



Annual Report

of the

Parish

of

Episcopal Church of

St. John the Baptist,

Aptos, California

a California nonprofit religious corporation

Annual Meeting

(Part Two♥)

to review

Calendar Year 2018

held on

February 3, 2019

♥ Part One was the Vestry election in December 2018.

2018 Annual Report

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| The 2018 Clergy & Staff of St. John’s | 1 |
| The 2018 Vestry of St. John’s..... | 1 |
| The 2018 Diocesan Convention Delegates of St. John’s..... | 2 |
| The 2019 Vestry of St. John’s..... | 2 |
| The 2018 and 2019 Officers of St. John’s | 2 |
| Report of The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Rector | 3 |
| Report of Bill Kell, Sr. Warden | 4 |
| Report of Andrea Seitz, Jr. Warden | 5 |
| Report of Suzanne Krakover-Nickel, Stewardship Liaison..... | 6 |
| Worship Report – The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Rector..... | 6 |
| Report of Karen Greenleaf and Benjamin Davis, Hospitality Liaisons..... | 11 |
| Report of Sally Lewis, Newcomers Liaison | 12 |
| Report of Barbara Raney and Lane Jouvett, Education Liaisons | 13 |
| Report of Gina Muller, Outreach Liaison..... | 13 |
| Report of Rick Becton and Jon Showalter, Building & Grounds Liaisons | 14 |
| Report of the Helpful Shop Manager..... | 16 |

The 2018 Clergy & Staff of St. John's

| Name | Position | Note |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| The Reverend Tracy J. Wells Miller | Rector | |
| The Reverend Joan Anderson | Deacon | |
| Nicola Canzano | Music Director | Left July 31 |
| Chrys Sparks | Stewardship | |
| Eileen Begley | Bookkeeper | |
| Maritza Medina | Nursery Coordinator | |
| Rosa Miriam Escobar | Janitor | |
| Diane Scofield | Interim Helpful Shop Manager | Hired October 29 |
| The Reverend John Duncan | Supporting Clergy | |
| The Reverend Eliza Linley | Supporting Clergy | |
| The Reverend Mary Lou McKenney | Supporting Clergy | |
| The Reverend Stuart Schlegel | Supporting Clergy | Died November 8 |

The 2018 Vestry of St. John's

| Class | Vestry Member | Liaison Area | Term ends Dec. |
|-------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 2018 | Bill Kell | Senior Warden | 2018 |
| | Andrea Seitz | Junior Warden | 2018 |
| | Suzanne Krakover-Nickel | Stewardship | 2018 |
| 2019 | Jon Showalter | Building & Grounds | 2018 |
| | Peter Goodman | Education | 2018 ¹ |
| | Gina Muller | Outreach | 2018 ² |
| | Anne Baker | Treasurer | 2019 |
| 2020 | Rick Becton | Building & Grounds | 2019 |
| | Karen Greenleaf | Hospitality | 2020 |
| | Sally Lewis | Newcomers | 2020 |
| | Barbara Raney | Education | 2020 |
| 2018 | Jeanne O'Grady | Hospitality | 2020 ³ |
| | Lane Jouvet | Education | 2018 ⁴ |
| | Benjamin Davis | Hospitality | 2018 ⁵ |

¹ Resigned mid-year 2018.

² Resigned December 2018 (one year early).

³ Resigned mid-year 2018.

⁴ Appointed mid-year to fill Peter Goodman's vacant spot, to serve until next vestry election.

⁵ Appointed mid-year to fill Jeanne O'Grady's vacant spot, to serve until next vestry election.

The 2018 Diocesan Convention Delegates of St. John's

| Voting | Alternates |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Jane Daugherty | Patricia McGowan |
| Sherrie DeWitt | Bob White |
| Win Fernald | Bart Coddington |
| Marlene Bumgarner | Leonard Foreman |

The 2019 Vestry of St. John's

| Class | Vestry Member | Liaison Area | Term ends Dec. |
|-------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 2019 | Rick Becton | Senior Warden | 2019 |
| | Anne Baker | Worship / Music | 2019 |
| | Marlene Bumgarner | Formation | 2019 |
| 2020 | | Parish Life | 2019 ⁶ |
| | Barbara Raney | Junior Warden | 2020 |
| | Sally Lewis | Pastoral Care & Welcoming | 2020 |
| | Patricia McGowan | Parish Life | 2020 |
| 2021 | Karen Greenleaf | Stewardship | 2020 |
| | Francis Bayaca | Outreach & Social Justice | 2021 |
| | Bart Coddington | Buildings | 2021 |
| | Benjamin Davis | Grounds | 2021 |
| | Michael Hudson | Outreach & Social Justice | 2021 |

The 2018 and 2019 Officers of St. John's

| Office | 2018 | 2019 |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Senior Warden | Bill Kell | Rick Becton |
| Junior Warden | Andrea Seitz | Barbara Raney |
| Treasurer | Anne Baker | Anne Baker |
| Clerk of the Vestry | Nancy Shephard | Nelson Crandall |

⁶ There is currently one vacancy on the Vestry, a slot for Parish Life.

Report of The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Rector

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

2018 marked my first complete calendar year as your rector and brought more “firsts” – my first Lent and Easter here, first confirmation class and Bishop’s visit – until I celebrated my one-year anniversary with you all on the Feast of St. John the Baptist in June. Since then I have had the benefit of at least one year of “institutional memory,” and it has helped a lot!

The beginning of the 2018-2019 program year in September marked the start of a parish-wide process of discerning our call as a congregation at this time in our history together. 2019 marks the 130th anniversary of our parish’s founding and the 10th anniversary of our move from Capitola to Aptos, and we’re taking this watershed year by the horns by engaging in a process designed to help us discern our gifts and how God is calling us to use them in the world as a congregation.

We began the fall with approximately 50 people attending our sessions at 9:15 on Sunday mornings, and eventually settled into a “regular” crowd of 30-35 people consistently every week. The conversations and discussions have been fruitful and profound, and I have been grateful for everyone’s willingness to share deeply with one another.

After today’s Annual Meeting, we will transition into “Phase 2” of the process. Phase 1 was more focused on the participants’ individual spiritual gifts; Phase 2 will take us into the congregation-based material. It is an exciting time in the life of this parish; we are on the cusp of beginning a new chapter in our history.

In addition to all the “big picture” stuff, I’ve been kept quite busy with a variety of other things, as life moves swiftly on in the work of the parish...

- **The Helpful Shop** moved from Capitola to Aptos, following the recommendation of the Helpful Shop Task Force after the sale of the building in Capitola. Despite my general policy against hiring parishioners as staff, I was convinced to bring Diane Scofield on formally on board as Interim Helpful Shop Manager during the transition, and she has guided us skillfully in the transition into the new space.
- **The Aptos Youth Committee** continued to build relationships at Aptos Junior High and formulated a job description for the full-time position that will head that program, funded by the Rebeles’ generous endowment.
- **We lost our Music Director, Nico Canzano, to a graduate school program in Michigan.** He resigned in June, ending his service with us at the end of July. In the interim, Jane Daugherty has been gallantly serving us as musician at 10:30 and for the variety of funerals that have popped up in the interim.
- **This led, of course, to a search process for a new musical leader.** We reframed the position a bit in the process of re-hiring, calling it “**Director of Music Ministries**” rather than Music Director or Choirmaster/Organist, because the search committee felt it was important that this person’s primary role be about empowering and enabling the variety of music ministries in this parish, not necessarily doing them all himself. **Andrew Carter** will begin in that position on Feb. 1; the Sunday of this Annual Meeting will be his first Sunday with us.

Rector's Report (continued)

I could go on, but Rector's Reports and Vestry Minutes from the year will provide more details that don't need to be rehashed here.

I recently had lunch with a new friend who didn't know much about the church or about the life of an ordained minister. She asked me about what I do and what my daily routine looks like. As I described all of the above and more, her reaction was, "That sounds like about 12 jobs!" It certainly feels that way at times, and I am grateful for my "caretakers" on the vestry who have encouraged me to honor my days off and take my vacations... and maybe even go home earlier than 7 or 8 p.m. every night. This year I look forward to working with the new vestry to begin to delegate more tasks to volunteers, to address their concerns that I am over-working!

The learning curve when entering a new position is steep, and I've said more than once over the past year, "Will things ever slow down?" Bishop Mary offered the wisdom that it usually takes a full 3 years to settle in to a new position. I'm looking forward to May of 2020, when everything will become settled and calm, right? *grins*

Thank you for the honor of serving you as your pastor, priest, and teacher, and I look forward to another full and fruitful year of ministry together.

In Christ's service,

Tracy Wells Miller+
Rector

Report of Bill Kell, Sr. Warden

Dear Beloved community,

In week 19 of our Sunday morning adult series "Faith Leader," we were asked to pick a verse of scripture that has been a personal guide for us. The verse that comes right up for me is 2 Corinthians 12:9 "... my grace is sufficient for you...". I've heard this and read this so often in my life that it just pops up. It came up for me when my spouse died in 2015 and it comes up for me now when things go awry in my personal life or in my life at St. John's.

It was 2016 when our interim rector asked me to serve. I didn't know that a Senior Warden's tenure would go on so long. I think of St. John's as a highly functioning community with lots of people willing to say "Yes. I'll do my part." And even when we find ourselves going down the "white water," we are willing to stop and do some self-reflection and work at maintaining healthy relationships.

It has been 2 and 1/2 years now and during this time we have welcomed a new Rector, began a new youth program with the Rebele gift, moved our Helpful Shop into the neighborhood, acquired an organ and a new piano, hired a Director of Music Ministries, and have a new vestry. These things were a challenge and again, "God's grace was sufficient for our need."

So, I'm feeling gratitude, as I think we all are. I appreciate the opportunity to have served.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Kell

Report of Andrea Seitz, Jr. Warden

This was another very eventful year in the life of St. John's. One of the major roles of the Jr. Warden is to listen to members of the parish and to bring their concerns to the Executive Committee and/or the Vestry. This year provided a lot of opportunity for listening to concerns that ranged from issues with the sound system to concerns about mission and purpose.

Early in the year I was still in the role of being a communications liaison from the Vestry to the parish so I prepared a minimum of one article for the eNews each month. As Mother Tracy took over more of that role, I wrote fewer articles. However, I continued to contribute articles relating to specific topics.

The Vestry added the role of Liaison to the Care Ministries to the Jr. Warden's responsibilities this year. We have a small group of very dedicated people who work in the areas of hospital visitation, prayer ministry, meal planning, Eucharistic ministries, and provision for parishioners who are ill. One of the major accomplishments of this year has been to make sure that the phone tree is current. Sherri DeWitt was responsible for updating the list and this ministry is functioning very well now.

Mary Jane Chambers has updated our food ministry for the sick by using the internet for communication, which has made it much more efficient and transparent. Communication about hospital and home visitation has benefitted by sharing online as well so that the people who make most of those visits are aware of who has been visited and people are not inadvertently ignored. There is still work that needs to be done in the area of communication and coordination. Some members of the group have stated that they would like a general meeting to share ideas and to explore other aspects of caring such as Stephen's Ministry. I will be passing this on to our new Jr. Warden.

Another aspect of the work of the Jr. Warden is to assist in the planning and preparation of the Vestry Retreat. Last year's retreat was very successful. One suggestion was to explore an alternative location for the future. With Chris's help I looked into about fourteen venues and did not find anything that seemed to fit our cost, capacity and location needs. The new Vestry can revisit this issue if they like.

Conducting the Rector's evaluation this year involved inviting input from the parish. The Sr. Warden and I reviewed all comments and incorporated them into the written review. It was a time consuming but worthwhile task.

A task that we did not complete this year was the Mutual Ministry Review. The Executive Team met with our consultant, Joanna Shreve, to begin planning for our MMR. However, in the process we realized that we did not have a mission statement and goals for our parish that could be measured in an MMR. As a first step we started a class meant to lead to the development a vision and mission statement during lent. These mission and vision statements with accompanying goals will form the basis of an MMR in the following year.

In summary, it was a busy year with weekly Executive Team meetings, VPOD responsibilities, sharing in counting money, learning more about the Helpful Shop, and supporting the Sr. Warden and Mother Tracy. As I've listened to the desires, dreams and wishes of many in the parish I've observed great variety concerning where parishioners would like to see St. John's go

Junior Warden's Report (continued)

in the future. Some ideas harken back to the 1980s while others have arisen since our move to Aptos. It will be interesting to see the vision for the future that emerges during the Lent.

It has been a pleasure to serve such a caring parish for the past three years.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Seitz

Report of Suzanne Krakover-Nickel, Stewardship Liaison

Our parish is blessed by the many good stewards who contribute enormous amounts of their time and talent to maintain our campus, feed the homeless, teach English to immigrants, print the bulletins and countless other activities. St. John's simply could not function without your volunteer work. Thank you.

Our 2019 pledge drive began with a "Bring your best to God" kick-off dinner, and culminated with a sumptuous Egyptian-food feast prepared by Chris Rowen and his crew. Pledges for 2019 are still trickling in but at last count totaled \$309,376, up 2.6% from last year.

We added nine new pledging units this year and a whopping 38% of our donors increased their pledges, for which we are extremely grateful.

One alarming fact that we cannot continue to ignore is that although St. John's is blessed with a small but mighty band of incredibly generous financial supporters - five families who together will provide 42% of our total pledged income for 2019 - the responsibility for funding parish programs and ministries must grow more equitably. We know that some of our members have extremely low incomes and that they have trouble having their financial ends meet, but they still manage to pledge. Our long-term goal is that everyone who enjoys St. John's dynamic preaching, our growing music program, our outreach programs, educational opportunities and welcoming fellowship needs to begin systematic, proportional giving.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Krakover-Nickel

Worship Report – The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Rector

This year we tried something different – instead of assigning a vestry liaison for worship, the vestry decided that I as rector would serve as the liaison between worship and the vestry, allowing us to assign more vestry people to other areas.

2018 was my first complete calendar year with the parish and saw many significant changes or additions to worship. (I apologize for the length of this report, but as I reflected back, I realized a LOT happened with regards to worship in 2018!!)

Worship Report (continued)

Significant happenings in Worship in 2018:

WORSHIP SERVICES

- In January, we held the **Helpful Shop Grants Luncheon on a Sunday**, immediately following the 10:00 service, and invited our grant recipients to attend the service as well as the luncheon. Instead of being a mid-week event just for the Helpful Shop volunteers and grant recipients, this made the grants luncheon a parish-wide event. The 10:00 service before the luncheon featured prayers for our grant recipients and a commissioning of Helpful Shop volunteers. We were blessed to have parishioner Antonette Wood cater the event at no charge. I got many comments from people afterwards about how wonderful it was to publicly celebrate the Helpful Shop and involve the entire parish.
- We offered **Ashes to Go on Ash Wednesday**, at the four-way-stop on State Park Drive and Center Ave (by Marianne's) during the morning and afternoon rush hours, and outside the Helpful Shop in Capitola during the Helpful Shop's business hours. The Rev'ds Eliza Linley and Steve Ellis had offered Ashes to Go outside the Safeway in Aptos several years ago, but this was the first time lay people were involved. (People signed up for one hour shifts throughout the day.) Many positive encounters were had with LOTS of people we'd never met before and who had never entered our doors— and a few even came to church later in the year! It also provided some of our parishioners a way to get their ashes if their work schedules prevented them from attending our service at noon. The usual evening ecumenical Ash Wednesday service at Resurrection Catholic Community did not happen this year, but Aptos United Methodist and St. Andrew Presbyterian jointly hosted an ecumenical service at the Methodist church that all were invited to attend as an evening service option.
- During Lent, we experimented with adding five minutes of silence before the service began. We did the same thing during Advent, but we put the five minutes of silence right after the brief liturgy for lighting the Advent wreath rather than before the service began.
- **Palm Sunday** was particularly spirited and dramatic this year. With the help of the Worship Committee, **we re-worked the service, taking a slight liberty to delay the reading of the Passion Gospel until the END of the service** rather than as part of the Gospel reading in the middle of the liturgy. We began with a procession around the church with drums and guitars, singing a Spanish Palm Sunday tune, and then launched into the traditional “All Glory Laud and Honor” on the organ as we entered the sanctuary. We stopped the Gospel reading after the description of the Lord's Supper, then shared the Lord's Supper in the Eucharist, and finally concluded with the reading of the Passion Narrative at the very end of the service, **omitting a dismissal so that the congregation left in stark silence after hearing the always unsettling story of Jesus's death**. The service was very well-received and the vestry (not just me!) got some feedback on how much people appreciated it.
- We did a regular Maundy Thursday service this year rather than an agape meal because we had a Wednesday night Lenten series class on the Wednesday of Holy Week.
- **The 10:00 Easter service was packed, making clear the need for a larger worship space for bigger events, and for a fellowship/event hall separate from the worship**

Worship Report (continued)

space. Because of an inability to set up for coffee hour inside when the entire space was needed for worship seating, coffee hour was set up outside, complete with tables and chairs. People stayed for quite a while and we were lucky that the weather was nice – had it not been, we would have had a problem on our hands!

- **The Bishop visited St. John’s on April 15** and we had **7 confirmations, 4 receptions, and one adult baptism, Robert Lee (“Robbie”) Kilpatrick.** Some of our confirmations and receptions were people who had been part of the parish for a very long time but had never done these rites; we “made them official” (from the technical side of things) this year. Later in the year, on All Saints Sunday, we **baptized an older child, Brody Lucchesi** (7 years old). Because we couldn’t figure out adequate logistics for a full immersion (which he wanted and I wanted to do), I instead dumped three buckets of water on him outside at the baptismal font.
- On **Sunday, June 24**, we celebrated the **Feast Day of St. John the Baptist** and the **one-year mark of my time as rector of St. John’s.** (Although the one-year anniversary of when I began working at St. John’s was actually May 1, we chose to celebrate it on our feast day because that is also the anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood.) After the service we had great food and a talent show with a variety of folks presenting music or stories. Sherrie DeWitt did an amazing job as the lead organizer of that event.
- For the first time this year, we offered **Eucharist as part of the closing worship at the annual parish camping trip in Big Sur.** I stayed with the campers until Sunday morning and Fr. John Duncan led the services back at the church.
- The fall of 2018 saw significant changes in our worship schedule.
 - **Our second worship service moved from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.,** allowing for a **full hour of Christian formation from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.,** with some “pad time” after the 8:00 and before the 10:30 service. (Used for the first part of our parish-wide discernment program.)
 - We slightly modified our children’s Sunday School schedule so that the **children are now in worship for the opening hymn and opening prayers, and then leave with their teachers for Sunday School during the singing of the Gloria.** They return after the Peace, during announcement time.
 - **Feast @ 5, our monthly “alternative,” family-friendly service on the first Sunday of the month at 5 p.m., was discontinued in mid-2018.** The service had dwindled in attendance and seemed to be attracting repeat attendees (folks who had already gone to church that morning who came back that evening to attend Feast @ 5). It didn’t seem to be serving its purpose of offering a worship time for folks who wouldn’t otherwise be able to attend church in the morning or in providing a space for children and families.

After consulting with the parents of young children in the parish, they all said that Sunday evening was a bad time for them because of dinner, bedtime, and getting kids ready for school the next day. **We decided to instead offer an alternative service on an occasional basis (approximately once a month) at the 10:30 service time.** (The same planning team who worked on Feast @ 5 has been planning the 10:30

Worship Report (continued)

alternative services, with a few new additions from 10:30 parishioners who enjoyed the services and wanted to become involved in planning.)

This has gone well, with a spike in attendance numbers on those days, when all children are in church for the entire service rather than leaving for Sunday School. These services have provided engaging, interactive worship for all ages. Thus far there has not been a set pattern to when the alternative services happen (like the first Sunday of the month), but they have instead been interspersed throughout based on when the lectionary readings lend themselves well to an interactive encounter with scripture.

- **We tried something new with Christmas Day this year.** We had our usual family-friendly Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m. and returned the tradition of the children's Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve. The "late" Christmas Eve service was moved back to 10 p.m. (from 9 p.m. last year because of my difficulty in being out late and then getting up to do the 10 a.m. Christmas Day service the next morning). **On Christmas morning, we offered Morning Prayer at 11:00 a.m.** (a later start time and lay-led, meaning I didn't have to be there and could get a reasonable amount of restful sleep). Another reason we moved the service later is that I started the practice of having a **potluck Christmas Dinner at church this year, and we wanted the service to conclude around lunchtime. Christmas Day Eucharist was served with a brief informal service around the tables, as part of our meal together.**

WORSHIP PERSONNEL

Music Director Nico Canzano left us for graduate school at the end of July, and parishioner **Jane Meredith Daugherty stepped in to provide music for the 10:30 service for almost every Sunday during the interim period, which lasted six months.** Not to be deterred by not having a director, the choir continued to meet for rehearsals on Thursdays at 7 p.m. and worked up a number of anthems on their own, including an anthem for the late service on Christmas Eve, when we had a guest organist with us.

WORSHIP INSTRUMENTS: NEW ORGAN & PIANO!

Around the time of Nico's resignation, former organist Bill Visscher informed the vestry of the opportunity to acquire an organ from a Presbyterian church in Marysville, CA that was closing. They wanted to **give** the organ away to another church.

After grilling Bill Visscher with technical questions and "what if" scenarios, the vestry held a formal discernment meeting and voted to acquire the organ. The process of disassembly and reassembly of the organ cost nearly \$100,000 – all of which was covered by an anonymous donor, making the parish's net cost for the organ one dollar (the token amount of money to show a legal change of ownership). The plans for the final, larger sanctuary had included \$400,000 for an organ because our then-current Schoenstein organ was not powerful enough to fill the larger space with sound. Some 10 years later, cost estimates for a new organ were closer to \$800,000 or \$900,000. In fact, St. Dunstan's in Carmel acquired a new organ this year for right around that cost. Although it seemed to many people in the congregation that we spent too much money on the organ, we actually saved the parish nearly \$1 million on the cost of finishing the building by deciding to acquire this organ.

Worship Report (continued)

The organ is no sorry hand-me-down, either. It is an incredibly high-quality instrument that has made us sought-after by organists who want to come play it. (When asked to rate it on a scale of 1 to 10, Bill Visscher gave it a 9.) It is a **Hook/Rosales tracker organ** built in the 1800s and rebuilt in 1981. Bill was one of the organ builders who rebuilt it in the 80s, and he personally installed it at St. John's in August of this year, a process that took nearly two weeks and involved literally thousands – maybe hundreds of thousands – of pieces. Bill played a concert to dedicate the new organ at the end of October, to a packed house– including a small delegation from First Presbyterian Church in Marysville, the organ's former home!

Our Schoenstein organ found a new home at Epiphany Lutheran & Episcopal Church in Marina. They had not previously had an organ at all and were thrilled to receive it. (We passed it on to them for the same token “price” of one dollar.) It was a perfect fit for their smaller sanctuary.

2018 seemed to be the year of incredible musical instruments falling from the sky and into St. John's possession. The parish also received a **brand-new Kawai GX-7 Semi-Concert Grand Piano** this year, again, free of charge, from another incredibly generous anonymous donor. (The piano cost \$30,750 (!!), which was discounted from the list price of \$67,000 because of some strong negotiating on our behalf, leaning heavily on the fact that we are a church and non-profit organization.)

This gift was in support of our new partnership with the **Aptos Keyboard Series**, a local concert series that brings award-winning young up-and-coming pianists to Aptos for intimate, affordably priced concerts. (Tickets are \$25 each.) The series began as a house concert series several years prior, but quickly outgrew its space. Mid-2018, we began partnering with Josef Sekon, the series's artistic director (and now regular attendee at St. John's) to host the series at the church. These events have brought 40 to 50 music-lovers to St. John's once a month who otherwise may never have walked through our doors.

WORSHIP “FURNITURE” / ARRANGEMENT OF SPACE

After the installation of the organ, which is a bit large for the current worship space, the atmosphere in the front of the worship space changed, and the organ seemed to be looming over the altar and claiming more attention and centrality than we wanted it to. This prompted the Worship Committee to begin experimenting with a new arrangement of the “furniture” for worship.

We have settled on a design where the lectern is at the back of the room, right in front of the entrance doors, the altar is at the back of the middle of the room, on ground level rather than elevated on the platform, and the choir and servers sit on the elevated platform, now facing out at the congregation instead of sideways toward the organ. The chairs have also been disconnected from one another and arranged more in arcs rather than rows, creating more of a “circular” feel to the worship space.

The large suspended Advent wreath we had been using does not work well with the new layout. (When lowered for lighting, it lands on the lectern.) We acquired a smaller Advent wreath on a stand, which we put in the spot where altar flowers are normally located during the rest of the year.

Worship Report (continued)

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild was in transition this year, as Eileen Fernald trained to take over for Nancy Young as Director of the Altar Guild. (That transition did not happen until 2019, but Eileen was learning and taking on more responsibility throughout 2018.)

And if that transition wasn't enough, the Worship Committee and alternative service planning team threw some real doozies on the altar guild this year, like having the children prepare the altar for Eucharist at the alternative service in Advent, or rearranging the entire worship space for the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service so the pageant could have the raised area as a "stage." God bless them, they were all willing to go with the flow, even when we disrupted their normal way of doing things. I am grateful for their dedicated service.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Wells Miller+

Report of Karen Greenleaf and Benjamin Davis, Hospitality Liaisons

Hospitality's goals for 2018 were:

1. *Increase communication with other Vestry liaison areas about hospitality needs.*

This goal was met by a Hospitality Event Questionnaire. This form is filled out by the Office Manager for memorials and outside events and by Vestry liaisons or committee chairs for in-house events. Once the form is received, Hospitality Committee Chair, Janet Duncan, will assess the needs for hospitality support/supplies with the respective event coordinator.

2. *Reduce use of paper products with an eye to using only reusable plates, cups, flatware.*

This goal has been met. Paper and once-use plastic glasses are only being used for very large memorials or receptions. With the savings that have resulted from not buying paper, we have purchased dinner plates, 7" plates, plastic drinking glasses and needed flatware for 96.

3. *Restart Kitchen Angels group/hospitality committee. Have written job description for the chair.*

This goal has been met. *We thank Janet Duncan* who agreed to serve as of the hospitality committee chair. A written job description was created. Committee members are: Jane Daugherty, Dee Roe, Loris Showalter, Carol Trabing, and Vicky Wilson. The members have been serving as Hospitality Person of the Month (i.e. Kitchen Angels). *We thank them all!*

4. *Update and post guidelines for Coffee Hour and other receptions.*

This goal has been met. Updated guidelines are posted on the bulletin board next to the door into the kitchen and on the kitchen bulletin board.

Hospitality Report (continued)

Along with these goals, the following have been accomplished.

1. Supporting memorial receptions for Marion Wallof, Meg Mitchell, Jean Strong, Louise Jojorian, Wally Wilson, Richard Leonard, and the Rev. Stu Schlegel.
2. Realigning use of the kitchen to the original format “flow” as designed. This involves using the pass-through window as the collection point for dirty items and re-opening the garbage area left of the wall sink.
3. A “dishwasher emptying” schedule is in place. *We give thanks to* the following:
Monday: Charles Greenleaf after Coffee Hour
Tuesday - Karen Greenleaf - after Monday Al-Anon if it is Sheltering night
Wednesday - Karen Greenleaf - after Tuesday Shelter nights
Thursday - Janet Duncan - after Thursday Al-Anon

On-going challenges:

1. Ongoing assessment is taking place to improve the flow of Coffee Hour to meet the many and varied wishes of parishioners.
2. Having adequate sign-ups for Coffee Hour hosts. Approximately 70% of regular attending families host Coffee Hour. Either more could join this ministry or those who host could do so more often.
3. More members are needed to act as Hospitality Person of the Month. This involves checking the fridge for out of date items, helping Coffee Hour hosts as requested, and supporting the Chair with any memorial reception that month.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Greenleaf and Benjamin Davis

Report of Sally Lewis, Newcomers Liaison

Newcomers has been pretty low key this past year, with me welcoming newcomers and giving them mugs from St. John’s. I even gave mugs to some people who have been coming for a while but hadn’t gotten mugs, just last Sunday.

This year, we plan to have a bigger group of folks that will help with Pastoral care—calling and checking in with Parish members—several times a year, as well as more people who will help with welcoming on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Lewis

Report of Barbara Raney and Lane Jouvét, Education Liaisons

2018 was a rather rocky year for children's education at St. John's. We not only lost the Sunday School coordinator, but we also lost the children's education liaison. The older children are no longer attending Sunday School at the church, so that only leaves a few children in each of the two classes.

All of the in-place adult education groups continue in fine fettle except for the Sunday morning Bible study, which is now the Faith Leader class.

Several of the top items on the adult education survey are being addressed in various ways. The Hospitality Committee has plans to rearrange the café so that people can converse more easily. I have found out about various local lectures on aging issues, and I will post the dates in the bulletin at the appropriate times. Don Zimmerman plans to re-initiate a program about property and money issues for seniors. ECW is providing informational and educational programs each month. The Faith Leader class is certainly teaching us about our spiritual gifts and the spiritual mission of St. John's.

There is much to be done but there are limitations because our congregation is involved in so many areas of our parish's life and various outreach groups. I have now come to believe that connecting our parishioners with local groups and offering opportunities to study and learn as the need arises is the direction we should follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Raney

Report of Gina Muller, Outreach Liaison

The Outreach Committee is a regularly scheduled group which meets the third Thursday of every month.

The Committee is open to any interested person in the congregation. We encourage new participation.

A different committee member chairs the meeting each month. We decide the direction of the committee each year and allocate funds for charities that meet the criteria of our Goals and Objectives.

This past year we rewrote our Goals and Objectives and published them for the congregation. These were on display at a designated coffee hour and members answered questions about our committee.

Goal: To love our neighbors while fulfilling our Parish Mission Statement

1. Support those in need in our community, our parish and the larger world through various projects and endeavors that we have undertaken or hope to undertake. These include:
 - Mid-county Homeless Outreach Project
 - Guest Shower Program
 - Development of Rebele Youth Outreach Project

Outreach Report (continued)

2. Continue to raise awareness (and funds) in the Parish about local and global issues that promote the Diocesan mission of alleviating poverty and injustice. These efforts may involve education about and support of the following:
 - Local: ESL (English as a Second Language) program, Girls Inc., Adopt a Family (Christmas), Habitat Lunches, CDSP (Church Divinity School of the Pacific) donation, Human Race fundraising, Homeless Service Center, Homeless Warming Center
 - National: Hurricane relief in Puerto Rico, Fire relief in California
 - Global: Vamos (Mexico), South Sudan Scholarships, Bali Scholarships, Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)
3. And the many other things that Parishioners support

Our Committee was given the task of writing the criteria for Helpful Shop Grants. The Vestry voted upon and accepted our criteria that were used in the grant allocations decisions.

The ESL program continues to go strong with a core group of 9 ladies who are in their 6th year of classes at St. John's. Each student has a tutor from the parish who helps with homework and oral practice. Our students continue to work towards legal documentation and citizenship with the help and support of our parish. They participate in many activities at church and continue to ask us to provide Spanish speaking services for them and the local Spanish speaking community.

The Outreach Committee presented a proposal to the Vestry regarding a 10% tithe of all undesignated bequests to the parish be designated for outreach to the community. The decision will be made by the Vestry after the current discernment process is completed and we have a full understanding of the direction that our parish wants to take in future activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Muller

Report of Rick Becton and Jon Showalter, Building & Grounds Liaisons

In 2018, Jon Showalter and Rick Becton worked as team liaisons, leading the Facilities and Maintenance program. As our St. John's buildings and grounds can no longer be called new, the property now needs a deeper examination and thoughtful consideration towards scheduled long-term care, and possible expansion.

This year we were assisted by a terrific group of church volunteers who have offered their time, skill and experience to improve our campus. Floyd Butler, Anne Sherwood, Leonard Foreman, the Lay-Weeders and the Architecture Committee have applied their energy towards many improvements.

Building & Grounds Report (continued)



landscape and exterior lighting has been repaired and/or replaced. The lawn has been aerated while some pathways have been raked and dressed. And, gophers have been wrangled!

We have contracted with AA Safe and Security to begin regularly servicing our exterior door hardware and locks. Some planting beds have been redesigned (thank-you Anne Sherwood) and plantings replaced (thank-you Leonard), curbs repainted and the baptismal fountain fully rehabilitated (thank-you Floyd). Exterior walls have been cleaned of graffiti and



Notable interior improvements include covering the kitchen island with stainless steel, installing a new coffee maker, contracting for window shades, and replacing many of the interior lightbulbs with the aid of a rented aerial lift.



And, your Facility Liaisons along with other volunteers, assisted with the installation of the incredible Hook-Rosales pipe organ.

Our group of volunteers have helped improve our church in 2018 by digging holes, climbing ladders, scrubbing walls, dusting lights, pruning trees, discarding trash (thank you Ray Wolfe), cleaning, repairing, organizing, donating, painting, irrigating, problem-solving and dreaming to improve our church. We are grateful for having had the opportunity to serve this ministry during the year. Thank-you all.

The **Architecture Committee** is associated with our facilities and was revived this year. It recommended that our chairs be replaced as our current ones have become unsafe. The vestry approved and the chairs should arrive the first part of 2019. The one black chair that is floating around the sanctuary is an example of what has been purchased although the color and fabric will be different. Take a seat; it's comfy.

Building & Grounds Report (continued)

The committee also recommended designs for **stained glass windows** above the Barn Doors and above the main entrance to the Sanctuary. The Vestry approved the project and it should be completed in 2019.



It also has created a subcommittee to design the permanent **columbarium**. The sale of spaces in our current one has generated sufficient funds to allow the development a design and plan for Vestry consideration.

After watching Mother Tracy blinded by the light during a late afternoon meeting of the Tent of Abraham, the Committee recommended more of the **window shades** that are currently installed starting in the Cafe west side.

This coming year the Committee will grapple with its original charge from the Vestry: how to **increase the seating capacity** for worship services. There are any number of fixes, from knocking down the Sanctuary/Nursery wall to completing the next phases of the original building plans (Phases II & III posted next to the bulletin board outside the Nursery.)

The discussion of this item will be taken up after the parish discernment process we all will participate in during Lent.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick & Jon

Report of the Helpful Shop Manager

In the beginning of 2018, the Helpful Shop was flailing. Volunteers were down and there was no cohesive leadership.

A Grant Committee was formed and awards totaling \$19,000 were given in February. Mother Tracy performed the morning church service in conjunction with the luncheon.

In March 2018, Mother Tracy, with the approval of the Vestry, appointed a Helpful Shop Task Force to conduct a comprehensive study of the ministry of St. John's Helpful Shop and make recommendations about its future. The persons selected were Bill Kell, Suzanne Baumhefner, Margy Cottle, Larry Moorman, Joanna Phillips, and Don Zimmerman. With much discussion and information gathering, the Task Force presented its information to the Vestry and to the Parish. It was decided that the Helpful Shop was a viable ministry of St. John's and should continue.

Helpful Shop Report (continued)

It was brought to light during this study that to survive, the Helpful Shop would need a large group of volunteers to draw from. The appeal went out to parishioners and several responded. It was also suggested to work with the Association of Faith Communities in recruiting volunteers.

This proposal was later presented to the Vestry and accepted. (A portion of annual profits will be shared with AFC in the form of a grant.)

With the loss of a paid manager in the latter part of 2017, an Interim Helpful Shop Management Team was formed. This team consisted of Bill Kell, Andy Pudan, Vicky Wilson, Diane Scofield, and Mother Tracy. This team was effective in carrying on the duties required.

In April we were notified that the building at 101 Capitola Ave, where the Helpful Shop had been located for 65 years, was for sale. (The church had a longstanding agreement with the Speciale family, who owned the property, to use the space for the thrift store at a vastly reduced rental rate.) After it sold, we were given notice in July that we needed to vacate the premises by August 26. The Task Force stepped up and was at work looking for properties available. We were fortunate that another parishioner, Alliee DeArmond, was thinking of closing her bookstore, Word Shop, and asked if the Helpful Shop might be interested in that space. (Prayers are answered!)

In October, the Vestry approved the recommendation of the Task Force that the Helpful Shop should reopen in Aptos in the former Word Shop location at 246-A Center Avenue on a month-to-month basis and hire a paid manager.

We were able to obtain the Center Avenue property for a six-month lease, beginning in late November. With much work to do, Mother Tracy hired Diane Scofield as the Interim Helpful Shop Manager and the doors of the Helpful Shop's new location opened for business on December 2, 2018. New volunteers have been recruited through the Association of Faith Communities and recently trained. Aptos has accepted us with open arms and it is wonderful to be so close to the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Scofield
Interim Manager