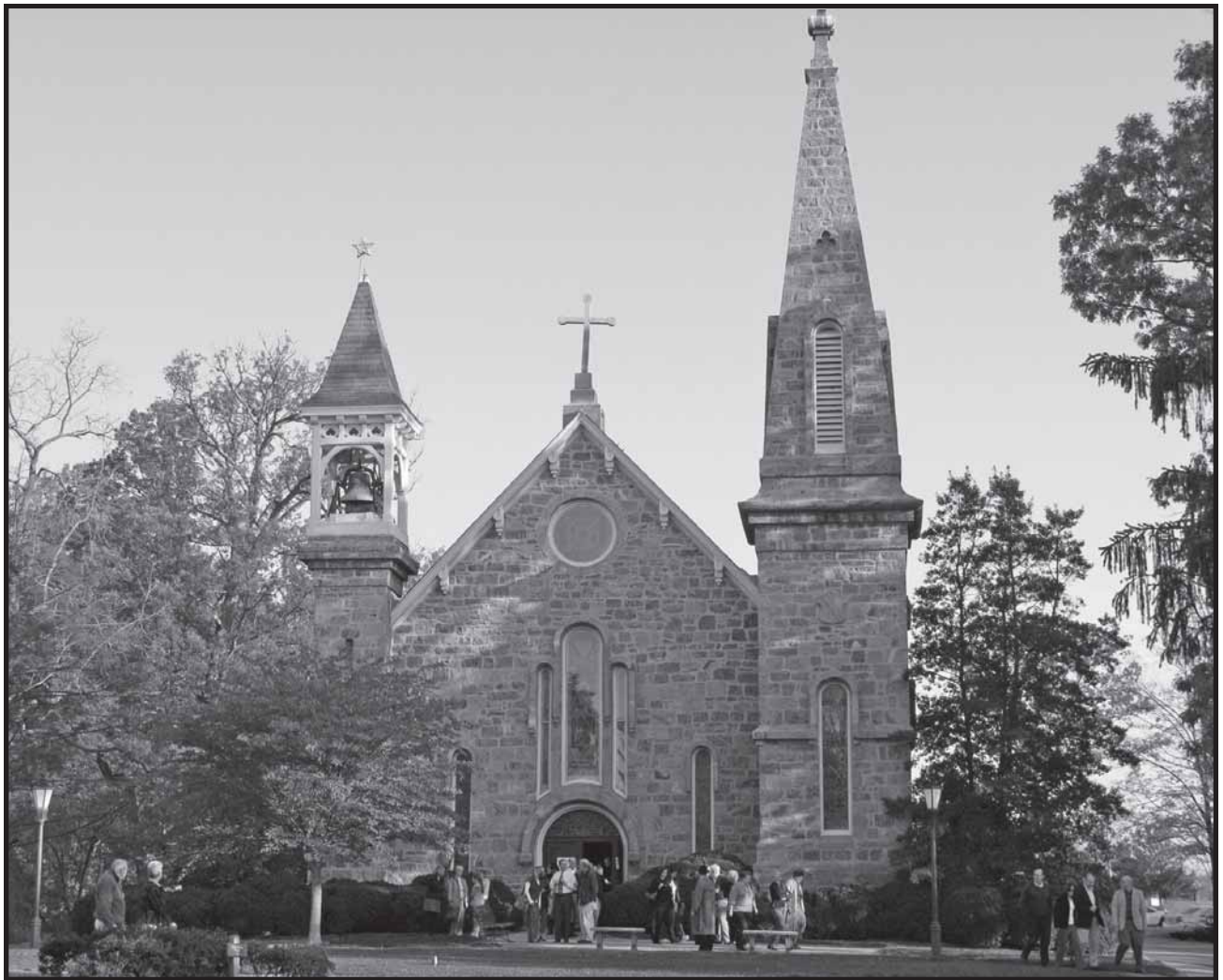


2009 Annual Report



St. John's Episcopal Church



Annual Meeting AGENDA May 2, 2010

- I. Prayer and Call to Order
- II. Appointment of Secretary and Establishment of a Quorum
- III. Approval of May 3, 2009 minutes
- IV. Report of the Nominating Committee and First Ballot - Elisabeth Beekman
- V. The Warden's Reports – June Robinson & Tom Brandt
- VI. St. John's Parish Day School Report - Steve Harrison & Matt Haskey
- VII. Teller's Report and Second Ballot if necessary
- VIII. Treasurer's Report – Dave Standeven
- IX. Teller's Report and Third Ballot if necessary
- X. Celebration of Ministries- Carol Pinkham Oak
- XI. Biblical Story Telling- Tracy Radosevic
- XII. Recognition and thanks to the retiring vestry members:
Hayden Constance, Tom Goss, Lauretta Kerr, Diane Standeven
- XIII. Swearing in of New Vestry Members
- XIV. St. John's Cross Award
- XV. Previous Recipients of the St. John's Awards

2009 – Sally Scott Marietta	1998 – Carol Bartley
2008 – George & Jane Tolen	1997 – Phil Stackhouse
2007 – Bill Ewald	1996 – Stewart Whittle
2006 – Mike Salmons	1995 – Charlie Kline
2005 - <i>No Award Given</i>	1994 – Frank Krantz
2004 – Rev. Mimi Mathews	1993 – Jim Keenan
2003 – Paula Matuskey	1992 – Dot Pumphrey
2002 – The Lorenz Family	1991 – Millie & Homer Hammond
2001 – Clai Carr	1990 – Anita Cushing
2000 – <i>No Award Given</i>	1989 – Al Gardner
1999 – Bea Allen	1988 – Bill Buddo
- XVI. St. John's Award
- XVII. Prayer and Dismissal

Praise God

From Whom All Blessings Flow

We at St. John's have been graced with many blessings. Please take a moment to Praise God and thank Him for your many blessings. Listed below are a few of the blessings we are thankful for as a parish family.

In thanksgiving for the baptism of:

Uchenna Agajelu
Katelynn Armor
Clare Atkinson
Alessandra Bell
Jacob Bloor
Clara Bossle
Liam Carroll
Cory Christopher
Gavin Christopher

Tatiana Christopher
Benjamin Cucuzzella
William Feldwick
Reagan Fisher
Jack Glover
Charlotte Hamilton
Piper Hermodsson
Richard Hoenes
Luke Kelley

Lia Marler
John Mauser
Michelangelo Morgan
Adeline Ottenritter
Alejandra Paulino
Michael Pietrangeli
Isabella Scarfo
Kyle Scherock
Ella Scherock

In thanksgiving for the marriage of:

Brian Walters & Karen Zeh
Christopher Bingham & Abigail Lightning
Christopher Cornelius & Renee Fries
Creighton Minge & Jessica Topolski
Sean McGuinn & Erin Williams
Eric Weisz & Elizabeth Walter

Lance Jordan & Lucy Howey
Adam Boozer & Kristin Cook
Megan Constance & Andrew LeFavre
Thomas Goss & Sally Kingsley
Robert Turton & Laura Taber

In thanksgiving for the life of:

Lloyd Baker
Hilda Boyd
Joan Brown
David Clarke
Keisha DePass

Herbert Gaither, Jr.
Ernest Gunter
Maxwell Holland
Paul Imre
Rudolf Liskovec

Cleora Thompson
Elizabeth Watson
Linda Weinhardt
Jean Turmala

In thanksgiving for the gifts of:

The Labyrinth by the Hoenes Family
Labyrinth planting by the Fifth Grade Sunday School Class
Gift from the estate of Margaret Eyerly
Stephen B. Harrison joining the Parish Day School as Headmaster
Gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the renovation of Chatham Road House
Dedicated work on our campus by our facilities teams, volunteers, and professionals

Rectors Report

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God for the blessings flowing to us through the ministries of the **St. John's Parish and St. John's Parish Day School**. Experiencing the new and continued blessings of the past year illustrates that what is good for the parish is good for the school and what is good for the school is good for the parish. Sharing these blessings renews our shared mission to bring everyone into a closer relationship with God in Jesus Christ.

The life of the school and the parish continue to build upon our shared mission. The newly formed **Common Life Commission** highlights the multiple ways life of the school and parish strengthen one another. Praise God for the continued blessings of the Parish Day School Board of Trustees and for the new blessings of **Headmaster, Steve Harrison**.

We celebrate the continued blessings of our **professional staff**. These gifted professionals serve as pastors to guide and nurture the ministry of everyone. The gifts of Nancy Stavelly, Nancy Narrett, Colleen Citrano, Steve Lyon, Denise Mogavero, Kendle Priestley and Georgia Ziehm keep the parish singing the praises of God and humming along. The competence and experience of the **clergy team**, Nick Szobota, Jenni Overstone Smith and Mimi Mathews, is extraordinary. In worship, formation, pastoral care, teaching, and preaching they bring blessing upon blessing to this community.

Across the parish and the school, we celebrate continued **blessings of every volunteer** from those who feed the hungry and support the neglected, the Parent's Association, Gala volunteers, Sunday School Teachers, Friendly Visitors, Youth Mentors, members of our choirs, those who advocate for our environment, to those who are stewards of our campus. The volunteers are professionals in the areas finance, music, information technology, teaching, journalism, graphic design, marketing, administration, library science, medicine, and law, to name only a few, who abundantly share the blessings of their expertise. The volunteers are dedicated parents. They are accomplished in their fields while offering the talents of their additional vocations. For example, every member of the volunteer All Saints Hall band is a talented musician who also works, studies, and/or parents full time. New members are enthusiastically invited and choose to "**Be Involved!**" because of the blessings we share together in ministry.

We celebrate the blessings of **mentoring** as part of the Diocese of Maryland, as the youth and youth mentors of Discerning our Vocations Everyday (DOVE), in mentoring through the Virginia Theological Seminary, as well as through sharing our experience, expertise, and gifts with other parishes.

We praise God for the new blessing of the **Labyrinth** and the continued gifts for landscaping the labyrinth gardens. Students, parents, guest and parishioners walk this pathway as one way to awaken to the blessings of God's love.

We experienced last September the blessings of **One Worship** for the Parish and Parish Day School communities. One Worship and the Parish Fair will be celebrated on Sunday, September 19 at 10:00 am. Our guest will be **the Rev. Mpho Tutu** who coauthored with her father, Desmond Tutu, the recent book Made for Goodness.

At this annual meeting, St. John's Parish and Parish Day School **Praise God from whom all blessing flow!**

*The Rev. Dr. Carol Pinkham Oak
Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church*

Wardens' Report

For the St. John's Wardens and Vestry, 2009 brought many opportunities and achievements in relating to the Parish and broader communities and, in so doing, receiving and sharing God's blessings.

Priorities included:

- Welcoming visitors and new members. Congenial, intentional focus on newcomers added to membership and participation.
- Enhancing collaborative leadership with the Parish Day School, thereby addressing our mutual financial health; The new Common Life Commission, comprised of Church and Parish Day School leaders including our Rector and incoming Parish Day School Headmaster; and enhanced communication.
- Supporting current members spiritually and otherwise, while affirming stewardship. The September 2009 "One Worship Service" celebrated the richness and scope of our combined congregations and Parish Day School family.
- Outreach in support of needs in Africa, Jamaica, the homeless in Howard County, and in Baltimore City.

The Vestry's strategic planning initiatives focused on these and other areas, using signs of success to track progress. Commissions of dedicated parishioners shared information with the Vestry about the activities and impact of their ministries during the year. The inaugural and subsequent performances by the St. John's Orchestra brought appreciative visitors from throughout the area. Continued focus on spiritual growth and related outreach produced even more opportunities for worship, study and lay ministry.

In 2010, we are committed to continually improve as a resource parish and model Day School. The report of the Strategic Planning Task Force and results of the Parish Survey on Attendance and Participation will give the Vestry perspectives for long range strategic planning based on our mission, core values and purpose. The 14-plus acre campus including worship and education buildings will be part of planned sustainability efforts to respect and promote conservation of God's creation. The new labyrinth is a welcomed addition and "natural" place for prayer, reflection and meditation in the St. John's community, as we "strive to bring all into a closer relationship with God and with one another through Jesus Christ."

Submitted by:

June M. Robinson, Senior Warden, 2009

Thomas M. Brandt, Jr., Junior Warden, 2009

St. John's Parish Day School

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In scripture, St. John's third letter essentially begins, "Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in health; I know that it is well with your soul." This same sentiment has been the guiding light of the relationship between St. John's PDS and St. John's Church this year. The reciprocal sense of gratitude, of a mutual wish for the well-being of both communities, has permeated all that we have accomplished together – it has been an omnipresent "GPS system" for us, keeping us on a journey together toward ever-increasing cooperation and communion.

This relationship found explicit expression in the development of the new Common Life Commission (CLC) last September, but its origins lay in the joint Vestry/PDS Board planning retreat in May 2009 where we determined that we needed to highlight and communicate better together about events and aspects of life in school and church. A cross-fertilization of events and information has occurred due largely to the intentionality of this process led by Kevin McGill, SJPDS Board President, and June Robinson, SJEC Senior Warden. Joint school/church activities such as the 9-11 National Day of Service Book Drive benefitting the East Baltimore Community School, the upcoming (on May 19) environmental education presentation by Ned Tillman, and the common life bookmarks help cement our respectful and caring relationship. Other manifestations of this care and concern each for the other have come in the form of broader attendance at each other's events like the church's One Service and Fall Homecoming as well as the school's extremely successful Gala. The process of clarifying the separate and combined aspects of school/church accounting methods seems perhaps mundane, but it was an act of due diligence and care that took considerable time and effort in order to bring our accounting practices into line with the additional accreditation process the school is pursuing through the Association of independent Maryland Schools (AIMS) – and we greatly appreciate this endeavor! Another act of mutual care and respect is the review of the school Board's By-Laws revisions by the Vestry. In light of the AIMS accreditation process, the SJPDS Board reviewed and revised our By-Laws to reflect a modified Vestry role of advisement rather than supervision over the school. By the time of the Annual Meeting it is hoped that the Vestry will have reviewed and approved this change in By-Laws.

The hiring of a new headmaster for the school has ushered in a number of new initiatives and a few subtle changes at the school. In an effort to have the school function more fully as a single entity rather than two disparate units, the Preschool and the Lower School, the programs for 3 and 4-year-old students is now designated as the Early Childhood program. It is no longer considered a "pre" school or something that occurs before students enter the school, but these programs are fully integrated into the overall "school." The school's Mission Statement has been updated, and its website is being completely rebuilt with an anticipated launch date in mid-summer. A Marketing Task Force from the Board has identified five essential elements that define the school, called the "Five Gifts," to use in promotional materials, videos, the website, and more. These Five Gifts are: 1) spiritual growth through faith formation, 2) preservation and celebration of childhood, 3) innovative curriculum and personalized learning that lead to lifelong success, 4) confident and respectful citizens connected to local and global communities, and 5) a sense of wonder and active discovery.

What has not changed is the strong commitment of the school to provide the excellence inherent in quality Episcopal education as well as spiritual and moral development for each child. The years at St. John's PDS provide our graduates with tremendous academic success coupled with a strength of character, both of which not only get them into their first choice schools but also provide the foundation they need for great achievement in these successor schools, public and private. Our faculty members still provide wonderful instruction interlaced with in-depth knowledge of each student and incredible care and concern for every child. St. John's Parish Day School provides the finest of Episcopal education, a solid spiritual grounding, and comprehensive nurture for all of our students.

*Grace and Peace,
Steve Harrison, Headmaster*

Commission Reports

Adult Faith Formation

The Adult Faith Formation Commission has spent the past several months preparing for the program year of 2010/2011. Members of the commission have gathered together topics of interest for Adult Formation to be explored through various programs: Adult Forum, Lenten Series, and quiet days. A proposed format for adult forum will involve exploring a particular topic each month of the year, devoting one Sunday session to how that topic relates to the basics of the Christian faith and another Sunday on how to have meaningful discussion on the controversial aspects of that topic.

Thank you to those who participated in this year's Lenten series, contributed to the discussion in the various programs, provided feedback, and participated in devotions. Particular thanks is due to the Leaven group for leading devotions and keeping the needs of others in front of us during Lent, to children's formation for leading devotions, and to youth formation for giving us a taste of Celtic spirituality and the Iona community.

Thank you also to those who made the 2009 Advent quiet day a spiritually refreshing experience and helped host this year's presenter, the Rev. Dr. Joseph Stewart-Sicking.

*Submitted by The Rev. Nicholas Szobota
Lowell Wilson, Adult Faith Formation Commission Chair*

Children's Faith Formation

The children and families of St. John's Sunday School share an abundance of blessings that flow forth through the love of God. They return this love in the praise that they offer to God in service to others. There are numerous ways this is evidenced in the actions of our children throughout the program year. Our children are in relationship with school children in Kenya who attend the Mbaikini School. In addition to sharing the \$600.00 collected on behalf of our friends, we sent along 75 love-filled notes offering praises to God and good wishes to our friends. Recently, we received letters in return, deepening the very relationships made in God's name.

Our children are truly blessed by God and they eagerly share this blessing in many varied ways. This is evident as they lovingly collect for and construct 35 Easter

Baskets for The ARK Pre-school, create letters for members of the Armed Forces and when they excitedly offer their Ark collection banks which will provide the funds to purchase livestock for The Heifer Project (\$1,000.00 of livestock purchase). As the children of Sunday school bask in the blessings that flow from God, they enthusiastically shout praises to God through action, song and prayer as they generously share these very blessings with others.

*Submitted by Nancy Narrett
Director of Children's Faith Formation*

Youth Ministries

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

St. John's youth programs continued to grow as a vibrant community worshipping God together. A focus throughout the year was how to build on the blessing of the large numbers of kids joining our program, particularly in Rite 13.

Individually, the youth groups praised God in different ways:

- Breakfast Club kids joined the youth program and began building their community with fellowships throughout the year.
- Rite 13ers celebrated their rite of passage toward adulthood at three services during the year.
- J2A continued their discernment toward confirmation and prepared for their summer 2010 pilgrimage to Scotland.
- Young Adults in Church actively planned their lessons and continued working with their DOVE mentors. In June, YACers traveled together to North Carolina for a mission trip.
- College Connections students received care packages and the Godsibb throughout the year.

All-youth activities included Discovery Weekend, where middle and senior high youth came together to share their love for God and each other without the pressures of the outside world. We migrated to a quarterly all-youth worship service to provide each youth group the opportunity to prepare for and lead a service during the year. In addition, youth took on a larger role in worship, actively serving as musicians, lectors and Eucharistic ministers.

*Submitted by Amy Tich
Chair, Youth Ministries Commission*

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Mission & Outreach

*To respond to Christ's call to serve those in need
extending beyond the St. John's community.*

The Outreach Commission and the members of St. John's parish have enjoyed a busy year of service in the community as well as the world. Hunger and worry were abated by the delivery of holiday baskets and casseroles. The ARC of Howard County and The Club at Collington Square families received Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets from parishioners, supplemented by special Sunday collections, toy drives at the Day School, and gift card collections through the Sunday School. Hundreds of casseroles have been prepared and delivered to organizations in Howard County and Baltimore City. Thousands of our hungry neighbors have been fed. Cold and discomfort were alleviated through cold weather clothing collections and a coat drive. Over 300 coats were collected and distributed to The Bea Gaddy Family Center and The Route 1 Day Resource Center. Homelessness and despair were remedied when parishioners donated clothes, food, and fellowship at the Route 1 Day Resource Center. Monthly meal service and in-kind donations continue to support the goal of helping our chronically homeless friends to move forward. Illness and healing were provided by dedicated doctors, nurses, and lay people who traveled to Jamaica on the annual Medical Mission. Over 1500 patients were seen by a team of 23 doctors, nurses, and lay people. Support and encouragement were key in the preparation of turkeys for the Bea Gaddy Thanksgiving Day service, as well as monetary donations to various projects in urban ministries. Relationships were formed and a passion for outreach instilled in our youth and their leaders as they participated in a variety of outreach endeavors during Discovery Weekend. Teams were sent to The Baltimore Free Store, Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Route 1, For The Power Inside, Bea Gaddy, ARC houses, The Samaritan Women, and The East Columbia Library.

By supporting a wide range of relationships in our immediate community, our local community and our global community, participating in Outreach is accessible to all members of the St. John's Parish and Day School. In order for St. John's to continue to serve our friends and neighbors in need, it is necessary for each of us to discover the enthusiasm we can bring to others lives by simply showing up.

Words can be inadequate when trying to describe the experience of Outreach, but come with us, and we can show you. You will never be the same.

*Submitted by Melinda Becker
Chair, Mission & Outreach Commission*

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Parish Life

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Blessings come in all shapes and sizes within the Parish Life Commission! Anyone who has participated in one of our many ministries will tell you, they have experienced the love of God through fellowship. Events like the Parish Fair and Homecoming kicked off our program year with incredible energy! Our steadfast groups like the Friars, the Church Ladies, the Pieceful Quilters, Dinners for Eight, the Book Group, and the Prime Time Society all have tremendous followings and truly bring people together in order to share food, fun and God's love. While our Progressive Dinner in January was snowed out this year, it was going to be our biggest group yet with over 150 attendees! (Let's hope January 2011 is not as snowy!) And even more blessings were had at our Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont where 215 of our church family gathered last Memorial Day weekend for fellowship like no other!

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Parish Life Commission has something for you! Keep an eye on the many fun group gatherings and special events and join us! We guarantee you will experience the love of God and experience the incredible blessings of this wonderful place we call St. John's.

*Submitted by Karen Good
Chair, Parish Life Commission*

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Pastoral Care

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way,
you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2*

The Pastoral Care Commission continues to be a vibrant, active ministry at St. John's Church. The ministries of Pastoral Care, which include The Bereavement Receptions, The Sunday Flower Ministry, The Lay Eucharistic Visitors, The Prayer Chain, The Meals Ministry, The Cancer Support Ministry, The Prayer Shawl Ministry, Yoga, the Sunshine Ministry, Christmas and Easter Flower Ministry and The Stephen Ministers have been continuing in their steadfast work for the parish. We are happy to introduce some new ventures of the Pastoral Care Commission which exemplify the kindness and generosity of our parishioners and the blessings of the St. John's community.

The Friendly Visitors is comprised of a caring group of ten parishioners (always more welcome) who make informal visits to those in our parish who are homebound and would welcome some conversation and companionship. Wonderful feedback has been received from those eleven "senior" members of our parish who have benefited from this new endeavor. If you would like to be a Friendly Visitor or if you know of someone who would benefit from this caring ministry, please contact The Pastoral Care Commission.

Neighbor Ride is the most recent ministry of the Pastoral Care Commission. We are looking for interested parishioners who would be able to provide occasional rides to those in our parish who have difficulties in getting to Sunday worship services. This will be a flexible commitment so that parishioners are not obligated to provide rides each week. We hope to have a list large enough so we can match drivers with parishioners who live nearby.

People taking care of people in the name of Christ is the mission of the Pastoral Care Commission. Caring for each other within the parish gives us the strength and the foundation of love to be bearers of God's good news outside the parish and to celebrate God's blessings.

*Submitted by Diane Standeven
Chair, Pastoral Care Commission*

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Hospitality

The Hospitality Commission works to create a welcoming atmosphere for worship and formation. This ministry includes Greeters, Ushers, and Welcome Center hosts. Those who serve in these ministries help newcomers get oriented to the church and greet those who have been here many times with a smile and "good morning."

Just prior to Easter 2010, members of the Hospitality Commission's ministries met with the clergy for updates. This included a review of guidelines for helping newcomers find the pathways to meet spiritual needs at St. John's. In particular, Greeters engage in helping newcomers find their way to the next steps of involvement. They make follow-up calls to newcomers and equip the clergy staff with information for doing the same.

First-time visitors may now receive welcome bags from the Welcome Centers in All Saints Hall and the Historic Church. These bags contain information about deeper involvement at St. John's. There is a card attached to each bag offering a welcome and explaining the current season of the liturgical year. The bags also contain a small present to thank newcomers for visiting. During Lent, for instance, this was a simple palm cross.

Thank you to the members of the Hospitality Commission's ministries for all that they do to provide a welcoming environment at St. John's.

*Submitted by The Rev. Nicholas Szobota,
Assistant Rector
Robbie Respass, Hospitality Commission Chair*

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Stewardship

The Stewardship committee thanks all who supported the theme to "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" through their donation to St. John's of time, talents and treasures. The various ministry reports throughout this Annual Report speak to the quality and quantity of time and talents devoted to God's work in our community and beyond. Each pledge commitment gives voice to the life of God within St. John's, and every pledge is important and appreciated. Because God blesses us, we are able to respond by sharing our blessings with others. While the tally of pledging households fell

just short of our goal, a record number of new pledges to St. John's encourages us for the future.

Stewardship at St. John's begins each year with a new theme, but is always the same consistent message. We need your support to grow our ministries. If funds to support St. John's annual campaign grow, our ministries grow. If cutbacks are made or if families move away and new families do not embrace our ministries, St. John's outreach, campus care and personnel are in jeopardy. To help grow additional future revenue streams to support the parish, our Endowment & Planned Giving Committee will increase awareness about our responsibility to support our Christian Legacy. Your past gifts and future gifts help us look forward to the wonders that can be accomplished through offerings of love and generosity.

We look forward to encouraging Stewardship in the new year as we pray, "Lord, with the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry."

*Submitted by Beth Mackey
Chair, Stewardship
Kendle Priestley
Stewardship Coordinator*

The New Member Commission, which oversees our New Members, currently consists of Carol Kinloch, Carol Bartley, Beth Fyock, Denise Mogavero, Molly Crocker, Shari Schalge and Biz Merkey. I am grateful for their commitment to this ministry. We proudly host monthly New Member Forums, three times annual New Member Liturgies and Receptions, and an annual New Member Picnic. We follow up with all who attend New Member Forums with personal hand written notes thanking them for their interest in St. John's. We send out periodic e-mails and invitations to all New Members personally inviting them to upcoming church events. The New Member Commission and our New Members also recently sponsored breakfast for 150 youth and youth leaders during Discovery Weekend.

Our New Members are the future of this church. We are grateful for their presence and involvement at St. John's. And for all current St. John's parishioners, we should be proud that we warmly share the blessings of this church with ALL who are seeking a church home!

*Submitted by Biz Merkey
Chair, New Member Commission*

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New Member

St. John's has welcomed 66 new member families this year! New Members always state that when they visit St. John's, they find our church warm and welcoming. Their first impression of our inviting church makes them want to come back. The blessings of our church family to make ALL feel welcome to belong is a gift that flows freely from St. John's parishioners. Thank you for sharing this gift with those looking for a church home.

Our New Members are asked to attend a 2-session "New Member Forum" upon joining our church. These sessions are meant not only to be informative about St. John's, but our New Members are also asked to select a church ministry to begin participating in. In the past year, new members have added their time, talent and energies as Greeters, Donut "Picker Uppers", Sunday School Teachers, Stephen Ministers, Outreach Volunteers, Discovery Weekend Participants, Lay Ministers – the list could go on! Our New Members participate in Worship and Christian Education. Our New Members are the future of our church and their continued involvement is what keeps our great church vibrant and growing!

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Buildings & Grounds

The St. John's campus, comprising 14+ acres and 100K+ square feet of buildings, flexibly enable ministries that extend well beyond Sunday worship. The well-designed and maintained facilities have been thoughtfully enhanced over many decades to serve as a prominent invitation to be part of our community.

On the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, the Buildings & Grounds committee meets with church and school leaders to guide maintenance, repair, and improvement of the property to support its active use. St. John's professional folks with subject matter proficiency include Brad Lieberman, Hal Sachs, Jeanne Shobert, Bruno Reich, Gill Gawthrop, and George Tolen, as well as business people Sandy Hornor, Steve Davey, John Constance and Dave Standeven. We recently transitioned through our 2008-9 Transwestern facilities outsource contract arrangement to now directly employ the core team of Matt Fischer, Richard Lawson, and Warren Harris.

Chatham Road Houses. During the late 1990's St. John's purchased two adjacent houses on Chatham Road, one of them from Sam Pfefferkorn who lived

there for the balance of his life. In early 2009 we took possession of the Pfefferkorn house, and a team of church volunteers and staff, together with Transwestern professionals and contractors, completed a comprehensive renovation and update of the house. A new kitchen, laundry room, second bathroom and heating/air conditioning enhanced the two-bedroom/great room dwelling for modern lifestyles. Donors also enabled new driveways and re-landscaping that refreshed the streetscape of both homes. They now enable St. John's to provide residences to two associate clergy in the most cost and tax efficient and convenient manner available. We are grateful to the donors and volunteers who made it possible for Jenni Ovenstone Smith to move into her new home.

Labyrinth. Through the beneficence of a donor family, the campus landscape has been enhanced with a new labyrinth between Rose Hill and the memorial garden around the historic gates. The donors worked with the Buildings & Grounds committee and vestry on the design, placement, and timing of this further enrichment of the St. John's property.

Snow. The recent harsh winter weather was addressed by the Brickman firm, which maintains our lawns and landscaping during the summer, plowed our December snow and prepared us well for holiday services, as well as round-the-clock work by Matt, Richard, Warren, and help from parishioner contractor Gil Gawthrop. We have submitted an insurance claim for the costs of damage to Commons windows, CME gutters, outdoor light fixtures, pavement, and curbs, but some costs are not covered, so that, together with the extraordinary plowing costs, we're obliged to find unbudgeted funds.

Sustainability. For years, St. John's has been a leader in ecologically sound and energy-efficient initiatives. Member Jim Truby is now part of a Diocesan leadership committee focused on defining and deploying best practices in church facilities throughout Maryland, and St. John's has been invited to be one of six pilot sites. Opportunities range from systematically deploying compact fluorescent bulbs, to more motion-sensitive light switches, to more efficient air handling equipment, to possible photovoltaic solar and/or geothermal energy sources.

Outlook. For 2010, planned improvements include a glycol system for the CME HVAC system, a new air conditioner for the church undercroft, and paving improvements around Clark House and the CME

kitchen entrance. Of course, with buildings ranging in age from 10 to 150 years, surprises are inevitable. The donors, volunteers, and staff serve us well – and all are welcome to participate.

*Submitted by Tom Brandt
Chair, Buildings & Grounds Commission*



Common Life

One definition of “praise” is to “express one’s gratitude and respect toward something or someone.” It could be said that it is possible to know God and even to love God passively, but to praise God requires expression. Praise is an intentional act. Over the years, the St. John’s Episcopal Church and Parish Day School communities have known one another, but until recently little concerted effort was aimed at actively bringing the two together to praise and celebrate each other.

Last September the Common Life Commission (CLC) was formed solely to facilitate and strengthen relationships between members of the parish and the school. The CLC, comprised of Vestry, Parish Day School Board and Parents’ Association members, highlighted existing shared initiatives and activities, established a common calendar and identified and supported new opportunities to support and celebrate our shared blessing of St. John’s. The common calendar, distributed as bookmarks, effectively publicized upcoming parish and school events and mutually helpful “Did you know?” facts.

The CLC’s major Fall event recognized the 9/11 National Day of Service and Remembrance by combining ongoing efforts of the Outreach Commission with immediate Parish Day School involvement in a joint book drive for the newly chartered East Baltimore Community School. Following this event the CLC was an active participant in the One Worship Service and Parish Fair where the first of our bookmarks were distributed. This Spring, in recognition of Earth Day, CLC will host a lecture and book signing by noted conservationist Ned Tillman, addressing conservation in the Chesapeake Bay region, and relevant parish and school initiatives.

The CLC will annually focus on the National Day of Service and Earth Day given their importance to our shared spirit and goals, and explore additional ways to intentionally intertwine our parish-school

lives, creating a stronger, and even more dynamic and vibrant St. John's community.

*Submitted by Kevin McGill and June Robinson,
Co-Chairs, Common Life Commission*



Music

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him,
all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly
host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

~ Archbishop Thomas Ken

The text above is known as the *lesser doxology* and has been sung since the early centuries of the Christian church. In the Episcopal Church, it appeared first in the 1916 edition of the Episcopal Hymnal and is found in our current edition set to three different hymn tunes.

This wonderful text expresses the inclusive aspects of church music and church music ministry. We all become ministers of music each time we raise our voices in the corporate singing of hymns and service music. The music of the church is grounded in our mutual faith in Christ and our deep attachment to one another. It explores the wonderful mystery of our own existence, expresses our deep personal hunger for God, and always provides spiritual food for our souls.

Here at St. John's we offer a greater involvement in music ministry through singing choirs, handbell ringing choirs, and instrumental choirs. These groups offer opportunities for adults, youth and children. Through these various groups we seek to provide the listener with a spiritual experience not found in the secular community. It is our desire to expand these resources further and we invite your participation.

In this past year, our professional orchestra completed a successful second season. The November concert included two pieces with Italian themes and a commemorative piece to honor All Saints'. Our February concert was a narrative children's concert featuring an award winning narrator. Our third and final concert was dedicated to Earth Day and featured a water theme. We premiered a special piece written by an award winning Maryland composer whose inspiration was the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Each concert has been attended by an enthusiastic and supportive audience representing the surrounding communities of Ellicott City, Columbia, and Catonsville. The conductor of the orchestra, Ronald Mutchnick, recently received the prestigious "Howie Award" which recognized him as an outstanding artist in Howard County.

To end on a fond memory, last September 20 St. John's had a wonderful 10 a.m. "One Worship" outdoor celebration combining all five worshipping congregations. All music groups including Adult and Junior choirs, Contemporary Singers and Instrumentalists, and Handbell Choir combined forces to sing and play a wonderful anthem titled "All Praise to Thee". The final verse used the Doxology text. The weather that day was exquisite and the grounds beautiful as we raised our voices in unison to exclaim, "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow". This event was truly a memorable start to our worship season.

*Submitted by Nancy Stavely
Director of Music*



Worship

The Worship ministries of this parish embodied the gifts of time and talent offered by parishioners for the preparation for and practice of weekly worship. A great example of this occurred in the One Worship held on 10 a.m. on Sunday, September 20, 2009. Members of all St. John's five worshipping congregations, numbering over 500 people, gathered on that Sunday to worship together. This service combined the gifts of our beautiful and well-maintained grounds, the talents of all of our music groups (All Saints Hall Band, Adult Choir, Junior Choir, and Bell Choir), readers, ushers and other hospitality ministries, Eucharistic Ministers, altar guild, and members of the Parish Day School Community. Coming together to worship God in this way helped set the tone for our worship offerings throughout 2009 and 2010.

Even as worship depends on a team effort, the talents and gifts of individuals make up the gifts of the team. Henry Miller deserves special recognition for his many years coordinating the ushers for the Historic Church. Henry's attention to detail, organization, and communication skills have helped the usher ministry to run smoothly. We're glad Henry will continue to serve as an usher, even as he hands the coordinator role to Susan Little. Thank you, Henry! Thanks to all who continue to offer gifts of time, talent, treasure, and energy in support of worship ministries at St. John's Church.

*Submitted by The Rev. Nicholas Szobota
Assistant Rector
Patty Wise, Worship Commission Chair*

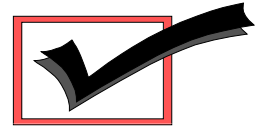
2010 Sample Ballot



St. John's 2010 Annual Meeting Election Ballot for Vestry Class of 2013

You are eligible to vote, if you....

- † have been a member of St. John's, since Dec. 2, 2009
- † are at least 16 years old (born after Dec. 2, 1993)
- † made a 2010 pledge to St. John's
- † attend worship regularly at St. John's



Nominees for a Three- year team are listed below, you MUST VOTE FOR FOUR.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Rick Conover | Blair Kennard | Barbara Merke | Bill Gould | Brad Lieberman | Mike Salmons |

St. John's Labyrinth Dedication Today



St. John's celebrates the first phase of the labyrinth with its formal dedication today following the 11:15 a.m. services (roughly at 12:30 p.m.). A light reception will follow and everyone is invited. Given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Helen and Vernon Hoenes by Dick and Leonora Hoenes, the first phase is the labyrinth and its connection to the memorial garden for Brit-tany Salmons located at the St. John's stone gates. Walking the labyrinth is the revival of a traditional Christian spiritual practice that brings us close to our center in God. St. John's now brings this spiritual practice closer to us so that we may continue to bring everyone into a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Members of our community may choose other donations of benches,

landscaping and plantings according to the labyrinth plans. Gifts for the Garden are also being given by the fifth grade graduation Sunday school class and the fifth grade graduating Parish Day School class. Additional Gifts in Thanksgiving or Gifts in Memory of loved ones are possible according to the landscape plan and the needs of the garden. Gifts will be recorded in a Gift and Memorial Journal that will be kept in the Historic Church. Gifts may vary according to their location in the overall labyrinth plan and occasion for the gift. Please contact The Rev. Dr. Carol Pinkham Oak for more information.

Candidates for Vestry

Rick Conover



My family and I have attended the Contemporary Service in All Saints Hall since 2005. We attend the 5:00 p.m. Saturday service during the summer months.

My ministry has been in support of pastoral care. I am active in Stephen Ministry as both a Leader and a Minister. I serve as a Eucharistic

Minister and Lector for all services, and I serve as a Crucifer for funerals. I have given presentations at Adult Forum on the Emerging Church and Stephen Ministry and conducted a Lenten program for adults last year. Most recently, I completed Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC).

I enjoy being a stay-at-home father. I enjoy being hands-on, working with mechanical things, and spending time thinking conceptually and solving problems. Over the past 20 years, I have worked across several fields as research chemist, apprentice plumber and electrician. Recently, I completed the two-year diocesan discernment process, and earned a Master of Science degree in Pastoral Counseling from Loyola. I serve as chairman for the executive committee for Camp Amazing Grace. I have also worked at CAG as a counselor and staff director.

My vision for St. John's is one of sharing—our community and its offerings of education, outreach and pastoral care to the wider community. If elected to vestry, I am interested in continuing the leadership role that St. John's plays in the Diocese, and in listening for and guiding St. John's to further nurture and be nurtured by their sharing of community. My experience with the Diocesan Men's Retreat and CAG have given me a great appreciation for the many gifts that we have been blessed with at St. John's, and the value of sharing those gifts.

Bill Gould



My name is William "Bill" Gould. I have been a member of St. Johns for 14 years and a like long Episcopalian. I regularly attend the 9:00 a.m. Traditional Service.

I have been a J2A leader for the last four years. I was a leader on the 2008 Pilgrimage to England. I will also be a leader on the 2010 Pilgrimage

to Scotland. I have participated in a number of youth retreats and been an overnight leader for Discovery Weekends. I have a Masters Degree in Social Work and presently a public administrator and manager for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service working on program integrity and provider compliance issues. I also have been a volunteer coach in the Howard County Lacrosse Program and presently a volunteer coach for the Mt. Hebron High School Lacrosse Program.

My Grandfather was an Episcopal priest in several congregations in Maryland, Virginia, and Philadelphia. I was baptized by my Grandfather as an infant and was an acolyte in his last parish in Philadelphia at five years old. I was the head acolyte at my home parish at St. Andrew's Church in Bridgeton, New Jersey where I was confirmed. The last few years have been the most meaningful of my life long spiritual journey by participating in St John's Youth Program as a J2A leader. Participating in the 2008 pilgrimage was one of the high points of my life. It made my feel even a greater connection to St John's as a nurturing and inclusive spiritual community. The youth are the future of our church family and I have been honored to participate in our outstanding youth programs. My vision for our Christian community is to expand and strengthen our youth programs, in particular, to increase the cultural and racial diversity of our parish. St. John's is truly an extended family that is a spiritual and loving safe harbor during these turbulent and difficult times. I was honored to be a candidate for the vestry in 2009 and again feel honored to be a candidate this year. As a member of the vestry I will work my hardest to continue the development of St John's as a beacon of hope in the Howard County community. Also, we need to expansion opportunities for your youth to participate as full members of our faith community. Where appropriate, our youth should be members of committees and commissions to ensure that policies and positions of St John's represent the opinions and feelings of our youth.

Blair Kennard



St. John's has been my spiritual community for 10 years and has supported me through ups and downs during that time. My husband, Ross, and I were married at St. John's and my 3 children were baptized here. Because I have gotten so much from this community, I have been intentional about giving back. I have

participated in youth ministries including teaching Sunday school, being a J2A coordinator, chaperoning at retreats, and participating in Discovery Weekend. I have had the pleasure of teaching yoga to parishioners as part of the Pastoral Care Ministry. As a family we attend the 9:00 a.m. contemporary service and have participated in ushering, the donut ministry, and the Shrine Mont tradition.

I have been a working mother for 15 years. Professionally, I have worked in the financial services industry for 20 years where I have enjoyed a leadership role in developing and implementing software in the commercial banking, mortgage, and consumer debt management industries. I have been curious about serving on the vestry for the last couple of years. What inspired me to put my name forth this year was learning that the vestry will be focusing on creating a strategic plan. It is an exciting time for us and I have seen a strong foundation laid. One of my goals as a vestry member would

be to take that foundation and extend it to new and prospective members so that they can experience what all of us have come to cherish here at St. John's.

Brad Lieberman



I have been a member of St. John's for 20 years. My family and I most often attend the 9:00 a.m. service in the Historic Church.

At St. John's, I have been a member of the Youth Commission for 8 years. The Youth Commission is charged with coordinating the Rite 13, J2A, and YAC programs. I often

pitch in to help with various youth activities such as the Pancake Supper. I have recently joined the Building and Grounds Committee and have become a friendly visitor through the Pastoral Care Commission.

Professionally, I am an account manager of a major corporation. I am currently on the board of a local swim and tennis club. In this volunteer position my areas of responsibility are Buildings and Grounds, Membership and Finance.

St. John's has been an integral part of the life of my family for the past 20 years. St. John's is a welcoming spiritual community and I feel it is important that we continue to reach out to people of all faiths from our community. Although I was raised in the Jewish faith, I started attending St. John's with my wife shortly after we were married. As our children were baptized and our family became more involved in the life of the church, I made the decision to become baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal faith. I enjoy coming to St. John's not only for the spiritual enrichment but for the friendships I have formed. As a member of the vestry of St. John's, I would be committed to working on the financial health of the parish, as well as the maintenance and preservation of the physical plant. If elected to the Vestry I would like to learn about the all of Ministries of St. John's.

Barbara Merke



I have attended St. John's for 16 years, and have been a member for 14 years. As a member of the Adult Choir, I attend both the 9:00 and 11:15 services, following the choir schedule.

Although the choir is my most enduring activity, over the years I have been involved at various times

in the Adult Education and Lay School Committees, the Music Committee, a Lay Committee for seminarian Susan Wight, the Day School Scholarship Committee, St. James Covenant activities, Church Ladies, the Book Club, care of the Memorial Garden and most recently, a member of the 2004-2006 Calling Committee.

As a professional Social Worker with an additional graduate degree in Healthcare Administration, I have many years of experience in hospital administration, quality management, and healthcare accreditation. My civic interests have included helping to found the Howard County Mental Health Core Service Agency, as well as serving as a board member on the Howard County Association of Community Services and the Coalition of Geriatric Services. I am currently serving on the Board of the National Association of Social Workers (Maryland Chapter), and the Board of Trustees of Samuel Ready Scholarships.

Mike Salmons



I have been a member of St. John's since 1990 and regularly attend the 9:00 a.m. service. Over the past 20 years, I have served on the Vestry, chaired the Buildings & Grounds Committee, and have been active in the Men's Club. I am a recent graduate of the Disciples of Christ in Community course taught at St. Johns. In 1992, I helped establish

the covenant relationship between St. Johns and St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Port Maria, Jamaica, and have been part of several Medical Mission and Youth trips there. In 2006, I was the recipient of the St. John's Award, presented at the Annual Meeting in May.

Upon retiring from the US Army in 1997 as a Medical Service Corps Officer, I returned to the federal workforce as the Director of Plans, Operations, and Security at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 2007, I joined the staff of the Library of Congress in Washington, and oversee disaster planning and emergency response as the Director of Emergency Management.

My vision for St. John's is one of continued parish growth, strengthening relationships as individuals and as community, and strong leadership in challenging times. If elected to the Vestry, I will strive to help shape wise decision making, help strengthen and promote the Parish Day School, and help guide us to become good stewards of our campus, facilities, programs, and resources.

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2009 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2009 Annual Meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church, Queen Caroline Parish, Ellicott City, Maryland was called to order by the Rector, The Rev. Dr. Carol Pinkham Oak, at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday May 3, 2009.

A prayer was given. A quorum was declared for the 187th meeting, and Sally Scott Marietta was appointed secretary by The Rev. Dr. Pinkham Oak. An agenda was distributed.

It was moved by Jenny Abel and seconded by Phil Stackhouse to approve the minutes of the last year's Annual Meeting. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Pursuant to the By-laws of St. John's Episcopal Church, the Vestry proposed alterations to the by-laws, which required a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those Voting members who shall attend the Annual Meeting. A document that adhered to the requirement, for the action items to be placed on the Annual Meeting agenda, the suggested alterations were included in the notice of the Annual Meeting.

Agenda Item #1

The intent of the Agenda Item #1 was to change the bylaws to elect vestrypersons by plurality (the candidates with the highest number of votes) rather than a majority vote (the candidates receiving more than 50% of votes). To achieve the requirement of a majority required additional balloting to ensure each nominee was elected with more than 50% of votes. This change would also mirror recommendations in sample bylaws provided by the Diocese of MD which call for a plurality vote.

A motion to change the By-Laws of St. John's Episcopal Church - Article II, Section 4. Election and Recall - The Presiding Officer shall appoint a Chief Teller and such additional tellers as are required from communicants in good standing as defined in Title I, Canon 16 of the National Canons. Those nominees receiving the highest number of votes for the vacancies to be filled shall be declared duly elected. If alternates are necessary, then by the consent of a majority of those present, a motion may then be entertained for the unanimous election as alternates such number of those nominees having the next highest number of votes on the full ballot and the same shall thereupon be declared duly elected. - was made by Bill Ewald. It was seconded by Phil Stackhouse.

The motion was approved by a voice vote. The second Action Item was to be discussed after the voting was conducted.

Report of the Nominating Committee and First Ballot

The eligibility for voting was reviewed and the rules for balloting were highlighted. Sandy Hornor, chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked the members of the committee, John Constance, Jack Fyock, Jenny Abel and Elisabeth Beekman. He mentioned members had held Discernment Sundays to give potential candidates a chance to ask questions. Hornor thanked all of the parishioners who considered service and that service on the Vestry is one of the opportunities at St. John's where parishioners can lead and take us into the future. The Nominating Committee recommended seven candidates Jean Boone, Ron Buchman, Karen Good, Bill Gould, Greg Johnson, and Brad Lieberman. The Rector thanked all the parishioners who offered their interest, service and leadership to the parish during this Vestry nomination process.

A motion was introduced to approve and ratify that the nominations and elections process for the 2009 Annual Meeting is valid. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Hornor asked for a motion to place the names in nomination for four three-year terms. Jack Fyock introduced the motion and Pat Hagan seconded the motion. The candidates were introduced - It was moved and seconded that the nominations were to be closed. The motion was approved by voice vote. Members who were eligible to vote were instructed to vote for four candidates. The Nominating Committee Chair Sandy Hornor, John Constance, Jack Fyock, Jenny Abel, Elisabeth Beekman as well as Tim Ruhl and Teri Salmons were appointed as tellers to conduct the vote for new vestry members; Sandy Hornor was appointed as the head teller. The ballots were distributed.

Action Item # 2

The purpose of this Action Item was to change the fiscal year of the St. John's Episcopal Church to coincide with the financial reporting year of the Parish Day School, so as to facilitate the preparation of audited financial statements for both the Church and the Day School.

The St. John's Parish Day School is an integral part of the St. John's Episcopal Church legal entity. For income tax reporting purposes, its financial data are included in reports provided to the Diocese of Maryland for inclusion in its reports to the IRS. To date the Church has engaged outside auditors Clifton Gunderson to report on "consolidated" Church and Day School statements on a calendar year basis. Their reports have essentially gone into files of our banker, and have been available to the diocese and for rare reference by parishioners.

In order to continue to enhance the reputation of the Parish Day School, the school determined to seek certification by the Association of Independent

Maryland Schools (AIMS). Among other certification requirements, there is a requirement for audited financial statements for the school. The Finance Committee had been informed that a best practice is for the financial operations of the school to be reported separately from the Church to facilitate the assessment of the stand-alone financial condition of the school. To this end, the Treasurer had consulted with the Church's outside auditors on their ability to provide an audited opinion on "consolidating" financial statements, which would separately display the financial assets and operations of both the Church and the Day School in one set of annual financial statements. A necessary precondition to accomplishing this is to adopt the same fiscal year for both the Church and the Day School. The practical fiscal year for reference by AIMS and school patrons is June 30.

Despite a change in the date for which an auditor's report will be obtained, our financial systems and staff will enable the Church to continue to manage church affairs based on internal budgets and reports prepared on a calendar-year basis. There are no plans for a change in reports to parishioners regarding the assets and activity of any church ministries.

The Church by-laws (last amended in 2007) provide for a calendar fiscal year. The Treasurer and Finance Committee recommended approval of this resolution. In order that St. John's Episcopal Church may adjust the schedule for audits, the following resolution needed to be approved at its May 2009 annual meeting:

A motion to change the By-Laws of St. John's Episcopal Church – Article V, Section 1. Fiscal Year to the fiscal year of the Church shall be from July 1 to June 30 and to change the By-Laws of St. John's Episcopal Church – Article V, Section 4. Audit to The Financial Books and Records of the Church shall be audited annually by a Certified Public Accountant chosen by the Vestry or reviewed by an Ad Hoc Audit Committee to be authorized by the Vestry if the cost of a C.P.A. is ruled prohibitive by the Vestry. Such audit or review shall be submitted to the Vestry not later than the Vestry meeting held in the ninth month following the end of the previous fiscal year was made by Phil Stackhouse. It was seconded by Carol Bartley. The motion was approved by a voice vote, with one vote in opposition.

The Rev. Dr Pinkham Oak referenced the Annual Report and encouraged parishioners to recycle and reuse it. She thanked the Parish staff Kendle Priestly, Steve Lyon and Georgia Ziehm and Vestry Member Adam Nickel for putting together the Annual Report.

St. John's Parish Day School

Board of Trustees chair Dana Blair was proud to report that St. John's Parish Day School continues to positively

impact its children, their parents and grandparents. The school is a vibrant community and a strong environment for academic rigor and learning. She referenced the year had been one of transition of leadership with Sharon Runge as director and Nancy Wood serving as Interim Head of School. Blair commented that the school is blessed with a talented board, faculty and staff who all work to nurture the students. She also acknowledged the support of the Rector, Carol Pinkham Oak, School Chaplain Jenni Overstone Smith, and the Vestry. She referenced the school's strong parent association and that this year the Pre-School had celebrated 40 years educating the students.

She mentioned a recent program had 500 grandparents attend chapel, visit classrooms, tour the campus and were eager to share their time, talent and treasure with St. John's. Blair mentioned the incorporation of the ICE test used to evaluate students in independent schools. The 5th graders did extremely well. She referenced their spring carnival. Most important, the school had selected a new Head of School, Stephen Harrison, who would join the community on June 15th.

Blair highlighted the work of the administrative team who had enhanced marketing including a new admission video. She concluded with a "Did you Know" series that the children attend daily chapel, the PDS is a Maryland Green School, the Pre-School includes both before and after care and the St. John's students participate in many outreach activities with the parish including Kenya Connect.

The Rev. Dr. Pinkham Oak thanked Dana Blair and the Board of Trustees, and the Head Search Committee for their many hours of thoughtful process. She thanked Sharon Runge and the administrative team at the school and Nancy Wood for her services as Interim Head. The Rector expressed her gratitude and appreciation for Judy Anderson, who was retiring in 2009 from the preschool faculty.

Wardens' Report

Senior Warden Mike Croxson and Junior Warden Charles Flexner reported on some trends in the Episcopal Church and St. John's. They referenced that membership at St. John's had increased by 50 members, while it is declining in the overall Church. Also, St. John's is a young parish with more than 50% of the parish under age of 40. Efforts to focus on offering activities for all generations will strengthen our community. They also mentioned meetings with other wardens from parishes and the importance of focusing on the future – development of endowments, operations, and the stewardship of maintaining the campus and the parish. It has been difficult, but much has been accomplished. There are so many great qualities about our parish we enjoy and need to continue to help grow.

The Rector thanked the Wardens for their service during a challenging year in 2008 and 2009. They provided the passion and leadership to connect to the intensity of each person and help them grow closer together in a relationship with God and Jesus Christ at St. John's.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tom Brandt presented and gave the Treasurer's report for the year ending December 31, 2008. He acknowledged the invaluable work from the Finance Committee, the Parish staff, and Parish Day School provided to the Treasurer during the year. Many volunteers and Parish/School staff contribute to managing the church and school budgets.

A powerpoint on the Finance Report for 2008 and the 2009 budget was presented and is included in the permanent record. The 2009 budget had been targeted to break even, but it includes furloughs for staff, no cost of living adjustments for staff and funds only to sustain ministries.

A combination of receipts from operating fund pledges, donations, as well as cost reductions, enabled St. John's to achieve a break even budget with a slight surplus of \$6K, on an operating budget of \$1.1 million.

The Vestry had approved a projected break-even 2009 budget; however, additional pledges are needed to meet this target. He indicated the Vestry would be working with commissions and clergy throughout the year to ensure a break-even budget is achieved.

He focused on pledges where the number of pledging units had decreased for 2009, but the overall amount was projected to increase. He reviewed the pledge history. The numbers continue to reflect a decrease in pledging units; however the average pledge amount had increased, reflecting the diligent efforts of the Stewardship Committee. Clearly we need to continue to work towards increasing the number of pledging units and focusing attention on asking for increased amounts given and increased number of pledging units. The Treasurer urged the parish to close the 2009 pledge gap during the upcoming appeal.

Day School Treasurer Chris Frink joined Treasurer Brandt in reporting that the Parish Day School net school operations for its first 9 months and the school was expected in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 to have a deficit of \$40K, but would cover the annual debt service under the \$7 million mortgage that funded the expansion of facilities. Enrollment for the upcoming year was challenging and the treasurers and Finance Committee will be focused on managing resources and reducing deficits.

Summary highlights from the Treasurer's presentation:

- Church membership is essentially stable, and 2008 church cost reductions have enabled break-even results.
- 2008 energy and facilities management efficiency steps ensure good value to members and school patrons.
- St. John's has made all loan payments on time, but modest PDS deficits are accumulating.
- 2007-8 PDS budget indicated full coverage of '08 debt service by school operations; leaders worked hard to contain costs.
- Lower School and Pre-school enrollment in current economic environment present challenges to new head of school, and to volunteer leaders.

The Rev. Dr. Carol Pinkham Oak acknowledged the Treasurer, Parish Day School Treasurer, the Finance Committee, the staff, especially Georgia Ziehm, and the Investment Committee for their commitment to St. John's fiscal well-being. She expressed thanks for the leadership of Treasurer Tom Brandt and School Treasurer Chris Frink. The Rector also thanked Dave Standeven for developing the Shared Allocation Plan between the school and parish.

Rector's Report

The Rev. Dr. Pinkham Oak provided her report as her sermon, which was preached at all services. The Rector commented on her love of being rector of St. John's and was looking forward to her partnership in ministry with the new Head of School, Steve Harrison. School and parish will need to be active participants in the process and partnership as we share to advance the ministry of the parish and the school. The Rector thanked everyone for helping build a vibrant, loving community at St. John's.

The Rector thanked the Technology Committee who upgraded the parish website - Sally Scott Marietta, Susan Maloney, Kem White, Adam Nickel, Kendle Priestley and Georgia Ziehm and the commission leadership - who expanded the parish's website presence and enabled online capacity to contribute pledges or pay for activities online. She also thanked Audacious Inquiry, a Howard County based company that developed and expanded the church's capacity to communicate the parish's ministries on the internet.

The Rector acknowledged the Orchestra of St. John's and the wonderful concerts performed on campus. She thanked Nancy Stavely, Ronald Mutchnik and Bob Miller for their time and talents to this important community and parish ministry.

The Rector thanked the leadership and members of all of the parish's ministries and Commissions. They engage, support and fulfill the mission of St. John's. The Rev. Dr. Pinkham Oak also thanked the Clergy and Staff, especially Comptroller Georgia Ziehm for work on the Parish's fiscal needs and the Parish and Parish Day School budgets.

Stewardship Theme-Hymn from Choir and Congregation

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow was sung, as St. John's theme for Stewardship for the coming year.

Recognition of Retiring Wardens

Current Wardens Mike Croxson and Charles Flexner were thanked for their faithful advice, energy, talents and service to the parish.

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members

Current Vestry members Jenny Abel, Elisabeth Beekman, Jack Fyock and Hal Sachs who were retiring were introduced and thanked. The Rev. Dr. Carol Pinkham Oak thanked them for faithfully serving the parish.

Vestry Election

Head Teller Sandy Hornor reported the results of the vote for new Vestry members. It was announced for a three-year term – Jean Boone, Ron Buchman, Karen Good, and Greg Johnson – had been elected. The Rev. Dr. Pinkham Oak thanked Sandy Hornor and the Nominating Committee for their service.

Swearing in of New Vestry Members

Jean Boone, Ron Buchman, Karen Good, and Greg Johnson were administered the Oath of Office, received their pin, and thanked for their commitment to the congregation and serving the St. John's Community.

St. John's Cross

The St. John's Cross is an annual award given to a member of the parish who in the last year had helped us fulfill our mission, to bring everyone to a closer relationship with God and each other in Jesus Christ.

2008 is the second year of the St. John's cross award. St. John's members invest their hearts in the parish creating ministries, bringing others into a closer relationship with God, and leaving a legacy of love for others. The St. John's cross is given to the person who in the last several years has volunteered passion, time, and heart to create and build our ministries.

The recipient of St. John's Cross this year probably never set out to take on something big. There was a need in youth ministries for organization as the parish experienced five youth ministers in six years. Yet, a new initiative, Journey to Adulthood was brought to this parish through her efforts. The Youth Commission needed a loving and guiding hand, a mother—one

could say—to nurture this growing ministry. Processes were put in place; parameters thoughtfully established, and volunteers fed both literally and spiritually. She is a supporter and recruiter of youth leaders. And when sure careful tending is in place, growth will happen. The Youth Ministry has now grown beyond anyone's vision to over 150 active youth and more than 50 volunteers. Throughout it all, this person met the challenges of each year and kept the youth commission on course. And throughout it all she tended her own family, her work, cared for her friends, and served on the Vestry. This year the recipient of the St. John's Cross was Elisabeth Beekman.

The Rector asked everyone who had received the St. John's Award to stand.

St. John's Award

The Rev. Dr. Pinkham Oak commented that it is a great honor to give the St. John's Award to parishioners who gives of themselves, exemplifies leadership and demonstrates our mission in the community.

The St. John's award is given to a member of our community who, over his or her life time, has served the parish in many ways to strengthen this community and bring us all into a closer relationship with God and one another. This year's recipient usually does not call attention to her service. Many would not know her corporate service to nurture new leaders, to encourage corporate leaders to give back to the community, and to support professional women. Many would not know of her support of education in Maryland and Baltimore. Many would not know of her dedication to the church beyond St. John's or her devotion to her friends with terminal illnesses. Members of the parish might think that this person only does one thing at St. John's, such as previously being a kindergarten Sunday School teacher, or now serving as a lector or welcome center host or volunteering when help is needed. She is an enthusiastic supporter of the Day School, by helping to write its original bylaws and expanding our ministries to launch the school. In the past year, she had been the organizer and guide behind the construction of the new St. John's website. With a handful of others, she holds an important history of the life of this parish for many years; and through those years has thoroughly, consistently, and accurately been the Registrar of the Vestry. This year St. John's award is in thanksgiving for Sally Scott Marietta.

Prayer was recited. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn, the motion passed on a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sally Scott Marietta
Acting Secretary*

2010 Parish Survey

Predicting Church Attendance and Participation

Background:

It has been five years since the congregation offered their input on church issues via a wide scale survey. Now that the new clergy is firmly established in the life of the church and the Vestry is considering its long-range strategic planning for St. John's, we thought it was a good time to take the 'temperature' of our parishioners. The survey sought to better understand the relationship between church attendance and a variety of factors, including, activities parishioners join, personal spirituality, and family characteristics. A primary goal was to develop a clearer picture of how the activities and offerings at St John's drive parishioner attendance and involvement.

Methodology:

A short web-based survey (a paper survey was available upon request and mailed to those 70 years of age and older) was administered in February. Parishioners were informed and reminded about the survey through the bulletin, e-mails to those who have provided e-mail addresses to St John's, announcements in church services, postcard handouts after church, and at www.stjohnsec.org. A parish wide postcard invitation was cancelled because of the February snow storm. A total of 278 surveys were returned.

Findings:

- More than two-thirds of respondents report attendance at 2-3 times per month or more.
- There were no significant differences in reported attendance and traditional spirituality beliefs among the different services. Attendees in both 9:00 am services and the 11:15 service reported greater commitment to St. John's than the other services. Attendees at both 9:00 am services report significantly higher volunteer hours, than the other services.
- Age and External Factors were significantly related to church attendance. More traditional spiritual beliefs, attending a greater number of parish activities, and indicating a higher commitment to St. Johns were all positively related to Church Attendance.
- While new members teach at levels on par with those who have longer membership, they are not getting engaged in the other participatory activities at the same level.
- Looking for an Episcopal Church and location are both strong drivers in attracting new members. Second tier drivers include Music, Children to Sunday school, and the beauty of the church.
- Youth and Parish Life activities get new attendees involved.

This survey is one dimension of the information that is part of the strategic planning process.

St. John's Parish Organization

Clergy

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Carol Pinkham Oak

Associate Rector

The Rev. Nicholas Szobota

Associate Rector

The Rev. Jenni Ovenstone Smith

Deacon

The Rev. Mimi Mathews

Vestry

Senior Warden

June Robinson

Junior Warden

Tom Brandt

Treasurer

Dave Standeven

Registrar

Sally Scott Marietta

Assistant Treasurer

Jerry Anderson

Class of 2010

Hayden Constance

Tom Goss

Lauretta Kerr

Diane Standeven

Class of 2011

David Albert

Adam Nickel

Jordan Schlick

June Robinson

Class of 2012

Jean Boone

Ron Buchman

Karen Good

Greg Johnson

Commissions

Adult Faith Formation Commission presents educational opportunities for ages 18 years and older to learn more about the church in the world, and to continue on their faith journeys together and individually. Chair: Lowell Wilson; Vestry Liaison: Tom Goss

Children's Faith Formation Commission offers educational and experiential opportunities for infants through Grade 5. Director: Nancy Narrett; Chair: Colleen Citrano; Vestry Liaison: Jean Boone

Youth Ministries Commission oversees the Journey to Adulthood Program, youth education, and activities for Grades 6-12. Chair: Amy Tich; Vestry Liaison: Greg Johnson

Hospitality Commission welcomes and incorporates newcomers. Chair: Robbie Respass; Vestry Liaison: Jordan Schlick

Mission & Outreach Commission challenges St. John's to reach beyond its walls in discipleship to foster a fellowship of caring and compassion for others. Chair: Melinda Becker; Vestry Liaison: Ron Buchman

New Member Commission **supports the expanded ministries of new member forums, new member welcome, receptions and faith formation.** Chair: Biz Merkey; Vestry Liaison: Adam Nickel

Parish Life Commission assists the clergy by building a strong and caring internal community, and by developing bonds of Christian friendship within the parish. Chair: Karen Good; Vestry Liaison: Karen Good

Pastoral Care Commission encourages all St. John's members to care for one another as a "pastoring community" and represents groups engaged in active caring ministries for our parishioners. Co-Chairs: Debbie Lieberman and Diane Standeven; Vestry Liaison: Diane Standeven

Common Life Commission: To promote and encourage an intentional and meaningful relationship between SJEC and SJPDS through leadership, action, and participation. Our common life reflects the distinctive ministries of the parish and the educational excellence of the school. Co-Chairs: June Robinson, Senior Warden, and Kevin McGill, President of the PDS Board of Trustees; Carol Pinkham Oak, Rector or Stephen Harrison, Head of School. Vestry Liaison, Hayden Constance

Worship Commission collaborates with the clergy and Music Director in planning, organizing, and evaluating the corporate, mid-week, and Sunday worship services. The Rev. Nicholas Szobota; Worship Chair: Patricia Wise; Music Chair: Bob Miller; Vestry Liaison: David Albert

Parish Staff

Administrator of Youth and Children's Ministries

Colleen Citano

Director of Children's Faith Formation

Nancy Narrett

Director of Finance

Georgia Ziehm

Director of Music/ Organist

Nancy Stavely

Facilities Manager

Matt Fischer

Membership Secretary

Denise Mogavero

Parish Assistant

Steve Lyon

Stewardship Coordinator

Kendle Priestley

Headmaster, Parish Day School

Stephen Harrison

Early Childhood Director

Judy Robbins

Lower School Director

Tiffany Rath

Parish Day School Business Manager

Meg Same

Lower School Administrative Assistant

Russell Ashton

Early Childhood Director Assistant

Deb Abel

Lord, You Give the Great Commission



1 Lord, you give the great com - mis - sion: "Heal the sick and
 2 Lord, you call us to your serv - ice: "In my name bap -
 3 Lord, you make the com - mon ho - ly: "This my bo - dy,
 4 Lord, you show us love's true mea - sure: "Fa - ther, what they
 5 Lord, you bless with words as - sur - ing: "I am with you



1 preach the word." Lest the Church ne - glect its mis - sion
 2 tize and teach." That the world may trust your prom - ise,
 3 this my blood." Let your priests, for earth's true glo - ry,
 4 do, for - give." Yet we hoard as pri - vate trea - sure
 5 to the end." Faith and hope and love re - stor - ing,



1 and the Gos - pel go un - heard, help us wit - ness to your
 2 life a - bun - dant meant for each, give us all new fer - vor,
 3 dai - ly lift life hea - ven - ward, ask - ing that the world a -
 4 all that you so free - ly give. May your care and mer - cy
 5 may we serve as you in - tend, and, a - mid the cares that



1 pur - pose with re - newed in - teg - ri - ty;
 2 draw us clos - er in com - mu - ni - ty;
 3 round us share your chil - dren's lib - er - ty; with the
 4 lead us to a just so - ci - e - ty;
 5 claim us, hold in mind e - ter - ni - ty;



Spi - rit's gifts em - power us for the work of min - is - try.

Words: Jeffery Rowthorn (b. 1934)

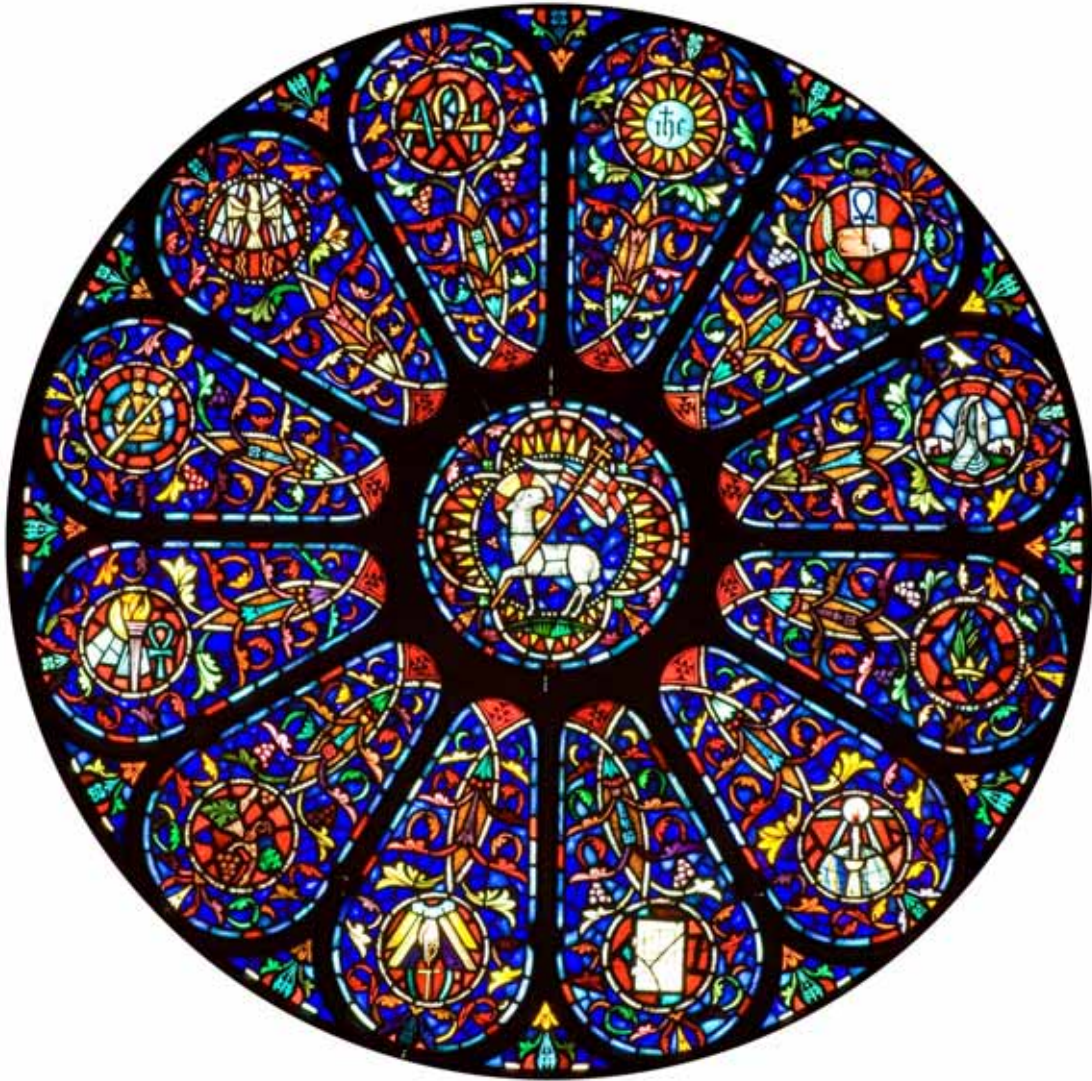
Music: Rowthorn, Alec Wyton (b. 1921)

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