

St. John's Episcopal Church
Ross, California
2017 Annual Report



Parish Meeting
January 28, 2018

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ROSS

Parish Meeting
January 28, 2018

AGENDA

| | |
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| Welcome, Opening Prayer & Call to Order | Chris Rankin-Williams |
| Senior Warden's Report | Susan Aley |
| Rector's Report | Chris Rankin-Williams |
| Election of New Vestry Class | |
| Election of Delegates | |
| Presentation of 2017 Budget & Financials | Nigel Heath |
| Q & A with Rector & Vestry | |
| Blessing | |
| Adjourn | |

VESTRY

The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams, President
Susan Aley ('18), Sr. Warden
LaRae Quy ('18), Jr. Warden
Morgan Darden ('18)
Katie Jarman ('18)
Rosemary Morgan ('19)
Bob Goldsmith ('19)
Charles Schaefer ('19)
Shelley Wilson ('19)
Mary Beth Baker ('20)
Maya Farhoud ('20)
Charlie Hoeveler ('20)
Doug Van Gessel ('20)

Note: Class of 2018 concludes vestry service at this annual meeting.

VESTRY CANDIDATES (Class of 2021)

Robb Baer
Hadley Dettmer
June Sullivan
Amy Taylor

DELEGATES TO MARIN DEANERY & DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Mary Jane Chetelat
Connie Granger
Christopher Lewis
Eleanor Prugh, Chair
Matjorie Sun

St. John's may have seven delegates and seven alternates. Additional nominees will be allowed from the floor. The Vestry may elect delegates to fill vacancies.

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT: Susan Aley, Senior Warden

This year the vestry made a deliberate decision to focus on two priorities: the capital campaign and deepening members' engagement.

One of our first tasks of the year was to define the scope and feasibility of the capital campaign. We looked at the physical needs of our church but also included a bold request to renovate the altar and choir area (chancel) of the church. Our vision was to enhance the current worship services as well as to make the space more flexible for use by smaller groups and future generations. The vestry chose to run a collaborative campaign with the Diocese of California as this presented an opportunity to address the physical projects of the church campus while also investing in the mission and work of the Episcopal church throughout the Bay Area.

The four campaign co-chairs -- Tim Pidgeon, June Sullivan, Katie Jarman and Maria Pitcairn -- along with our Director of Stewardship, Emily McFarland, led an extremely successful campaign. Starting in the spring, they met weekly to develop a strategy, draft all the materials and visit members of the congregation. The campaign has been a great success -- not only exceeding the \$2.8 million goal set by the vestry but also in terms of participation. Most capital campaigns draw from 20% of the congregation, however almost half of St. John's members have made a gift or pledge to "Revitalize St. John's for the 21st Century."

The vestry's second priority this year was an initiative continued from prior years: deepening members' engagement. LaRae Quy spearheaded much of these efforts including an "engage committee" who asked parishioners for feedback on programming as well as what they wanted to see at St. John's. Fellowship Circles sought to bring together parishioners outside of church as did a few parents' events. In addition to the parish retreat in September, we hosted a couple mini-retreats on Saturdays. And, the St. John's tennis tournament is being resurrected (although it was rescheduled for April due to the poor air quality at the time). These efforts to build community and strengthen members' engagement with the church will continue next year as well.

As I conclude my service on the vestry and assess the state of the church, I am extremely optimistic about the future of St. John's. We have plans in place and capital raised to improve the physical structures of St. John's. However it is the people of St. John's that I believe are our greatest asset. It starts with our staff, each of whom are incredibly talented and work together as a team to further our mission. It also includes our strong dedicated community of volunteers who are integral to the services, programming and ministries of this church. We are truly blessed with all the people who make St. John's the incredible church that it is.

Three years ago, when I agreed to serve on the vestry, many people asked what I was thinking or why I would take on such a position when I had young children (who were ages 2 and 5 at the time). It was fair to question my judgment but now I can unequivocally say it was a fantastic decision. Increasing my involvement at St. John's on the vestry and other committees has been personally and spiritually rewarding. It is hard to describe why adding an additional commitment to a busy schedule or how coming together with fellow parishioners to accomplish a goal for the church has ended up benefitting me more than what I put in. But it has. For anyone who is considering whether to get more involved at St. John's, I highly encourage you to take that step.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this congregation. I look forward to seeing you around St. John's.

RECTOR'S REPORT 2017: The Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." ~Meister Eckhart

Gratitude is at the heart of the Christian life, and saying thank you to God is at the heart of gratitude. For my rector's report this year I would like to focus on saying thank you. First and foremost, thank you to God for the work God has given us to do as a house of prayer for all people at St. John's, and for the blessing of sharing in ministry with you as your rector.

Thank you to the people of St. John's for embracing the vision to restore our bell tower and renovate our chancel as we revitalize St. John's for the 21st century. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the capital campaign. Seeing people invest in and support their church in this way is inspiring!

Thank you to our capital campaign co-chairs: Tim Pidgeon, Maria Pitcairn, June Sullivan and Katie Jarman. Thank you to our campaign volunteers: Mary Jane Chetelat, Maya Farhoud, Skip Fotch, Brian Wittenkeller, Susan Aley, Charles Hoeveler, John Gulick, LaRae Quy, Liz Peer, Charles Schaefer, Barbara Biancalana, and Ginger Strickland. Thank you to our consultants Christian Mathis and Jason Vuong Do who guided us to success. Thank you to Emily McFarland, our Director of Stewardship. We would not have reached our goal without Emily's incredible work on the campaign.

Thank you to the vestry. It is a blessing to work closely with this group of dedicated parishioners who do so much, often behind the scenes, to keep St. John's vital and focused on our mission while being faithful vision-focused stewards of our resources.

Thank you to our Senior Warden, Susan Aley, and Junior Warden, LaRae Quy, who have been faithful and wise advisors and diligent leaders driven by a love for God and this church.

Thank you to Jane Heath who has lead our Women's Group for many years and is now passing on that role. Thank you to Martin Coyne who has stepped off Buildings and Grounds after many years of being a caring steward of our facilities with an eye towards long-term sustainability. Thank you to David DeRuff and Pablo Bizjack who have completed their three-year terms on our Investment Committee.

Thank you to the staff of St. John's, who help enable and empower our ministry as a church. We are blessed with a gifted, creative and hard-working staff. It is a privilege and joy to work David, Diana, Emily, Ginger, Tom, Sandra, Wilbur, and Virginia.

Thank you to our volunteer clergy who work with and support Ginger, me and the entire congregation in our life of worship and prayer. Thank you, Bill, Chuck, Happy, Heather, Jan and Skip.

I want to offer a word of gratitude for the lives of St. John's members who died in 2017 (with sincere apologies for anyone missing): Thomas Hughes, Gerry Sample, Molly Bricca, Donna Hazlett, Roy Wonder, Bob Lea, Jane Voorhees, Maxine Everest, Janet See, and Don McCaw. These people helped St. John's be the spiritual community we call home. May those who have gone before us inspire us to sustain this church for those yet to come. We inherit their legacy as a responsibility to the future.

The church is first and foremost the people, so thank you to all of you, the members of St. John's. This is your church, and it is your commitment to the work of God in this place that gives us vitality. I'm especially thankful for the ways this church inspires us to service and living our faith beyond the walls of the church.

2018: A focus of 2018 will be the construction projects related to our capital campaign. My own schedule has shifted from regular meetings on the capital campaign to regular meetings about the bell tower and chancel with our owners representative, architects and contractors.

In May I will be taking a month of sabbatical to serve as the prayer resident at the Bishop's Ranch. This will be a "working sabbatical" as I will continue to work on items related to the capital campaign projects. Sunday, May 20, the day of Pentecost, will mark my 15th anniversary as Rector at St. John's. I look forward to being in church that day to celebrate our shared ministry.

As I was writing an announcement about the annual meeting autocorrect somehow changed "stakeholder" into "stoke-holder." Perhaps it was divine intervention. At my very first annual meeting at St. John's, before I even

officially started as rector, I said about the taking the position of rector here that I was “the most stoked priest in the Episcopal Church.” I’m still stoked to be at St. John’s. I love that term “stoke-holder” and have decided it is my vision for us in 2018. May we be holders of stoke (enthusiastic excitement) about Jesus, our church and serving God’s people in the world. One of my favorite quotes is, “tradition is the preservation of fire, not the worship of ashes.” This especially applies the renovation of our worship space. May we stoke the fires as we write the next chapter in the history of St. John’s.

God’s Peace,
Rev. Chris Rankin-Williams
Rector

ASSOCIATE PRIEST’S REPORT: The Rev. Ginger Strickland

When people ask me what I love about St. John’s, I always say the same thing: the people of St. John’s get something central about the Christian life. They understand that the ministry of the church – God’s work of love in the world – is their work, and that the church is the place that equips them for it. I feel blessed every day to be a part of that work of equipping, and nothing brings me greater joy than seeing and hearing about how God is transforming the world through you. A quick summary below of some of what I’ve been up to this year, and my hopes for the year to come.

Outreach (see Outreach Report)

This is the year that our hands-on work in the community took off in a new way – I am moved by the number of people who are stepping forward to serve in the community through St. John’s. In the year to come, I look forward to finding ways that we can make our service more meaningful and effective for those who participate and those with whom we serve.

Care Committee (See Care Committee Report)

I am so proud and thankful for the work of the Care Committee, a team of trained lay caregivers and Eucharistic Visitors who visit those who are sick and shut in and walk alongside those who are struggling. They work hard and inspire me with their dedication and care for this parish.

In the year ahead, we hope to continue this work. I hope also that we can add new members and think creatively together about ways to respond for requests for visits and spiritual accompaniment from those who are not a part of our St. John’s community, like the nursing home that we visit at Christmas.

Faith Formation

In response to a generous gift, we have been invited to rethink and expand our Faith Formation for adults at St. John’s this year.

Alongside the Engagement Group, we have tried out new topics and opportunities at the Parish Retreat and through a new program of Saturday mini-retreats that offer short discussion groups on a range of topics alongside a program for children.

We look forward to a new retreat for adults that will be focused on contemplation, as well as continuing and expanding our mini retreats, introductions to St. John’s for newcomers, and baptismal preparation for all ages.

I’m thrilled to see two new small groups come into being this year: our Dad’s group, with the support of the Men’s group, has begun to meet monthly to offer a time for fellowship and mutual support for dads. Under the leadership of Anne Coyne, we formed a new group, Women of Wisdom, that offers monthly spiritual and intellectual discussion for women. This group consistently attracts newcomers, several of whom have joined the church!

The Second Thursday group continues to meet for conversation after our second Thursday of the month eucharist. The Women's Group is relaunching next month, as does our "Continuing the Conversation" group, which has explored (with great depth and reflectiveness) ways to move forward in the midst of political division.

9am Service

As a non-singer, one of the great joys of my job continues to be working with a group of excellent singers from the 9am and Dinner Church communities to learn how to lead congregational singing. I am so thankful for the spiritual community within the group that has come out of this effort, and encouraged by the way that this new group of leaders has enlivened 9am worship.

Yoga

In 2016, St. John's continued to offer a yoga class on Monday evenings at 6pm. Modeled on the "Yoga on the Labyrinth" program at Grace Cathedral, we have live music every week, and the class is spiritually-focused and includes meditation with occasional singing and labyrinth walks.

After a slow start, attendance has begun to grow, but we have plans on growing the reach of this program in 2018.

Youth and Children, Seminarian

After a full year of work with Tom and Sandra, I am so grateful to the Search Team that worked with the parish to articulate a vision for youth and children's ministry and to prayerfully select them. We are so thankful for their work and delighted to see these ministries blossom under their care. I am also thankful for the chance to work with our Seminarian, John Sullivan and thankful for his passion for the Gospel.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Tom Fregoso, Youth Minister

As of 1/21/18 the youth program has had 88 participants (7/2/17-1/21/18) across our Junior High and Senior High (54 JH, 34 SH). This past Summer, I tried something new and we had a remarkable program of 12 adults guest speakers who came in to talk to us about their faith, involvement with St. John's, and about what their interests are. It was great for helping us to build bridges with the rest of the SJ community.

Now what is youth ministry at St. John's? Our conventional Sunday starts with church school @ 10 a.m. (we talk about the season of the church, the readings for the day, and issues that are topical, and we close in prayer), coffee hour (youth run our espresso bar), afternoon youth group (we head out to movies, food trucks, farmers markets, mini golf, hikes, & more), evening youth group for junior high (active program, check-ins, & evening prayer), shared dinner, and a senior high youth group (games, discussions on social media, peer pressure, drugs, alcohol, mental health, suicide, and we end with a closing prayer session).

Social outreach: On second Sundays of the month (@ 7AM), we've been going to Martin De Porres in San Francisco to volunteer at a fantastic soup kitchen where we make the meals from scratch and serve upwards of 125 homeless.

Faith formation: As of this past Fall, I've also started a year long confirmation program with 8 youth and their 8 adult mentors.

Moments of Fun!!! – kickoff day snow cone booth, Halloween parish breakfast, touring a local haunted house, movie nights, seeing local plays, a local swim party, and visiting the House of Air.

Connecting with our greater Marin community: a group of youth visited the fire damage in Santa Rosa and then came back to talk to the youth group about what they had seen.

Getting to know the youth: as the youth are involved in all sorts of arts and sports, I've been heading out into the community to observe plays, dance recitals, soccer, and basketball games. This past Summer, I also invited myself

over to several parishioner's houses to help get to know youth in their family settings. I'm enormously grateful for the meals and conversations.

BIG THANK YOUs: to Jon Meyers for being a stalwart teacher who is reliably there on Sundays, who leads interesting programs, and loves the youth in all their craziness. To Rev. Ginger and Jeff Taylor for their faithful, good humored, and patient help with youth group in the evenings. To Marjorie Sun for helping to guide us in cooking a wonderful, Halloween breakfast. To all 12 Summer guest speakers and to all 8 adults mentors who are working with the youth in our confirmation class. To Bonnie Seto, Maya Farhoud, and Heather Carlberg for providing me with news and health resources for our youth. To all the parents that have driven for a youth event and to all the parents that have provided food for a youth event -- many, many thanks! To Melinda Booth for providing name tags for the youth working the espresso cart. Lastly, to all of you at St. John's that have talked to a youth/their families and welcomed them here.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Sandra Pathik, Director of Children's Ministry

"One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.' And he placed his hands on their heads and blessed them before he left." (Matthew 19:13-15 NLT)

In St. John's we welcome everyone including the little ones. Our children are an integral part of our faith community. With our children, our church is filled with joyful noise and as a Body of Christ we are more fully alive.

St. John's Children Ministry provides a place for Christian formation and spiritual nurture. In Sunday School our children encounter Jesus through stories and lessons from the Bible and real experiences of people of faith. In Nursery Care, our youngest ones are exposed to worship through Bible stories, songs and prayer.

In St. John's we have activities that involve children throughout the year. These are the major events: during summer, our combined Sunday School classes give our children an opportunity to interact and develop friendships across grade levels and instill responsibility and care for one another; the Summer Adventure Camp every 1st week of August offers fun and exciting activities for our children as they learn biblical principles and apply them in real-life situations; the Parish Weekend Retreat in September allows our children to experience a better sense of community and intergenerational fellowship outside the church setting; and during Advent, our children get to participate in the retelling of the Birth of Jesus in the Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

I am thankful to God to report that in the year 2017, we see an encouraging increase of participation in all of our Children Ministry activities. We also have new parent volunteers who have signed up to help.

Summer Sunday School
Summer Adventure Camp
Sunday School & Nursery Care
Parish Weekend Retreat
Christmas Pageant

We are able to serve our children because of the dedication of our amazing volunteers. Their love for God and our children have motivated them to tirelessly devote their efforts, sacrifice their time, and offer their talents for this ministry. Volunteers, know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain! (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Parents, I commend you for being intentional with your children's spiritual lives. (Proverbs 22:6) And thank you for trusting us with your children. It is a great privilege and honor to be part of their spiritual journey. To the vestry and congregation, thank you for your support, encouragement, and prayers. Together let us endeavor to provide a safe

and conducive environment for the care and nurture of our children's faith. As a saying goes, "*it takes a whole church to nurture the faith of a child.*"

To Rev. Chris, Rev. Ginger and the staff, it is a joy serving with you. I look forward to what God is going to do in and through our lives for the rest of the year.

Soli Deo Gloria!

STEWARDSHIP: Emily McFarland, Director of Stewardship

As the Director of Stewardship it is my hope that financially supporting the St. John's is meaningful and rewarding to parishioners. That giving to the church springs from gratitude rather than duty, and is in itself is a spiritual act where the giver receives more than is given.

These are lofty goals but nevertheless the church and I will continue to strive for them. This partly requires strong communications to parishioners clearly outlining how your donations are used. Hopefully the information in this annual report gives a clear picture of how much is envisioned and accomplished.

We also need to communicate the depth of our appreciation and gratitude. We try to do this in a number of ways but really can't say it enough. We are very fortunate to have over 300 households contributing to the annual fund and we must not take any of these gifts for granted.

The combined efforts of the capital campaign and the 2017 and 2018 annual funds raised well over \$4 million. Each individual and household that gave to these efforts has expressed their formal ties to this community, this faith and these sacred grounds. It will be an exciting year to see the programs, services and changes made real by this outpouring of generosity.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: LaRae Quy, Chair

Stewardship at St. John's in 2017 has reflected the full spectrum of the true definition of Stewardship—time, talent, and treasure.

Treasure is often the most noticeable aspect of Stewardship, especially in 2017 since we were involved in raising money for our Capital Campaign. What parishioners may not realize is that while many people showed incredible generosity in their donations, an equally large number of people were behind the scene. They utilized their time and talent to make phone calls, personal visits, and follow-up. Some people were simply more gifted in their ability to have compelling conversations about the Capital Campaign while others spent several hours in making lists, adding contact information, and double checking information.

The bottom line is this: we need all three—time, talent, and treasure—to function as a community at St. John's. No one's contribution is too small because we all respond to the same still, small voice of the Lord.

In case you've never turned over the red Offering Card found in your bulletin each week and read the other side, here is what you will find Stewardship at St. John's to mean:

Understanding that self-worth is not related to net-worth.

Believing that self-worth is derived from being a child of God.

Giving freely of what we have without expecting anything in return.

Thanking God for all that we've been given.

Showing care for those who are in need.

Trusting that God will provide for us in our times of need and distress.

Living simply and minimizing our relationship to material goods.

Praising God for our blessings and praying to God for grace and forgiveness.

MUSIC: Dr. David Montgomery, Director of Music

With pleasure I accepted the job of Music Director for St. John's Ross officially on April 1, 2017 (actual work began in the last week of March). I encountered a choir with a long and cohesive commitment to good music and friendship, led by Interim Director Cheryl Ziedrich. I am grateful to Cheryl, who has continued as a strong singer in the alto section and a substitute director and organist when needed. We were able to present the Christmas part of Antonio Vivaldi's Gloria (a major musical work for choir and instrumentalists) for the 8pm Christmas Eve service.

One of the greatest joys of my year has been to reorganize the "Hildegard Choristers" (four kids, so far, and all of them gifted music readers), who sang the gradual anthem several times during their first "semester", appeared in the Christmas pageant, and helped lead the 5pm Christmas Eve service. Fiscally, for 2017 we were able to add a third section leader out of our needed four, remaining within ca. \$1,000 of the year's budget (and counterbalanced by several gifts). I truly enjoy my colleagues and the administration of St. John's, and my goal is to play enough table tennis on off-days to remain fit enough to serve for a good long time!

Happy new year and God's peace!

ANNUAL FUND REPORT: Susan Aley, Senior Warden

This year the annual fund campaign and the public phase of the capital campaign were run simultaneously. It was important to be transparent with the congregation about the total financial needs of St. John's rather than approach people with one request for resources and then surprise them with a second request later in the year.

Our goal for the 2018 annual fund is \$775,000 which is similar to that raised for 2017. As of mid-January, we have commitments totaling \$465,000 or 60% of our goal from half of the households who made a commitment toward the 2017 operating budget. Now that the capital campaign has concluded, our fundraising priority in the first quarter of 2018 is to reach out to the remaining households and secure commitments for the 2018 annual fund. We are hopeful that most, if not all, members will renew their support at the same level they did last year.

OUTREACH REPORT: The Rev. Ginger Strickland, Associate Priest

St. John's Outreach Mission: Following Jesus, we seek to make an impact on our community and be transformed ourselves as we respond collaboratively to the needs of our neighbors.

In other words, all St. John's outreach projects should:

- Have an articulable connection to the mission and ministry of Jesus
- Make meaningful change in our community
- Offer potential for building authentic relationship, while respecting the vulnerability and privacy of those in difficult situations.
- be genuinely collaborative and responsive to the needs of the community
- Represent an effort to work "with" rather than "for" those in poverty.
- Offer a range of ways to engage parishioners with varying schedules and levels of commitment
- Offer the possibility of a large-scale parish-uniting project.

Current projects and Leadership

REST: Preparing and serving meals and Marin's rotating emergency shelter. Keao Caindec, chair. Elizabeth Pontius, Paul Clark, Chuck Finnie, and Lisa Williams, leadership team.

St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen: Serving meals to the hungry and homeless twice per month. Becky Hlebasko, chair.

St. Vincent de Paul Brown Bag Meals: Preparing brown bag meals at coffee hour. Kayla and Tyler Acosta and Scott Metzger, leaders.

Easter Baskets: Toiletries and home goods for low-income seniors and homeless families. Suzan Sweet and Connie Granger, chairs

Giving Tree: Christmas gifts and party for seniors in low-income nursing homes and for homeless families. Harry Harelik and Kerry Hoeveler, chairs.

Gilead House: Every week, St. John's volunteers offer enrichment and care to children in transitional housing while their moms are in classes. Beginning 2018, St. John's will offer this program for a second evening each week and lead a Bible study for the mothers in residence.

Marin Mutual Housing: Organization founded by St. John's and other local Episcopal churches to create an affordable mutual housing community in Marin. Rev. Chris, Chuck Finnie, Anna Frost, leaders.

Highlights:

1. Growing participation in hands-on service.

-We estimate that there are over 250 parishioners, including children and youth, volunteering in the community through St. John's outreach programs - not counting those who join in making brown bag meals at coffee hour or take a tag from our Giving Tree.

2. Changes in REST ahead.

-The Marin Organizing Committee and the County of Marin, which partner to run REST, are moving to a different model for providing housing. This will be the last year of REST as we know it, and we are praying and working to make sure that what follows it serves the men and women we have come to know and love through this program. Please speak to Rev. Ginger to learn more.

3. Formation of Mutual Housing Marin, an exciting new project for St. John's. Please speak to Rev. Chris to learn more.

CARE COMMITTEE REPORT: The Rev. Ginger Strickland, Associate Priest

The purpose of the Care Committee is to support and expand the culture of loving and responsible care for one another at St. John's by:

- praying for one another and for parish members in need of care
- talking through issues and concerns
- learning about new resources and strategies for caregiving
- coordinating how best to care for people in the parish.

Members: Melinda Ching, Martin Coyne, Else Innes, Margaret Harter, Susan Ivancic, Anne Doyle, Mary Jane Chetelat, Diane Graves, Cynthia Captain, Betsy Rosen, Brian Wittenkeller, Bill Kaufman.

The Care Committee is made up of trained lay caregivers who offer a caring, confidential helping hand to those going through a difficult time. They visit parishioners who are sick or shut-in and listen to those going through difficult times from divorce to grief to family problems. St. John's Eucharistic Visitors, who bring communion to those who cannot attend church, are also a part of the care committee. The work of the Care Committee is often unseen, but their work is an important sign of God's love and care. They serve as models of the ministry of care for one another to which all of us are called. The Care Committee meets monthly to coordinate our care for others, support one another in ministry, learn new skills, and communicate about community resources. In 2017, the members of the Care Committee regularly visited at least 25 people. In 2018, we hope to work on making sure parishioners know that the members of the Care Committee are available. We also hope to add new members. We are getting more and more requests from nursing homes and rehabilitation centers for visits for people not affiliated with St. John's. We'd love to be able to meet more of these needs. Membership on the Care Committee is by appointment of the Rector, but please speak to Rev. Ginger if you think you might be interested in this ministry.

ALTAR GUILD: Leslie Limpert, Director

The purpose of the Altar Guild is to serve and assist the Clergy. The Liturgy begins and ends with the service of the Altar Guild in preparation for the service and ending with caring for the vessels, linens and sanctuary after the service. The Altar Guild prepares the Altars and Sanctuary for all worship services and assists for special events such as baptisms, weddings, funerals and memorials. Lent and Advent are by far our busiest and most challenging times, yet they are some of the most rewarding as well.

Membership in Altar Guild is at the invitation of the Rector. It is a special service of dedication, devotion and worship. It is composed of 18 members (including the Wedding Coordinator and Funeral Coordinator) divided into four teams. Altar Guild members prepare for and clean up after all services performed at St. John's. Members launder, care for and replenish the Altar linens, polish and maintain all silver and brass and monitor and order supplies as necessary. They are also responsible for cleaning and repairing clergy vestments. All flowers are arranged by Altar Guild members to enhance the beauty of our wonderful Sanctuary.

The income required to operate the Altar Guild is derived solely from donations of parishioners wishing to dedicate flowers to family, friends or to the Glory of God. The income from these donations remains basically flat as expenses offset a minor increase.

Besides purchasing the weekly flowers, these donations are the only funds available to purchase and maintain clerical vestments, vessels and appurtenances of the Altar and Sanctuary. This includes wine, linens and all supplies needed for Eucharist. The Altar Guild is always in need of additional funds. Please consider a memorial or thanksgiving gift in memory/honor of a loved one or special occasion. We are very grateful for the generous donations from members of our parish which makes it possible to maintain the beauty of our Altars and Church. We are most appreciative of your continued support!

The Altar Guild prepares and cleans up after three Sunday services as well as weddings and funerals. Each Sunday after the 10am service, the Altar flowers are distributed by the Flower Angels to parishioners selected by the rector. There are five services at both Christmas and Holy Week/Easter. Our members look forward to the preparation for these services and this special ministry.

I have been on the Altar Guild for 18 years and humbly accepted the position of Directress in 2017. I wish to thank my predecessor, Nancy Saunders for being an excellent mentor and friend during her ten year tenure as Directress. Nancy continues to serve as one of our members. My job is made easy and most enjoyable by this dedicated and hard-working group of women and I thank them for their continued time and support!

ALTAR GUILD TREASURER'S REPORT: Patty Griffith, Treasurer

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|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Cash on hand January 1, 2017 | \$10,900.42 |
| Receipts 2017 | \$9,245.00 |
| Disbursements 2017 | \$9,417.09 |
| Cash on hand December 31, 2017 | \$10,728.33 |

HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY: The Rev. Jan West, Leader

The St. John's Healing Prayer Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:15PM in the Fireside Room. Our focus is Contemplative Prayer and our time consists of a short meditation, followed by an all-inclusive Prayers of the People, prayers for each individual on the STJ Prayer List, and a brief check-in. With our desire to maintain Sacred Listening, we gather in silence and try to maintain it throughout our experience together. We also keep those on the Prayer List in our own daily prayers. Our meetings usually last for about one hour. In addition, several of the participants serve with a member of the Clergy in the Chapel for Healing Prayers and Laying on of Hands during the Eucharist at the 10 o'clock Service on Sundays. All are welcome. For information, please call Rev. Jan at 415-492-2474.

WOMEN'S GROUP: Jane Heath, Leader

The Women's Group currently has almost 100 registered members. All gatherings continued to be open to any ladies who consider St John's their community. We generally met once a month, taking the usual break over the summer. Typically between six and twelve members met to share friendship and spiritual reflection at each gathering. No two events had the same participants and almost always a new face joined the group. Our discussions took place over a variety of activities, including morning coffee, afternoon, tea, a pot luck supper, and a pizza and beer night, as well as joining in and helping with a couple of parish-wide projects. Among numerous other topics we

considered; the opportunities of new beginnings, dreams we had yet to fulfill, personal Lenten and Advent practices, the practicalities of our prayer practices, and the importance of family traditions.

Gatherings continued to be publicized by a group email to members who had specifically asked to be on the list and to all at St John's via notices in the parish weekly E-Connect and church bulletins. I hosted or organized all of our group gatherings this year, usually either at St John's or my home.

The spiritual sharing and supportive friendship that is shared when sisters in Christ gather has a unique and special value. And so when asked I was delighted to create a women's group at St John's. I have enjoyed guiding the group in various forms over the past decade. The friendships these gatherings have forged and the spiritual discoveries we have made along the way are treasured. However, now the time has come when I need to step back in order hand over the opportunity to lead the women's group to someone else. At this point I do not know whom that will be, nor if the gatherings will be in the same format, but with such a vibrant and talented group of women at St John's, I know that someone will, and that the special fellowship of the women of St Johns will continue.

MEN'S GROUP: Paul Clark & Keith Granger, Leaders

Mission: Men of St. John's regularly congregate in a safe and nurturing environment for spiritual fellowship and community building under the auspices of the St. John's Men's Group. The Men's Group offers the men of the Parish a variety of ways to engage and participate according to their interests and schedules. The traditional Saturday morning breakfast meetings with Eucharist are held monthly at church, usually with a guest speaker or other program. We procure and cook for the Spring and Fall Parish BBQs and prepare and serve REST (Rotating Emergency Shelter Team) meals to homeless men during winter. The Men's Group continues to support and promote the cycling events at St. John's.

2017 Highlights: At our well attended Annual Retreat at St. Dorothy's Rest in the redwoods, the Men of St. John's explored the challenging theme "Love Thy Neighbor" in meditations/discussions led by members while still finding time to prepare and enjoy several sumptuous meals together. We welcomed the formation of a new Dads' Group at St. John's under the leadership of Doug Aley; they meet in the evenings and focus on the needs and interests of men raising younger children. More than 30 men of varied ages and interests enjoyed our August "Beer, Braats and Biscuits fellowship evening". A similar event is being planned for 2018. Paul Clark & Keith Granger continue joint leadership of the Men's Group and Chris Lewis remains the Treasurer. We'll continue to build on the best traditions of the Men's fellowship at St. John's by adding new events of interest to the parish. Financial: The account balance at the Union Bank, Kentfield Branch on January 1st 2018, was \$95.50. Most events are self-financing with contributions made by members.

DINNER CHURCH: Marjorie Sun, Head Chef

There will be a triple celebration on February 13, 2018. It's the annual Mardi Gras party, the *fifth* anniversary of Dinner Church, and we'll toast the success of St. John's major capital campaign!

A bit of history about Dinner Church. The program began as an experiment, founded by the Rev. Steve Hassett and myself. The original aim was to build community one meal at a time, to foster serious spiritual discussion at a common table.

It still is. Morgan Darden and I continue to lead the program. It's open to all. Here's a snapshot of the evening: a handful of rotating volunteers cook furiously for an hour to produce a delicious four-course dinner (think Indonesian chicken curry, Moroccan meatballs, or pasta with roasted tomatoes and fresh basil....) so the wider community can break bread together. We sit in small groups to eat, wrestle with spiritual questions--usually composed by Morgan--and share our stories of love, joy, and struggles on our faith journeys.

The challenge is to keep the program fresh, vital and intergenerational. Interest in Dinner Church has waxed and waned this past year for the first time. As a result, we changed a couple of things. Instead of meeting every week, we

now gather twice a month. We also changed the discussion format at the beginning of the year, then switched it again mid-year. We're tinkering to get the right chemistry to focus the discussion and dive deep spiritually.

Attendance bumped up to 30 this month, which is encouraging. As long as enough folks support the effort, Dinner Church is on. We aim, as always, to build community in the kitchen and at the table. Come cook, eat, and question with us. We'd love to get to know you.

DIOCESAN CONVENTION & MARIN DEANERY CONVENTION: Eleanor Prugh, Chair

The representatives elected January 2017 served to the best of their ability, attending Deanery meetings and Diocesan Convention and giving attention to the matters at hand. It has been said many times that there is room for people new to this service to step forward and participate. Please consider doing so.

Connie Granger serves the Marin Deanery as Treasurer. Susan Ivancic headed the St. John's delegation this year. There are four deanery meetings each year. One of the 2017 meetings was held at St. John's.

Our clergy, Chris and Ginger, attended Diocesan Convention in October; delegates Mary Jane Chetelat, Connie Granger, Susan Ivancic, Eleanor Prugh, and Tara Sotter were present as well. Taking part in the governance of our church can be very rewarding. And, it is important work. This year we were rewarded by the presence and strong preaching of the Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris, the first woman to be named a bishop (no retired) in the Episcopal Church. She is amazing!

Any present or former representative will be glad to talk one on one to explore your interest. We are praying that St. John's will maintain a strong delegation, one that reflects the wide range of people, occupations, interests, and priorities in our parish/congregation.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INVESTMENTS: Robb Baer, Chair

The purpose of this Committee, which was created in August 2002, is to administer and oversee the management of the investment assets of St. John's. The committee members during 2017 were: David DeRuff (Chair), Robb Baer (Communications/Administration/Finance), Pablo Bizjack (Secretary), Katie Jarman (Vestry Rep), Doug Aley and Andrew Biggs. Doug and Andrew joined the committee in the spring of 2017. Chris Rankin-Williams attends regular meetings, as does Nigel Heath as Treasurer. Jennifer Seidler attends as representative of Commonfund, the investment manager.

The Standing Committee on Investments oversees three investment accounts on behalf of St. John's: the unrestricted general endowment, the capital reserve fund, and the housing sinking fund. Additionally, the vestry as appointed the Investment Committee to oversee the Haynes Endowment Fund beginning in 2017. The Memorial Garden Fund was established at Commonfund with a \$50,000 contribution from the Haynes Family Fund, formerly the Haynes Fund. In addition, The Haynes Family Fund, formerly the Haynes Fund was transferred from Charles Schwab to Commonfund per recommendation of the 8/21/2017 Investment Committee meeting with proceeds of \$250,000 per instructions from the Haynes Family.

The committee holds open, quarterly meetings. An agenda and minutes are available for each meeting, and all parishioners are invited to attend.

Commonfund, a large and well-known money manager of endowment and foundation assets, manages all of the investment assets overseen by the committee. The investment manager selection is evaluated annually, in addition to a review of the investment policy for the general endowment and review of the investment portfolio asset allocation.

The purpose of the St. John's endowment is perpetually to enhance the fabric, vitality and impact of St. John's Episcopal Church. Each year the Treasurer may transfer up to four percent of the endowment's value to the church's operating fund. The portfolio balance on 1/1/17 was \$2,802,346.77 and the balance ending 12/31/17 was

\$3,594,651.83 representing a net increase of \$792,305.06. The change in valuation resulted from investment gains of \$454,395.84 plus reinvested income of \$49,635.33, less investment manager fees of \$11,726.11. For calendar year 2017, the endowment returned 28.27%. For comparison the 2017 return on the S&P 500 was 21.83% and the Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index was 3.54%. The approved draw from the endowment, (4% of the previous 12 quarter balances) was \$87,134. The treasurer may take up to that amount, as needed, for the operating budget. Any unused draw either remains in the endowment, is transferred to the house sinking fund and/or transferred to the operating reserves account at the discretion of the vestry.

The capital reserve fund balance on 1/1/17 was \$117,136.61 and the balance ending 12/31/17 was \$137,367.08, representing a net increase of \$20,230.47. The change in valuation resulted from investment gains of \$18,704.01, plus reinvested income of \$2,005.77, less investment manager fees of \$479.31. This fund was established to provide for maintenance of the church's capital assets.

The housing sinking fund balance on 1/1/17 was \$484,703.22 and the balance ending 12/31/17 was \$611,130.37, representing a net increase of \$126,427.15. The change in valuation resulted from investment gains of \$79,585.74, plus reinvested income of \$8,911.30, less investment manager fees of \$2,069.89.

The Standing Committee on Investments had no expenses chargeable to St. John's in 2017.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chuck Eaton, Chair

Mission: The Finance Committee assists the Vestry and Rector by providing financial oversight of the assets and the financial reporting and internal controls of the Church and establishes standards for receiving, paying, allocating and accounting for the Church's funds.

Members: Susan Aley, Ellen Clark, Chuck Eaton, Robert Goldsmith. Treasurer Nigel Heath and Rector Chris Rankin-Williams also attend Committee meetings.

2017 Highlights: A pretty quiet year for the Finance Committee. We discussed St. John's insurance coverage, deductibles and premiums, including the interaction of St. John's policy and the Diocesan blanket policy. Recommended an increase in deductible to reduce the property casualty premium. On-going oversight of the accounting consultant hired in 2016, the website financial disclosure policy, the interaction of the capital campaign and the asset replacement plan, and the rectory housing agreement.

In December, the Diocesan insurance policy's providing coverage of replacement cost in casualty events was dropped by the Diocese, so the Committee expects there will need to be changes to St. John's insurance coverage as a result.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE: Doug Van Gessel, Chair

The Buildings and Grounds Committee's work this year divides into two categories: 1) attending to general maintenance and repair needs of the church campus, and 2) supporting the design and building components of the church's capital campaign.

The most notable general maintenance and repair activities this year involved: 1) reviewing plans for, and inspecting, the new children's play area on the east side of the church asked for by the Ross Recreation day care program, and 2) hiring contractors for, and supervising, the cutting down of a number of trees on the church grounds per the requirements of the Town of Ross.

Most of the committee's activities this year have been in support of the capital campaign's projects for: 1) rebuilding the church bell tower, 2) redesigning and overseeing the rebuilding of the chancel portion of the church, 3) fixing problems with the windows in the office wing and supporting areas, and 4) the repair and cleaning of the Resurrection Window.

The committee has hired Mark Vogt as a project manager for some of those projects. Mark is an extremely experienced project manager who has kindly agreed to work with us on very reasonable terms. We are excited to have his assistance and look forward to working with him. Member of the committee, working with Mark, are currently meeting with the Town of Ross to preview the projects and determine the Town's needs for building or other permits, interviewing architects and contractors or other vendors for various aspects of the project, soliciting bids for various aspects of the projects and reviewing received bids for potential cost savings, "value engineering" and ways to create economies of scale in the way we perform the projects. We anticipate that this process will continue throughout the first portion of 2018.

While all of the members of the committee have contributed significantly this year, the committee would particularly like to thank Scott Kuehne, who has contributed far beyond what seems reasonable to expect of him, and Virginia Kosydar, for her steady, dependable dedication to all aspects of the project. The committee would like to give extra thanks to Martin Coyne, not only for his assistance this year, but especially for his invaluable contributions to the committee, both as a vestry member and as a committee member, over many years now. Martin has decided to leave the committee for now. We will miss him greatly.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM): Bill Kaufman, Facilitator

Education for Ministry (EfM) which, despite its name, is a program to help laypersons in their lives, has been active at St. John's for long time, five years for me and many more before that under Bruce Cozzi. This program, developed by the School of Theology at Sewanee, emphasizes the Hebrew Bible in it's first year, the New Testament in the second, church history for the third, and Theology for its fourth. Our group of six participants meets every Monday night during the Academic year. Six is the minimum and twelve is the maximum so that meaningful conversations can occur about our beliefs and our roles. For further information contact me or look at the diocesan website, <http://diocal.org/discipleship/adults/efm-education-ministry>.

R.E.S.T. (ROTATION EMERGENCY SHELTER TEAM): Keao Caindec, Leader

REST continues to draw in our congregation to serve the displaced of Marin. More than 150 St. John's volunteers have signed up for REST this year, though more than sixty percent of those are repeat volunteers. As in other years, many volunteers are moved by the opportunity to serve and feel thankful that their families and kids are able to participate. REST guests truly appreciate the wholesome meals and caring nature of St. John's volunteers. This is the last year of REST according to the County of Marin, MIC, MOC and St. Vincent's. While there is no clear plan for 2018 and beyond, these organizations believe that we need to find a different way to serve those who need rehabilitation and affordable housing.

