

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



January 26, 2020

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Olney, Maryland

ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
Olney, Maryland

The Rt. Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, *Bishop of Washington*  
The Rev. Henry P. McQueen, *Rector*  
The Rev. Shivaun Wilkinson, *Associate Rector*  
The Rev. Deacon Janice Hicks, *Deacon*

**OFFICERS**

SENIOR WARDEN	Stephen Simpson
JUNIOR WARDEN	Aparna Williams
TREASURER	Sheri Hall
REGISTRAR	Julia Metcalf

**VESTRY - Term Expires 2020**

Dennis Atkinson  
Diana Mayhew  
Stephen Simpson

**VESTRY - Term Expires 2021**

Glen Drew  
Selva Selvarajah  
Aparna Williams

**VESTRY - Term Expires 2022**

Bruce Hohl  
Julia Metcalf  
Doug Perkins

**COLUMBARIUM CUSTODIAN**

Glen Drew

**DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Dennis Atkinson  
Diana Mayhew  
Stephen Simpson

**STAFF**

Thomas Stevens	Head of School
Tammy Turner	Parish Administrator
James Kreger	Organist and Choir Director
Lori Perkins	Manager, African Palms
Johnna Gilchrist	Marketing, African Palms
Brad Child	Facilities Manager
Jorge Manco	Sexton

Parish Office Phone: (301) 774-6999  
Parish Office Fax: (301) 774-1346  
Parish Office Email: [administrator@stjec.org](mailto:administrator@stjec.org)

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

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# Administration

## REPORT FROM THE RECTOR

My sisters and brothers in Christ:

Transitioning to a new decade may not seem like a momentous occasion, but in a few years, looking back upon 2019 we may find that this was indeed a pivotal year for St. John's.

Rather than highlight the many good works that emanate from the ministries of St. John's, which can be read throughout this annual report, I would like to reflect on the transition that is occurring, and with God's help, and the parish participating, where it can take us.

Every parish has, and St. John's is no exception, a bit of a rocky past; after all Jesus built the church on a foundation of stone, and not sand, so this is to be expected, even embraced. We are formed by the paths that we have walked, and we are prepared for the next phases of our journey based upon how we have grown during our journey.

St. John's is growing, there is no denying this fact. Our attendance and participation in activities continues to grow each year; this can sometimes be uncomfortable as we look around on Sunday morning and see people we no longer recognize. Turning back, always an option, may be comfortable to those who have been here for a long time, but turning back denies the many blessings of St. John's to new disciples who have found a welcome within our church. Turning back to the old and comfortable will keep us from doing the work that God has set before us.

If you are like me, I am curious to see what is around the next corner, what will be revealed at the top of the next hill or around the bend. Truth be told, I usually find that the top of the next hill is actually a false flat, the next hill only reveals that there is a hill beyond this one; and that is exciting. Yet, with God's help, I journey on; and that is what we must do.

Journeying on means confronting the aging buildings and campus of St. John's by undertaking a significant renovation and the needed capital campaign to fund these efforts.

Journeying on means confronting a planned budget deficit this year, part of our growing pains, and building our Annual Giving to reflect our membership growth.

Journeying on means examining each ministry and structuring it in a way that it is not dependent upon one or two people, but is built upon a system that will expand with the needs and growth of the future.

Journeying on means increasing our visibility, and indispensability in the community so that we are no longer the best kept secret in Olney.

Journeying on means saying thank you and best wishes to one Head of School as we welcome the next chapter that will be written by a new Head of School.

Journeying on means trekking in the mountains with a winter storm approaching, but first making certain that our winter weather clothing is secure in our backpack.

With God we are prepared for all weather and all conditions, but we must also be prepared for the journey. God is ready, are we?

I believe that we are ready. I believe that 2019 will prove to be that pivotal year when St. John's said yes to the plans that God has laid for us. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jer. 29:11)

This is an exciting journey and it leads to the promised land. Doing this right, doing this with God's help, will see St. John's fill a central role in the life of Olney. St. John's will be a moral compass, a spiritual guide in the community. St. John's will create more disciples for Jesus sending them into the world preaching with actions, not words. Our youth education and VBS offerings will again double in size while incorporating an intergenerational approach. Our worship services will expand in number to offer opportunities for more and new people. Our ministries will touch the lives of those in Olney while still reaching to Tanzania. Our Parish Hall will become a resource and central contact point within the community. Our Annual Giving will support our ministries with every family participating. We will again fulfill the leadership role in Olney that St. John's held at our founding in 1842; and we will do so loving our neighbor - no exceptions.

Join with all of St. John's as we take the steps towards a future with hope, a future planned by God.

Peace  
Fr. Henry+

## REPORT FROM THE WARDENS

*"Called by Christ in love to live in truth and action."*

In early 2019, the Vestry had a retreat at which, together with Father Henry McQueen and Mother Shivaun Wilkinson, we replaced the former mission statement for the St. John's community with one based on the letters of Saint John: "Called by Christ in love to live in truth and action." St. John's is continuing to grow into that mission, and we anticipate more exciting times to come.

Part of that growth into our mission is reflected in the growth of our clergy. In addition to Father Henry, Mother Shivaun was hired full-time this year to be our Associate Rector, and she is now fully paid by St. John's, and we are so blessed to have her serving just our Parish. We have also welcomed Deacon Janice Hicks, who is serving with us part-time. Deacon Janice is focusing on proclaiming the Gospel (truth) and empowering us to live out the Gospel in communities around us (action), and is already a wonderful addition to St. John's.

We will also soon have new leadership at St. John's School. Tom Stevens announced that he would be retiring as Head of the School, effective in June 2020. A Search Committee was put together, including several members from the Church, and, with the help of a very able consultant, narrowed an initial field of 13 candidates to the best one. Margery Bank will begin her term as Head in July 2020, and has already hit the ground running, meeting extensively with people at the School and attending the Church's Advent Dinner. She is committed to working closely with Father Henry and Mother Shivaun to achieve "congruence" (her term) between the Church and the School.

In July, Mother Shivaun led Vacation Bible School for the entire family. Instead of focusing on just the children and a traditional summer camp structure, parents, family and caregivers, as well as volunteers, were invited to immerse themselves in the Gospel by way of themes from Harry Potter. The response was overwhelmingly positive and we will continue with this structure for VBS in August of 2020.

In August, Father Henry and seven parishioners went to Tanzania at the invitation of Bishop James Almasi and the Diocese of Masasi. The trip was designed to thank St. John's for the sponsorship of eight women to attend bible college, to show parishioners the actual impact of African Palms grants and grants from other groups, and to discuss further grant opportunities, not just with Diocesan staff, but also with the people and villages that receive the direct benefit. It was an amazing trip for those who went, and energized them to support the mission of African Palms and the people of Masasi even more. We look forward to more trips like this to give people who have not done so the opportunity to experience the conditions in the Diocese and the joy and community of the people there, thus broadening the base of support and enthusiasm among members of St. John's for this important mission. In initial response to that enthusiasm, the Vestry has created a fund for the education of women in the Diocese of Masasi. This fund may be used for purposes including, but not limited to, infrastructure, teachers, tuition or other needs related to the education of women.

Finally, the Vestry took steps towards growing into our mission through changing the focus of the Pumpkin Patch and Holly Harvest Bazaar fundraisers. The Patch, which was originally begun to raise money for Youth Workcamp, will again be focused on outreach. Likewise, the focus of the Bazaar will be children's ministries, including Vacation Bible School, youth education, and sponsoring several families for Christmas. This was also the inaugural, very successful year of a spring bazaar focusing on African Palms.

St. John's has a bright future, but it can only be accomplished through the efforts of lay volunteers supporting our clergy and the funding of our clergy and mission. This Parish would not be the wonderful community that it is without all of the volunteers that serve in all the ministries of St. John's. As the Church grows, there will be more need for volunteers, both to do the work of the Gospel, and to step into leadership roles. Likewise, the Church needs funds that it can count on to pay the clergy and staff and keep ministries going. That means that we need more Parish families pledging a portion of their income so that the Vestry can construct budgets and continue to allocate funds. Please consider and pray for guidance on what you can do to help.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Simpson, *Senior Warder* / Aparna Williams, *Junior Warden*

## **REPORT FROM THE TREASURER**

**2019:** The net income from operations was a surplus of approximately \$15,000. The 2019 operating budget anticipated a breakeven position so the \$15,000 is a very positive result and thanks go out to the parish for its financial support. See Report 1.

**2020:** At its January 2020 meeting, the Vestry approved the 2020 operating budget which shows a net deficit of approximately \$17,700 for the year (See Report 2). The 2020 operating budget was compiled after discerning St. John's 2020 priorities in terms of its mission and ministry. Specific activities and ministries that are expected to continue through 2020 are in need of funding and are included on the expense side of the operating budget along with plant operating and office expenses. The result is that overall estimated operating expenses are

expected to increase by approximately 5.6% from 2019 to 2020. But on the revenue side, operating revenue is expected to stay relatively flat from 2019 to 2020. The main driver of this is 2020 pledge commitments that as of mid-January sit at around \$412,500. This number represents only a slight increase over the 2019 pledges collected of \$408,000 or an approximate 1.2% increase. Note that, while the 2020 operating budget is put together and approved by the Church leadership, it is the budget of the parish and functions largely upon the generosity of the congregation. It is my hope that parish stewardship for 2020 is not yet complete and that careful discernment by the congregation will lead towards increased generosity. That, in turn, can work to close the anticipated deficit for the benefit of all touched by St. John's.

**Capital Campaign:** The initial phases of the campaign began to unfold during 2019 and were funded by reserves and donations for which the Church can be grateful. Additional phases and financial commitments are anticipated during 2020 and forward.

**Investments:** In early April 2019, the Church's investments that were previously held with Charles Schwab and that were not professionally managed were liquidated. The funds were reinvested with the EDOW Diocesan Investment Fund. The Diocesan Investment Fund provides professional management of long-term investments belonging to the diocese, parishes, missions and other diocesan entities. The investments performed well during 2019.

**Women in Africa Fund:** Fr. Henry put out the call to help with the education of several catechists in Tanzania. Generous support for the immediate needs of the group was received and monies were left over. The Vestry approved a designated fund to house the excess and any subsequent donations for the purpose of the education of women in the Diocese of Masasi. This fund may be used for purposes including, but not limited to, infrastructure, teachers, tuition or other needs related to the education of women. Please consider this fund for your future donations.

Peace,  
Sheri Hall, *Treasurer*



*I am the vine, you are the branches.  
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit,  
because apart from me you can do nothing.*

*John 15:5*

THANKS go out to the parish for its financial support.



Report 1

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Operating Fund Profit and Loss  
January - December 2019 Actuals vs. Budget

	2019 actuals - preliminary and unaudited	2019 Budget	Difference
<b>Income</b>			
Pledge Offerings	407,746.36	400,000.00	7,746.36
Plate Offerings	40,566.31	35,000.00	5,566.31
Altar Flowers Offering	3,516.00	3,300.00	216.00
Easter Offering	5,638.00	3,600.00	2,038.00
Christmas and Thanksgiving Offering	5,879.00	4,500.00	1,379.00
Parish Hall Fees	660.00	1,600.00	(940.00)
African Palms Contribution	2,830.00	2,830.00	0.00
EDOW Grants	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00
Misc. Income	413.80	100.00	313.80
Special gifts	0.00	2,200.00	(2,200.00)
Fundraising	14,840.53	18,500.00	(3,659.47)
Investment Income	104.64	720.00	(615.36)
Outreach to Africa Income	6,461.75	0.00	6,461.75
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>497,656.39</b>	<b>481,350.00</b>	<b>16,306.39</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Diocesan Contribution	14,000.04	14,000.00	0.04
Personnel Costs	335,444.47	339,180.00	(3,735.53)
Altar & Worship, Christian Education and Youth	7,861.70	9,200.00	(1,338.30)
Music and Choir Expenses	5,918.70	8,270.00	(2,351.30)
Committee Expenses	5,878.78	7,750.00	(1,871.22)
Outreach to Africa - Expense	5,422.00	0.00	5,422.00
Repairs and Maintenance, Buildings and Grounds	53,482.14	43,045.00	10,437.14
Utilities	22,858.27	21,000.00	1,858.27
Insurance	12,006.69	16,000.00	(3,993.31)
Equipment, Office Expense, Bookkeeping & Bank Fees	19,175.16	16,550.00	2,625.16
Event Expenses	0.00	1,300.00	(1,300.00)
Capital Campaign Expenses	421.95	3,000.00	(2,578.05)
Misc. Expenses	43.37	2,000.00	(1,956.63)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>482,513.27</b>	<b>481,295.00</b>	<b>1,218.27</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>15,143.12</b>	<b>55.00</b>	<b>15,088.12</b>

Report 2

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Profit and Loss by Class  
Jan-Dec 2020 Vestry Approved Operating Fund Budget

	<b>2020 Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Pledge Offerings	412,500.00
Plate Offerings	40,500.00
Altar Flowers Offering	3,515.00
Easter Offering	5,600.00
Christmas and Thanksgiving Offering	5,500.00
Special Offerings	3,800.00
Parish Hall Fees	650.00
African Palms Contribution	2,975.00
Special gifts	2,500.00
Fundraising	14,455.00
Investment Income	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>491,995.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Diocesan Contribution	15,000.00
Personnel Costs	368,747.00
Altar & Worship, Christian Education and Youth	11,040.00
Music and Choir Expenses	11,400.00
Committee and Fellowship Expenses	7,100.00
Repairs and Maintenance, Buildings and Grounds	40,629.00
Utilities	23,225.00
Insurance	13,986.00
Equipment, Office Expense, Bookkeeping & Bank Fees	17,920.00
Misc. Expenses	625.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>509,672.00</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>(17,677.00)</b>

Report 3

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Balance Sheet  
As of December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2018  
(All Funds)

	Preliminary and Unaudited - 12/31/19	Ties to 12/31/2018 Audited Financial Statements
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Checking - Sandy Spring	251,533	227,531
Accounts Receivable	9,038	10,749
Grocery Certificates	99	99
Investments - Charles Schwab & Co.	0	336,280
Investments - Wilmington Trust	390,814	0
L/R - SJES	31,688	40,330
Prepaid Expenses	959	959
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>684,131</b>	<b>615,948</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>		
L/R - Rec Sale to Columbarium	75,062	99,262
N/R - Rec. Sale to Schuler	136,165	142,165
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>211,227</b>	<b>241,427</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>895,359</b>	<b>857,375</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	17,802	28,339
Other Current Liabilities and Reserves	141,310	159,006
Pledge Prepayments	28,600	28,600
<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>		
L/P - Columbarium to Rec Sale	75,062	99,262
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>262,774</b>	<b>315,207</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>632,584</b>	<b>542,168</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>895,359</b>	<b>857,375</b>

## REPORT FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

### TRANSFER IN

Laiton Alli  
Donna Gardiner  
Ray Gardiner  
Julia Metcalf

### TRANSFER OUT

-

### CONFIRMATION

Katherine Elizabeth Gough  
Patrick Taylor Gough  
Jason Christian Vincent

### MARRIAGES

-

### BAPTISMS

Maryanne Katherine Defriele  
Marc Alexander Fernandez  
Alexander Joseph Hilmer  
Cole Thomas Keeton  
Harper Jeanne Lederer  
River Kerry Mayhew  
Emmet Solomon Oesch  
Carter John Perry  
Molly Hazel Polesnak  
Blake Mayhew Puhl  
Benjamin Miles Schlakman

### BURIALS / MEMORIALS

Erin M. Habermen  
Patricia Ann Oppert  
Basil Waters III

## Buildings & Grounds

Thanks to the gift of land from Ignatius and Eliza Waters in 1842, St. John's Episcopal Church has been at the heart of Olney, Maryland for over 175 years. The core of the church cemetery dates from that era, and the original church building, relocated in 1910, also contain roots from our early 1800's heritage; though at this time, most of what we see and use are 20th century additions or renovations. That is not to say we are utilizing modern and efficient buildings that would be far from the truth, our buildings are aging. Knowing that many of our larger issues will be addressed within the scope of a significant campus-wide renovation, much of the building maintenance has been devoted solely to those matters prioritized as urgent and important.

A persistent and difficult leak in the kitchen roof area has finally be addressed. The same is true for the undercroft water incursion that followed heavy rains. And there is always ongoing maintenance with painting of the church window trim and other areas.

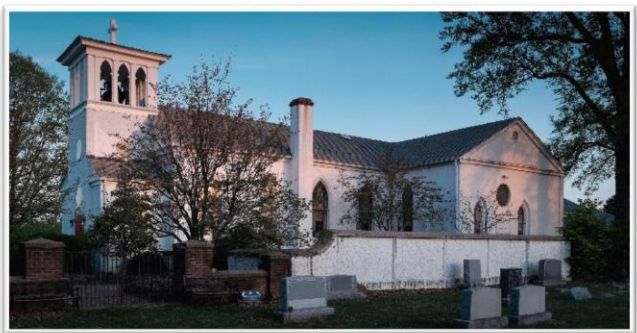
The gardens offer a welcoming soft green frame to our building, and a home for many small mammals and birds. What had been maintained by the diligent work of a few dedicated parishioners is now contracted for a twice yearly professional landscape effort. Individuals wishing to weed, a wonderful meditative practice, are always welcomed but the heavy lifting will be handled each spring and fall by our contractor.

During a particularly rainy spring weekend Brandon Sussal of Troop 264 orchestrated an effort to create a labyrinth just outside our church doors. This project, along with years of foundation work, earned him the rank of Eagle, Scouts highest rank. As spring comes we hope to add additional plantings to this area so it is incorporated even more with our grounds.

With our attention on the urgent and important, we have not lost focus on the long term needs of the parish. Our aging plant does require more extensive renovation so we have been methodically moving in this direction. Earlier in the year the Episcopal Church Foundation, ECF, conducted a feasibility study to understand the level of parish support for such an ambitious project. Armed with the information from ECF, and knowing the need, the Vestry has authorized that we undertake a capital campaign to address these needs.

This project, with contributions from both church and school communities, will address many of the needs of our aging campus. The core of the project though will be the renovation of the parish hall and inclusion of a handicap accessible restroom for the church; this is an understatement of all that we intend to accomplish so watch for more information. We have employed Allen & DeLalio Architects, Inc. to put to paper the dreams for our campus. In the very near future we will be able to see how those dreams will take shape and enable us to fulfill our ministries in Olney.

ST. JOHN'S  
AT THE HEART OF  
OLNEY  
FOR OVER  
175 YEARS



# Christian Formation

## SUNDAY SCHOOL, VBS, YOUTH GROUP, NURSERY, PRAYER PARTNERS, FORUMS

2019 was a great year for formation.

Since my arrival, we have been focused on making formation a priority, shifting our models to better reflect best practice and human growth and development research on creating, empowering, and endearing disciples. The underlying assumption of formation changed. We assume that faith formation happens in the home and the church stands to empower households to continue the work of formation and discipleship-building the rest of the week. We have sought to change our models to reflect empowerment rather than assuming the real formation takes place on Sunday mornings. We began with quarterly tool-kits, **Holy Household Toolkits**, which continue to be offered to every household in the church, with prayers and tools that match each season. Programmatically, we began the shift with Sunday school, which we changed away from a one-room school house model to a graduated program, where objectives and lessons matched the formation and developmental abilities of our young people. We maintained smaller cross-sections of ages and grade however, to continue the important work of modeling and peer-teaching that had already begun in the previous model.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**, encompassing Pre-K through the 5th grade, is continuing to offer strong formation opportunities, with our numbers holding pretty steady. Our average attendance across classes is between 16-18 kids. We have seen growth in our 3rd-5th grade class as our young people who were little at the beginning of our Sunday School overhaul are coming up into the upper grades. PreK continues to study one of the stories from the Sunday lectionary each week, helping to prepare them for community worship when they become Kindergarteners. Kindergarten through 2nd graders are using *The Episcopal Children's Curriculum* which is a combination of information about our traditions, seasons, stories, and liturgy. 3rd through 5th grade continue a more in-depth study of the Bible, using *Holy Moly*. Our teachers are a rotation of a number of church adults. In the coming year, we are focusing on continued growth in Sunday School attendance and supporting our rotation of teachers.

We took this year as an opportunity to make important shifts to our **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** Model. In 2018, we re-launched Vacation Bible School, much to the excitement of our parish, the volunteers, and of course, the kids. Our leadership team took time to analyze and reflect and decided to make a sweeping shift to make Vacation Bible School, moving it from a week long, one time experience, to a whole household experience and conversation starter. We shifted the schedule from morning to evening, included dinner each night, and changed the activities to reflect the full intergenerational range of formation needs and learners. Our Harry Potter inspired "The Good News, Hogwarts-Style" hosted over 75 people, from a range of household types (young families, singles, empty-nesters all-inclusive) and all volunteers were also full participants. Our week included Bible Story Videos created by our own Katie Gough, group, or house, challenges, large-group discussions, age-based discussions, and household centered discussions. We practiced, not only, the gospel-filled lessons presented in the narrative of Harry Potter, but also the larger challenge of using the secular and popular to delve deeper into faith and scripture. This coming year, "Aslan is Coming", our Lion, Witch and Wardrobe inspired Family Vacation Bible School is in the works, set for August 3rd-7th, 6-9PM every evening. We are hoping for even more participation from across the parish and across our community.



**YOUTH GROUP** continues to be a blessing and a challenge. We have a list of 6-10 teenagers who communicate and attend. With so many years of no programs offered for our teenagers and so much anxiety and expectation placed on them we are continuing to experiment to find the right balance of program and scheduling realities. Youth Group is done in conjunction with St. Bart’s Episcopal Church, which has very few teenagers. We meet monthly for food, fellowship and a discussion. Currently we are using Paul’s journeys as our launching point and offer a “tool of the faith,” some type of spiritual practice for the youth to try out over the next month. We are also working on giving all our youth prayer partners.

In 2019, we also offered **confirmation classes**. Three teenagers from our parish and one from St. Anne’s, Damascus met once a month for most of the year to study together the tenants of the Episcopal faith and delve deeper into their own. Katie Gough, Patrick Gough, and Jason Vincent were confirmed at the Cathedral in May. We are currently in the process of looking at the viability of an adult and teen confirmation class this spring.

**PRAYER PARTNERS** is continuing to expand in scope and numbers. We currently have 31 pairs and are looking to continuing pairing kids around the age of 3-4 years old, new members as well as expand into our middle and high school youth. Partners agree to pray for one another and check in regularly. The parish offers quarterly events for prayer partners, too. Each partnership tends to make it their own, however, with various parings meeting for lunch, shopping dates, tea parties, gift exchanges, and/or adding notes and cards. It is a simple way to help cross generational lines and encourage prayer and grace. If you are interested in becoming a prayer partner, please email Mo. Shivaun.

Our **NURSERY** program continues to serve our youngest guests and members, giving them a safe space to explore and play. This year, we have added resources for short Christian activities - board books, songs, Christian-themed toys- so that as the kids explore they can explore with Christ. We are always happy to adjust our nursery program so it can meet the needs of our 3 and under set and are hopeful that we can use more of our new Christian curriculum for our toddlers in the future.

**FORUM AND ADULT EDUCATION** continue to engage many of our adults, but we are always looking at ways to offer more opportunities for formation. We added an informal book group during 2019 to explore a number of books on faith development. Our forum covered topics tied into many of the themes of the Holy Household Toolkits and from sermon topics, finishing the year in a set called “Why Christian, Why Episcopal, Why St. John’s.” In 2020 we are exploring our Lenten offerings, expanding the forum to two topics, adding a new to the Episcopal Church/St. John’s Discussion quarterly, and expanding our ways to get involved.

2019 was a full and engaging year of delving deeper with Christ and we are looking forward to where the Holy Spirit will lead in 2020.

In Christ,  
Mo. Shivaun+

# Hospitality

## COFFEE HOUR

For 2020 we return to organizing our coffee hour hosts according to ministry. Each month a different ministry will be highlighted as they provide our coffee hour treats. The schedule is as follows:

January	Vestry	July	Parish Life
February	Altar Guild	August	Parish Life
March	Choir & Handbells	September	Monday Mission
April	African Palms	October	Ushers
May	Esther Deel	November	Christian Education
June	EM's & Lectors	December	Outreach

Thank you to all who hosted Coffee Hour in 2019, your efforts are an important part of our hospitality.

## HOSPITALITY

2019 hosted a flurry of parish life events, full of hospitality and welcoming. Coffee hour is our primary hospitality ministry, which sees individuals, families and ministries host Sunday morning with tasty snacks, coffee, tea and punch. This year we experimented with ways we could engage volunteers differently with taking on coffee hour and found that going back to our original method, of a ministry taking on a month, but with more communication and clearer sign-ups, is our best path moving forward. We incorporated a monthly bake sale, which help to fund mission at St. John's, which was well-received, but may move to a quarterly undertaking. Also this summer, we chose to keep coffee hour inside the parish hall, despite the lack of air conditioning, so that there was seating and kids were not playing in the road way. In 2020, we are working to create an online sign-up for coffee hour, which would be easily accessible from the website, so that more people can support this important ministry.

Also at coffee hour, our newly formed Evangelism committee has set up a welcome table, spearheaded by Bree Bruemmer. This table has given a wonderful location for visitors and members alike to ask questions, update their member info, and find out more about what is happening at St. John's. In 2020, we hope to expand this ministry to more volunteers, including church leadership. We also want to see a larger greeting, welcoming, follow-up process designed and implemented to help support the church growth.

Throughout the year, we have also hosted a number of parish events. In January, our annual Epiphany Worship and Spaghetti dinner was a glowing success. Since Epiphany fell on a Sunday, we combined it with our Taize style, Sunday evening worship service. While attendance was still great, we learned that having our event on a Saturday night was more desirable because it didn't affect the school/work week. In February, our youth came out to support our annual pancake breakfast and silent auction. In Lent, we offered soup suppers with evening prayer, a way to connect simply and support one another on our lenten journeys. It was also a great reminder that hospitality need not be fancy, just intentional. Easter morning hosted our regular parishioners and many visitors for a lovely treat filled coffee hour, with an egg hunt, benefiting a charity of



the children's choosing, and fun crafts and raffles. In May we hosted our annual Pentecost brunch, filled with delicious bites from an array of countries and cultures represented in our congregation. After a summer filled with weekends away and vacations, we welcome the parish back with our annual picnic, with the hard work of the Flickingers and their team, as well as sides and desserts from the attendees, we enjoyed the last of summer weather, with the kids enjoying the playground. The Flickingers also spearheaded the lunch ministry and fundraiser during our Holly Harvest Bazaar. We closed out the year with our annual Advent Dinner, filled with delicious food, mingling of friends and new acquaintance, and Christmas carols.

We are always excited for new volunteers to jump in on any of these opportunities to serve and host our parish family. In 2020, we are hoping to establish quarterly appetizer mixers to invite our newest parishioners to become better acquainted with our long-standing members and leadership. We also want to see the pool of people and ideas for our annual events grow. If you are interested in jumping into any of these events, contact anyone in the office who can put you in touch with the leads of these events.

*Parish Life events, full of hospitality and welcoming...*



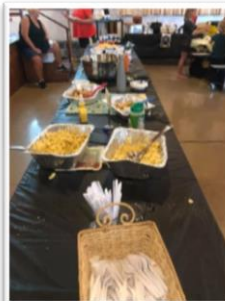
Coffee Hour

ADVENT DINNER

*Spaghetti Dinner*



*Soup & Bread Supper*



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

*Pentecost Brunch*

Parish Picnic



*Sunday School Year End Picnic*

# Outreach

## AFRICAN PALMS

In 2019 African Palms, USA granted a total of \$33,722 to fund a total of six projects in Tanzania. These projects included building medical incinerators, school buildings, and clean water filtration systems.

A joint sponsorship between St. John's Church and African Palms supported 8 women for their education at Seminary School. In July/August a group of African Palms Board members and St. John's Parishioners journeyed to Tanzania to attend these women's graduation ceremony, to check on the status of our various projects, and to deepen the relationship between the Diocese of Masasi and St. John's. This was a highly successful visit, based on reports from our travelers and responses from Bishop James Almasi and his staff and communities in Masasi. More Palm Crosses and Tote Bags have been ordered and we expect the newest shipment in March 2020.



This year, we focused on community events as a priority to advertise and advocate for this great mission. The second annual Walk for Water raised \$8,000 and included over 200 participants. Walking in the Olney Days Parade, handing out crosses to the community, and participating in Farmers Markets were a lot of fun, but the holiday markets proved to be the most successful activity in terms of providing big tote bag sales. We also hosted a Spring Bazaar, offering more totes, and sold Mums at the pumpkin patch. Yoga with Lori continues every Thursday at 7pm and 100% of the suggested \$10 is applied towards grants; in 2019, the Yoga donations totaled \$4,305.00.

Our volunteers are continually sourced from St. John's School and Good Counsel High School, for whose support we are very grateful. We would be remiss not to mention our loyal, small but mighty group from our own Parish. In 2020 we would love to see more parish involvement. Volunteering is extremely flexible and can be tailored to your personal needs and schedule.



*Walking so they don't have to... every step counts!*

We had some personnel changes in 2019. Johnna Gilchrist joined the permanent African Palms Staff, and we couldn't be happier with our Perkins/Gilchrist dynamic duo! The African Palms Board also experienced net growth this year. Long-time volunteer and Board member Fred Frey retired from service, and we were joined by Veronica Nicholas and Becca Turett.

We anticipate 2020 to be a promising year for sales and events. We will be adding a Family Yoga Class along with a Fried Chicken Dinner in June, "Kuku Chicken". To learn more about African Palms, USA, or to get involved with this terrific ministry, please visit us on our website, facebook or instagram, or speak to any of the staff or Board members.

AFRICAN PALMS BOARD MEMBERS

Mary Lou McMaster  
*Board Chair*

Glen Drew  
*Grants Committee Chair*

The Rev. Henry P. McQueen  
*Ex Officio*

Lois Taylor  
*Treasurer*

Crannough Jones  
*Grants Committee Co-Chair*

Mathy Downing  
Mary Ellis  
Mike Messick

Dennis Atkinson  
*Vestry Representative*

Charles McQueen  
*Grants Committee Co-Chair*

Veronica Nicholas  
Alan Soukup  
Rebecca Turett

Respectfully submitted,  
*Lori Perkins & Johnna Gilchrist*

**MONDAY MISSION SOCIETY**

The Monday Mission Society continues to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month for fun and fellowship. In the past year we assisted with African Palms quality control on several of our meeting nights and also joined with the Women of St John's on some weekday mornings. We also helped at the Pumpkin Patch and the Holly Harvest Bazaar. In April, Tammy Brown was invited back for another fun Paint Night. At our annual Christmas Cookie Exchange, we collected items to donate to Comfort Cases. This is a national organization based in Rockville that gives filled backpacks to children in foster care. We hope to have the founder of this organization visit one of our meetings in the Spring and also plan to go there to volunteer. In February we are going to visit the Museum of the Bible in DC. Monday Mission Society is open to all ladies of the Parish. Please consider coming to one of our meetings.



## OUR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE

Our Neighbors' House (ONH) is an Outreach mission which works to furnish apartments for refugees arriving to their first home in the U.S. through the U.S. State Department's official resettlement program. In July, 2019, working with the International Rescue Committee, a U.S. Government-approved resettlement agency, the ONH team furnished an apartment for a family of six from El Salvador with the generous donations of furniture and household goods by members of the St. John's community. Later in the year, our ministry's surplus inventory of furniture and household goods was collected by another church to furnish a second apartment. Despite these successes, 2019 was a year of reflection for ONH and the group prayerfully considered how to overcome several challenges: Leadership/parish participation, storage, and organization/inventory. Although our 2018 survey showed great interest in continuing the ministry, there was extremely limited response to requests for members of the congregation to step into short-term (quarterly) leadership and auxiliary roles to plan and execute apartment set-ups. Satisfactory storage has remained elusive but is essential to the continuance of the ministry, and a more accurate inventory system must be devised. The enthusiasm and will of a small group of dedicated individuals, however passionate, may not overcome these challenges to continue this ministry at St. John's. Deep thanks to those who have donated their time, their furniture and goods, and their treasure to Our Neighbors' House.

## ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

As the St. John's Episcopal School is coming to the end of its sixth decade, there is much that is changing while much will stay the same. The Church and School continue to explore and increase, I dare say improve, their connection and relationship. Enrollment has improved and the academic strength continues to be a hallmark of the school. Our graduating students attend strong high schools where they do well and are acknowledged. Our arts programs receive recognition. Last year the school had just completed its accreditation visit by the Visiting Team from the Association of Independent Maryland and D.C. Schools, and we have written and submitted our Action Plan and AIMS has responded. It's all good news.

Enrollment is up this year, and the school will open in January with 146 students up from the 130 we closed with in June. There are lots of reasons - a small graduating class (9), low attrition, a very positive sense of the school from our current families, strong faculty morale, and wonderful job by our Director of Admissions, Doug Perkins. As of the middle of December, the data on inquiries, tours, student visits, and applications are running ahead of last year. We will be graduating a very large class (26), and while we anticipate strong admissions, we will plan conservatively.

Shortly after the last Annual Meeting, the school received its evaluation from the AIMS Visiting Team. The next step in the process was for the school to create a plan to respond to the recommendations that the Team made and submit that to the Commission on Accreditation. Upon review of the Action Plan, the Commission recommended approval to the AIMS Board, and the school has been reaccredited until 2029. Over the next years, we will be addressing the plans that we submitted, and we have come out a stronger school because of the experience.

The strength of the school continues to be seen and recognized by the high schools that our graduates attend. Last year's graduating students are attending Our Lady of Good Counsel, DeMatha Catholic High School, The Bullis School, and Glenelg Country School. This year's eighth graders have broadened the field

and are planning to apply to Good Counsel, DeMatha, Glenelg, Bullis, Georgetown Prep, Georgetown Day School, Stone Ridge, Holy Cross, Hold Child, St. Albans, St. Andrew's, St. John's College High School, Gonzaga, McLean, McDonough, Culver Military Academy, Mont de Sales, Randolph Macon Military Academy, St. Timothy's, and the Church Farm School. Our students continue to earn scholarships for academics as well as in the arts. The School's OASIS (Olney Art School In a School) also added a community play last year which brought in students from a number of other schools in the area.

The Church and School continue to work together both in service as well as with our services. The Pumpkin Patch continues to be a shared program, and our students continue to be volunteers for the Holly Harvest. Sandwich making for Martha's Table has also continued, and students are assisting in other areas, joint food collection at Thanksgiving, for example. Mo. Shivaun and Fr. Henry have added a new service for Chapel, Prayer Stations, which has been well-received by students and faculty, and allows the students new ways to reflect and be mindful about their worship. We also are continuing to move forward together in planning the capital campaign.

Finally, last spring, I announced my retirement at the end of the 2019-20 school year, and the School began a search process. The Search Committee, which included Fr. Henry and a number of Church members, followed a thorough process, and presented a candidate to the Board of Trustees and then to the Vestry for approval. Ms. Margery Bank was named the Head of School Elect and will begin July 1, 2020. I want to thank Fr. Henry and Mo. Shivaun as well as the prior clergy, the staff of the Church and African Palms, the Vestry, and the parish for the opportunity as well as the support and guidance during my tenure as Head of School at St. John's. Leading an Episcopal school had been something that I sorely wanted to do during my career in education, and it is has been everything that I could have expected and more. I look forward to following the success of the Church and the School for the years to come.

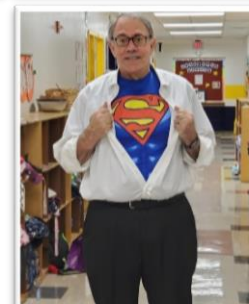
Tom Stevens  
Headmaster

*"Graduating Students of Character and Faith"*



*Focused on developing students*

ACADEMICALLY      PHYSICALLY      SPIRITUALLY



## **Stewardship**

When God created the heavens and the earth, God also created humankind to care for God's creation; humankind, you and me, has been ordained to be stewards of creation.

We do this in many ways, large and small. Earlier this year we transitioned from disposable coffee cups each Sunday morning to washable mugs, mugs that were accumulating in many of your cabinets so they too are being reused; this is good stewardship of the environment and of our financial resources.

Stewardship is also reflected in the generosity of our time, talents, and treasures. Reading this annual report highlights just how many people do give of their time and talents; each gift is appreciated by St. John's, and by God.

There is also a financial aspect to our stewardship, the information about the Holly Harvest Bazaar and the Pumpkin Patch, shown below, are examples of this, so too is our Capital Campaign and our Annual Giving. While the Capital Campaign is for large items that are not within the scope of an annual budget, Annual giving funds the operating budget, the ministry of the church that happens each and every day.

Each fall we seek pledges to provide the base of income for our operating budget. In 2020 stewardship pledges are estimated to total \$412k. This represents a modest growth of 3-4% from the 2019 budget, not the 10% goal that we set. As a result, with the ministries of the parish growing faster than Annual Giving, we have, elsewhere in this report, presented a deficit budget for 2020.

This is not bad news, this is a part of our stage of growth; additionally, our income from Pledge and Plate often exceeds our budget expectations so we have an opportunity to close this gap. We do have many aspects of our Annual Giving to celebrate.

There are 44 pledges that have increased over the previous year, 28 of these increased 10% or more. And there are 5 first time pledges in our total. The down side is that the giving patterns of 25 families decreased this year. It should be expected that our long term growth area will be in new pledges. For the past 4 years attendance at St. John's has increased from about 110 on an average Sunday across all services to now averaging 160-170 each weekend; during this growth the total number of giving units (or families) has remained constant at about 95. This is a great opportunity for each of us to recognize the important role we each play in the stewardship of St. John's.

STEWARDSHIP 

*TIME*

*TALENTS*

*TREASURES*

### **HOLLY HARVEST BAZAAR**

The 2019 Holly Harvest Bazaar was one of the most successful to date! Over 50 Vendors participated, Santa made a guest appearance and our in-house sales were fantastic totaling \$4913.96 and vendor space payments totaling \$3120.00. Our Vendors were extremely pleased with their sales and are looking forward to next year. We extend a special thank you to those who participated in any capacity!

## PUMPKIN PATCH

The 2019 Pumpkin patch had a good season despite quite a bit of rain. On October 5, 2019 the pumpkins arrived to a large group of school and church families as well as our favorite Scout troop. We unloaded in less than 90 minutes this year and were open for business by 11:00 am.

We received 2,600 bulk large pumpkins, 400 fancy decorate pumpkins and a wide variety of gourds and mini pumpkins in both white and orange colors. The sales this year were just about \$21,000 and our profit which is split between church and school was \$7,200. This year the pumpkin patch also sold various color mums and it was so successful, we will add that to next year's patch!

A special thanks to everyone who helped set up, clean up and work the patch. Everyone was willing to volunteer rain or shine and we are so appreciative of that. It continues to be a fun family community event and we hope to keep it going for years to come.



ST. JOHN'S PUMPKIN PATCH  
*"Best Pumpkin Patch in Olney"*

# Worship

## ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild continues to run smoothly. Crannough Jones continues as the Head of the Altar Guild and, with the support of Pam Brekke, Diane Marie Gray, Nancy Grayson and Betsy O'Neil, takes care of overseeing the budget, preparing the annual report, emailing reminders to teams on duty, in addition to taking care of the general overseeing of the guild, and is a backup for all services.

As has been the case for many years, Altar Guild retains its basic format of teams who work two-week duty rotations during the year. These teams work to set-up and clean-up for the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Sunday services as well as for all special services throughout the year. Minor clean-up for the 5 p.m. Sunday Taizé service is performed by the Altar Guild as well. The clergy do most of the set-up and clean-up for this service.

The following list includes specific Altar Guild duties and responsibilities:

- Laundering and ironing or cleaning of all linens.
- Development of annual schedules
- Ordering flowers and coordinating delivery and church decoration for special services
- Weddings and Funerals
- Recruiting and training new members
- Replenishing supplies of bread, wine, candle oil, aumbrey candles, etc.
- Updating the Altar Guild manual when needed

We continue to pray for this ministry as we move forward, and thank everybody involved. Those serving in 2019 were Pam Brekke, Virginia Bryant, Katie Carrick, Diane Marie St. George Gray, Nancy Grayson, Scott Hartranft, Alexis Huey, Carmen, Crannough and Patricia Jones, Louise Lighter, Rose Ann McHenry, Julie Metcalf, Deborah Nelson, Betsy O'Neil, Joy Reiff, Lisa Stylos, Becca Turett, and Kim Wood.

We would like to thank several people for their efforts on behalf of the Altar Guild. Thank you to Nancy Benson for her great effort in supplying the Advent Wreath this year, and to Les Rucker for making the new wreath holder. Thank you to Stacy Hartranft for being an available volunteer for weddings. Special thanks to Jorge Manco for assisting with whatever is asked of him. The Sunday flower schedule was replaced last year with requests in the bulletin to donate the weekly flowers. Thank you to Tammy Turner and Cindy Brown for their work with this task. Thanks also to Tammy Turner for preparing the altar flower bulletins regarding contributions for special flowers for Easter and Christmas. Lastly, thank you to members of the congregation for their generous contributions for the Sunday, Easter and Christmas altar flowers.

Submitted by,  
*Betsy O'Neil*



## **ESTHER DEEL “WHOLLY THREAD” & WHINE CIRCLE**

The prayer shawl ministry has been in existence for over 10 years. Anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting is welcome to be a part to of this ministry. The shawls and baby blankets are handmade for people in need, as gifts of comfort, hope, and peace. They are blessed before being given out. The ministry meets once a month mainly because they enjoy the fellowship. There are no requirements – roll is never taken, there is no agenda, and there are no dues! If you would like to join the Esther Deel ministry, please contact: Gina Rentz – [RentzGina@gmail.com](mailto:RentzGina@gmail.com).

## **MUSIC**

Music continues to be a vital and integral part of our corporate worship, and it is a joy for me to lead the St. John’s congregation in spirit-filled hymn singing every Sunday. As St. Augustine wrote, “He who sings prays twice.” Through hymns, psalms, service music and anthems that complement the day’s readings, our minds and spirits are awakened and nurtured. Over the course of 2019 we sang over 200 different hymns that helped us to express our corporate creed more deeply. We continued our tradition of hosting a brass quintet and timpanist on Easter Day and All Saints’ Sunday as well as a string quartet at two of our Christmas Eve services. The St. John’s Choir welcomed new members again in 2019. Our dedicated and faithful parish choir led us in forty-five services last year, and I continue to be most appreciative of both their commitment to this ministry and their generosity with their time. There is always room for more voices in the Choir; please speak with me if you find this to be of interest. Two advantages to singing in the choir are never having to worry about what to wear and always being guaranteed a seat up front!

The St. John’s Ringers just finished its sixth year as a part of our music ministry. They continued to ring during services at least once a month, providing solo handbell pieces as well as accompanying psalms, hymns, service music, and choir anthems. Handbell ringing is a very fun ministry at St. John’s, and we are always on the lookout for new ringers, Middle School and up!

“When in our music God is glorified, and adoration leaves no room for pride, it is as though the whole creation cried Alleluia!” (*The Hymnal 1982*, Hymn 420)

James Kreger  
*Organist and Choirmaster*

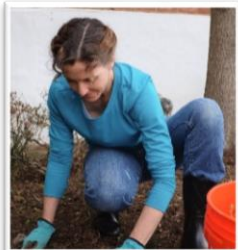
## **REPORT FROM THE VERGER**

It has been my pleasure to again serve St. John’s as Verger this past year. This year we have trained two (2) new Torch Bearers and two (2) new Crucifiers. Much thanks to all of our Torch Bearers and Crucifiers for their hard work this past year. Along with serving as the Verger each Sunday, I work with students from STJES to serve as Acolytes for the School’s Chapel Services.

Carl Ridenour  
FVGEC

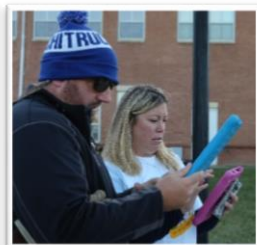


*We are the branches that comprise St. John's, and we each bear good fruit.  
 All of us have a part to play in fulfilling the faith and mission of St. John's.  
 Each person and each gift is important.*





WE ARE ST. JOHN'S... *"Called by Christ in love to live in truth and action"*



*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord,  
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."  
Jeremiah 29:11*



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
3427 Olney-Laytonsville Road  
Olney, Maryland 20832  
301.774.6999  
[www.stjec.org](http://www.stjec.org)