



SAINT JOHN'S
The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow
ANNUAL MEETING
January 29, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

OPENING PRAYER – The Rev. Evelyn Wheeler

READING OF THE NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Ann Atwood, Clerk
Motion to dispense with the reading of the Roll of Legal Voters

OPENING REMARKS – Nancy Butler

THE MINUTES OF THE 2022 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Motion to accept the minutes as presented or as amended

RECEPTION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED IN WRITING
Motion to accept reports submitted in writing
Discussion of written reports as warranted

FINANCIAL REPORTS – 2022 and the Budget for 2023 – Larry Espinet, Treasurer

THE ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND VESTRY MEMBERS – Vote on current members extending their time – Nancy Butler (Susie Horn, John Gargiulo and Nancy Butler)

WE WILL BE DISCUSSING THE TRANSITION PROCESS – Gordon Ross

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING

PRESENTATION OF THE CHARLOTTE DUFOUR RECOGNITION

THANKS, CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT – The Rev. Evelyn Wheeler



WARNING AND NOTICE

**of the Annual Meeting of
ST. JOHN'S**

The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow

The annual meeting of St. John's Church, Pine Meadow, will be held on Sunday morning, January 29, 2023, at approximately 10 am, following the 9am Eucharist, in person and in the church, to elect members of the Vestry and to transact such other business as may legally come before such meeting in accordance with the Episcopal Canon I, Section 10.

Ann Atwood, Parish Clerk

St. John's Pine Meadow
Annual Meeting
January 30, 2022

On-site and via Zoom
Called of order at 10:00 am following the 9:00 am service

Opened in Prayer: – Mother Cosman

Reading of the Notice of the Annual Parish Meeting: Motion to waive the reading of the notice of the annual parish meeting by Blake Hall, seconded by Susie Horn. All in favor.

Reading of the Roll of Voting Members: Clerk, Beth Coates, motioned to dispense in the reading of the Roll of Voting member. Seconded by Ginny Hoffmann. All in favor.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes: Moved to approve 2021 meeting minutes by Beth Coates, seconded by Nancy Butler. All in favor.

Reception of Reports Submitted in Writing: Motion to accept reports by John Gargiulo, seconded by Guy Hayes. All in favor as presented.

Financial Reports 2021 Year End and 2022 Budget:

Diane Hayes, Assistant Treasurer, gave an overview of the 2022 Stewardship report:

- 119 pledge requests mailed; 65 pledges returned. Approx. same number of pledges as last year, however, 7 returning pledges that had lapsed and 1 brand new pledge received. In addition, the dollar amount of pledges increased by \$14,449 over 2021 as of the last report, with a total of \$157,900. Note: additional pledge money has been received since reporting. Will make adjustments after February Vestry meeting.

Larry Espinet, Treasurer, gave overview of 2021 End of Year and 2022 Budget:

- **2021** financials resulted in a balanced budget totaling \$204,835.
 - Revenue trailed the budget by \$3,192, however expenses trailed the budget by \$10,727.
 - Reserves held at the local bank and endowments increased substantially.
 - Please see treasurer report for specific details.
- **2022 Budget**
 - The 2022 budget is very close to balanced budget (0.2% deficit).
 - Keeping the budget balanced will require usage of unused endowment from reserves from 2019,2020, 2021 (\$34,944) as well as fundraising income from scrip (\$3000) and the concerts (\$3000).
 - Unused Endowment Reserves are helping to make up shortfall of no PPE loan in 2022.
 - Projected revenue budgeted at \$218,806 (6.8% increase over 2021 actuals), projected expenses budgeted at \$219,329 (7.1% increase over 2021 actuals)
 - -Full details are in submitted Financial Reports.
 - It was noted that finalized numbers will be made after the February vestry meeting to account for additional pledges.

Larry moved the financial reports, seconded by John Gargiulo. All in favor.

Mother Cosman notified the parish that we have received official notification that we are in good standing with the Diocese. Filed all reports, all required documents, and met our diocesan pledge.

Thank you for Vestry Service: Mother Cosman thanked Melanie Kirkpatrick David and Beth Coates for their work on the Vestry. As well as John Gargiulo for agreeing to an additional term. An abundance of thanks to those rotating off and those serving for their dedication and hard work.

Report of the Nominating Committee for Vestry: Mother Cosman announced nominations of the following individuals/positions:

Continuing

- Nancy Butler: Sr. Warden
- Gordon Ross: Jr. Warden
- Larry Espinet: Treasurer
- Ann Atwood: moving to Clerk, to finish out 2-year term
- Susie Horn: Vestry
- John Gargiulo: Vestry
- Guy Hayes: Vestry
- Barbara Patch: Vestry

Nominating for 3-year terms:

- Kevin Case, Vestry
- Ellen Childs, Vestry

Blake Hall moved the report and nomination. Michael Hayes seconded. All in favor. Beth Coates, Clerk, casted one vote for the new Vestry slate as presented. All in favor.

Charlotte Dufour Award:

- Announced that Vestry voted to present the award at a later date. Please stay tuned for announcement.

Request for Additional Business to Come Before the Meeting:

- none

Appreciations, Regrets, and Learnings:

Thank you for dedication of parishioners for fortitude during the continued pandemic environment and the need for flexibility.

Thank you to Cynthia Welch for 5 years of leading Altar Guild! Thanks to Candy Flaherty for taking the lead now. Looking for a new Flower Steward as release the responsibility of the flower ordering from the Altar Guild lead. Please consider this important ministry.

Thank you to Kevin Case for stepping up to be the Christian Formation Steward!

Thank you to the Michelle and Halyna for your ongoing commitment to St. John's and the outstanding work you do!

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Blake Hall. Seconded by Nancy Butler. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:34 am.

Closing prayer by Mother Cosman.



ST. JOHN'S – The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow, Connecticut

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY –WARDEN'S REPORT

It seems like most of this year happened after Mother Cosman left. Four people in our parish died. Aside from losing close friends, we had to figure out how to do the funerals. We were blessed to have Rev. Salin Low step in and take over. They were all beautiful ceremonies and the families and friends were pleased. Mother Evelyn stepped up for us again and performed a Baptism for four adopted boys.

We had to scramble to find supply priests. It was late in the season and everyone was booked through January. With the help of Bob Osborne, Mother Evelyn and Anne Hall, Michelle learned how to put together our morning prayer services. Gordon, Anne and I have been doing Morning Prayer. We tried to minimize morning prayers to twice a month. Anne Hall and Michael Hayes have been doing the homilies for these services. Mother Evelyn graciously agreed to fill in to do a Eucharistic service twice a month. There have been so many times that we had to say "lets run that by Bob or Anne or Mother Evelyn". Again I have to say we are a blessed parish to have such knowledgeable collection of people who are so willing to share their skills and time. Having had the experience with scheduling, has made it much easier the second half of the year to get the supply priests. We are pretty well scheduled through April. We have gotten lots of positive feedback on both of the Supply Priests we have had and both have been booked for return dates.

We have been working double time trying to keep our close knit St. John's family close knit. Bringing back coffee hour was an important first step. Cider and donuts in the garden and a pot luck brunch were two more activities. Creating an atmosphere where people wanted to reconnect and sit around and chat was the goal. We are a strong thriving parish even without a Priest. These activities take lots of work, and lots of parishioners volunteered. So much work goes into running a church, and the people of St. John's have taken on the challenge with flying colors. Volunteering to clean, vacuum, wipe down, polish, take out trash, run committees, be on committees, run cameras, run special services, attend a service, ring bells, set up and take down the alter, being part of the services, get and arrange flowers, take notes, write reports, work food drives, fill shelves in the Little Free Pantry, set up and take down and decorate for special events so that they feel like special events. They hand out programs and greet parishioners sincerely with a warm smile. Anyone walking into St. John's knows that this is a church that they want to belong to. As a parish we will continue to love God above all else and love our neighbor as ourselves. We will grow

into the parish God wants us to be and we will do it with a greater appreciation of who we are and what we are capable of doing.

St. John's has more planned for our future. We are working to up-date our web page. Making donations on line will be easy and convenient. There will be monthly meetings for our seniors starting January 24th, at 12:00 when various activities will be held. Bring your own lunch. Coffee will be provided, bring a friend. Bob Osborne is working on reinstating home Eucharistic visits. We are working on the transition process for our new priest and making progress. More special events are being planned. We are not a stagnant community. We will not sit back and wait for a PIC. We will take charge and move forward. We have accomplished a lot so far this year and we have only just begun.

Nancy Butler

Warden, St John's Pine Meadow

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY – Warden's Report - Facilities

St. John's continued to maintain and improve its physical plant during the past year. The largest project undertaken was the repointing of the foundation and boiler room mortar work. The purpose of the work was part aesthetic improvement, part structural integrity and part rodent control. All three goals were met. In addition, a number of substantial electrical projects in the addition and a couple smaller in the main church were completed thanks to the generosity of Ginny Hoffmann, one of our parish members. We also contracted to have the north side of the church exterior prepped and painted but a spell of rainy weather in October pushed the work to spring 2023. Finally, after many false starts, we succeeded in fixing the amplification system in the main church. Central to maintaining the overall appeal of the facility is the fine work done by both the cleaning crew and the garden volunteers. Thanks to everyone.

Gordon Ross, Junior Warden

GILL MEMORIAL GARDEN REPORT

The Gill Memorial Garden is a very special space at St. John's. It's a place for quiet reflection. This past year, we were fortunate to have two spring receptions in the garden in addition to a high tea fundraiser. In the future, we hope to utilize the beautiful garden for coffee hours and other special church events. We have had high school students who helped to maintain the space by planting, mowing, weeding and general clean up. We are always in need of more help. If you enjoy gardening, please consider signing up to be a planter or "Lay Weeder" this spring. Gordon Ross or Ann Atwood would be happy to provide more information.

Ann Atwood

Clerk

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

I would like to thank you all for your kind support during the changes that occurred this past year and currently on going. I appreciate everyone's support and all your help and assistance.

This past year the Parochial Report was accepted by the Diocese and we fulfilled our obligation with the Diocesan Pledge.

St. John's Church audit was performed by Karen Stronk, CPA, in July and accepted by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

I would like to thank Blake Hall for all his hard work throughout the year, for inputting the weekly counting sheets in our Servant Keeper program and working together on the quarterly statements for the parishioners. I would like to thank Larry Espinet, for all his hard work throughout the year and for being St. John's Treasurer and Diane Hayes for all her hard work as Assistant Treasurer. I would like to thank Anne Hall for all the hard work she does weekly with the St. John's Prayer lists and so much more. Thank you to Nancy Butler for all her hard work with the Food Drives and being St. John's Warden. Thank you Gordon for all your hard work throughout the year and being St. John's Junior Warden.

I would like to thank Ann Atwood for all her hard work on supplying the St. John's Minutes for the Vestry Meetings.

Thank you Evelyn Wheeler for assisting St. John's with the services and thank you and Bob Osborne on teaching me and helping me with the Sunday Bulletins.

Thank you so much everyone for your continued volunteer work throughout the year.

Michelle Piekos
Parish Administrator

PRAYER LIST REPORT

I continue to put the prayer list out on a weekly basis. This prayer list uses the Book of Common Prayer and the Lectionary as its rubrics. I particularly enjoy being able to put in prayers of Thanksgiving, so please remember if you want to celebrate good news in your life, your family's, or your friends', I am happy to put a prayer in! All requests are confidential. I can put in as much or as little information as you wish. I generally compile the prayer list on Monday night so that Michelle has it by Tuesday morning to go out in the morning.

In Faith and Prayer
Anne C. Hall

DWELLING IN THE WORD REPORT

Due to the pandemic, Dwelling did not meet for the entire time. We did spend several months on Zoom! We are up and running holding fairly active discussions every Thursday morning. We are meeting in the choir room near Michelle's office.

As an addendum, the knitting group has not met. As we are quite low on prayer shawls, my request is for people to knit or crochet one at home and bring it when you can. (73 stitches by 55-60 inches long). Thank you.

Ginny Hoffmann

CLEANING CREW ANNUAL REPORT

The cleaning crew looks and works very differently than in the past. In the past, the majority of the cleaning was done early Thursday morning. Now the same work is done but at each person's convenience. Jeff and Nancy Linton clean the back offices, kitchen, bathroom and hallway. Barbara Henri dry mops and wet mops Sheffield Hall and the stairs and cleans both of the bathrooms. Guy Hayes vacuums the church, and he brings his own vacuum cleaner. In an effort to involve more people in the day to day operations of the church, and give people who can't commit on a regular basis, who want to do something but aren't sure how to get involved, who are less physically able, a chance to do something, we started Nancy's Volunteer Item for the week. These projects help to get areas that aren't part of the regular cleaning routine but occasionally need a little TLC. To everyone on the regular crew and to the occasional helper, Thank You so much for keeping our church a place that we love to be in.

Nancy Butler
Warden

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

"We are the caretakers of the Altar and its accoutrements. We should care for all things with reverence and concern. Then, I think we can be proud of our commitment."

Ann Slaymaker
January 1987

"It is truly remarkable how silently and beautifully all things get done with such loving care."

Licia Beekley
January 1997

These are the words of two former Altar Guild Directors. Their thoughts are recorded on the first page of the Altar Guild Manual and serve as a reminder of the sacred nature of caring for the Altar.

Replacing the latest director, Cynthia Welch, and her predecessor, Donna Colavecchio, is an enormous responsibility, and I thank them for the support they have given me.

Members of the Altar Guild prepare the Altar for Morning Prayer, Eucharist, Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. They work in teams of two each month. They clear the Altar after each service and care for the linens, seasonal hangings, silver, brass and crystal.

In the past, Michelle Piekos ordered the flowers and Altar Guild members arranged their pick-up. This year we are fortunate to have Ellen Childs take on this role, and she has been successful in using the Stop and Shop Floral Department. If you wish to donate flowers, please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex. Ellen will contact you to discuss your arrangement. The suggested donation is \$60. We continue to use Moscarillo's for our Easter and Christmas flowers.

In closing, I am grateful for the dedication of the Altar Guild members and for their support and understanding as I learn "on the job." I encourage anyone interested in joining us in this beautifully cheerful work to contact me.

Candy Flaherty

ST. JOHN'S LITTLE FREE PANTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Little Free Pantry - Nobody ever dreamed that the LFP would grow and become so important to New Hartford and the surrounding communities when it all started. LFP now has a line in the budget. As well as food, people contribute money during our food drives. People have asked for donations be made to LFP instead of flowers for funerals. Organizations have made donations and we have gotten grants. When our shelves get bare, we are able to buy supplies. As our funds are growing, so are the needs of the people who depend on the LFP.

Every third Saturday of the month from 10:00-1:00 we have a food drive. This is advertised on the New Hartford web page and Christine at Town Hall sends a town wide e-mail. If our shelves are especially bare, she puts in an URGENT. That makes a huge difference. We also advertise on New Hartford, Bakerville, and West Hill Chats. People will also put out the word on their Facebook pages. The Bakerville School holds an annual food drive for the LFP. A fifth grade teacher chose to have her class donate food to the LFP instead of giving her a Christmas gift. We are so thankful for everyone's generosity.

The LFP could not exist without the donations of so many. It also could not exist without all the people who contribute their time and hard work. Stocking the shelves, and keeping the area organized neat and clean is a major accomplishment. Volunteers buy groceries when supplies get low and work through all kinds of weather during the food drives. I would like to give special thanks to Susie Horn and Donna Colavecchio who have spent many hours stocking shelves and to Anne Hall, Barbara Henri and Diane and Guy Hayes who have spent many hours at the food drives. As the need and our commitment grow, with your continued support, the LFP will also continue to grow.

Nancy Butler
Warden

JESSE TREE REPORT

Thank you for your generous donations to our annual Jesse Tree collection. This year we were able to bless 24 local teens supported by DCF with gift cards for a gift, groceries, and a treat from Subway and Dunkin Donuts. The social worker expressed his sincere thanks and the difference the donations will make to the teens. Well done St. John's!

Thank you,
Beth Coates

REPORT OF THE TWO ECCT CONVENTION GATHERINGS DURING 2022

Special Election Convention – May 21

Convention delegates from throughout the ECCT were called on May 21 to the Connecticut Convention Center, and an auxiliary location at Christ Church Cathedral, to elect a new Bishop Diocesan to succeed Bishop Ian T. Douglas who was about to retire in October of 2022.

The Rev. Jeffrey Mello , rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brookline, Massachusetts, was elected as the 16th Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. Father Mello was chosen on the sixth ballot out of a slate of five nominees. He received 129 votes of 225 cast in the lay order and 113 of 175 cast in the clergy order. An election on that ballot required 114 in the lay order and 89 in the clergy order.

Other candidates presented for consideration were the following:

The Rev. Glenna Huber, rector, Church of the Epiphany, Washington, D.C.

The Rev. Jeffrey Mello, rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brookline, Massachusetts.

The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead, dean, St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Jacksonville, Florida.

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, rector, All Saints' Episcopal Church, South Hadley, Massachusetts.

The Rev. Whitney Altopp, rector, St. Stephens Episcopal Church, Ridgefield, Connecticut.

The ordination and consecration of Bishop Mello took place at the Connecticut Convention Center on October 24.

Annual Diocesan Convention – November 4 and 5

Once a year, parish and worship community leaders from the Episcopal Church in Connecticut gather together for prayer, listening, and to conduct the business of our diocese. On Friday and Saturday, November 4 and 5, clergy and lay delegates gathered at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, or virtually on line, to carry out this annual meeting.

Business sessions were augmented by occasions of reflection and worship. One of the highlights was the first address to convention by our newly ordained and consecrated Diocesan Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Mello. In addition, delegates had opportunity to worship at a Taize Evensong at our newly renovated cathedral just a short walk from the Convention Center.

Later during the convention the topic of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation Ministry was addressed and a Task force on Reparations provided a series of break-out sessions for delegates' discussion and possible recommendations.

Returning to the business of the convention, delegates approved a budget for 2023, elected or approved members of several diocesan boards and commissions, and considered several resolutions to further the life and ministry in the new normal of our life together.

One final note of special interest to our St. John's family was the election of one of our Wardens, Gordon Ross. to the position of Treasurer of ECCT. Gordon was presented to the convention and had opportunity to speak words of acceptance. Congratulations and best wishes are in order for Gordon on his election to this very important diocesan responsibility.

Anne Hall and Bob Osborne, Parish Delegates

HOSPITALITY REPORT

Though we could not be together during the past year, St. John's, Pine Meadow, has weathered the pandemic and has continued to be a presence of faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ, and in our service to the community and to each other.

Now we are blessed to have a dedicated group of greeters who welcome us to worship each Sunday and who also provide a time for us to gather after worship during "coffee hour."

I truly believe that our gathering for coffee hour is a continuation of our worship.

For the first time in my memory, a Christmas brunch was held on December 18, after the 9:00 service. Sheffield Hall sparkled with decorations provided by Susie Horn and parishioners contributed a delicious buffet. I believe this is the start of a Christmas tradition at St. John's.

In conclusion, we welcome your help in providing this ministry of hospitality.

Candy Flaherty

CHOIR REPORT

The one sure thing I can report about our choir (beside the fact that they are fabulous) they are bold, brave and resilient. Masks on, then off - yet, they keep singing -music magic - to see and hear its beauty and give us hope. Choir began rehearsing in the fall and presented Lessons and Carols during Advent and sang during the combined service for Christmas Eve. We are currently rehearsing for Easter and will also include a Sunday of Gospel music in February - feels like we all could use a little Gospel about now! We will also be exploring our hymnals, especially Levas which holds a treasure trove of marvelous, untapped hymns. These are trying times for us as a community and church. As we navigate forward, the choir and I are committed to bring, through music, peace, love and beauty to ourselves and to all of you.

Blessings,

Halyna Petronchak

Director of Music

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR REPORT

In July, Mother Cosman asked me to take over working with Neighbor to Neighbor for St. John's. New Hartford's Neighbor to Neighbor program, administered by Christine Hayward from the offices of the First Selectman, Dan Jerram, provides confidential financial assistance to members of our community. Distribution of funds are submitted for examination by Christine and approved by a committee of community leaders representing area charitable organizations. The needs for assistance are expanding greatly during this time of need and St. John's continues to fund this work through contributions and from fundraisers and St. John's Discretionary Fund.

Nancy Butler

Warden

FUNDRAISING REPORT

The Fundraising Committee was charged with raising \$3,000.00 last year - 2022. Between the High Tea and the Chorus Angelicus & Gaudeamus Concert, the goal was exceeded and the committee raised over \$5,000.00.

The High Tea in June raised over \$1,600.00. The weather was perfect, the Gill Memorial Garden beautiful and the table setting elegant. Tiered tea sandwiches, savories, sweets, and assorted teas were served to over 60 people. Many thanks to Diane Hayes, chair extraordinaire, and the committee Nancy Linton, Barbara Patch, Ann Atwood, Nancy Gibson, Michelle Piekos and Susie Horn for creating a memorable and beautiful afternoon.

The acclaimed children's choir and adult chamber chorus, Chorus Angelicus & Gaudeamus Thanksgiving Concert raised almost \$3,500.00. 175 adults and 8 children attended. Proceeds from the holiday bread sales, \$300.00, were donated to the New Hartford Neighbor to Neighbor Program.

Dr. Gabriel Fofvall, the choir director, plans to make the St. John's concert an annual event on their Holiday Concert Series. Many thanks to Jeff and Nancy Linton for chairing this exceptional event, as well as the committee, Melanie Kirkpatrick David, Candy Flaherty, Barbara Patch, Michelle Piekos, Susie Horn, and Gordon Ross and Brian Jones are parking attendants. The concert was dedicated to Nancy Gibson, in thanksgiving for her graciousness, wisdom, and long years of service to St. John's.

Warmly,
Susie Horn
Vestry Member

AL-ANON & AA REPORTS

While St. John's Al-Anon and AA groups did not submit a report for this annual meeting the work of both groups continues at St. John's and via Zoom. It is vitally important that we continue to support this work. For more information about meetings please contact aa.org or St. John's Parish Office.