

SAINT JOHN’S

The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow

ANNUAL MEETING

January 28, 2024 – 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

OPENING PRAYER – The Rev. Evelyn Wheeler

READING OF THE NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Ann Atwood, Clerk

 Motion to dispense with the reading of the Roll of Legal Voters

OPENING REMARKS – Nancy Butler

THE MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

 Motion to accept the minutes as presented or as amended

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF REPORTS

 Discussion of reports as warranted

Motion to accept reports submitted in writing

FINANCIAL REPORTS – 2023 and the Budget for 2024 – Larry Espinet, Treasurer

THE ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND VESTRY MEMBERS –

THE TRANSITION PROCESS – Gordon Ross

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE MEETING

PRESENTATION OF THE CHARLOTTE DUFOUR RECOGNITION

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

**WARNING AND NOTICE**

 **of the Annual Meeting of**

**ST. JOHN’S**

**The Episcopal Church in Pine Meadow**

**The annual meeting of St. John’s Church, Pine Meadow, will be held on Sunday morning, January 28, 2024, at approximately 11 am, following the 10am Eucharist, in person and in the church,** to elect members of the Vestry and to transact such other business as may legally come before such meeting in accordance with the Episcopal Canon I, Section 10.

Ann Atwood, Parish Clerk

St. John’s Pine Meadow
Annual Meeting
January 29, 2023

On-site
Called of order at 10:05 am following the 9:00 am service

**Opened in prayer** – Mother Evelyn

Meeting called to order at 10:05am.

**Reading of the Roll of Voting Members:** Motion made by Nancy Butler to dispense in the reading of the Roll of Voting Members. Seconded by Gordon Ross. All in favor.

**Opening Remarks** – Nancy Butler

**Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes**: Motion to accept the 2022 meeting minutes made by Nancy Butler. Seconded by Larry Espinet. All in favor.

**Reception of Reports Submitted in Writing:** Motion to accept written reports made by Ann Atwood. Seconded by Dick Bartram. All in favor as presented.

**Financial Reports:**

Larry Espinet, Treasurer, gave overview of 2022 and 2023 budgets.

Budget for 2022 has been impacted by Sandra Cosman’s departure.

Total revenue: $191,888.

There has been a decrease in endowment.

There has been a decrease in other revenue. Please see treasurer report for specific details.

Larry thanks Michelle Piekos and Diane Hayes for their hard work on the budget.

**2023 Budget**

Larry will continue to analyze parish pledges. Currently, we have $131,000 in pledges.

Increase in endowment revenue will be driven by a consistent 4.5% withdrawal from all D&B endowment accounts (except the new Howie Martin account.)

Increase in other revenue will be driven by using concert and scrip revenue.

Excess reserves to be invested in a government focused money market account to generate additional interest income.

We are hoping for a mid-April hire date for our new rector. (3/4 priest for 8.5 months)

Please see treasurer report for specific 2023 budget details.

Questions? Jeff Linton asked about 2022 reserves.

Gordon Ross moved to approve the treasurer report. Seconded by Nancy Butler. All in favor.

**Election of New Officers and Vestry Members:**

John Gargiulo -Vestry

Susie Horn- Vestry

Nancy Butler – Warden

We would like to keep them until a new rector is hired. Motion made by Ginny Hoffmann to extend these positions. Seconded by Diane Hayes. All in favor.

**Update for Transition Process for New Rector:**

Gordon Ross extended thanks to Mother Evelyn for her ongoing support. Meetings have been held and we expect to be able to hire a ¾ or possibly full time rector. Gordon reviewed the questions the vestry would like the parish to answer to assist in the search for a new rector.

**What makes St. John’s attractive to a new minister?**

**What would you tell a candidate his/her priorities should be?**

**What challenges will a new minister face?**

**How should the vestry and congregation work together on the search?**

Time was given for meeting attendants to fill out the questionnaire. Responses to each question were verbally shared.

Anyone interested in being part of the search committee, please contact a vestry member.

**Charlotte Dufour Award:** Presented by Gordon Ross and Nancy Butler

Award was given posthumously to Howie Martin. He was a liturgical assistant, a driver for Winnie for 20 years and huge “behind the scenes” supporter of St. John’s. He has left the church over $100,000. Nancy read the proclamation for Howie.

**Closing Prayer:** Mother Evelyn

Motion to adjourn made by Ginny Hoffmann. Seconded by Guy Hayes. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16am.



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

**Notes From The Vestry –Warden’s Report**

We have seen many changes in this very busy year. But most importantly, because of so many parishioners helping in so many ways our worship continues. Our service is now 10:00 and we receive Holy Communion at the rail. Thanks to Cat Sepples and Beth Coates, we have an active Youth Group. With the help of Maryelen Wielock we had a great time playing Bingo several times. Thanks to Ginny Hoffman, Dwelling in the Word resumed in January and our prayer shawl collection has continued. Thanks to Gordon, the microphone issue has been resolved. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and hard work from Halyna we have a new piano. After much soul searching Michelle resigned as our office manager and can enjoy more time as a parishioner. We were extremely fortunate to have hired Anne Hall as our new office manager.

I also want to thank Guy Hayes, who helped us find grants to help offset some of our expenses; while Diane Hayes revamped the website. We have had a variety of supply priests doing our services, which gives us the opportunity to listen to so many wonderful voices. Evelyn, Bob and Anne have given their time and knowledge to keep us liturgically correct in the creation of the bulletins.  Donna, Ann and Joe, have worked very hard to start our Christian formation going again. Unfortunately no children showed. I also want to thank Jamie Hall and Evelyn Wheeler for starting up Friday Formation; Carol and Betty who fold programs; and there are so many more who have volunteered that have not been mentioned.

I am forever grateful. That I cannot list everyone who makes the parish come alive is what makes St. John's such an amazing church. We have so many wonderful people who are happy to do the work without the recognition. It is that sense of pride and community that makes us

strong and keeps us going.

Finding a PIC has taken much of our time, energy and focus. We have had parish meetings, gathered information, assimilated information, shared information, written questions, answered questions, shared more information ,had more meetings and finally started meetings with the diocese. Amber Ghere came to explain the transition process to us.  After we proved to them and ourselves that we could afford a 3/4 priest, we came up with a resume that went on their website. We did a mock interview to improve our interviewing skills. Father Hodapp was here January 15th to do the service and explained where we were in the process. So far we have not received any applications. Finding the right PIC is so important to the future of St. John's; it is not something we want to rush. We will let God guide us. He knows who is right for us and when the time is right, he will let us know.

*Faithfully,*

*Nancy Butler, Senior Warden*

**Stewardship Report**

First, I would like to thank all of the Matching Fund donors. Your financial commitment to St. John’s is inspiring, I would also like to thank the parishioners who increased their pledge, and the new and returning pledgers. There were 25 families that increased their pledges and 4 new or returning pledgers. These pledges were matched with the $7,200 in Fund donations. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who made a pledge, your faith in and support of St. John’s helps ensure our future.

**Stewardship Campaign Results:**

Pledge Participation

* Number of Active Member Families: 91
* Number of Pledging Families: 50

Pledge Amount

* Total Pledges: $130,250
* Matching Funds: $7,200
* Stewardship Total: $137,450

While the commitment from families pledging was outstanding, the best I have seen in a very long time, only 55% of the Active Member Families pledge. Annual pledging is critical to ensuring the future of St. John’s. In addition to helping the Vestry plan for the coming year, pledging is a measure of the health of a parish. It is looked at by the diocese and, more importantly, will factor into any potential rector’ decision to accept or not accept a call to be our Priest In Charge. If you have not yet made a 2024 pledge, you can contact the office for a pledge sheet. If you expect to make a contribution to St. John’s of any amount in 2024, please consider filling out a pledge sheet.

*Respectively Submitted,*

*Diane Hayes, Assistant Treasurer*

**Treasurer’s Report**

**2023 Financials**



**2024 Budget**



**2024 Budget Continued**



***FACILITIES***

**Notes From The Vestry – Warden’s Report - Facilities**

In planning our budget for 2023, Vestry was aware that, at least for part of the year, we would be spending less than normal because we would not have a full-time minister. Therefore, we identified a number of repair and maintenance items to work on. Much of this was made possible by the services of our new handyman par excellence, Jim O’Toole. The list of accomplishments is substantial:

• The painting of the north side of the church, originally slated for 2022, was completed.

• Siding and roof work was done to address some nagging leaks in both the front and back of the church.

• Once the leaks were stopped, Jim repaired and painted the damaged areas to a seamless match in both areas.

• A memorial stone for Harold Brown was installed next to the flagpole. Brian Jones was very helpful in preparing the spot.

• The sills to both front doors, which were very rusty, were stripped and painted.

• New handles were placed near the doors to improve safety.

• The rail along the side entrance to the church was stripped and painted.

• A beautiful set of shelves and doors were crafted by Jim to safely store the Little Free Pantry goods.

• A new, lockable handle was installed in the narthex bathroom.

Moreover, we received a grant from the Diocese for $1778.16 which reimbursed us for repairs completed in 2022. This is thanks to a detailed request submitted by Guy Hayes. We have submitted another request for last year's work and hope to receive some funds in March.

The church continues to be a beautiful and well maintained facility due to the ceaseless care of many volunteers. My heartfelt thanks go out to each of you.

*Gordon Ross, Junior Warden*

**Gill Memorial Garden Report**

The Gill Memorial Garden is a special place at St. John’s. It’s a place for quiet reflection and renewal. We are so fortunate to be able to use this space for church receptions, brunch after church and community gatherings. While we don’t have high school students at this time, we do have several neighbors who help maintain the garden. But we are always in need of garden help. If you enjoy gardening, please consider signing up to be a planter or “Lay Weeder” this spring. Gordon Ross or Ann Atwood would be happy to provide more information.

*Ann Atwood, Clerk*

**Parish Administrator (S!) Report**

From Anne:

As your new Parish Administrator, my greatest thanks to everyone for their patience and their help as I learn this new role. In particular to Guy Hayes and Diane Hayes for their patience with several phone calls as I worked on taxes, as well a thanks to the vestry with their patience. The number of things that the parish administrator has to do is truly remarkable and it would not be possible to do it without the support of so many people. And a calendar, several calendars! The liturgical weekly, seasonal, and annual cycle; the financial, tax driven schedule, and the regular secular calendar make for a constantly shifting weekly ‘to do’ list. I am looking forward to learning how it plays out throughout the coming year and I am very grateful for all of you!

*In Faith,*

*Anne C. Hall, New Parish Administrator*

From Michelle:

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

This past year the Parochial Report was accepted by the Diocese and we fulfilled our obligation with the Diocesan Pledge; and St. John’s Church audit was performed in July and accepted by the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. We are a church in good standing with the Diocese.

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

I would like to thank Ann Atwood for all her hard work on supplying the St. John’s Minutes for the Vestry Meetings and writing thank you letters throughout the year.

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

*Michelle Piekos, Former Parish Administrator*

**Cleaning Crew Report**

Each person on the cleaning crew works at a time of their own convenience. Jeff and Nancy Linton, clean the back offices, kitchen, bathroom and hallway. Barbara Henry, dry mops and wet, mops Sheffield Hall and the stairs and cleans both the bathrooms .Guy Hayes and Sue Hall vacuum the church. Brett Hitchcock makes a weekly run to the dump. On occasion, we will ask for volunteers to do work on an area that needs a little TLC. To everyone on the regular cleaning crew and to the occasional helper, Thank you so much for keeping our church a place that we love to be in.

*Nancy Butler, Warden*

**Altar Guild Report**

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

*Ann Slaymaker, January 1987*

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

*Licia Beekley, January 1997*

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

This is my second year as the director of the Altar Guild, and I am grateful for the dedicated members who care for the beauty and sacredness of the Altar. They are Leah Alibozek, Ann Atwood, Nancy Butler, Donna Colavecchio, Julie Gargiulo, Sue Hall, Diane Hayes, Barbara Henri, Barbara Patch, Molly Read and Cynthia Welch.

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

Ellen Child continues to do a wonderful job ordering and picking up memorial flowers. She has been successful in using the Stop and Shop Floral Department. If you wish to donate flowers, please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex. Ellen will contact you to discuss your arrangement. The suggested donation is $65. We continue to use Moscarillo’s for our Easter and Christmas flowers.

In closing, I encourage anyone interested in joining us in this beautifully cheerful work to contact me.

*Candy Flaherty*

***Worship***

**Prayer List Report**

I continue to put the prayer list out on a weekly basis, according to my computer we are on issue 430! As I am now Parish Administrator, it is perhaps easier and faster for you to just contact me at the office, but you can always use my personal email if you still have it. This prayer list uses the Book of Common Prayer and the Lectionary as its rubrics. I particularly enjoy being able to put in prayers of Thanksgiving, so please remember if you want to celebrate good news in your life, your family's, or your friends', I am happy to put a prayer in! All requests are confidential. I can put in as much or as little information as you wish. I generally compile the prayer list on Monday so that it can go out early Tuesday.

*In Faith and Prayer*

*Anne C. Hall*

**Dwelling In The Word Report**

We are up and running every Thursday morning!  We meet in the choir room near the office. It is a very interesting study of the Gospel using three different Bible translations, and always a great and wide ranging conversation. Feel free to just drop in, whenever and however often you feel called.

*Ginny Hoffmann*

**Hospitality Report**

Exciting additions to the warm hospitality that St. John’s provides have been three well attended brunches organized by Susie Horn and her team of volunteers and supported by the many parishioners who provided the delicious food. There is no doubt that we will see more of these gatherings in 2024.

Coffee hour continues to be an important aspect of our ministry to each other. Our time is more and more consumed with the many activities that fill our lives. Spending a few minutes connecting with each other offers a welcome time to “breathe.” It is a time when we can welcome visitors and get to know our wonderful supply priests.

We are thankful for the weekly greeters who graciously provide coffee, tea, juice and treats after our church service.

If you are interested in helping with this ministry you may contact me personally or at flahertycandace08@gmail.com or (860) 309-7801. Our kitchen is stocked with coffee, tea and juice. All you need to provide is creamer and a snack.

*Candy Flaherty*

**Choir Report**

***Romans 15:6 - that together you may, with one voice, glorify the God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.***

I am happy to report that the choir continues to meet once a week, except during the summer months, preparing music for special occasions - Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and Easter, as well as, anthems for Sunday services. As dates draw closer to the special occasions, we often need a few additional rehearsals, meeting briefly after a Sunday service. This group of dedicated choristers dives into repertoire from the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern periods. We always look forward to new members so, please consider joining this rewarding mission and bringing beauty and peace to all.
*Blessings,
Halyna Petronchak, Director of Music*

***OUTREACH***

**‘Red Door’ Youth Group Report**

Inspired by the vision of teen parishioner, Catherine Sepples, St. John’s began a community youth group for teens in grade 9-12 in October of 2023. The goal of the group is to combine community service projects with social fun. In our initial meetings, the group baked loaves of bread for the Chorus Angelicus sale, had a bonfire with s’mores, and put together Mason Jar Soup Mix to be delivered to Healing Meals, a non-profit dedicated to providing meals for area cancer patients undergoing treatments. The group is looking forward to more service and fun in 2024.

*Beth Coates*

**Knitting Group Report**

We meet every first Sunday of the month after coffee hour. We currently have a number of prayer shawls, but we always need more. We also welcome other needlework crafts, such as needlepoint, crochet, etc. If you want to share a project or want to learn to knit, we would love you to join us!

*Ginny Hoffman*

**St. John’s Little Free Pantry**

St. John’s Little Free Pantry continues to serve a need in New Hartford with the help of parishioners, New Hartford Public School students, Northwest Community Bank collections, and a grant from the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Fund. The grant enhances our ability to fill in with out-of-stock food items by ordering directly from Brigido Food Town. We also receive bread donations each week from Food Rescue. In addition, New Hartford residents contribute during our food collections on the third Saturday of each month. Many thanks to Nancy Butler, Betty Castonguay, Anne Hall, Diane and Guy Hayes, and Barbara Henri for their commitment to our monthly food collections.

The pantry is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week, which allows clientele to shop anonymously and pick up items not readily available from other sources. We continue to help the working poor, single mothers, senior citizens and the homeless.

In November, the Vestry approved new locked cabinets to secure our donations. The pantry is managed by Nancy Butler, Donna Colavecchio, and Susie Horn and we appreciate the many angels that leave food each week.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Donna Colavecchio*

**Jesse Tree Report**

Thank you for all of your generous donations to our Jesse Tree collection! Donations totaled $1400 enabling us to provide a Walmart or Target gift card, Dunkin Donuts, and Stop and Shop card to each of the 20 youth on our list! We also provided extra grocery cards to families with extra needs. Your dedication and caring for those in need shines through each year. Thank you for helping us to bless others!

*Thank you,*

*Beth Coates*

**Neighbor To Neighbor Report**

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

*Nancy Butler*

*Warden*

**Fundraising Report**

The primary fundraiser for the year was the Chorus Angelicus & Gaudeamus Thanksgiving Concert. This concert by the acclaimed children’s choir and adult chamber chorus, Chorus Angelicus & Gaudeamus, had a net revenue of $3395 with over 175 people attending. The holiday bread sales held at the concert raised 370.00 for the Little Free Pantry Fund. This came from the sale of 62 loaves of bread and two cheesecakes, the latter donated by Kevin Case.

Dr. Gabriel Fofvall, the choir director, plans to make the St. John’s concert an annual event on their Holiday Concert Series. Many thanks to Jeff and Nancy Linton for chairing this exceptional event, as well as the committee, Melanie Kirkpatrick David, Candy Flaherty, Barbara Patch, Michelle Piekos, Susie Horn, Diane Hayes, Brian Jones, and Julie Gargiulo. A massive thanks as well to all of the people who baked those 62 loaves of bread! We would also like to thank the town for letting us park on the green, and for Gordon Ross, Brian Jones, Anne Hall, and Scott Rogers for working as parking attendants. The concert was dedicated to Michelle Piekos, the former Parish Administrator, in thanksgiving and admiration for her many years of dedicated, efficient, and gracious service to St. John’s.

*Warmly,*

*Susie Horn, Vestry Member*

***OTHER REPORTS***

**Report of The ECCT Annual Diocesan Convention Of 2023**

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

The particular highlight of the meeting for me was an opportunity to listen to our new Bishop, Bishop Mello, in person. His sermon for convention artfully wove together a deeply pragmatic approach to the business of running the diocese and a strong message of positive forward movement. It was also pleasant to have the service at the cathedral in Hartford, which is a lovely space.

As is often the case much of the convention was fairly regular business: the approval of the 2024 budget, the merger of several parishes, various financial issues, and other resolutions that help us maintain our life of community in Christ.

Later during the convention the topic of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation Ministry was addressed, this was the major resolution of the convention. Following very emotional discussion, it was determined that a Reparations Fund would be set up. From the language of the Resolution: “Resolved, That this Convention appropriate the sum of $2.5 million from unrestricted endowed funds as initial funding to generate investment income for an ECCT Reparations Fund; and be it further

Resolved, That Mission Council will appropriate a sum equal to 10% of the annual draw from unrestricted endowed funds and 3% of Common Mission Support assessments annually until the Reparations Fund exceeds $12 million;’ the resolution continued to set up criteria and a committee to oversee the use of the fund.

One final note of special interest to our St. John’s family is that Gordon Ross continues faithfully in his role of diocesan treasurer. This is a challenging job, especially when the decisions of the convention can markedly impact the future budgets of the diocese. With thanks for his work and all those at the diocesan level.

*Anne Hall, Parish Delegate*

**AA and Al-Anon Report**

While St. John’s Al-Anon and AA groups did not submit a report for this annual meeting, the work of both groups continues at St. John’s. There is also a Co-Dependents Anonymous group that meets here as well. It is vitally important that we continue to support this work. For more information about meetings please contact aa.org or St. John’s Parish Office.