traquair, of the Diocese of Northern California, who encouraged us to take this step, and responded positively to my request for a three-year grant of half the cost of the Parish Administrator position. With the admission of Laurie Warren to the Candidacy for likely ordination as a deacon later this year, and the continued raising of up of outstanding lay leaders that has been the indispensable condition of everything we've done, I am optimistic about the team that is forming for an exciting new phase of the journey God is calling us to take. ■

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Capital Campaign for St. John's Walt Lederhaus

This is my last Report to the people of St. John's as Senior Warden. It has been a gratifying three years; first as Junior Warden and then this year as your Senior Warden. I appreciate all the support given to me during my tenure. I think we have accomplished many wonderful things together. I have asked the Vestry and Father Green to allow me to continue my service to the parish by helping form a Capital Needs Committee.

Now, I would like to talk about the idea of a Capital Campaign for St. John's. First let me explain that this is not a hasty process of just asking folks for money for the major repairs to our church building. Rather, it begins with a thoughtful examination of our needs, and a thorough study of our options and the feasibility of our plans. It may then involve the use of an outside consultant to help us carry these plans through to a successful conclusion.

The Episcopal Church Foundation has assisted many other churches in this process. They outline a 10 step plan for preparing to conduct such a campaign.

These steps are:

- 1) **Remember the Basic Principles:** People give to people. People give to urgent and compelling causes; People support and give to campaigns when they have been invited to provide input and advice before using for asked for money. This discernment may be modified for each situation, but no campaign can achieve its goal without clearly communicating the reasons for the undertaking. In our case, we are moved by our love for the

history and community legacy embodied in our beautiful church building, and our calling to continue its use as a house of worship, as people who follow Jesus' way of love in the Episcopal tradition.

- 2) **Identify the need:** At St. John's the need for a capital campaign is to restore and renovate our historic church building, so that we can pass it on in good condition to the next generation.

The following guidelines apply to conducting a capital drive for this purpose.

- 3) **Authorize exploration:** Inform the Congregation. The leadership appoints a Capital Needs Committee to explore opportunities. A timeline is established outlining tasks necessary to deliver a format report of findings, It is important to inform the congregation of the creation of this committee and its purpose.
- 4) **Create ownership and involvement:** "So all the people went to their tents to prepare their gifts" - Exodus 35:20-21. The planning process must be guided by the appropriate lay leaders and clergy; however, proposed projects should belong to the entire congregation.
- 5) **Study options:** Make a preliminary overview of the more obvious needs. For example, is the need is restoration, a list should be made of visible structural problems, deferred maintenance, damage, etc. Experts should be

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SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

asked to compile preliminary surveys and cost estimates. The committee then prepares a preliminary report.

- 6) **Receive preliminary report and develop next steps:** After review and revision by the leadership, the plans should be presented to the congregation, who should be continually informed of all developments.
- 7) **Congregational review:** A Congregation-wide meeting, additional forums or small group meeting will be held to inform parishioners of the plans. Pray for guidance. Publish the plans in our newsletter, website, and bulletin. The plans will be displayed in Cram Hall and the Church. Informal feedback from the congregation will be incorporated into the revision.
- 8) **Authorize a feasibility study:** The Episcopal Church Foundation should be retained to conduct a feasibility study. This study should reveal the following information:
 - Does the congregation support the plan?
 - Which parts of the plan are considered the highest priority?
 - Are members willing to give to the capital campaign? What potential leadership gifts are available?
 - Is the financial goal realistic?
 - When should the campaign be held?
 - What additional information need clarification?
 - Who should serve as campaign chair?
 - Is Planned Giving (such as bequests in wills or life-income gifts) possible?

The feasibility study ensures that no one can say in the middle of a campaign, "They did not ask my opinion." It also helps campaign leadership discover if the goals are realistic.

- 9) **Receive the study and make campaign decisions:** If the feasibility study is positive, the Capital Needs Committee should recommend the appropriate goals and projects to the leadership group. The final decision is made by the Vestry and the capital campaign solicitation phase if approved.
- 10) **Consider using fundraising counsel:** Regardless of the size of the campaign, the leadership should consider seeking assistance in conducting capital campaigns. The level of appropriate management oversight varies from congregation to congregation. The Foundation offers either part-time consulting or full-time service models. The consultant should organize the campaign calendar, train leadership and volunteers, assist in identifying and evaluating advance gift prospects, coordinate the writing and publication of materials and guide in the fundamental decisions such as kick-off events and Celebration Sunday.

As you can see, the process is a thoughtful discernment by the leadership and congregation. We are ready to begin appointing a Capital Needs Committee as discussed in the third point. We ask for your involvement in this process. More information will be shared at the February 2nd Annual Meeting and we will ask for members of the congregation to help serve on this committee. ■

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

A Productive Year

Betty Petrillo

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since taking on the role of Junior Warden.

This journey of faith has been a productive year thanks to the mentorship of Clif Hill and Walt Lederhaus, and the support of our Vestry and Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Collectively, we had confidence, conviction and hope as we worked to keep this sacred building intact as a place to do God's work. We are grateful for the dedication of this parish to maintain St. John's historic presence in the community.

I propose that to start the New Year we implement the "see something...say something" approach, identifying the areas on our campus that need attention (i.e. burned out bulbs, broken fence, uneven concrete pathways, peeling paint, rotted wood, leaks, kitchen issues etc.).

We are currently in the process of creating a list of needed minor repairs and upgrades, and plan to organize a Saturday work/fun day in the near future to which you are all invited!

Finally, although fully funded by a beloved and generous benefactor in our congregation, the long awaited and crucial ADA project is being held up by the Petaluma planning commission. Why?

Bureaucracy [by oo- rok-r uh-see]

However, we are optimistic that this essential addition for our present and future congregations will come to fruition within the year.

For 2020 we pray that faith will keep us on this journey, wherever it takes us. Together. ■

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2020 Stewardship Campaign

Kevin Jones



Overview

The Stewardship Committee followed its traditional approach to stewardship this year, beginning with a ministry showcase at our annual homecoming luncheon in September and followed by an October pledge campaign featuring talks by members of the congregation at both services, and culminating with our ingathering celebration in early November.

The financial results of the Stewardship Campaign to date (January 12, 2020) is as follows:

Financial Results*

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Number of Pledges	54 (-7%)	58 (-3%)	60 (+3%)	62 (+7%)	58 (-2%)	59 (+0%)
Dollars Pledged	\$163,165 (+5%)	\$155,635 (-1%)	\$157,567 (+15.7%)	\$136,133 (-4%)	\$141,097 (+2%)	\$138,828 (-1%)

As of January 12, 2020 we have received 54 pledges of time, talent and treasure (slightly fewer than in a year earlier; however, we are still expecting another 5-10 pledges before the campaign is closed. The amount pledged is up 5%, even though the number of pledges received is fewer. A number of parishioners increased pledge amounts this year, compensating for pledges that were lost due to people no longer with us. The annual budget takes into account these results, plus projections based on our experience of receiving regular gifts from parishioners who do not return formal pledge forms.

About 50% of the pledges recorded to date represent new and increased financial pledges from 2019 - consistent with our experience last year, with the other 50% being maintained or decreased in amount. Decreases in pledges generally reflect changing circumstances (people moving away, retiring, etc). It is worth noting that over 55% of the total amount pledged comes from ten families/members of the congregation; a number that has been consistent and trending slightly higher over time.

The risk of having such a large proportion of overall pledges coming from a relatively small number congregants is that the impact of a change in circumstances for one or two of these parishioners can have disproportionate impact St. John's operating budget. This underscores the importance of continuing to build the number of pledging members of the congregation and diversifying our revenue sources going forward. ■

*Additional Information on Financial Pledges

Pledge Amount	Number of Pledges	Total Pledged	Percent of Total Dollars Pledged	Percent of Number of Pledges	Average Pledge
> \$5,000	10	\$90,150	55.5%	18.5%	\$9,015
\$2,000 - \$4,999	16	\$45,340	27.8%	29.6%	\$2,834
\$1,000 - \$1,999	15	\$19,910	15.6%	27.8%	\$1,327
\$0 - \$999	13	\$7,765	6.1%	24.1%	\$597
TOTAL	54	\$163,165	100%	100%	\$3,022

FINANCE / ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Comprehensive Financial Report

Bill Reid

Endowment Committee Report

The performance of our two endowment funds, the St. John's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund and the Leah Albertson Memorial Fund, in 2019 were better than usual or on average. This, of course, is not surprising as common stock averages had a very strong year in 2019. For example, the S&P 500 index grew by 30% during the year. As a result, our endowment fund total grew by \$95,042 for the year, even after withdrawing \$30,000 or \$2,500 per month from the funds to cover part of our operating expenses. On a long term basis, we have withdrawn approximately 5% of the principal amount, based on the thinking that this level is sustainable over the long run without depleting the principal amount in the funds.

Treasurer's Report

In the late fall of 2018, we set a budget for 2019 which showed that we anticipated that our expenses would exceed our income by just over \$20,000. The budget assumed income based on Pledges made and the continuation of income and expense consistent with the recent past and our commitment to maintain program expenses at their trend levels.

The good news is that the actual loss (expenses exceeding income) was only \$6,144 instead of the expected \$20,627. Why? Income exceed our budget or the anticipated amounts in Contributions, Facilities Use Income, and especially in Special Gifts Income. Special Gifts Income is the hardest category to estimate. For example, in 2019 the whole variance from our expected level came from just two gifts. The favorable result for the combination of all categories of income represented 84% of the total positive variance form our budget. The remaining 16% of the favorable variance comes from expenses being \$2,319 or just 0.9 percent below our budget of \$262,067.

Our expectation for 2020 is that expenses will rise more than our income and the expense will exceed income by \$13,390. The most significant change comes from increasing support for Daniel with an administrative assistant working four days a week. We expect Contributions income to continue to rise, as well. ■

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Life Planning

Clif Hill

- You purchased a Whole Life insurance policy 35 years ago. Where is it, who knows about it?
- What hymn do you want sung at your memorial service? Does anyone know which hymn it is?
- You keep important papers in a safety deposit box. Who knows where you keep the key? Who knows the name of the bank where the box is located?
- Do you know that members of St. John's Episcopal Church can have their cremated remains interred for free? Do your heirs know that? Does the Rector at St. John's know that's what you want to happen?
- How will you make sure the church is remembered in your estate and that the money you leave will be used for something you are passionate about?

In 2019 the Endowment Committee began developing a ministry at St. John's to address these and many other questions with a process called Life Planning. We started by including one facet of the process each month in the newsletter.

In 2020 the plan is to continue with the monthly articles, eventually consolidating the articles into a Life Planning Guide on our website as a readily accessible resource for the congregation. Additionally, we hope to hold a Life Planning seminar every year or two to review and update the process. The first seminar will be on Saturday May 2, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and will include brunch followed by presentations and discussions. Mark your calendar now! ■

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Interfaith Food Pantry

St. John's continues to work with our partners to provide access to free food every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Elim Lutheran Church.

In the new year St. John's has so far contributed \$235.10 of food, serving 37 families at Elim. Raley's has donated 271 lbs of dry and canned goods, and COTS contributed produce, bread and frozen meals. Additionally, a box of frozen meals from Trader Joe's was donated to PEP Housing on Baker St.

Thank you to Janet Knudson, Al Poehlman, John Cinnamon, Ruthann, Frances, Maria, Bruce, Joanne, John Johnson from COTS, and Roger Manning from St. Vincents for their support in ending hunger in our community!

For more information about the Interfaith Food Pantry, please call 762-4081. ■

Alternative Worship Ministries

Emily Betts

It has been a year of growth for the Alternative Worship Ministries for St. John's Church, which include the Labyrinth Walks, Sacred Circle Dance, Celtic Evensong, Taizé services, and the new Wednesday Evening Prayer Circle and Potluck.

Labyrinth walks were held each Sunday evening at 5pm in 2019, and were facilitated by Kayleen Asbo, Emily Betts, and members of the labyrinth community in Sonoma County. These walks were sponsored by Veriditas, a non-profit dedicated to supporting labyrinths. Beginning in January 2020, the monthly labyrinth walks are now being put on by St. John's as an official "alternative worship ministry" of the Church and will be held on the third Friday evening of each month at 7:00 p.m. These walks are accompanied by gorgeous live music by Robin O'Brien (Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa) and Jean Farmer (St. Stephen's, Sebastopol). St. John's members are encouraged to explore this form of contemplative spiritual practice.

St. John's has been hosting Taizé services on the first Friday of each month since 2009. Except for a summer break, they have continued through 2019 and now into 2020. The two cantors, Suzanne Gray and Connee Young, are melodiously accompanied by Leilani Wicklund on piano and Susan Stewart on cello. Held in the heritage 1890 church sanctuary, these candlelit services of contemplative chant and song offer participants from the community and the congregation an alternative communal worship experience.

Sacred Circle Dance continues to take place on the third Wednesday of each month, led by Sally Denman, a member of St. John's. It now serves as one of the "alternative worship ministries" offering dance to the community as a form of spiritual practice. The dances are simple, both meditative and joyful, to music from many cultures. They are always taught first and no experience is necessary. Dancing of this kind has been done as long as people have walked the earth. From time immemorial, we have danced to honor and celebrate, mark passages, seasons and change – all things that connect us to the rhythms of the earth, to each other and our spiritual source. As the name suggests, the dance form is a circle – the oldest form of dance on the earth. The circle allows everyone, whatever age or background, to feel safe, to relax, discover the joy of dancing, and recognize ourselves as part of a whole.

Celtic Evensong has been offered for many years by Kayleen Asbo at St. John's, and has welcomed many new people through our doors to hear classical music, poetry, stories, and to gather for spiritual nourishment and solace. Unfortunately, the monthly events have not proved to be sustainable, so the program is taking a break for now, with the hope to do periodic events in 2020. St. John's is grateful to Kayleen for the many years of work she has put into offering these beautiful services to the greater St. John's community.

In October 2019, St. John's began offering a new Prayer

Circle and Potluck service on the second Wednesday evening of each month. The service is held in Cram Hall and has included candlelit processions, song, storytelling, conversation, and circle dancing. The service and potluck have been well attended and will continue in 2020. Thank you to Betty Petrillo for her enthusiastic support of the potlucks and community building. ■

Peace and Justice Committee

Frances Frazier

Our second year of meeting together has marked a continued focus on being of service and making a renewed effort to projects to which our faith community is already committed, such as the Food Bank, COTS and NBOP (North Bay Organizing Project). Additionally, we practiced the deepening activity of educating ourselves about the society and community in which we live, developing our capacity to speak and hear the truth as we practice manifesting Jesus' hands and heart as best we can.

In community outreach we were engaged with NoGasHere and their appeal to the City Council, and wrote letters to the Governor and to our State representatives. We hosted two guest speakers, Joshua Torres and Joanne Consiglieri, who spoke about the conditions for immigrants and their families at the Mexican/US border. We also attended two conferences sponsored by the NBOP, one at the Junior College Campus in Petaluma called "We The Future," and the other in Santa Rosa at the Glazer Center called "Roots, Roofs and Refuge." The session in Santa Rosa on Deep Democracy was especially powerful in its encouragement of those marginalized in our community to take action for social and environmental justice.

During this time our sister, Joanne Woodland, was in Honduras and El Hogar on a medical mission to serve the families living there. She considers the El Hogar project to be a successful example of how partnering with a community in need can make a positive difference in the lives of children. We are committed to supporting this project in 2020.

In the second half of 2019 we explored the curriculum of Sacred Ground – a film and text-based dialogue series on race and faith created by the Episcopal Church. We are finding that racial reconciliation requires difficult but transformative conversations dealing with telling the truth about our churches and race, as well as systemic embedded patterns of personal and collective injustice in our history, which deserve examining and addressing. Hopefully we will get to a place where we are proclaiming the dream of Beloved Community in our actions that mirror Christ's love. Our reading list includes *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving, *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman, *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo, and an assortment of racial equity related articles.

You are welcome to come join us or visit any time; we meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 4:15 in the St. Johns library. ■

Singing in Cram Hall

Linda Evans Manuilow

Lmanuilow1@gmail.com - 480.226.9157

PETALUMA CHILDREN'S CHORUS

The chorus has experienced a rather large change this past semester due to the graduation of most of our talented older singers. To address this, we have begun to teach the "littles" with a more age-appropriate curriculum by going back to teaching simple unison music produced with emphasis on a beautiful singing tone, as well as doing sight-reading work with solfege (do-re-mi's) and rhythmic reading (ta-ta-ti-ti-ta).

A group from the chorus did caroling on the Sonoma square at Christmas, and are expecting to help out with the up-coming fundraiser for the Polly Klaas foundation.

We are hopeful this semester will see an increase in cho-risters, which will help our bottom line. At the semester's end, we squeaked by with a bit of help from the North Bay Singers.

The director (Margaret Starr) is paid, as is the accompa-nist (Colleen O'Malley), and we purchase our music (Musical Resources), which is kept at my home.

The next concert is tentatively set for Monday, May 18th at 6:30 p.m.

THE NORTH BAY SINGERS

As most of you probably know, in January of 2018, the Sing-ers turned into a women's ensemble.

The choir is currently singing with 15 women, ages 14 to 82, and is a delightful multi-generational ensemble doing a fair bit of a cappella singing with literature that slants toward women and their joys and empowerment. At our Christmas concert, the Singers were joined for two pieces by 8 young women from Credo High School, the Waldorf school in Co-tati. I am hoping to continue to collaborate with Credo and perhaps bring in a few more singers from other high schools.

It's an honor to be in front of this ensemble, and I encour-age you to attend our concert on Saturday, May 9 at 7:30pm in Cram Hall.

As for the financial aspects, though there is little to spare monetarily, the Singers pay their way by buying music and paying the accompanist, also the wonderful Colleen O'Malley.

None of these programs would be possible without the support and encouragement of Father Daniel and the church. Saying thank you barely begins to cover how grateful we are for being able to use St. John's Episcopal. ■

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORT

Church School

Elizabeth Schroeder

This year the Sunday School Planning Committee decided to emphasize the role of children in the weekly service, and chil-dren have been participating in support roles, such as ushers and bell ringers during the service. In addition, the children have shared music during two services this fall. When the new Bishop Traquair visited in September, the children per-formed "We Thank God" and in December they shared "Stay Awake, Be Ready." Hearing the children sing has brought joy and delight to our 10:00 a.m. service!

We continue to offer Godly Play every Sunday during the school year for our children pre-K through grade three. The leaders for this program continue to expand and include Heather Oehm, Alison Adams, Elizabeth Schroeder, Emily Betts, Robyn Klein, and Kari Klein. The lessons are divided into three categories: Old Testament stories, The Parables, and Liturgical Action stories. The richness of this program lies in the beautiful language of the carefully chosen stories, and the accompanying organic, hands-on materials.

We planned to continue our Connect! Program for our fourth graders and up, but are struggling with enough teach-ers for this program. We are offering these lessons as we can and hope to revisit this at our planning meeting in this spring.

During our Summer Sundays we broke away from Godly Play and Connect and invited any parishioner who loves chil-dren to take a Sunday and do something fun and different. This is a nice time for others to participate in the children's program and connect with the youth of our church!

At the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service the church school put on our annual traditional narrated pageant. With Phoenix Strasen and Evelyn Bolig as our narrators, Cecilia Dal-Porto as Gabriel, Evelyn Hudspeth as Mary, and Mitchell Baland as Joseph, plus a host of angels and a few sheep and shep-herds, it was quite the joyful spectacle!!

So far with all the children of St. John's it has been a won-derful year. Looking forward to a blessed new year full of fun and inspiring lessons! ■

Ministries of St. John's

If you would like more information about any of these ministries, contact the Rector or a member of the vestry. The bracketed ministries are awaiting the timely convergence of leadership and circumstances to begin their work.

1. Clergy
2. Executive Ministries
 - a. Executive Committee—Rector and Wardens
 - b. Vestry
 - c. Treasurer's Office
 - d. Diocesan Convention Delegation
3. Committees of the Vestry
 - a. Finance
 - b. Endowment and Planned Giving
 - c. Buildings and Grounds
 - d. Stewardship
 - e. [Capital Campaign]
 - f. Congregational Commission on Ministry
 - g. Personnel
4. Administrative Ministries
 - a. Parish Administrator
 - b. Office Reception Volunteers
 - c. Facility Manager
 - d. Communications Team
 - e. Safety and Emergency Management Team
 - f. Parish Archives
5. Worship Ministries
 - a. Worship Committee
 - b. Sunday Worship Music
 - i. 8 am Music Director and Choir
 - ii. 10 am Music Director and Choir
 - iii. Accompanists
 - vi. [Sunday School Choir]
 - c. Sunday Worship Ministries
 - i. Ushers
 - ii. Lectors
 - iii. Acolytes
 - iv. Eucharistic Ministers
 - v. Altar Guild
 - vi. Bread Bakers
 - vii. Liturgical Arts/Seasonal decorations
 - d. Alternative Worship Ministries
 - i. Taize Musicians and Support Team
 - ii. Wednesday Evening Prayer and Potluck
 - iii. Labyrinth Guild
 - iv. Sacred Circle Dance
6. Formation and Education ministries
 - a. [Sunday Morning Nursery]
 - b. Godly Play
 - c. Connect
 - d. Youth Confirmation Class
 - e. Adult Book Studies
 - f. Centering Prayer
 - g. Bible Study
 - h. Benedictine Group
 - i. Poetry Circle
 - j. Other Formation and Education Programs
7. Fellowship Ministries
 - a. Newcomer Ministry
 - b. Coffee Hour Hosts
 - c. Parish Picnic and Other Special Events
8. Pastoral Care Ministries
 - a. Congregational Care Committee
 - b. Eucharistic Visitors
 - c. Intercessory Prayer Team
 - d. Prayer Quilts
9. Community Outreach Ministries
 - a. Interfaith Food Pantry
 - b. Petaluma Children's Chorus
 - c. North Bay Singers
 - d. COTS Support
 - e. Peace and Justice Committee
 - f. Other outreach
9. Fundraising Committee

Vestry Candidate Statements

SARAH HUDSPETH

My family joined St. John's last year after moving from Durham, North Carolina. Our kids, Evelyn and Charles, are often first in line at coffee hour, and my spouse, Daniel, and I are very grateful for the gracious and kind welcome we've had as newcomers to St. John's.

I have quite literally grown up within the Episcopal Church. Most of my childhood was spent on church grounds in one way or another. I began attending services at our church in Northern Virginia at the age of five, where I also went to school, and my mother worked as well. As a child, I sang in the choir, was an acolyte, and attended VBS and various church camps every summer. As I grew older, I was confirmed, went to youth group, and taught Sunday school to elementary students. In college, I volunteered as a youth group leader, taught Confirmation classes, and ushered. This is all to say, I love the church. I have a long history of giving back and have a heart for serving in the Church.

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Vestry Candidate Statements continued from page 8

For the past ten years I have been a middle school math teacher and am currently transitioning into the field of Data Science. I have previous leadership experience as I served as the president of our children's preschool board in Durham. I also bring education, curriculum development, and event planning experience. Some of my other interests lie at the intersection of Faith and Art, and I am tied to a community of writers and artists through Image Journal and the Glen Workshop in Santa Fe.

My hope in serving on the Vestry is to lend support to the continuation of faith traditions for the next generation, as well as to support those expressions already established. My favorite chapter in the Bible is Ecclesiastes 11; it's one to meditate on.

My family feels blessed to have found St. John's and it would be an honor to serve you all as a member of the vestry.

JEANNE NELSON

My husband and I were both born and raised here in Petaluma. Steve was raised in Penngrove, and I was raised in Two Rock. Myself, as well as my children (Russell and Amanda), granddaughters (Jane and Valerie) and their father (Dave Stephens), have all been baptized at St. John's. Amanda and Dave were married here.

After being a stay-at-home mom for 22 years, I worked for the County of Sonoma Agricultural Commissioner's office. During that time I also served as the Secretary for the Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission. I retired in August of 2000.

After Steve and I were married, I was looking for a church where I wouldn't feel like I was being lectured at each sermon, and where I could feel safe and find peace. Having been an acolyte here, Steve suggested Saint John's. I have been here ever since 1966.

In St. John's I've found exactly what I was looking for: peace, love and friendship, as well as a place where I could feel welcome and included.

I was one of the original six members to meet in Betty Petrillo's home in order to keep Saint John's Episcopal alive, and I served as Vestry clerk during those turbulent years. Currently, I serve on the Altar Guild and as the Church Archivist.

Having watched Saint John's getting back on its feet, I would again like to serve on the Vestry as we move forward to a welcoming future for those who, like me, are looking for peace and love.

GAIL REID

My interest in joining the Vestry at Saint John's has been growing over the past few years and I've decided this is the year to make the commitment. Bill and I have found a home here in Petaluma largely as a result of the warmth of this community.

I think of the poem *The Hired Man* by Robert Frost. The hired man in that poem is down on his luck and at the end of his savings. His health has run out and so he goes "home." Well, we are not at the end of our savings or our health or our luck, but still, in my heart I find the poem applies.

Saint John's is a welcoming home. We have found friendship, spiritual inspiration, and gorgeous music. It is a community that seeks to include, seeks to accept, and seeks to inspire, and where the generosity of the community encourages others to be generous. It is a place with an open heart.

I want to join the Vestry because I want to use whatever gifts I have to give back to this spiritual home. And I want to learn from the experience to be more patient, to be a better listener, to reflect and to hear more clearly God's voice as he guides me along this path toward my forever home.

CARY WHITE

Cary and his wife Keri Carpenter, and their two children Langton and Jack Wuest, moved to Petaluma in September of 2019 and are overjoyed to be a part of the St. John's family!

Cary works from home and has been an insurance broker for more than twenty years, and in the insurance industry for more than thirty. He also manages two STAR Certified smog shops in the Sacramento area. Keri shepherds their kids to school and activities around Petaluma.

Before moving to Petaluma, Cary and his family were active at St. Stephen's in Orinda for some time. Keri and Cary were married at St. Stephen's in the Fall of 2016. This past summer they also briefly attended services at St. Catherine's in Stuttgart, Germany.

While at St. Stephen's, Cary attended the Collaborative for Church Vitality (CCV) program conducted by the Center for Church Vitality (www.centerforchurchvitality.org). This inspirational two weekend program at the Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg was attended by representatives of more than a half dozen other parishes large and small from all over Northern California. Attendees left with extraordinary ideas, resources, and tools. The experience highlighted the opportunities and responsibilities for Episcopalians not just to our parish, but our communities for the on-going life and vitality now and in the future.

Cary is interested in the Vestry to strengthen his family's relationship with St. John's, and serve the St. John's community, helping it to thrive and grow! ■

The Commissioning of Vestry Members

The congregation being seated, the celebrant stands in full view of the people. The sponsors and candidates stand facing the celebrant.

The Celebrant says these or similar words:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to the ministry of the vestry to which they are called.

Sponsors We present to you these persons to be admitted to the ministry of Members of the Vestry in this congregation.

The Celebrant asks the sponsors Are these persons you present prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of the Church?

Sponsors We believe they are.

The Celebrant then says You have been called to the ministry of St. John's vestry.

Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

Candidates We will.

Celebrant Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of your ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

Candidates We will.

Celebrant, turning to the congregation Will all of you support and uphold these persons in their ministry?

All **We will.**

Antiphon (spoken by all) **The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.**

Celebrant I am your servant; grant me understanding:

All **That I may know your decrees.**

Celebrant Let us pray. (*Silence*)

O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In the Name of God and of this congregation. I commission you [N.] Member of the Vestry in this Parish.