



# St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
COLD SPRING HARBOR



## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Sunday, May 5, 2019

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## Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

If we were to tell the story of our life at St. John's in this past year what story would we tell?

From my perspective looking out from the altar I have seen a community that is growing in grace, growing in service, and growing in love for each other and the community in which we live.

I have a privileged view of our congregation Sunday by Sunday. I have often remarked to Sarah that I wish I could photograph, or even better, video the start of church from the altar. As we greet the start of each service I see the faces of incredibly faithful people who gather for support, refreshment and community in the light of the good news of what God is doing in us and through us. We are a church that is thriving, gathering strength and learning to live in new ways each week.

A year ago in our fireside chats I shared a bold vision for St. John's life and work in this renewed era. The ministry of this church, in my view, centered around 5 points of mission which I shared as "offering compelling and beautiful worship, supporting our families across the lifecycle, becoming a more connected community, reaching out to our neighbors in need and growing in our stewardship of the natural gifts God has placed in our care." These five points have helped us to focus and see our life and work together in a more intentional way. All of these are supported by healthy and good governance and shaped by committees that move our mission forward. This year we have made incredible progress in all areas.

The reports that follow this letter detail that progress. Each report tells a part of the story of how we have moved forward in mission this year and taken as a whole they paint a remarkable picture. There is much to be proud of, there is even more to build on.

Last year at our annual meeting I remember saying that we have great work to do together, and we have all that we need to accomplish it. I have never been more certain that that is true. As you read these reports I hope you see what I see: strength, confidence, clarity of vocation and hope for the future. There is no part of our life that is not being renewed day by day by the grace of God's Spirit moving in us and through us. We can have confidence that together we are making incredible strides "seeking Christ in all persons and loving our neighbors as ourselves."

*"Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen."* (Ephesians 3:20,21)

Faithfully yours,



**The Reverend Gideon L. K. Pollach**

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## 2018 Vestry, Clergy and Staff

### 2018-19 Vestry

Frank Gundersen, *Senior Warden*

James Wylie, *Junior Warden*

Anne Pace, *Treasurer*

Jeremy Bradford, *Clerk*

Mary Lee Citrino

Susan Collins

Timothy Gokey, *Assistant Treasurer*

Barry Grace

Kirsten Heinemann

Vasana Hildebrand

Seamus Mitchell

James Sanna

Mary Gay Townsend

William Wresch

### Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano, *Bishop*

The Rev. Gideon L. K. Pollach, *Rector*

The Rev. Jesse W. Lebus, *Curate*

The Rev. T. Carleton Lee, *Rector Emeritus*

### Staff

Steven Finch, *Director of Music*

Carol Weitner, *Organist*

Josie Greco, *Children's Music*

Viktoria Reses, *Nursery Provider*

Susan Waiter, *Parish Administrator*

Danielle Holmes, *Financial Administrator*

Adam Waywell, *Sexton*

Peter Schwind, *Sexton (Friday)*



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# Agenda

## St. John's Church Annual Meeting

### May 5, 2019

Welcome and Opening Prayer	Gideon Pollach & Frank Gundersen	
Call to Order and Reflections	Frank Gundersen	
Governance		
Election of the Vestry	Ted Bahr	p. 4
Treasurer's Report	Anne Pace	p. 6
Stewardship- Vision 2020	Seamus Mitchell	p. 7
Rector's Report & Snapshots of Mission in 2018	Gideon Pollach	p. 10
Children, Youth & Families	Jesse Lebus	p. 13
Outreach	Laura Swiggett	p. 17
BlueGreen Theology	Jesse Lebus	p. 19
Rector's Reflections & Introduction of Curate	Gideon Pollach	
Appreciations	Gideon Pollach	p. 20
Other Business	All	
Closing Prayer	Gideon Pollach	

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## Election of the Vestry

### Ted Bahr

#### Voting Eligibility Requirements

Members qualified to vote at an Annual or Special Meeting shall be those persons of full age ( age 18) or more, belonging to the parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants at its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve (12) months prior to such election or Special Meeting.

#### Warden & Vestry Qualifications

The requirements to be considered for a three-year term on the Vestry include: those persons of full age (age 18) or more, belonging to the parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants at its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve (12) months prior to such election. Any member who meets the qualifications for election to the Vestry and has been confirmed or received in The Episcopal Church, is eligible for election as a Warden.

The St. John's Nominating Committee: Ted Bahr (Chair), Kirsten Heinemann, Nelson Demarest, Barry Grace and Tom Carroll

#### Report of the Nominating Committee

The Senior Warden serves a two-year term that is renewable once. The Candidate for Senior Warden:

#### Seamus Mitchell

Seamus was born and raised in Lee, Massachusetts. He is one of 7 children. He graduated from Heald College in San Francisco, California and then moved to Long Island to work for Beacon Financial Services, Ltd., where he has since become a partner in the financial services firm.

Seamus and his wife, Winn Keaten, reside in Oyster Bay with their three children, Owen (9), Theo (7) and Maeve (5). Seamus and Winn were introduced to St. John's Church by Seamus's step-father, Daniel Barbiero, and they've been active members since 2008. The Mitchells are frequent participants in many Outreach and Children, Youth and Family events. Theo and Maeve are singers in our Primary Choir.

Seamus began serving St. John's Church as a Sunday school teacher and is now an active participant in many aspects of parish life at St. John's. Seamus has served on the Vestry for nearly 3 years and also serves on the Stewardship Committee, the Curate Search Committee, heads the Grow to Give Garden and co-chairs Hospitality with Winn. Seamus was also a member of the Rector Search Committee.

Seamus also serves on the Board of Trustees for the Boys & Girls Club of Oyster Bay East Norwich.

A vestry member to serve a renewable three-year term:

#### Nancy Englehardt Cashin

Nancy has had a diverse and rewarding career and is committed to social good. She is currently working as a consultant with a select group of executive leaders in corporate and not for profit organizations. Nancy's business background includes co-founding Interactive Marketing Services, a full-service database, direct marketing firm that was acquired by a public company in less than two years, giving Nancy the opportunity to change her career path and discover her professional passion; helping to develop high performing teams within community minded organizations and in the region.

As the former Director of Leadership Huntington and the Founding Director of The Energeia Partnership, an Academy for Regional Stewardship at Molloy College, Nancy helped bring together, influential leaders in the region, providing them with the information and networks necessary to become change agents. Under Nancy's leadership the program educated over 400 graduates who are serving on over 250 boards and commissions across Long Island. Nancy serves on the Board of Pal-O-Mine



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Equestrian, Inc., the Long Island Community Foundation and the NYS Empire Justice Center. She is a member of the Long Island Regional Planning Council and on the Advisory Board of the Suffolk County Police Commissioners Council. She has been named to Long Island Business News' "The 50 Most Influential Women" list in 2012 and 2016 and received the Athena Leadership Award in 2015.

Aside from Nancy's commitment to her personal and professional growth, she loves to hike, paint, sing and mentor young people (women in particular). She is an advocate and supporter of the arts, theater, dance and music. Nancy grew up in Plainview and she and her husband John Cashin spend as much time as possible with their friends and growing family, including five (grown) children and ten grandchildren! Nancy and John are grateful to God for their many blessings and their fellowship at St. John's. Nancy has been a dedicated member of St. John's since 2014, participating in the Bell Choir and St. John's Singers. She helps prepare meals at HiHi and helped Gideon and other local leaders in starting the LICAN initiative. She was also an active member of the newly formed Engagement Committee and attended the Stewardship workshop last year with Rev. Gideon Pollach and other members of our church at the Episcopal Diocese Center in Garden City.

*"Whatever I have done before now, if it has prepared me to be a valued member of the Vestry, I am honored, humbled and will do my best to be of service our church and our members."*

A Vestry Member to serve a term of 3-years vacated by Seamus Mitchell upon successful election as Senior Warden:

### **Matt O'Connell**

Matt and Libby O'Connell moved to Lloyd Harbor in 1984, when their second child, Lucy, was born. The O'Connell's joined St. John's church at that time and are regulars at the 8 am service on Sundays.

Matt has worked in the satellite and space industry for the last twenty years. He works at Seraphim, a London-based venture capital firm focused on the space industry. Matt founded GeoEye, a pioneer in the use of satellite imagery to make digital maps. One of its biggest clients was Google Earth. Matt served for several years on the U.S. Geospatial Intelligence Foundation's Board of Directors and The National Trust for the Humanities.

Matt has worked in communications management and finance for most of his career. Early on, he was the lawyer in charge of corporate transactions for Cablevision Systems Corporation. He began his career as a mergers and acquisitions attorney on Wall Street.

Prior to his professional career, Matt worked for two years as a musician. He holds an LLB from University Of Virginia School of Law and a BA from Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Matt's wife, Libby, is an American cultural historian. She served for many years as the Chief Historian of the History Channel. Matt and Libby grew up in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Matt and Libby's son, Charlie, and daughter, Lucy, both attended St. John's Nursery School and have wonderful memories of acting in St. John's Christmas pageant. Lucy's son, Ewan Robertson, was baptized in a ceremony at the Grow to Give Garden on Earth Day, 2018. In recent years, Matt has taken an active part in Blue Green Theology, St. John's effort to raise awareness of the need to protect our maritime environment. He also plays music at occasional services at St. Johns with Blake Hanson and the Rev. Jesse Lebus. In his free time, he enjoys kayaking and tennis.



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# Treasurer's Report

Anne Pace

	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Income			
Collection Plate	28,000	21,980	28,000
Contributions	660,460	661,547	721,794
Budgeted distribution from investments	144,761	144,761	100,000
Extra +/- from investments to balance ex-	0	51,708	0
Other Income	60,400	63,662	58,100
Operating Income	893,621	943,658	907,894
Expenses			
Compensation	602,885	588,799	580,112
Buildings and Grounds	99,500	105,315	115,500
Fees/Office/Insurance	61,316	83,221	69,764
Program/Worship/Fellowship	29,405	65,808	37,200
Outreach	100,515	100,515	105,318
Non recurring Expenses	0		0
Total Operating Expenses	893,621	943,658	907,894
Net income/Loss	0	0	0

# Stewardship

## Seamus Mitchell

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Amount Pledged</b>	\$290,067	\$289,323	\$361,435	\$290,118	\$459,011
<b>Number of Pledges</b>	132	131	139	92	149
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$573,993	\$534,351	\$574,528	\$661,547	

### Pledgers to the General Fund 2019

Lee Ames	Meredith Mainhardt Graves	Mr. & Mrs. John S. Noesen
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Arthur	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Gundersen	Karen Olson
Dill & Sophie Ayres	Anne Gutting	Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Pace
Joanna Badami	Mr. & Mrs. Karim Habibi	Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Parks
Mr. & Mrs. H. Ted Bahr	Elba Hadden	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas R. Parks
Mary Josephine L. Balkind	Margy Hargraves	Mr. William Parsons, Jr.
Alfred Baman	Julie Harrington	Mr. & Mrs. Stuart C. Patterson
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Barbiero	Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Hatch	Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Hill Perrell
Lucie Bard	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hecker	Mr. & Mrs. John Pflug
Mary Lenore Blair	Kirsten Heinemann	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Pilkington
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Blohm	Mr. & Mrs. C. F. Linday Hewitt	The Rev. & Mrs. Gideon L. K. Pollach
Sabine Blohm	Mr. & Mrs. John F. Hildebrand	Pat Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Francois Bogrand	Danielle & Karl Holmes	Denny Pugsley
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Bonventre	Jim Hoover	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. Reder
Rosemary Bourne	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Hopkinson	Mrs. Carl Remick
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Bradford	Vicky Howard	Phyllis Reichmeider
Mr. & Mrs. Scott W. Brennan	Mrs. Elizabeth B. Hubbard	Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Reminick
Mr. & Mrs. Bernd Bressel	Mr. & Mrs. Rudolf C. Hunermund	Mr. John Rowe & Ms. Linda Mulrean
Mr. & Mrs. David Brewer	Nancy Hussey	Patricia P. Sands
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Brisbane	Gina Jacobsen	Mr. & Mrs. James Sanna
Mr. John Bues & Ms. Koren Harris	Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Jones	Ms. Carol Santemma
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Butterfield	Mr. & Mrs. George Jordan	Mr. & Mrs. Roger Schilling
Linda Calabrese	Mr. & Mrs. John C. Kean	Mr. & Mrs. James Schubauer
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Canty	Mr. & Mrs. John M. Keese, IV	Dan Searby
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Carroll	Mr. & Mrs. William Kiley	Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Service
Wendy Carswell	Mr. & Mrs. Danforth Knapp	Joan Shepard
Mr. & Mrs. John Cashin	Mr. & Mrs. Ragnar Knutsen	Mr. & Mrs. John C. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Citrino, III	Peter Kohler	Deborah Solbert
Mr. & Mrs. John K. Colgate	Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Kyhl	Mr. & Mrs. Walter L. Stackler
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel T. Collins	Mr. & Mrs. Fredric LaMarca	Janet Stevenson
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Cope	Ken Latham	Mr. & Mrs. James M. Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. M. Richard Debbie Cortes	The Rev. Jesse Lebus & Dr. Meredith Brown	Mr. & Mrs. Brian Swiggett
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Cuneo	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lindsay	James & Mary Gay Townsend
Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Demarest	Mr. & Mrs. William Lister	Mr. & Mrs. Stanley S. Trotman, Jr.
Jamie Deming	Bob Lobdell	Sue Waiter & Glenn Tyranski
Mr. & Mrs. Morgan Dennehy	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Luethi	Robert Walton
Mr. Mark Donohue & Ms. Augusta Reese	Mr. & Mrs. Richard H. MacDougall	Cathie Wardell
Mr. Scott Evans & Dr. Margaret Rayne	Mr. & Mrs. Rocco A. Mango	Mr. & Mrs. Lewis M. Warren
Mary Ellen Fahs	Chery Manniello	Adam Waywell
Mr. & Mrs. Michael M. Fairchild	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene J. Markey	The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Eric J. Weaver
Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Fearon	Mr. & Mrs. Henry Marshall	Mr. Townsend Weekes, Jr. & Ms. Diana Collins
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Finch	Spencer Martin	Mr. & Mrs. Hugh John Weidinger, IV
Mr. & Mrs. William Floyd-Jones	Dr. & Mrs. Warren F. Mazek	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Weir, III
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Fox	Dr. & Mrs. Paul William Mazzei	Beverly Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Franciscovich	Mr. & Mrs. David Miller	Chris Whitman
Kathi Fusco	Mr. & Mrs. John R. Miller, IV	Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Willis
Mr. & Mrs. William Gay	Mr. Seamus Mitchell & Ms. Winn Keaten	Mr. & Mrs. Clark Wohlferd
Mr. & Mrs. John Gellert	Mr. & Mrs. G. Robert Muller	Mr. & Mrs. William Wresch, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy C. Gokey	Mr. & Mrs. Blake Murphy	Mr. & Mrs. James C. Wylie
Mr. & Mrs. D. Richard Grace	Nancy Nicholson	Mrs. Barbara Wylie

## Clergy Report of Services

Holy Eucharist	131
Morning Prayer and Other	21
Baptisms	18
Marriages	6
Confirmations	11
Memorial Services	16

## Baptisms

Skylar James Calder  
Grayson Christopher Conway  
Juliette Anne Fowler  
Christian Conrad Greco  
Quinn William Green  
Ava Elizabeth Hildebrand  
Cole Desmond Lackert  
Roux Eleanor Latsko  
Clara Matton Lebus  
Eleanor Douglas McCarthy  
Aleksandra Rose Mitchell  
Charlotte Elise Mitchell  
John Patrick Mitchell  
Roland Morris IV  
Ewan Oberon Robertson  
Johann Christian Schneider  
Elizabeth Lowe Smith  
Kathryn Davenport Weir

## Weddings

Hilary Armstrong & Matthew Roverly  
Olivia Bahr & Brian Dillner  
Charlotte Bates & Alex Golod  
Jamie Dellaquilla & James Wylie  
Samantha Olsen & Steven Chencharik  
Kimberlee Toscano & George Jordon

## Confirmations

Sophie Bradford  
Jonathan Carey  
Camden Carswell  
Harrison Carswell  
Caelan Clayton  
Ava Faranello  
Aisy Franciscovich  
Eric Heyke  
Caden O'Connor  
Gwendolyn Schneider  
Ryan Steele

## Memorial Services

Priscilla Price Assentato  
Evelyn Marie Bergwall  
Frances Noyes Elder  
Michael Samuel Gilmor  
Alice L. Gromisch  
Barbara J. Hoover  
Anthony Ignasher  
Martha Turner Jackson  
Cameron Gharrett Kohler  
Olive Stewart Mainhardt  
Gina O'Heir  
Barry Martin Osborn  
William James Pugsley  
John Gregory Riley  
Anita Higgins Salambier  
Warren Donald Wylie



## 2018 Use of St. John's Church Facilities

### Church

Adult Education  
Aging in Place  
Choirs  
Christmas Fair  
Coffee Hour  
Confirmation  
Family Fridays  
Grow to Give Garden  
Handmades  
Holy Smokes BBQ  
Investment Committee  
Mardi Gras Supper  
Mary Nicholas Concert  
Men's Group  
Monday Bible Study  
Outreach Committee  
Parish Art Show  
Parish Picnic  
St. Matthias Fellowship  
Stone Soup Sunday  
St. John's Day Celebration  
Sunday School  
Super Bowl Chilli Cook-Off  
Youth Sunday

### Greater Community

AA  
Cold Spring Harbor Nursery School  
Concerts by the Pond  
Cub Scouts Troupe 66  
Diocesan Executive Staff Retreat  
Diocesan Godly Play Training  
Diocesan Martin Luther King Outreach Project  
Huntington Choral Society Messiah Sing  
Leadership Huntington  
LI-CAN Opioid Action Team  
Meditation Class  
North Shore Deanery  
NY Blood Drive  
Oyster Bay Music Festival  
Save the Children  
*Seeing God In All Things* Photo Days  
St. Johnland  
St. John's Day Camp  
3 Harbors Dance  
3 Harbors Garden Club



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## Worship - 1

### Altar Guild 1.1

#### Billy Wresch

*Almighty God, grant that I may handle holy things with reverence, and perform my duties with such faithfulness and devotion, that they may rise before thee with acceptance and obtain thy blessing. In Jesus name, Amen.*

An Altar Guild Prayer

The Altar guild is established by Canon Law. It consists of a group of thirteen dedicated parishioners willing to devote their time and energy to prepare the elements for Communion, and create an environment for worship by preparing the Lords' sanctuary. Members are assigned in pairs, based on their availability, to a month of service which is about three Sunday's. That month is their responsibility to prepare the altar for a service and to clean after the service and then secure the elements from the Lords' table. It's our responsibility to lovingly care for the linens that are used on the altar. The work is unseen but vital to support our work together. We welcome additional volunteers.

### Ministry of Lectors 1.2

#### James Wylie

The "threefold cord" of Anglican thinking... Scripture, Tradition & Reason... dates back to Elizabeth's reign over England in the 1590's. Our Lectors carry on the time-honored tradition of sharing the Bible, reading scripture, in community. We welcome readers of all ages to join our ranks, currently 38-strong, to help spread the good word from the lectern on Sundays, and Holy Days. Training is provided in this ministry. Contact James Wylie ([jameswylie78@gmail.com](mailto:jameswylie78@gmail.com)) for more information on this important work.

### Lay Eucharistic Ministers 1.3

#### Barry Grace

As lay Eucharistic ministers we are invited to help our ministers serve the sacraments at communion. This ministry is open to all confirmed communicants to expand your relationship as a Christian and member of the church. If you would like more information about becoming a Lay Eucharistic Minister, please contact Barry Grace ([bsgrace@hotmail.com](mailto:bsgrace@hotmail.com)).

### Choral Music at St. John's 1.4

#### Steven Finch

Music is an important part of the ministry at St. John's Church, serving to help make every church service a joyous and beautiful occasion. The Primary, Junior, Chancel and Handbell choirs provide opportunities for all ages to become involved in our music ministry and are always open to new members.

Highlights of our year include our Mary Nicholas Concert, Lessons and Carols, the Bach Cantata and the countless inspiring performances throughout the program year.

To learn more, or to join the choirs, contact Steve Finch ([sfinch@stjcsh.org](mailto:sfinch@stjcsh.org)).



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## Buildings and Grounds 1.5

### Kirsten Heinemann

The work of Buildings and Grounds is never a straight line here at St. John's, for our beautiful, and historic campus. Our projects in 2018, besides the "usual yet unpredictable" maintenance and repairs, were:

- Reconfiguration of the offices in the church, for Sue Waiter, our Parish Administrator and Danielle Holmes, our Financial Administrator. Having Danielle "temporarily housed" at the church, versus in the Cemetery offices, proved to be a much more effective way for her to operate with access to parishioners and other church staff. However, it was very clear that each required their own work space in order to carry out their jobs efficiently and with professionalism. The project was completed over the summer, with great cooperation from Sue and Danielle, as well as help from the rest of the staff to minimize the inconvenience of the project. At the same time, we had to revisit the integration of our network, phone and alarm systems.
- Work on Taylor House: with much patience and input from Jesse and Meredith, the kitchen went through a partial face lift, with new counter tops, rehangng cabinets, improving workings and storage of the cabinets. We also installed doors in some of the ground level rooms, to create more privacy to accommodate Jesse and Meredith's au pair. As Jesse transitions to his new role in Seacliff, we expect to revisit Taylor House in preparation for our new Curate.
- Installation of the new Cutting Garden: We were blessed with the bequest from a long-time parishioner, with funds to plant a cutting garden, the goal being to utilize the flowers for the church. With the vision and work by several of our most talented parishioners, this became a reality and is currently blossoming for the 2019 season. Nelson Demarest, Vasana Hildebrand, Richard Weir, plus our amazing church and cemetery crews, all helped bring this wonderful addition to life. Please visit across the pond!
- House committee: the focus is on making the upstairs conference room more inviting, with new paint and some new furniture.



In the coming year, we have allocated funding to begin the process of developing a much needed up-to-date facilities assessment and a Master Plan for our campus, both of which will provide a roadmap for us moving forward for maintenance and capital projects. We will also include some parishioners who have expressed interest in participating in this process.

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## Concerts by the Pond 1.6

### Steven Finch

Our *Concerts by the Pond Series* is committed to expanding St. John's spiritual and musical presence in the greater community through innovative and informative concerts for all ages. This year's series of 5 concerts included: a virtuoso performance of piano music by the young Maxim Lando; a Veterans Day concert by Douglas Major on the organ; a concert for children featuring Bryce Westervelt; a Cinco De Mayo concert featuring Carol Weitner; and our final concert of the season, a chamber music concert featuring the "Poetica Ensemble".

## Flower Committee 1.7

### Vasana Hildebrand

The dedicated dozen who make up the membership of this committee work year-round - especially on major holy days - to bring the beauty of floral arrangement into our church. Volunteers also help with annual flower fundraising and plant sale to pay for costs of flowers and materials. While most flowers are purchased through local suppliers, we also proudly use flowers from our church cutting garden. A coordination between church staffs and our volunteer are often done to accommodate flower needs for funeral services, weddings and baptisms. After Sunday services, flowers are repurposed by another group of volunteers - The Caring Connection - to bring to those who are sick, elderly or homebound. The committee is currently led by Vasana Hildebrand.



## Memorial Cemetery of St. John's 1.8

### Mary Lee Citrino

In September, 2018 the Cemetery Committee engaged Heritage Landscapes, Preservation Landscape Architects & Planners, to develop a Landscape Management Plan to assist in oversight of the continued preservation and maintenance of the Memorial Cemetery. The projects resulting from this report include, among others: building a new columbarium, restoring an existing Olmsted designed room to show the potential of the future restoration of the other Olmsted rooms and refining existing cemetery rules to guide the cemetery staff as well as families in the care of plots. The committee is dedicated to the important task of the proper care and restoration of the Memorial Cemetery's historically relevant and horticulturally significant landscape and the Landscape Management Plan will serve as the definitive guide for this for stewardship.

We expect to host a series of community forums to share our findings and work in the near term. Any questions should be directed to the Cemetery Board Chair, Mary Lee Citrino (mlcitrino@gmail.com) or the Rector, Gideon (gideon@stjcsh.org).



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## Support - 2

### Youth and Families 2.1

#### The Rev. Jesse W. Lebus

The programming for our young members and families is extensive and always evolving, its focus being two-fold: to provide children and their families with opportunities to deepen their faith; and to strengthen bonds with other families and the rest of the church. In short, formation and fellowship. It is the efforts of our volunteers and parents that make all of this possible.

St. John's this year expanded its offerings to three separate classes for its traditional Sunday School during the 10 am service: Children's Chapel (ages 3-5); Little Saints (ages 6-8); and Elements of Faith (ages 9-11). During the year the Rector and Curate regularly host Family Friday's at the Rectory.

There are annual church-wide events that incorporate all generations: Holy Smokes BBQ, MLK Jr. Day of Service, Super Bowl Chili Cook-Off, Stone Soup Sunday, Youth Sunday and the Parish Picnic.

Wednesdays in Advent we hosted the Cold Springers Youth Group (7-12) with seasonal lessons and activities and a concurrent parent's book group. And on the Wednesdays leading to Easter we hosted a Children's Lent Retreat that coincided with our adult retreat. Also in Lent, a number of 12 and 13 year olds spent the night at the Cathedral of the



### St. John's Men's Group 2.2

#### John Hildebrand

Whether the topic is the extraordinary travels of St. Paul or the rise of Homo Sapiens, the conversation is animated and informative when the St. John's Men's Group gets together. Meetings run from 9:30 to 11 on Saturday mornings, and much of the talk revolves around a book selected by its members. Still, this unique group is not a book club per se, but rather a gathering that swaps jokes, shares experiences, searches for truth and provides mutual support in a Christian setting. And the coffee pot's always on.

### Safe Church Ministry 2.3

#### Sue Collins

The Church must be a safe place for all people, a place of respect, trust and caring.

This is a commitment that the Diocese of Long Island requires of all ministers of the Church, lay and ordained, to make and uphold. The Diocese has policies that establish standards of behavior and "best practices" for all clergy, church employees and adults who work with children and youth, and any vulnerable people. These policies known as "Safe Church" provide guidelines for the implementation and maintenance of a safe environment free of abuse to 1) protect children and youth and 2) protect adults and leaders. By implementing Safe Church policies and procedures, we eliminate scenarios in which abuse and misconduct behavior and/or allegations can occur.

St. John's is conducting a self audit to determine our strengths as well as areas needing improvement in Safe Church practice. As part of the audit, we will be determining which staff and volunteers are currently certified or in need or new or renewed training. Details of Safe Church ministry, training, and implementation will be shared with the parish in updates throughout the summer and fall.

For more information, please contact Sue Collins ([sg225@cornell.edu](mailto:sg225@cornell.edu)).

## Caring Connection 2.4

### Gina Jacobsen

Caring Connection is St. John's ministry to help our parishioners in need of occasional support. Please consider volunteering to help a fellow parishioner in a very practical way: with a ride to church or the doctor, or help with marketing, or providing a bowl of soup and a short home visit. If you could consider serving on this important committee as a volunteer in one of these capacities, please let us know. We are also in need of a few new monthly "Contact Persons" to work in tandem with another committee member to visit our parishioners who are lonely, ill or housebound. If you are a compassionate, tactful member of the congregation and would like to help, please contact Gina Jacobsen, Meg Floyd-Jones or Sue Waiter in the Church Office. We hope you will join us in this rewarding and much needed ministry.



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## Community - 3

### Hospitality 3.1

#### Seamus Mitchell

The mission of Hospitality at St John's is to make every guest and parishioner feel welcome and connection. The Hospitality team coordinates coffee hour signups, receptions and ensures that the kitchen is well stocked with the necessary items. In 2018 we transitioned to more environmentally friendly practices to help reduce our impact on the environment. We have replaced single use plastic table cloths, plates and disposable utensils with a supply of plates, glasses and utensils. Coffee Hour, which immediately follows the 10 am service on Sundays, is becoming a time and place for our many ministries to share their story or recruit volunteers by hosting the event and/or providing an educational forum at that time. To host a Coffee Hour, please contact Seamus Mitchell ([seamussf@hotmail.com](mailto:seamussf@hotmail.com)).

### Art Show 3.2

#### Steven Finch

St. John's first art show was an exciting opportunity for both established and emerging artists who are parishioners of St. John's to share their talents with the parish community. The show featured over 30 works by artists from 14 to 96 in all artistic disciplines.

That event and future art shows are a means of expanding fellowship both within the parish and in the larger community. The art show was coordinated by a committee of parishioners including Meredith Brown, Michael Fairchild, Lenore Hansen, Laura Swiggett, and coordinated by Steven Finch.



### Aging in Place 3.3

#### Trudy Calabrese

The mission of St. John's Aging in Place program is "to provide information and resources to help families enable their loved ones to live in one's own home and community safely, independently and comfortably, regardless of age, income or ability level."

The Aging in Place Planning Committee, is led by parishioners with the support and advice of St. John's clergy: Deirdre Butterfield, Trudy Calabrese, Rita Cleary, Clare Fearon, Gina Jacobsen, Libby Hubbard, Julia Jenne, Bill Kiley, Barbara Schubauer, Lucy Stackler, Pat Stewart, Jamie Wylie, Barbara Zotz, *emerita- Janet Stevenson*.

Each year the Planning Committee seeks to design a program that is informative, thought-provoking and engaging; and last year's program certainly delivered. Highlights included: a 3-part program on the Six Pillars of Eldercare Support (Home, Spiritual, Legal, Financial, Medical and Social); a docent tour of the Tiffany Exhibit at Heckscher Museum; a presentation of the St. John's Bible by the Very Rev. Michael Sniffen; discussions on Myths about Health Care for Aging Family Members; and interactive discussion about medications and interactions; and the always popular Advent reflection with Gideon and Jesse. Upcoming events include a BlueGreen Theology presentation by Rev. Jesse and a performance by The Red Hot Mamas!

For information contact Trudy Calabrese or Lucy Stackler ([aip@stjcs.org](mailto:aip@stjcs.org)).



## Life in Community: Our Lenten Journey 3.4

### Bill Kiley

*"I define connection as the energy that exists between people when they feel seen, heard, and valued; when they can give and receive without judgment; and when they derive sustenance and strength from the relationship."*

Brené Brown

How do we get members of our St. John's parish family to get to know others? Those people who are beyond the folks in our ministry group. You know, that man or woman that we've repeatedly seen in church and at coffee hour but know nothing about? How do we build relationships within our congregation and then beyond? On five Wednesday evenings during the 2019 Lenten Season members of our parish met in Bleeker Hall for a light dinner, followed by a brief presentation by our Rector. Each week Gideon introduced us to different quotes from Scripture that addressed different aspects of relationships in our individual lives, in our lives within our congregation, and in the broader context of the communities in which we live. Gideon then provided each table of eight to ten people with questions that generated discussion within each small group, facilitated by a volunteer discussion leader. These leaders are graduates of the Education for Ministry (EfM) Program where, during their four years of study, very strong relationships were developed among them. Indeed, this was a great group of folks to help facilitate our discussions. As we wrapped up our sessions, each table would give brief feedback about their interaction that evening. Some groups exchanged email addresses and continued their dialogue during the week.



At two of our *Life in Community* gatherings, we had guest presenters. Professor Steven Post, Ph.D., of Stony Brook University, spoke about his life's research, practice, and publications regarding relationship building. Our second guest was our Diocesan leader, Bishop Lawrence Provenzano. The Bishop talked about relationship within the church on a diocesan level, an Episcopal Church level, and among all believers. Gideon began and closed each week with prayer. So, where do we go from here? The feedback indicated that people wanted to continue this *Life in Community* dialogue. Perhaps a periodic gathering to continue to build upon the success of our mutual Lenten experience. Watch for announcements in the printed weekly announcements, *At St. John's*, and in email for our next steps. Life, it's all about relationships!



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## Outreach 4

### Laura Swiggett

This has been a transition year for Outreach, but a very productive and exciting one. Our hands-on ministries continue to do great work. The St. Matthias Fellowship, HIHI, the St. John's Day Camp, our fall and spring clothing drives, our "Blue Bag" food donations for the Community Food Council and other food pantries - all are examples of Outreach programs that serve real needs for real people in our immediate community and beyond. I know I speak for all in our congregation when I offer heartfelt thanks to the committees, chairs and many volunteers. Each of you is an agent of healing and love in the lives of neighbors in need of exactly that.

Behind the scenes, our new Outreach Steering Committee has been considering the big picture. With Gideon's able guidance, we are developing a plan to help us discern parish priorities and focus our efforts for greater impact. Our goal is to develop a coherent philosophy for St. John's Outreach and articulate it in updated mission and vision statements that reflect the St. John's congregation's core values and priorities.

We have a growing awareness that building relationships, both within St. John's and beyond, is essential to doing effective work. In the next few weeks, we will begin a listening campaign, a series of internal and external conversations to help us gauge the parish's interests and energy and expand our understanding of current needs in our community. We have so many resources in this congregation. Our stories are one of them. Through them we will find new and better ways of putting our faith into action.

Much more will be said about this at the May 19 Open Outreach Meeting (mark your calendars!), but if you are interested in participating in these conversations, we hope you will let us know.

The Steering Committee has also been reworking the process for evaluating and making grants. Our plan is to disburse funds twice a year, in the fall and spring. We are currently in the midst of our spring grant cycle. Our guiding principles are to support, whenever possible, programs that build community, actively engage St. John's parishioners, encourage self-reliance and agency in those we serve, and have the potential to create lasting change. With that said, we also recognize that lessening the burden of immediate needs is sometimes the best and most important way we can help. Relief funds will therefore continue to be a part of our funding mix. We anticipate that other themes will be revealed by our listening campaign, and we will no doubt further refine our criteria based on that learning and the collective vision that emerges. A complete financial report and grants justification will be given at our May 19 Open Outreach meeting.

Our Outreach program is built on the idea that each of us has gifts to offer and grace to receive. So I close with this invitation: offer your gifts. You have more than you know. Whether it's serving a meal at HIHI, reading to a preschooler at the Day Camp, holding hands with a new friend in Haiti, or serving on an Outreach committee, your gifts are needed and can make a difference in someone's life. I promise that the experience will make a difference in you. That's the grace. I recently heard it said that, in the end, our lives will be measured by the things we paid attention to. What might those things be for us at St. John's?

For more information, contact Laura Swiggett, Outreach Chair ([outreach@stjcsch.org](mailto:outreach@stjcsch.org)).



## Outreach Giving 2018

Camp DeWolfe	Friends of the Bay	St. John's Day Camp
CSH Fish Hatchery	Gerald J. Ryan Outreach Center	St. John's Grow To Give Garden
Community Food Council	Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative	St. Matthias
Community Solidarity - H&O	International Rescue Community	Tanzanian Children's Fund
Congregation Simchat Halev	LI- CAN	TRI Community Youth Agency
Eastern Farm Workers	9-1-1 Veterans Organization	Youth & Family Counseling Parent Child Program
Family Service League	STC: Kentucky	Waterfront Center
FOCCUS	St. George's Episcopal Church - Food Pantry	

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## Christmas Fair 4.1

### Sue Collins

The Christmas Fair is long time tradition of the parish that raises funds for Outreach and special projects within the parish via the House Committee. Parishioners of all ages join together in a day of service that is looked forward to by the surrounding community. Previously the Fair has been held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The rescheduling of the Diocesan Convention and 150th Anniversary Celebration date to the same weekend for 2018 resulted in the Fair Planning subcommittee of the Vestry making the decision to reschedule rather than cancel the parish event. Saturday, December 8th was selected with a plan to have a smaller scale event. Despite the changes, volunteers rallied, visitors were waiting for the doors to open as usual, and a constant flow of shoppers sold-out many departments before the Fair closed. Proceeds after expenses were over \$19,000.00, providing funding to Outreach initiatives (75%) and the House Committee for special projects within the parish (25%).

As the Diocese of Long Island has already announced the 2019 Convention for the weekend before Thanksgiving, the Vestry will again plan for the Fair to be held in early December.

## St. Matthias Fellowship 4.2

### Peter Charles

St. Matthias is an Episcopal parish and school in the agricultural town of Deslandes, Haiti. Our relationship with St. Matthias Began in 2011. Since that time we have listened to each other's needs, and have shared our hopes and prayers for our children and communities. Our support for the St. Matthias school has provided campus improvements including a classroom building, a water well, a solar powered pump, and a water purification system. We have also been a source of economic support for the school as conditions in Haiti have ranged from difficult to dire. Ultimately, our goal is to help our partners at St. Matthias implement sustainable programs that will strengthen the school economically and academically. This work was amplified by our work with the Rotary Club and Rotary International. If you are interested in knowing more or getting involved, please contact co-chairs Peter Charles ([charles.peter@gmail.com](mailto:charles.peter@gmail.com)) or Heather Spehr ([lanespehr@hotmail.com](mailto:lanespehr@hotmail.com)).



### Rotary Project at St. Matthias, by James Wylie

Working with the Rotary Clubs of Huntington and Mirebalais, we were able to build a perimeter wall around the St. Matthias campus, install solar power for electricity, drill a well and supply water to the community. The filtered water is a source of income for the school. So is the cell phone charging station! Thanks to St. John's, the future in Deslandes is

## St. John's Day Camp 4.3

### Kerith Freidberg

The St. John's Day Camp had a wonderful summer in 2018. Over the course of 6 weeks, 70 adorable children learned, played and made great memories at this no-cost camp for families in need that's run by the Town of Huntington and supported by donations from our parish. Highlights include their annual picnic at St. John's and the special visits our parishioners made to share their special talents and collections. We are gearing up for another spectacular summer and would love your continued support.



## BlueGreen Theology 5

### The Rev. Jesse W. Lebus

With the help of a dedicated and thoughtful committee - and myriad volunteers - the BlueGreen Theology Ministry has really soared this year. The Grow-to-Give garden, raising Oysters in Cold Spring Harbor, property stewardship, bird watching and nature photography workshops, and our Spring Eucharist and Presentation are all moments and projects that speak to a congregation that is vibrant and concerned with the ecological issues we have before us.

The BlueGreen Theology effort will continue at St. John's and our clergy will be working to ensure that the energy found at St. John's spreads to other Episcopal congregations in our Deanery.



## Grow to Give Garden 5.1

### Seamus Mitchell

St. John's Grow to Give Garden was established in the spring of 2013 and is located at the Rectory. The garden was established for the purpose of addressing food insecurity in our neighboring communities. Fresh produce is harvested and delivered to Community Solidarity for distribution to people in need at their Pop-Up distribution sites in South Huntington and Hempstead. Harvested produce is also made available for purchase after our 10 am Sunday services when available with the money raised used to support the Community Food Counsel. The Garden is managed by several committed parishioners who volunteer to plant, weed, harvest and tend to the Garden throughout the season. Not only do we grow and harvest food to feed the hungry, but we're also growing and deepen our relationships with each other in mission. Join us by emailing an expression of interest to Seamus Mitchell ([seamussf@hotmail.com](mailto:seamussf@hotmail.com)).



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## An appreciation: Frank Gundersen

Today we mark a significant transition in the life of St. John's as Frank Gundersen completes his two consecutive two-year terms as Senior Warden.

Frank has been an invaluable leader of the Vestry, confidante to the clergy and supporter of the church and we all owe him a great debt of thanks. During his tenure Frank managed the transition of leadership from David's rectorship through the interim period with Fred Miller, the search process for a new Rector, and of course, my first years as Rector of St. John's. In addition, Frank has led many initiatives too numerous to count.

I can't imagine that if Frank knew all that he would be asked to do, that he would ever have said "yes" to the invitation to serve as Warden, and yet, Frank has risen to every challenge and opportunity to support and lead the community that we all love with grace and uncommon insight.

Wardenship of the Vestry is a complicated ministry that has drawn on Frank's many gifts and skills. And Frank has risen to each challenge. The sheer volume of meetings is staggering, but to be present in those meetings with compassion, care and an eye to the future wellbeing of the church has been an incredible gift to all of us.

Our growth in annual pledges to St. John's is owed in large part to Frank's courage and willingness to collaborate in driving change in that area of life. The retention of Jesse as curate in his final year was a project that Frank supported with eagerness. His support of Buildings and Grounds and his encouragement of a larger vision of active preservation will deliver dividends in securing our campus in future years under the leadership of our Buildings and Grounds Committee. And, finally, his willingness to imagine a new way of managing our beautiful cemetery grounds under the leadership of our Cemetery Chair has buoyed that committee immeasurably. All along Frank has appreciated that our parishioners are our most important asset and his skill in navigating and managing expectations has been incomparably valuable.

Thank you, Frank for all your support, encouragement, guidance and creative emoji-laden late night texts. This appreciation cannot express adequately our affection for you and our thanks to you. Don't move to Florida. We still need you!



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## An Appreciation: The Rev. Jesse W. Lebus

When I first came to St. John's I recognized in Jesse significant gifts for ministry. Jesse is a wise and deeply spiritual pastor with a level of insight about the care of souls that is rare to find. He has helped St. John's through the interim period and my early tenure as Rector and has been instrumental in several significant strides of St. John's key program areas.

Jesse has led the introduction of Godly Play into our Children's Chapel Program, developed and built our Family Friday initiatives to support parents of young children, and build community among parents rebuilt and re-energized our youth programs including youth Sunday School, Youth Groups, and Youth Service Programs; led our efforts in our Interfaith Teen Initiative with our partners in Syosset and Woodbury and initiated our BlueGreen Theology Efforts strengthening our relationships with nonprofits in our regions who are concerned about the health and safety of our waterways. Through it all he has been a consistently prayerful and grounded presence in our Sunday worship.

Of course, Jesse and Meredith have also become friends to many of us and their beloved children, Clara and Martha, extended family. I will always be grateful for his friendship and thankful for the brief time we shared living together in the Rectory during a water main emergency at the Taylor House.

I believe that Jesse is more than prepared for this next chapter in his career and I look forward to continuing to be his friend and colleague in ministry on the North Shore and a continued friendship with his family.

Jesse begins his new work on July 1, 2019 at St. Luke's in Sea Cliff and we will make preparations in this period to celebrate his ministry among us and wish him well in his new chapter in ministry in Sea Cliff. A committee is at work to honor and celebrate Jesse at the Annual Parish Picnic on June 16 as Jesse celebrates his final Sunday formally with us. Details of ways to participate will follow shortly.





# St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
COLD SPRING HARBOR

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Sunday Services at 8am and 10am  
Wednesday Eucharist at Noon  
Sunday School, Nursery & Youth Group September-June

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 am to 3 pm, Friday 9 am to 1 pm

