

# **ANNUAL REPORTS 2011**

**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**679 Farmington Avenue**

**West Hartford, CT 06119**

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL MEETING — JANUARY 22, 2012  
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January 2012

Dear Friends:

A few years ago I was visiting family in another city. Early on Sunday morning I set off in search of the local Episcopal church and after some difficulty I found the church. Walking in the door an usher slapped a huge rosette that said "VISITOR" on to my jacket and escorted me to a pew near the front reserved for visitors. Warily but not happily, I went along with the usher's direction. Only after I sat down did I look at the masthead on the bulletin to discover that I was in a Lutheran church. I walked back to the narthex to explain to the usher that I was in the wrong church. Graciously, he gave me directions to the Episcopal church, in the next block. At the Episcopal church an usher greeted me with a nod of his head and handed me a bulletin and not a single word was said to me by anyone in the church, other than the priest, who said hello as I shook his hand at the end of the service.

Julia O'Brien, our out-going warden, has this year been determined that visitors to St. John's will not experience such a silent welcome...nor have "VISITOR" rosettes slapped on them. You might have noticed that she sits in a different pew most Sundays and is out in the aisle at the Peace. But, more important, she has convinced a few others to follow her lead. Going to a new church involves more than walking through the door and greeting an usher and/or the priest. People coming to church are seeking connections both with God and the worshipping community. Making a connection with the community is often far more difficult than connecting with God. We must all be intentional in welcoming visitors. I urge you to follow Julia's example.

Julia is one of many people whose energy and talent have made St. John's the place it is. John Hardy and Lisa Mahoney generously put their communications and PR skills to work to benefit St. John's this past year in creating a unified look to church publications and messaging. They've worked with Pat Perkins to greatly strengthen our presence on the Internet, through the web site as well as Facebook and Twitter. Dick Knapp, working with Peter Berton, has moved us to the threshold of high quality podcasts of services and sermons. (Soon you will be able to subscribe to podcasts from St. John's!) Paul Glover, setting aside the Treasurer's hat which has suited him so well, will this year be working with others to reorganize St. John's outreach work in our community. Another parishioner takes note when those who usually sit near her are absent and then gives them a call later in the week. People donating their talents and skills and energies in these and other ways are what work to set St. John's apart as a place where, as our tagline says, one may "discover connections with God and one another."

The Stewardship Committee, led by Colin Gillespie and Geoff Emerick, has worked well to present a unified message about the need to support this place financially. The Treasurer and Vestry are dedicated to keeping church finances and reporting transparent: there are no hidden or secret funds. Lyn Walker, John Garvan, Buffy Cech and others this past year created and managed a successful Planned Giving drive which in its first year enrolled 43 founding members who have made a commitment to include St. John's in their Will or Estate planning.

Good things are happening at St. John's, but much work needs to be done. Of great concern is the financial support given this place. In spite of a careful and well-run stewardship drive the last few months, giving to St. John's has fallen – fallen only a little in constant dollars, fallen a great deal in the number of parishioners making a financial commitment, a pledge. One-quarter to one-third of the people who worship here do not make a pledge to St. John's. Some of these people do give

occasionally; others, as far as we can tell, give nothing. While a pledge is indeed a financial promise (revocable, if need be), a pledge is more important a statement of commitment. Making a pledge is a way of saying that St. John's is important and that what we do in this place -- from Sunday morning worship to Christian Education to pastoral care -- is important to you. The fact that you make a pledge is far more important than the dollar amount of the pledge. If you have not pledged for 2012, please do so. Pledge cards are in the narthex or available from the office or the church web site.

The Vestry is understandably concerned with this decrease in pledgers. In the next few months the Vestry will begin to look at every aspect of the budget, from popular programs such as J2A and Outreach to staffing. The Vestry has excellent leadership in the wardens John Earnhardt and Buffy Cech, but in the end the Vestry has little control over a number of substantial expenses such as insurance, support of the Diocese, building maintenance and utilities (although the House Committee under Mark Proft's direction has made great economies in reducing our energy costs). The cuts the Vestry will have to make will directly impact programs and services we all consider important, as well as the way the church is staffed. Some would say, given the perilous state of our national economy, such cuts are inevitable. I don't believe that to be the case. I hope you will join with me and the Vestry in reversing this decline in support of St. John's.

A proven way to find solutions to vexing problems, financial or otherwise, is by putting more effort into one's spiritual life. If you are not already doing so, attend the Sunday Forum or a Bible Study, volunteer to teach Church School or serve as a mentor with Rite 13, J2A, YAC, join the Altar Guild, usher, become involved in a newly invigorated outreach program, pray...There are many, many ways you can support and strengthen St. John's. And, if you're completely at sea as to how to become more involved, I invite you to join me in reading through the Bible this year -- a simple thing, but an exercise I think you will find stimulating in surprising ways. It is suggested that each day you read two or three chapters of the Old Testament, beginning with Genesis (but skipping over genealogies and lists), one psalm and one chapter of the New Testament, starting with Matthew. We'll come together first Sundays of the month to share thoughts and insights, or you may contribute by adding your comments to the church-sponsored blog, <http://siparish.blogspot.com>.

Clergy in this diocese are encouraged to take a three month sabbatical every five years. The last time I was due for a sabbatical financial and other considerations made it seem poorly timed. This year I am also due for a sabbatical, but have similar reservations and the budget does not allow for extra help to cover my time away. St. John's enjoys an excellent staff -- Karen, Kathy and Joyce in the office; Cindy and Margaret in Christian Education; Peter at the console; Pat, who is a valued colleague; and Dwight who keeps us all smiling -- but I am uncomfortable in adding to their considerable work-loads by taking a full sabbatical. And so, with the wardens' consent, I've decided to take a couple of weeks off both in April and October in lieu of a full sabbatical. Looking forward to that time, I thank these excellent people, and you, for your support.

In spite of the considerable financial challenges ahead -- challenges I do not wish to minimize in any way -- it is indeed a great joy to be here at St. John's, worshipping with you week by week and responding to God's call to make Christ's love known in a world which badly needs to hear that good news.

Yours in Christ,  
(The Rev'd) Joseph L. Pace

## Warden's Annual Report for 2011 to St. John's Parish West Hartford

Submitted by John Earnhardt

January 13, 2012

In my first year as one of your Wardens, I learned about the extraordinary efforts made by our clergy, our church staff and our parishioners to make the church function. I will share with you a few of the key highlights that were notable in 2011 – I regret any omissions and oversights. I will also share with you my concerns over issues that affect our future.

What makes St. John's thrive? Without exaggeration, tens of thousands of hours of preaching, teaching, nurturing, cleaning, fixing, investing, celebrating, decorating, communicating, singing, investing, fellowshiping and praying. I am thankful to all who contribute their time, talent and treasures.

I thank our remarkable clergy for what they do, every day (and too often at night). As a warden, I have glimpsed some of their efforts to minister to our parishioners and to our community at large. Sundays are just the beginning. So much takes place throughout the week, planned and unplanned, day in and night out. Thank you to Dennis Kane, who joined us as our Deacon in 2011 and helps to lead us in worship. We welcomed back Nancy Miller, who serves as Honorary Priest Associate.

In 2011, we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Joe Pace as our Rector. He has guided us through highs and lows. We are fortunate to be a strong parish as a result of his passionate commitment and leadership.

The church staff performs the behind-the-scenes duties throughout the week that many of us don't see. Among the many tasks accomplished, they manage our finances, handle our communications, and care for the church buildings and grounds. Thank you for your dedication.

There are not enough words to thank Julia O'Brien for her three-year tenure as Warden. She (and Ross Hatch) guided us through a difficult period of litigation. Her vocation as a lawyer was very beneficial to her avocation as a dedicated member of St. John's. With that period behind us, she poured her energies into helping us do more and better. In 2011, Julia organized the All Committee Meetings. At these meetings, each committee first met separately. We then all came together at the end and shared highlights with the entire group, enabling better communication and coordination. We will continue with this concept in 2012.

Our Communications Committee is first-class, thanks to the labors of Lisa Mahoney, John Hardy and Rev. Patrick Perkins. They have brought us into the digital age, with an informative and timely website; and they have introduced us to social media - a necessity to inform existing members and to attract new members. As a result of their considerable efforts, we now have a consistent look that graces our many forms of communications, including a re-styled newsletter, The Epistle.

Peter Berton, in his first full year as Music Director, brought us beautiful music, from the organ and from the choirs. He presented to us the Sacred Music at the Red Door series. A special music fund was established and supported by many parishioners to underwrite the music series and other music programs. There have been several events – and more scheduled – that have attracted many new people to St. John's, one of our key goals in expanding the music program. Thank you Peter – we look

forward to what comes next. And thank you to the many children and adults who enrich our worship with music.

Our Christian Education program is a great treasure and an important draw to St. John's for many new families. Margaret Smith and Cindy Lawler provide direction and leadership to a large group of volunteer teachers who care passionately about our parish children. Our teachers are instilling important life-long values. I know first-hand, as a former J2A leader and as a parent of a Rite 13 child, the influence that St. John's has during the formative years. In addition, I personally find the Adult Forum an opportunity for enlightenment and education. We have had a number of remarkable speakers.

The Altar Guild works tirelessly behind the scenes to make our church an inspiring place of worship. I was first attracted to St. John's by the beauty of the church - a place where I could be closer to God.

The Planned Giving committee has continued to build on its earlier successes, under the leadership of Lyn Walker. The 1841 Legacy Society now has 32 founding members who have committed to include St. John's in their estate planning – thank you to the generous members who are helping to secure the future of St. John's.

The House Committee faced added challenges during 2011, adding to an already challenging task to maintain our beautiful property and building. Record rains, record snow, freak storms. . In 2011, they oversaw the installation of new storm windows in yet another effort to improve our energy efficiency – good financial and environmental stewardship.

The Global Missions Committee is a group of dedicated parishioners who expand our influence and mission to a global community, specifically in Haiti and Cuba. They were able to re-establish contact with our companion parish in Cuba, and have planned a trip there for 2012.

Paul Glover guided us through another year of careful financial oversight as our Treasurer. He and Joyce Reemts, our financial secretary, managed our finances closely and stayed on budget. I can report that there is every effort made to scrutinize every dollar spent.

The Investment Committee, led by Chris Byrd, has managed our investment portfolio admirably. Our Endowment is now over \$5.5 million, a significant recovery from the low point of \$3.9 million in 2009. We are blessed by the talents of the committee members and their dedicated efforts.

The Newcomers Committee, which included your two Wardens, made a concerted effort to reach out to our visitors and new members. All parishioners need to be active in bringing new members to our church. We live in a society where relocation is the norm; a strong parish needs new members to replace the ones that leave.

The Stewardship Committee has faced a challenging task recently. Colin Gillespie and the other committee members started the process early in the year, spending many hours to develop just the right message to encourage parish participation. No doubt, times are tough and many in our parish are suffering through a very difficult economic period. Despite the challenges in 2011, average pledges increased.

As you can see there were many events and milestones to celebrate. We are fortunate to be a strong, vibrant parish. But there are some concerns that need the attention and commitment of all parishioners.

We have experienced a decline in the number of pledges over the last several years. Our recent peak was 244 pledges in 2006. Since then, we have seen a steady decline, due in large part to members who have moved out of the area or who are deceased. However, there was a steep drop in the number of pledges during the most recent Stewardship campaign at the end of 2011. At the time of this writing, we had a total of 176 pledges, compared to a total of 197 the prior year. Furthermore, 26 people have yet to renew their commitment from last year. Increasingly, the burden of supporting the church is left to a smaller group of dedicated parishioners. We are hopeful that additional pledges will come in during the year. If we do not receive more commitments in the future, we face a challenging task to maintain our programs at the current level.

The drop in pledges is not commensurate with the level of worship attendance. We have had some decrease in attendance, but not to the same degree. Our parishioners depend on an unconditional commitment from St. John's; when life's events, good or bad, impact us, we need the church to be there for us. Likewise, our church needs an unconditional commitment from our members. Our future depends on all of us. I think it is the duty of all St. John's parishioners to make a commitment to support the church financially. I invite everyone to make this commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

John Earnhardt, Warden

### **St. John's Church 2011 Stewardship Committee Report**

Details of the Stewardship Committee's report may be requested by contacting the Parish Financial Secretary at the St. John's Church office – 860.523.5201.

### **St. John's Church 2011 Investment Committee Report**

Details of the Investment Committee's report may be requested by contacting the Parish Financial Secretary at the St. John's Church office – 860.523.5201.

### **St. John's Church 2011 Financial Results and 2012 Budget**

The Vestry has approved the 2012 Budget based on these priorities: (i) control the deficit, (ii) stay consistent with the Strategic Plan, and (iii) continue to fund the growing Music Program.

The details of the financial reports, including the actual financial results for 2011 plus the Budget for 2012 may be requested by contacting the Parish Financial Secretary at the St. John's Church office – 860.523.5201.

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2011

As communicated in my spoken address to the 2010 annual meeting (a transcript of which has been on our website for the past year), three areas of musical growth at St. John's re underway: concerts, evening worship, and a primarily intergenerational structure to the choirs (with all that entails). 2011 was a year of transition, adjusting to and investing in new realities, with strong community building. One can think of this as a bamboo tree which first puts all its energy into securing roots for future growth, and which then, when ready and sustainably supported, can soar.

With the welcoming series name *Sacred Music at the Red Door*, an excellent startup committee developed a 2011-2012 program of three concerts on Thursdays at 7, six Evensongs preceded by Tea and followed by a brief organ recital with video screen to show the recitalist, PipeScreams and two other organ recitals, a summer hymn sing, Advent Lessons and Carols, and three Sunday mornings enhanced by special instrumental music (not counting Christmas and Easter). A May event at the New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA) was free and open to the entire parish as a thank-you to leadership donors and to unveil the plans for the season. The parish Communications Committee has promoted the series through a dedicated Facebook page; Twitter, Constant Contact email marketing, paid advertising, Greater Hartford Arts Council integration, a board game, a handsome brochure and copious press releases have also raised awareness. While attendance tells an underwhelming tale with two of the three concert events to date occurring in the aftermath of storms with extended power outages, it is still possible to report encouraging statistics. At concerts: 55 (Trio Cantabile), 300 (Pipescreams), 61 (St. John's Choirs with orchestra). At Evensongs (not counting choirs): 205 (St. John's and Trinity Choirs, celebrating Joe Pace's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Rector); 82 (Choir of the Church of the Advent, Boston; recital by Daniel Stipe). Well over half those at the three concerts were from outside the parish; after such a significant startup investment it was observed that parish turnout for the concerts was embarrassing. On the other hand, it may simply indicate that an unusual 'niche' of time on Thursday is impossible for parishioners but useful for others we hoped to attract by not competing with saturated weekends. Parish turnout for Evensongs was outstanding. Income from all sources through Dec 31 in round figures was \$56,000 (including \$39,000 from 50 individual donors, and \$10,000 from 41 businesses sponsoring West Hartfordopoly), and expenses were \$44,000. \$12,500 or 22 percent of the income was from non-parish sources (the businesses, and 9 of the 50 individual donors), helping eligibility to apply for grants next season. Over 300 West Hartfordopoly games (so far) have put St. John's advertising into people's homes. The level of quality has been consistently high, favorably influencing the music heard on Sunday mornings.

Four choral scholars made possible by the series budget joined the adult choir in the fall, adding camaraderie, vocal strength and reliability to their sections given the very challenging schedules of many choir members. One other new adult choir member and four new youth balanced attrition from moving out of the area or discontinuing regular commitment to the choirs. A two-day choir camp for youth and adults was held at Winding Trails in July; a residential youth camp week in Ivoryton CT is planned for August 2012. St. John's choirs sang at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, NYC in April, at Trinity Church Hartford for three Evensongs, at HSO's Picnic in the Park, and for a community Christmas concert at NBMAA. Repertoire has expanded including that of the congregation with new psalm-singing and service music. A recording system for podcasting and eventually streamcasting our services nears completion after extensive testing.

Individuals cannot be thanked in a report of this length; I am grateful for countless volunteers, donors, singers, choir parents, staff, and helpful words of support for new endeavors, and thank, as well, those interested in preserving the status quo, who through their objections have helped me and others to shape continued tree-growth plans more clearly. Peter Stoltzfus Berton

## Christian Education at St. John's 2011 Annual Report

Sunday's are busy in the Christian Education Wing. The number one difficulty in any church school is consistency. If all the children show up, we have classrooms teaming with children. Some classes will then be divided on a particular Sunday, as there are so many children. Then there are Sundays, particularly when the air is warmer, that our numbers drop significantly, sometimes to the point of combining classes to make the lesson more interesting. During the latter Sundays, sports are usually the culprit. All in all, we make it work. I wonder sometimes though if we should address this as parents. We are building the foundation of our child's religion. For some children, it is a wonderful place to be and with some children they would rather not. I understand that we all have to make choices that work for our families, but I hope that parents, including myself, consider the long-term ramifications of these choices. We are giving a gift to our children and when they are old enough they can choose what they want to do with this gift.

Teachers: There is always the question: Is there a problem getting teachers? The answer to that question is yes and no. In all the years I have been working here, about 6, I have only been short one teacher in one semester in one year. I believe that people will step up and do the right thing. I believe that God plays a hand in filling the slots. I also believe that our community needs to work together to get teachers. We all need to keep it in mind. We all need to approach new people and pose the question. If we do not do this, there will be a problem getting teachers. So all I ask is to keep the children in mind.

Training: This is another question posed. I train the teachers in a non-traditional way. The teachers are all given their curriculums. This includes an outline of all lessons for the term, lesson plans for each Sunday along with a Xerox copy of all bible readings for that lesson. The first lesson is taught in a group format led by me. In this way, old and new teachers can see and participate in the lesson. They learn in a hands-on approach how to move a lesson from point to point, how to address difficulties, how to answer questions, how to interact with the children and hopefully become more comfortable in teaching. After this lesson, I offer "training" for any who are interested to read through the curriculum, answer any further questions such as "what if I need a sub?" We also discuss the flow of the lesson. What they liked? Did not like?

If I have a new teacher, I have always paired them with a person who has taught before. Hopefully, this will alleviate any further concern that the teacher may or may not have. I welcome the opportunity to speak with anyone who has any further questions.

Each term has a community service element. We have collected candy for the troops, old sneakers for playgrounds, collected socks for our friends in Haiti and visited Hughe's home are some examples. I try to make the project something that the children can do as apposed to someone else, usually a parent, buying it at a store for them.

Each term, I have at least one Children's Service. This is something that I started last year and seems to be very successful with the children. I develop a service around a

theme, such as water. I research all kinds of material to incorporate into this service: poetry, bible readings, prayers from many different religions and music. The music is typically on the CD player but can include songs that we sing together. I try to find spiritual music that we would not hear in church. We listened to the spiritual "Wade in the Water." After listening one time through, I had the children walk on water as they listened to the music again and again. The water consisted of a baby pool, cornstarch, food coloring and water. Super fun! The oldest children in our wing lead this service. This year it is the 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade group. They do a wonderful job and all learners are engaged and enthusiastic. This role is extremely important as they learn to be leaders in our community.

Each term, we begin each lesson with a pre-assigned prayer, psalm or song that we frequently hear in church. We repeat this prayer throughout the semester in the hopes that it becomes rote. An example of this would be the Lord's prayer or Psalm 23.

The Good Shepherd room is back up and running as many of you have known it. Buffy Ineson and I spent time over the summer in the room repairing boxes, replacing missing pieces and writing an outline for the year. She has thankfully stepped up to teach both fall and winter and has trained one of our newer members, Ginny Kemp. This spring, Jen Evans will again take up the realm and hopefully train while teaching another new recruit. The book that we are following is called "Young Children and Worship" by Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman.

Word Alive: During word alive, we usually focus on the gospel of the day. I also use the Children's Worship Bulletin to help the children understand the story. Sometimes we are working on a larger project during this time such as getting ready for the pageant or Youth Sunday. The older children 5th grade and up help during this time with the snack and in small groups. It is another wonderful leadership opportunity for them. At the beginning of the year, the older children are introduced to the younger kids. I let the younger children know their names and faces and let them know that if they ever need anything at any point, these children could be counted on.

We have a bustling community in the Christian Ed wing. Even on a Low Sunday, something is always going on. It is a pleasure to be a part of our children's world.

Spring Term March 6- May 22 2011

March 6 (Lent begins on the 9<sup>th</sup>) Intergenerational Forum-all children should go to Hubbard Hall

March 13 (Daylight savings time begins) Jesus sends out the twelve

March 20 Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

March 27 Jesus Walks On Water: Children's Chapel, this is something new that I would like to try. Have children report to their classrooms for a quick attendance, and then have them come out to the rug in the main room. I will lead this with the assistance of the 4/5 teachers and class.

April 3 The Glory of Jesus

April 10 The Last Supper. Tables will be set up in the common area. Have children check in for attendance. I will be calling out the classes.

April 17 Palm Sunday. Children need to prepare something to hold in the parade of palms. I will have crafts laid out by class in the common area.

April 24 Easter, no classes

May 1 Children's Chapel, Loving one another: Egg hunt after church today

May 8 Mother's Day, we will walk to Hugh's Home to sing hymns.

May 15 The Coming Of Jesus

May 22 Youth Sunday

Fall 2011 September 19- December 4

September 18 Making a Covenant

September 25 Abraham and Sarah

October 2 The Story Of Isaac

October 9 Jacob

October 16 Joseph

October 23 Joseph and the Pharaoh

October 30 Children's service (led by older children in main space)

November 6 Community Service Project

November 13 Moses and Miriam

November 20 Moses and the red sea

No classes November 27<sup>th</sup>

December 4 Children's Service (led by the older children in the main space)

#### Outline winter 2010-2011

December 5<sup>th</sup>-February 27

1. December 5 Advent

2. December 12 Shepherd

\*\*\*\*\*December 18 Pageant rehearsal 10-12

3. December 19 Pageant Please arrive at 9:45 to assist kids in dressing.

4. December 26 No Sunday school

5. January 2 No Sunday school

6. January 9 Jesus at Twelve

7. January 16 Baptism and Temptation

8. January 23 The First Disciples

9. January 30 Jesus' mission begins

10. February 6 Jesus the teacher

11. February 13 Community project

12. February 20 Stories

13. February 27 Stories

## Youth Ministry Annual Report 2011

We began the New Year with Rite-13 teens preparing for their first Ceremony of Manhood and Womanhood by looking at Psalm 139, and contemplating their place as God's loving creations. On February 6, fourteen of them went through this significant rite of passage. J2A began to plan for their Urban Adventure to New York City.

In March we were flooded out of the YAC room, and flooded with orders for Munson's chocolate, as J2A teens began their second fundraiser for their pilgrimage. April brought the World Awareness Dinner, with Bishop Curry, and teens from all groups participated in an exercise of understanding world hunger. Later in the month, Rite-13 spent a morning searching for God and created a visual record of God's presence in the natural and manmade in St. John's environs. J2A studied maps of Manhattan, subway schedules, and how to budget for their day in the City.

May found the J2A teens on their Urban Adventure, spending two nights at St. John the Divine Cathedral, a day roaming the City on a two-team scavenger hunt: "We paid a man a dollar for some jokes, and he was actually funny. We worshipped at FAO Schwartz. We paid too much for junk on Canal Street. We ate a lot of great food." There was a candlelight midnight Eucharist and a "vertical tour" (126' of narrow staircases) to the top of the Cathedral for a spectacular view of the City.

Some teens participated in the Bishop's 5K Walk/Run, and all were present for Youth Sunday and the Parish Picnic. We said farewell to seven seniors, with three of them speaking at Youth Sunday. In June, the J2A met at a pool party at the Ashford's and spent time learning about the three possible sites for their 2012 pilgrimage: Belize, New Mexico and South Dakota. Then, they voted and they will be going tropical next June!

In September all three groups welcomed the parish back with the Pancake Breakfast. This multi-talented bunch produced several griddlemasters, bacon barons, pan soakers (the Bubblers), a dish crew, some tabletop terrors and a team of cheerful servers. Parents were invited a light supper and discussion of faith development in children and teens with the Rev'd Audrey Scanlon. J2A ventured to the Berkshires for a weekend retreat at the Lawlers' cabin and braved chilly weather with lots of watery shenanigans.

October brought another round of Lyman Orchard pie sales for J2A and some discussion about possible activities on the trip to Belize. YAC discussed plans for outreach. Rite 13 took a turn at a cabin retreat, with even chillier weather, but still many braving the icy waters. The 4.5 mile hike around the lake and lots of good food warmed everyone up for more fun in the evening.

J2A hosted the Children's Fair at the Festival, with the cakewalk, the infamous sponge toss and diving into whipped cream for gummy bears as the hits of the day. Teens participated in the pageant...as camel drivers, camels, lead characters and even a last-minute Gabriel. A great way to end the year!

Cynthia Lawler  
Youth Ministries Coordinator

**Altar Guild  
Annual Report  
2011**

The Altar Guild is a group of men and women from St. John's who are called to serve God by preparing and tending our church. We perform our duties with great care and pride in making the church a beautiful place to worship. We ensure that the clergy have all that they need for each service.

**Membership**

New: Stephanie Donofrio, Virginia Kemp, Barbara Lennox

Returning: Audrey Walker

Resigning: Gwen Frey

**Special Duties**

Linens: Bette-Jane Hardersen and Shirley Blean

Secretary: Janet Willard

Treasurer/Flower Donations: Helen Cooke

Updated instructions for setting up and taking down services as well as other Altar Guild duties were written by the Director.

An inventory of the items in the Sacristy was done by a group of Altar Guild members led by Jean Mitchell.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Pedersen

Altar Guild Director

LAY READERS and MUSICIANS  
Annual Report – for 2011 on 1/22/12

In the beginning was the Word... John 1:1

During 2011, the Lay Readers assisted at or read 113 services in the main church and at the Hughes Convalescent Home. This last season the Recreation Director at Hughes Home cancelled the Christmas Lessons and Carols service, so that was not held in December.

This last year we heard two new voices from the lectern: Kim Byrd and Stephen Ashford. Both of these folks are also very active in other functions within the Parish. You will continue to see their faces as they contribute in a variety of events. For example: this morning you saw Stephen Ashford's name on the list of new vestry members. I think everybody has commented on Stephen's British accent. What a delight to be reminded of our Anglican roots. Moreover, Kim's name often appears when a big organization task has been identified. What a major contribution that is. Thanks to you both for applying your abundant talents to the opportunities here at St. Johns. Another of our big talents has returned to our full-time ranks after a part-time hiatus with her concentration more fully on our all-important young people. It's good to see and hear you more often these days, Cindy. This last year Tony Erdman moved into a semi-retired status. Fortunately, we can still call on Tony in an emergency. Thanks Tony, for all of your faithful years of service. It is amazing that you have so many hymns memorized.

The Propers are regularly brought to you by the talented voices of: Bess Amamoo, Stephen Ashford, David Beers, Lissie Brooks, Kim Byrd, Helen Cooke, Tom Cox, Bill Dunakin, Cindy Lawler, Paul Shaker, Carol Sonne, Jeff Verney, and Faith Weidner. The exceptionally talented musicians who play at Hughes Home include: Jane Bartlett, Joyce Burke, Christine Doty, Tony Erdman, Helen Hughlett, Steve Metcalf, Susan Thomas and Guy Verney. If you know of anyone else who would like to share their talent with us, please ask them to call, or you may initiate the call to either the church office, at 860-523-0832, or my office, at 860-233-0832. We'd be happy to hear from either you or them.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dunakin  
Chairman



## HOUSE COMMITTEE of ST. JOHN'S

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting – January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

### Mission

The House Committee is dedicated to the maintenance and enhancement of St. John's Episcopal Church buildings and property. The committee plans for long term maintenance, negotiates and manages contracts for major repairs and enhancements, and acts upon suggestions submitted by the parish.

### Membership

The members of the House Committee as of the January 2012 meeting were **John Beir, Claude Brouillard, Louise Blood, Bill Dunakin, Jonathan Festa, Charles Hardersen, Jim Miller, Mark Proft, and David Ringquist**. The committee also relies on the expertise of the following parishioners in the subjects noted; Bill Uricchio – church history; John Roche – computers & office equipment. Committee meetings in 2012 will generally take place every other month. The next meeting will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> and all meetings are open to parishioners interested in learning more about the work of the House Committee.

### Projects

Enhancements and major maintenance undertaken or completed in 2011:

1. The office computers and software were replaced and service was conducted on the server which should be serviceable for another year or two.
2. Some gutters on the building were damaged by the ice and snow in January. This damage was covered by insurance and the gutters were replaced in Nov.
3. The exterior lighting in the parking lots was upgraded to incorporate LED lights to reduce energy consumption.
4. Interior storm windows were installed in the offices, education wing, and vestry room as recommended by the Energy Audit.
5. The maintenance program for the European Beech tree continued and a number of the larger trees on the church property were trimmed. Additional tree damage occurred in the August and October storms requiring further tree work.
6. A new refrigerator was purchased to replace the previous model which was 17 years old, had exceeded its service life, and was breaking down frequently.
7. The first project of a multi-year campaign to repair deteriorating stone work on the church was completed in November on the north corner of the east gable.
8. A project to upgrade the fire alarm system was initiated in the fall and will continue in 2012 with testing of the entire system and a new service contract.
9. The Committee supported the testing of microphones for recording the service.

### Suggestions

The Committee welcomes input from all members of the parish. Suggestions concerning the buildings and grounds may be given to any of the House Committee members or via a suggestion form available in church office.

### New Members

The House Committee invites anyone with an interest in the history, architecture, and stewardship of the church building and gardens to join us. Please contact any member of the committee, or come sit in on a meeting to find out how you can contribute.

Mark Proft  
Chairman, House Committee

## St. John's Global Missions Committee

### Annual Report for 2011

**Global Missions Membership:** Claude Brouillard, Alycia-Evica, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Charles Hardersen, Sarah Kieffer, Nancy Latif, Miriam Lockhart, Mari Merwin, Marie Montas, Wesley Winterbottom

In 2011 the outreach of the Global Missions Committee continued to develop our companion relationship with the parish of Santa Cruz del Norte in Cuba and to support the Saint Sauveur School in Les Cayes, Haiti. A special appreciation goes to Mari Merwin who has been our Vestry Liaison. She has faithfully attended our committee meetings and has offered countless valuable suggestions. Her appointment on the Vestry has come to a close, and she will be leaving the Global Missions Committee. Her insight will be missed.

We invite every parishioner to drop into any meeting this coming year. Come and check us out. We welcome new members. Please visit the Global Missions web page on the St. John's website at ([Sjparish.net/Home/Get involved/Global Missions](http://Sjparish.net/Home/Get%20involved/Global%20Missions)).

**Cuba:** This year we experienced a good breakthrough in our communication with the parish of Santa Cruz del Norte. In the past few years, limited computer access and personnel changes in both the Cuban diocese in Havana and the parish of Santa Cruz have made it difficult for us to correspond by email and to develop plans for our next visit there. Thanks to parishioner Wesley Winterbottom and his son Jamie, St. John's was able to make personal contact with Father Frank Fernandez in Santa Cruz this year and to make plans for our next visit.

In August 2011, Wesley's son Jamie traveled on vacation to Cuba, and he graciously agreed to visit the parish of Santa Cruz to find Father Fernandez. There Jamie conveyed our sincere interest in visiting Santa Cruz, and Father Fernandez responded enthusiastically. When Jamie returned to the U.S., he came to St. John's and told Global Missions Committee about his visit with Father Fernandez. Since then, we have received more consistent correspondence from Father Fernandez. Also, with the help of Kathleen McIntosh, the Rector Joe Pace has been able to reinitiate contact with the episcopal diocese of Cuba.

This successful turn of events has resulted in plans for a trip for four St. John's missionaries to visit Cuba from April 9 to April 16, 2012. St. John's has been invited to visit the diocese in Havana as well as the parish of Santa Cruz.

Finally, there was a renewed contact with the former Santa Cruz del Norte priest Rafael Garcia. In August of 2011, Rafael came to visit St. John's with his wife Anysa and their two year old son Anthony. The Garcias lost their son Bryan Angelo who died in February of 2011. The Garcia family now lives in Miami, Florida where Rafael is the priest-in-charge at Holy Comforter and is very active in parish and community projects, including a Spanish speaking radio show in Little Havana.

**Haiti:** Global Missions has continued to provide support to St. Sauveur School in the Saint Sauveur parish. This school year the enrollment was about 280 students from Early Childhood grades to Grade 6. About 30 students in the school are from families who were displaced from the 2010 earthquake. While other families are expected to pay a small tuition and school expenses, the students from the displaced families receive free tuition, books, and uniforms. In 2011, all 13 sixth graders passed the national exams.

St. John's has joined HELP, a network of episcopal churches in the United States that serve the episcopal churches in the Les Cayes area. Our affiliation has enabled us to receive more in-depth information about Saint Sauveur School. In addition, we are now able through HELP to send money more easily to the school. One of the most significant initiatives of HELP this past year was its sponsorship in November of 2011 of an Early Childhood seminar provided to the teachers of all Les Cayes episcopal church schools, including Saint Sauveur School. This two day professional development seminar offered hands-on instruction for Les Cayes teachers about current pedagogical practices in North America that focus on actively engaging students. The workshop included new curriculum manuals, classroom manipulatives, and classroom books. The instructional techniques presented can be applied to science, art, language arts, and math.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kieffer

## **Newcomers Committee 2011 Annual Report**

The Newcomers Committee was reestablished in January 2011. The Wardens, John Earnhardt and Julia O'Brien, decided to spearhead the effort as it was one of their big priorities for the year. John Roche and Virginia Van Dyk served as the remaining members.

The Committee had two initial meetings to come up with a "plan." We divided the people we were trying to attract into four groups and posed four questions - 1) how to get people in the door, 2) how to keep them coming back, 3) how to get people who've come in the door to stay and to feel more welcome, 4) how to deepen the involvement of those who seem to have committed to St. John's. We brainstormed many ideas and investigated several of them.

We made a lot of progress on our initiatives on how to keep people coming back. We have been reaching out to newcomers with a hand-written note from a parishioner. We have been spotlighting newcomers and oldcomers in the Epistle, we have been trying to be more targeted in our work with the Vestry greeter and we've tried to make coffee hour easier by posting how to's.

In terms of getting people who come in the door to feel more welcome, we've been emphasizing the simple practice of introducing oneself at the peace, walking across the aisle to shake hands, approaching someone who doesn't seem to know anyone at coffee hour and engaging them in conversation - basic, simple niceties that go a long way. Instead of a Parish Cocktail Party, we decided to have a Parish Pig Roast. We called many newcomers and purposely invited them to attend. The turn-out was good and many people seemed to enjoy the afternoon.

In trying to get people more involved, we believe that asking people to serve on committees or teach Sunday School is a wonderful way to get people more involved and vested in the church, meet new members and feel more a part of things. We have been encouraging the Committee chairs to invite one or two new members to their committees and have been working on getting new faces into the role of teaching.

Parish Day was to take the place of the semi-annual Newcomers' Dinner hosted by Joe. The day had several events - a hike, a bike ride, a tour of the New Britain Museum, clean-up around the church grounds and a potluck supper. While not a large group participated in these events, roughly 40 people, those who did thoroughly enjoyed their event and deepened their connection to other parishioners.

The Newcomers' Committee whole-heartedly believes that this is an important ministry and seeks to invite new members into its ranks.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julia O'Brien

## Annual Report of the Saint John's Communications Committee, January 2012

*"Increasingly, [the] spiritual invite begins online. People search for a church online because they want to be assured they will like it before they set foot inside."*

Social Media and the Episcopal Church,  
Office of Communication of the Episcopal Church Center, Summer 2011

The Communications Committee effectively markets and communicates the mission and programs of St. John's Church in alignment with the parish Strategic Plan.

### Objectives

- Infrastructure: Provide leadership throughout the parish for marketing and communication ideas, tactics and management -
  - that support dialogue and transparency with and between parishioners, and
  - that enhance and sustain achievement of parish strategy and objectives.
- Process: Manage communications both within St. John's as well as outward to the broader West Hartford, Hartford and regional communities.
- Marketing: Determine appropriate opportunities for St. John's to achieve broader visibility in the community, and manage parish participation.

### 2011 Communications Committee Accomplishments

- The Committee highlight for 2011 was the professional design and subsequent implementation of new branding for St. John's. An updated blue logo and typestyle provide a fresh, contemporary and vibrantly-colored image for the parish. A new all-weather banner and coordinating tee-shirts showcase our new look to the community.



**Saint John's Episcopal Church**  
West Hartford, CT [www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net)

A comparable red logo was deployed for the new "Sacred Music at the Red Door" series to foster consistency of message and branding in communications from St. John's.

- A new monthly newsletter, "The St. John's Epistle," incorporates a more consistent layout that combines enhanced reporting of parish groups, events and activities with ongoing features such as the "Community Service Spotlight" and "Looking Back at St. John's," and also includes more photos and graphics. As part of the parish's evolving use of electronic media The Epistle is available as a color download from St. John's website.
- A new St. John's Facebook page replaced the earlier, less flexible Facebook "group." Developed and actively managed by the Committee, the page allows both Facebook users and non-users to view a variety of information about the parish as well as notices and media depicting our programming and activities. Separate new Facebook pages serve as promotional tools for the Sacred Music at the Red Door series and for West Hartfordopoly.

- Committee members led training for parish staff in the use of upgraded Microsoft Office software, new communications templates and increased use of email and other technologies.
- The Committee continues to coordinate enhancements in website content and functionality with an eye to maintaining the website as a consistently informative and dependable resource for both parishioners as well as the broader community.
- The Committee managed the St. John's booth for both days of Celebrate! West Hartford in June. The popular town-wide festival enables parishioners to meet their neighbors and other community members in a fun and casual setting while sharing information about the parish and its programming.

### **Moving forward**

The Committee will continue to focus on initiatives in support of its mission, including:

- Further enhancement of resources / processes / printed collateral
- Enabling parishioner self-service through introduction of "how-to" guides and resource lists
- Creation of a web-based photography library
- Additional external marketing including: promotion of significant parish events and guests; expanded participation in community activities; and consideration of opportunities for targeted advertising
- Podcasting elements of St. John's worship and music
- Introduction of video to the parish website and through social media
- Diversifying social media touches for parish groups

### **Keep up with St. John's online!**

- Check out our website ([www.SJParish.net](http://www.SJParish.net))
- Connect with us on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/StJohnsWestHartford](http://www.facebook.com/StJohnsWestHartford)) – you don't need to be a Facebook member to see what's posted
- Follow us on Twitter (@SJParish)

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hardy

2011 Committee Members: John Hardy, Lisa Mahoney, Pat Perkins

Join us!

## Community Service Committee 2011 Annual Report

### Community Service Committee's Relationship to St. John's Strategic Plan

The Community Service Committee supports **two key objectives** of St. John's Strategic Plan:

#### **St. John's Church Strategic Plan**

*Mission Statement: To be a welcoming Christian community through which all can discover meaningful connections with God and with one another.*

*Tagline: "A place to discover connections with God and one another."*

#### *Objectives:*

- *Foster a spirit of openness and warmth and encourage dialogue among the parishioners of St. John's.*
- *Enhance the culture of St. John's by making the Biblical ideal of God's generosity the basis of its life and worship and encouraging parishioners to respond with a generous spirit,*
- *Develop an effective system of attracting, welcoming and incorporating newcomers.*
- *Develop active connections with our community and neighborhood, and the world that will engage the entire parish and utilize our buildings and resources.*
- *Establish an ongoing program of recruitment and training to expand and strengthen the lay leadership of St. John's.*

### **2011 Programs in Review**

St. John's Community Service Committee focused on the following initiatives:

1. Covenant to Care – Through our Adopt-A-Social Worker program, we successfully fulfilled several collections of goods to support Yolanda's caseload of families including: Easter baskets for 20 children, school backpacks for 10 children, 7 Thanksgiving dinners/food baskets, as well as donations of baby clothes and furniture.
2. Church of the Good Shepherd Coat Collection – Parishioners throughout the winter donated seven 30 gallon containers filled with warm coats, mittens, and hats for distribution through the Church of the Good Shepherd in Hartford.
3. Discretionary Fund – The committee allocated \$10,000 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund to provide critical assistance to our closest neighbors for their most basic needs.
4. Family Life Education – Positive outcomes from the St. John's Church Parent Leadership grant of \$5,000 enabled:
  - a. 20 parents to be trained through the People Empowering People curriculum (members of the Parkville Family Center Parent Advisory Board advocated for additional training with Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART), a local community organizing program to become involved in improving a local, City park.
  - b. 8 parents to gain additional training through HART.
  - c. Over 50 parents to participate in successful advocacy efforts to prevent the Nurturing Families Network child abuse prevention program from being cut from the state budget.

- d. Over 35 parents to participate in 3 community meetings with city officials, local business people and area agencies to develop an improvement plan for the Day Park in Parkville.
5. Loaves & Fishes Ministries – St. John's \$5,000 grant funded the continuation of the Opening Doors program that has been very beneficial to Loaves & Fishes clients who are motivated to look for work. Each client involved in the Opening Doors program was provided with skills assessment on an individual basis; job postings, employability skills training, support services (soup kitchen meal and bag lunches), resume creation, computer classes, on-line job search and application assistance.
6. Mum Sale for Hope Works – In the spring, we sold approximately 70 mums at \$8 apiece to raise funds for Hope Works. This is an annual fund raiser.
7. Nurturing Families Network Christmas Bag project – St. John parishioners generously filled 60 Christmas bags to overflowing for 60 individuals served by the Hartford VNA's Nurturing Families program.
8. Operation Fuel – The committee provided \$5,000 to Operation Fuel due to significant cuts in Federal and State funding for the agency and given the vast need for heating fuel throughout our region.
9. Volunteer Opportunities – Committee members researched volunteer opportunities by trusted area providers and added the list to the St. John's website ([www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net)) under "Get Involved" for easy reference for parishioners.
10. Y-US Project FLY (PF) program – The \$5,000 grant provided by St. John's enabled the following:
  - a. Friday evening (and one longer Saturday session per month) programs with discussions of various life skills theme topics, entrepreneurial activities (gift baskets for Hartford's EXPO Center), and group outings to increase overall youth behavior, positive communications skills, positive socialization, and reduction of stress.
  - b. Staff, food, program supplies, and van fuel and maintenance for the Project FLY program.
  - c. Results: At the end of the program, youth and parent post-program surveys were administered to evaluate the program. Parents indicated in surveys that those that remained have shown improved behavior in the following categories: overall behavior, positive communications skills, increased positive socialization, and reduction of stress.

**The Community Service Committee is looking for new members to help us with our outreach efforts in 2012. Please join us!**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Mahoney, Committee Member

2011 Committee members

Susan Clemow, John Hardy, Mary Jo Keating, Lisa Mahoney, Patrick Perkins, Ginny Stewart,  
Marki Ware, Ted Whittemore

## Planned Giving - 1841 Legacy Society

2011 marked the second year of the Planned Giving Committee's efforts to recognize and celebrate those who have included St. John's in their estate plans since its founding in 1841 and to encourage others to do the same.

The Committee met five times during the year. We also sponsored two Sunday forums: one in February on the importance of estate planning at every stage of life, and one in October, on planning and communicating with the clergy and loved ones regarding funeral and burial instructions, health care proxies, powers of attorney and living wills. Throughout the year, testimonials and stories by parishioners were included in the Sunday bulletin, monthly newsletter, and on the website, and we are very grateful to those parishioners who submitted their stories.

In recognition and celebration, the bulletins on Easter and All Saint's Day included the names of those who have died and left a bequest to St. John's, as well as names of the members of the 1841 Legacy Society.

The year culminated with a party at Buffy Cech's home to honor the founding members of the 1841 Legacy Society - those who notified the Church by November, 2011, of their intention to leave a gift to St. John's in their estate plan (for example, by their will, trust, or beneficiary designation of their life insurance or IRA). Membership in the 1841 Legacy Society does not involve disclosure of any financial information - just notification to the church by completion of an Enrollment Form.

Many thanks to those who offered their stories, became members of the 1841 Legacy Society in 2011, attended the forums, or served on the Committee, and to Joyce Reemts for her advice and assistance.

Lyn Walker, Chair

### 2011 Committee Members:

Eleanor Barnes	Paul Glover
Buffy Cech	Ross Hatch
Susan Clemow	Julia O'Brien
Ellen Flynn	Joseph Pace, Rector
John Garvan	

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## St. John's 1841 Legacy Society

The St. John's 1841 Legacy Society was established by the Vestry to honor parishioners and friends who have remembered St. John's in their Will or estate planning. Listed below are the Founding Members of the Society:

Jane M. Bartlett  
Margaret and David Beers  
Jenefer and Frank Berall  
*Lilly Palmer Biscoe*  
Greg and Lonnie Burt  
Christopher and Kimberley Byrd  
Elizabeth Scott Cech  
Susan Clemow  
Miss Helen P. Cooke II  
Christine M. Doty  
Mr. and Mrs. Benedict D. Flynn, III  
John S. Garvan III  
Paul and Marilyn Glover  
Joel and Beth Grieco  
Jon and Carrie Hammond  
Charles and Bette-Jane Hardersen  
W. Ross Hatch  
Dianne Jones  
Lisa Mahoney  
Mari S. Merwin  
Nancy Miller  
Mary K. Moses  
Julia P. O'Brien  
Joseph Pace  
Mark Proft  
John and Laura Roche  
*Joyce and James Sharp*  
Richard E. W. and June B. Smith  
Alex and Patricia Vance  
*Dr. and Mrs. James E. C. Walker*  
Lyn Gammill Walker  
Wesley L. Winterbottom  
Anonymous

*(Names in italics are now members of the Church Triumphant.)*

To learn more about St. John's 1841 Legacy Society please contact the church office or visit the church web site [www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net); go to Giving Opportunities/Planned Giving.

**St. John's Church**  
**2011 Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen Report**

Loaves and Fishes is, once again, grateful to the many volunteers from St. John's who have cooked and served a meal for 125 homeless men, women and children at Immanuel Church in Hartford. The young people of our church, some groups, some individuals, each took a month to coordinate the buying and cooking of meals. Supporting the Soup Kitchen has never been as important as it has been this year. They do count on our help. Ann Krissinger has been the person who has contacted the people who very faithfully serve the meal the second Wednesday of each month. This is cooperation at its best and an important ministry at St. John's Church.

We wish to thank all the volunteers who have made this ministry possible and especially the young people of the parish who did the lion's share of the cooking. Here is a list of people who, during the year, have given their time to Loaves and Fishes.

Sincerely,

Susan Clemow

**Loaves and Fishes Coordinators 2011**

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Coordinator</u></b>
January	Nancy George
February	Mary Hardy
March	Eleanor Barnes and the running group
April	Brooke Whittemore
May	20's/30's Group
June	Lisa Mahoney
July	J2A Group
August	Lissie Brooks
September	Susan Clemow
October	Laura Roche
November	Susan Clemow
December	YAC Group and Cindy Lawler

**Those who helped in the kitchen or served in 2011**

Blean, Shirley	Mitchell, Jean
Connolly, Edith	Stoughton, Mary
Ginger Gillespie	Sonne, Charlie
Hardersen, Bette-Jane & Charles	Willard, Janet
Ineson, Buffy	
Krissinger, Dick & Ann	
Lawler, Cindy	

## **Christmas Festival Annual report 2011**

This past December's Christmas Festival brought in revenue of \$15,178.95, a level not achieved since 2005, in spite of what has been a challenging environment -- both in terms of the economy and the weather. Based on the revenue of the Festival alone (stripping out the cash receipts from the Gourmet Auction), last year was the highest revenue received since 2000. Net profit from last year's event was \$11,212.33, matching the level that was last attained in 2005.

Enabling us to reach these figures was the Silent Auction which brought in \$3,435.00 and Books & Media which doubled the prior year results with \$668.50, as well as the Cafe which once again sold every last drop of soup, chili and chowder. Crafts broke their previous record by more than \$1,000.00 with total sales of \$2,486.75.

We wish to thank many for their efforts including Heidi Gostyla and her crew who began preparing for the Crafts table not long after the prior year's Festival ended. We also wish to thank Dwight Latif, John Beir and John Roche for their help before, during and after the Festival; Nancy George and the ladies of St. John's for their skilled handiwork with the Greenery; Mei-wa Cheng for once again providing creative fare at the Cafe; as well as Philip Chapman, Jan Hickcox, John Hardy, Jen Evans, Brooke Whittemore, Buffy Cech, Kim Byrd and Colin Gillespie for managing their sections; and finally Stewart Murchie for once again stepping in as Treasurer.

We are delighted to hand off the 2012 Festival to Annabel Clapp and Helen Lovass, who were both a tremendous help at last year's event. They will be looking for two assistant chairs to help them later this year, so if you are interested, please let them know. We encourage you all to rally around them as you have done for us over the past six years.

Thank you all for all the support in allowing this to be such a successful event.

The Carlisles

**The Men of St. John's**  
***Annual Report for 2011***

***FAITH IN FELLOWSHIP***

The Men of St. John's, since early 1998, have met at 7AM on the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, to celebrate the Eucharist and to have breakfast and fellowship. What follows is an easy, relaxing time full of lively discussion on a variety of topics.

Once again last year, on Shrove Tuesday, we joined with the young people of the church to sponsor a celebration when all shared their favorite rich sweet dessert. This tradition was a fun celebration of "Fat Tuesday" that marked the beginning of Lent.

Come join us – we do a lot in an hour!



ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

Office  
OF  
HISTORICAL  
RESEARCH

## Office of Historical Research

Annual Report, 2011

The Office of Historical Research, which was loosely taking shape in late 2010, came into being in early 2011 with the first of a series of short historical columns in what was then called *Cloister Comments* and is now known as *St. John's Epistle*.

Articles which occurred during the year covered a diverse array of topics including Harriet Beecher Stowe's purchase of a pew in the old building, the nearby Redfield mansion which later became the Prospect Hospital, parishioner Inez Temple and her work on St. John's pageants in the first third of the last century, the 170<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the parish, and the purchase and framing of a period color illustration of the current church as built showing mysterious blue roof tiles.



In addition, Office staff significantly expanded St. John's historical presence on the web with the creation of pages for the old and new churches on Wikipedia.org and many new additions to the history of the building and the organs at the St. John's web site. The latter was accomplished with the assistance of former Organist and Choirmaster Ralph B. Valentine who completed a revised history in 2010 and then worked with the Office to make revisions and add new information this year.

Amongst new discoveries since January past: a photo of the back of the current church at the time of its construction, the placement and movement of the organs at the old church, and the existence of the last two of the church's original translucent windows which were "hiding in plain sight" in the Narthex.

The Office wishes to thank Mr. Valentine, historians Gary Wait and Wilson Faude, local history enthusiast Martha Church, and, in particular, Rev. Joseph Pace for their ongoing support and assistance.

William J. Uricchio

# LifeLearn

## *West Hartford Continuing Education*

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50 South Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut 06107-2447

(860) 561-6900

FAX (860) 561-6907

To: St. John's Episcopal Church  
From: Paul Bordonaro, Program Facilitator  
Date: January 2012  
Re: Annual Report to the Board of Directors on classes held  
At St. John's Episcopal Church – December 2011

### **Beginning ESOL Class**

There are eight students in my beginning ESL class. Two are from Vietnam; a young man who came to the USA nine months ago, and a retired woman who has lived in the United States for twenty seven years but worked too hard to ever have time to learn English and is so excited to finally be in a class. There are also two lovely retired professional women from Belarus who work hard on their English so that they can keep up with what their grandchildren are doing in West Hartford public schools! There is a Pakistani mother of five who's native language is Urdu. Her five children are all successful students in the West Hartford school system and are no longer in ESL classes after just three short years in the U.S. Her two oldest children are merit scholarship recipients to local community colleges. She is so proud of them all, and now it's her turn to learn English. There is one very funny Chinese woman who is a joy to teach and always asks such great questions. She brings a fresh perspective and sense of humor to our group. Two new and interesting students are from Sudan. We have all learned something new about their country. The students in my class have a limited ability to express themselves clearly in English. Therefore, I place a lot of emphasis on everyday conversation. They really enjoy the worksheets I create and dutifully work on homework.

We start out each class by going around the room to discuss what each person has done since our last meeting. In order to ensure that students are not only good speakers of English, but also good listeners, I then ask students to recount to me

what their fellow students have been up to. This keeps everyone paying attention. We also go over some current events. I sometimes bring newspaper articles to class, but in general they are too difficult and the nuances are hard to understand. I am working with two different beginning level textbooks and use the chapters as a base to expand based on the classes questions and needs. The textbooks keep us on track to learn important grammar points in progression; present simple, present continuous, past tense, future, etc. We play games and make great use of the white board.

We also make good use of the dictionaries and workbooks in the class. I also have a collection of grammar books at home from which I am able to make a wide variety of worksheets for use in class and for homework. I have a few games that we play. I have also brought in some props (Playmobile and Lego!) from home, that are useful not only for conversation but also for lessons on prepositions of place and for vocabulary.

This is an eager and energetic group of students that seems to really enjoy each other's company and works hard to improve their English language skills. I know they greatly appreciate the opportunity given to them by St. John's Church.

Katherine Bruns, Teacher

### **Intermediate ESOL Class – Level II**

There are seventeen students in the intermediate ESOL class. The students come from China, Ukraine, Russia, Vietnam, Brazil, South Korea, and Bosnia.

Each class emphasizes listening and spoken English, grammar and vocabulary enrichment. To achieve this emphasis, writing, dictation, reading, listening and conversational exercises are presented. A level II English grammar book, cultural readings, newspaper articles, traditional American songs, and a video series, "Crossroads Café" are additional resources used.

A Christmas party was held with traditional Christmas carols and music. A new addition to our party was the St. John's choir. They were terrific. Coffee, tea, juice, ethnic foods and pastries were served. The students, as usual, were delighted with this festivity.

As a result of this class, students are able to participate in all sorts of activities in our community in meaningful ways.

Brendan Sheehan, Teacher

### **Advanced ESOL Class – Level III**

This semester, class began with fourteen exciting students from Mexico, China, South Korea, Peru, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Japan, and Venezuela.

The level of learning and discussions has been phenomenal and attendance has been steady! Because of the high level of English conversation, (due to the fact many are professionals in their own country) we are able to discuss world events, current and past, in some detail with the citizens of that country explaining to others.

They challenge each other as well as their teacher with the finer points of the English language. (See attachment). Gaolin, an Economics professor in China taking classes at UCONN Law School, changed a course so it would not conflict with this class!

Many times I see myself as a “cultural broker”. I have gone to AAA more than once for maps and information for someone traveling. And students help each other with tips for the best shopping, etc.

Holidays and customs are of high interest sparking comparisons and similarities. In fact this year’s Christmas or Holiday party was especially meaningful as a singing group of St. John’s practices on Wednesday mornings, so they sang for us and then joined our party and sang **with** us as well when we entertained them with international songs!

When a new student arrives, we take our atlases out and look at where, exactly, they are from, discussing what that region is like. Using maps reminds us of the neighbors we all are.

American politics creates lively debate. Those discussions are most delightful from underlying global perspectives.

St. John's provides a caring environment for our students both physically and emotionally. Our situation provides a very comfortable and non-stressful setting in which they can grow and become familiar with areas they need. St. John's classes provide a service in which I am not aware of any similar situation being offered in the Hartford area.

Louise Cox, Teacher

### **Citizenship Class Report**

Thirteen students attended the citizenship class held in June of 2011. Students were from the former Soviet Union, Asia, South America and Europe. Most students attended all nine classes.

The curriculum is based on the one hundred questions developed by the U.S. government. This class puts these historical facts in context and presents the information in small, easy to understand segments. Short movies, readings and flashcards are used to reinforce lessons. We had a very interesting discussion about World War II. Older Russian students shared their life experiences. Young Austrian and German students talked about their grandparents' experiences.

Two guest speakers addressed the class. A former student came and spoke about her experience of successfully passing the test and gave helpful hints about logistics (where to park and the importance of arriving on time). Paul Bordonaro came to the last class and administered a mock interview to each student individually.

Respectfully Submitted  
Nancy Hill  
Citizenship Teacher