

# ANNUAL REPORTS 2010

St. John's Episcopal Church  
679 Farmington Avenue  
West Hartford, CT 06119

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL MEETING — JANUARY 30, 2011  
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January 2011

Dear Friends:

In looking back on the year past I find many things at St. John's for which I am grateful, not the least being the prayers and worship of this congregation. Second on the list must be the staff. Karen Golfin and Kathy Gelardi ably manage their work in the office and never fail to extend a gracious welcome to all visitors. Joyce Reemts handles church accounting and finances with aplomb. Dwight Latif has completed his first year as part-time Sexton and in that time he has brought a new sense of order to the use of our buildings. His can-do attitude and graciousness win compliments from parishioners as well as outsiders who use this building. As a result of Dwight's careful and close work with the House Committee, under the direction of Mark Proft, many of the building systems are working better than ever before, which is a great blessing to all of us.

Patrick Perkins has completed his first full year as a priest after his ordination to the priesthood which we celebrated with joy in December 2009. Pat has taken on a full share of pastoral and parish work. His understanding and appreciation of parish ministry are commendable and I have found him to be a valued colleague.

Saying farewell to Ralph Valentine after 35 years of service to St John's was a bittersweet occasion, for Ralph's contributions to St. John's are considerable. The Music Director Search Committee under the guidance of Hal Rives tackled almost 100 inquiries and résumés. This mound of papers, CDs and digital files was carefully sifted through, resulting in a short list of four candidates who were interviewed during July. All candidates displayed remarkable talent, convincing me that we were encountering the best of the best. Peter Berton was the unanimous choice of the committee.

Under Peter's direction we are beginning to witness an expanded music program. The first of a series of evensongs will take place next Sunday afternoon. In the next three months our choirs will sing evensong with the choirs of Trinity Church, Hartford and St. James's, West Hartford. In April the Youth Choir will sing at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York.

One of the pieces of parish life that brings me considerable joy is the comprehensive program for our younger members, from the nursery under Vida Razazi and Larissa Buchenkova's direction, through Church School, ably run by Margaret Smith, to the J2A program coordinated by Cindy Lawler. Young people are valued at St. John's and the staff and many, many volunteers and mentors have worked hard to create programs that celebrate our young people. Participants in the fifth J2A pilgrimage last summer experienced the holiness of Iona and brought their enthusiasm and joy back to St. John's.

Cathy Earnhardt, Ginger Gillespie and Janet Babbitt have provided a number of opportunities for parishioners of all ages to come together and get to know one another a bit better while at the same time having fun. We all need to continue to work on welcoming newcomers and inviting friends and neighbors to share St. John's. Outreach took a new direction this past year under the guidance of Mary Jo Keating as we sought to find new connections with our community in the face of diminished financial resources. As is becoming evident, St. John's greatest resource continues to be the people who worship in this place.

Significant steps forward were made in the redesign of the church web site, making it user-friendly and a trove of information about St. John's. Much of the credit for this redesign goes to Pat Perkins, assisted by

Lisa Mahoney and John Hardy. Planned Giving, chaired by Lyn Walker, took a big step forward with the St. John's 1841 Legacy Society, which enrolled more than 20 members in its first month. Raising funds to support the operating budget continues to be a challenge in a tight economy. Colin Gillespie and Bill Palifka chaired this year's campaign, which resulted in a 7% increase in total dollars, but with fewer pledging units. Much work remains to be done in this area. Treasurer Paul Glover, Bookkeeper Joyce Reemts, the staff and many others have been particularly resourceful in managing a tight budget. The Investment Committee under the direction of Chris Byrd has carefully overseen the work of our financial advisors.

Challenges await us in the coming year. Chief among these challenges is welcoming more people into St. John's and becoming more intentional in the way newcomers and old-timers are encouraged to be as active as possible in parish life. Reorganizing committees and broadening their membership is a priority this year. All committees and organizations at St. John's from ushers and Stephen Ministers, to Altar Guild and Outreach, to Choirs and Church School and J2A mentors, all parish organizations, are in need of additional hands and minds.

I'd like to speak briefly of the work of one small, but important committee. The Global Missions Committee, chaired by Sarah Kieffer, works to remind us that church goes well beyond the walls of this building. Our two overseas companions are facing difficult times. The problems of the church in Haiti are considerable and well-known. L'École Saint Sauveur is a bright place for the people of Les Cayes in southwestern Haiti. The school has grown dramatically in the dozen or so years since its founding and has absorbed many people fleeing Port-au-Prince after last year's earthquake. Santa Cruz del Norte on the north shore of Cuba now has a resident priest after Padre Rafael Garcia's emigration to Miami. Leadership has been rocky as a number of familiar faces in Santa Cruz have also emigrated. Cuba is facing a difficult economic time as rations have been severely cut and the political future of the country remains foggy. Even though travel and face-to-face communication are particularly difficult, the communication we do maintain with Episcopalians in Haiti and Cuba is crucial and is often noted as a source of great comfort and strength to these two congregations.

Also looking beyond the walls of this building I'm pleased to note that St. John's is well-represented in diocesan life with Brad Babbitt as Chancellor to the Bishop and Lynn Brooks as Treasurer of the Diocese. Lynn was recently elected a deputy to the Episcopal Church's General Convention, which next meets in July 2012 to deal with issues concerning the Episcopal Church's relationship to the Anglican Communion.

St. John's has many things going for it and has the potential for far greater things. A too often unnoted strength of St. John's is this congregation's lay leadership. St. John's has been blessed with a string of dedicated and capable wardens who have made my work lighter and certainly enjoyable. Ross Hatch and Julia O'Brien have gone beyond the call of duty many times in the past year. This month Ross steps down after three years as Warden. In that time I've come to appreciate and treasure his wisdom, guidance and dedication. He has been exceptional in a string of exceptional wardens. St. John's has extraordinary resources among those who consider St. John's their spiritual home. For this I am deeply grateful.

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

## **Wardens' Report 2010**

If 2009 seemed to be about litigation and issues surrounding the position of sexton, 2010 was happily about moving forward. Below are some highlights of Vestry activity from 2010.

1. Music. From the budgeting process that began in the fall of 2009 through the beginning of 2010, the Vestry had many discussions about St. John's music program. Hal Rives, as chair of this committee, came before the Vestry at least twice to present the committee's thoughts, recommendations and requests. In the end, the Vestry agreed to commit substantial resources to hire a full-time music director. It was determined that this person would be charged with leading both the adult and youth choirs as well as with the more undefined assignment of attracting more parishioners to St. John's. In the end, the committee unanimously recommended hiring Peter Berton. As many of you have already observed, Peter is personable, capable and dynamic. He is off to a great start and will speak more about the music program in a few minutes.

2. Ralph Valentine. In welcoming Peter, we also said goodbye in great fashion to Ralph Valentine who had been St. John's choirmaster for almost 35 years. Carrie Hammond and her incredible committee put together a memorable evening that toasted and roasted Ralph and all his years of service. It was an evening in which former choir members traveled from all over and sent tributes to Ralph for a book that John Church so beautifully assembled. As a member of the Vestry, Carrie kept us updated at every meeting on plans for this celebration as well as the renaming of the Endowment's music fund to the Ralph Valentine Fund.

3. Planned Giving. A long-standing item on Vestry agendas in years past has been planned giving. Unlike so many other parishes and organizations, St. John's has never had a formal planned giving program. This effort became a priority this year. We discussed planned giving in general at two Vestry meetings and then heard directly from Lyn Walker who agreed to chair this committee. Lyn has been assisted by a fine group of parishioners knowledgeable in this area and has, in a very short time, assembled materials to make it very easy for parishioners to remember St. John's in their will. Already over twenty people have become members of the 1841 Legacy Society.

4. Communications. While seemingly a mundane topic, the effort to reconstruct the church's website became a priority. Pat Perkins led this effort and dealt with countless roadblocks and frustrations before ultimately succeeding in getting a revamped website up and running. Still a work in progress as committee chairs populate their pages, the website brings St. John's into the 21st century. In speaking to any new parishioner, the first thing he or she does is type the name "St. John's Church" into their search engine. To have a website that is fresh and user-friendly filled with recent pictures and news, showcases what our parish is - one that is vibrant and friendly. A large thanks goes to Lisa Mahoney, a current Vestry member, for continually raising "communication" opportunities to the Vestry. We also welcome John Hardy, chair of the Communications Committee, to the Vestry. With both Lisa and John, we hope that the Vestry will become even more informed as to communications opportunities and challenges.

5. Condominium Sale. The Vestry also discussed and approved the final sale of the condominium owned by the O'Neils. Alan O'Neil was the Rector prior to Joe and passed away several years ago. His wife, Ruthie O'Neil, a long-standing parishioner at St. John's, moved to Seabury and thus vacated the condo. The money from the sale was replaced in the endowment.

6. Pledging and Budget. At every meeting of the Vestry, Paul Glover, as our able treasurer, reviews the finances with the Vestry. We look at where pledges are, where expenses are, where costs of fuel and other maintenance issues are. Fortunately, this year we were blessed with an increase from many of those who did pledge. Our efforts in 2011 need to be redoubled to encourage more people to pledge. Thankfully, we had roughly 20 new families who pledged and in the plate at the Christmas pageant someone put in an anonymous \$10,000 gift.

6. Looking ahead. St. John's is blessed with many actively involved parishioners - those who time and time again volunteer to teach Sunday school - I think Laura Roche and John Beir are on their 50th year as a teaching team...., those who step up again and again to lead the youth groups, those who year after year volunteer to chair the Gourmet Food Auction - Laura Roche and Susan Clemow, those who again and again chair the Christmas Festival or parts of it, handle the bags at Christmas time, gather school supplies for Father Colbert to take back to Haiti, polish the altar pieces, etc. etc. Without all of you, the church could not run. This year, we are going to commence an effort to bolster even more the work of the committees. Committees are a wonderful way to meet people, to engage with fellow parishioners, to understand a bit more about what goes on at St. John's. If you are currently not involved with a committee, please consider volunteering. If not, there is a very good chance that you will be asked...

7. Finally, a big thank you to the four outgoing members of the Vestry - Mark Proft, who has literally kept the lights on (and hanging), Bill Palifka, who has helped so much with the Stewardship Committee over the past few years, Karen Stook, who so ably represented St. John's at two diocesan conventions, Lori Noyes and John Earnhardt. Oh wait, John Earnhardt isn't leaving yet.... I am so pleased that John agreed to serve as Warden with me and already he has plenty of new and good ideas. And, of course, a huge thank you to Ross, who I probably said enough about in church, but whose wit and good cheer will be much missed. To Pat and Joe, who are always thanking others, thank you for all the work you do for this parish. St. John's is blessed to have you both.

I look forward to 2011.

Julia O'Brien

**St. John's Church**  
**2010 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**  
**2010 Financial Results and 2011 Budget**

The Vestry has approved the 2011 Budget based on these priorities: (i) control the deficit, (ii) stay consistent with the Strategic Plan, and (iii) fund an expanded Music Program.

The details of the financial reports, including the actual financial results for 2010 plus the Budget for 2011 may be requested by contacting the Parish Financial Secretary at the St. John's Church office – 860.523.5201.

## **MUSIC DIRECTOR ANNUAL REPORT 2010**

Arriving in early October to organize an office, and plan rehearsals for two choirs I had not yet met seemed a daunting task, helped immensely by the wise and cheerful counsel of Jane Penfield, adult choir members, Margaret Smith, our clergy, and a database compiled by Martha Church of hymns and anthems sung in the past two years. With that I hit the ground running, expanding (then retracting somewhat) the youth choir rehearsal schedule to allow regular intergenerational overlap, and introducing semi-weekly choir dinners. Adult choir members returned to the fold without exception from the previous spring, for which I am most grateful, and several new youth choir members joined many returning (as well as youth alumnae who sing when available). Music notes in Sunday bulletins have attracted attention to our musical richness, and website growth has helped to reach a wider audience. Special thanks to Bill Uricchio for help with website histories.

In October St. John's hosted the annual PipeScreams event of the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, which drew over 200 people and involved area organists, the St. John's Youth Choir, and creative video projection, including a glimpse of a model train in the organ chamber which unbeknownst to me would have delighted our former organist and choirmaster Ralph Valentine (as parishioners in the audience lost no time in telling me, and which Ralph soon confirmed).

Thanks to the Ralph Valentine Music Fund, for All Saints Sunday the youth and adult choirs were joined by flute, cello and harp, and six girls from All Saints Church, Worcester MA, for excerpts from Requiems of John Rutter and Mack Wilberg.

The Christmas Festival was enhanced with two brief carol concerts in the church by the youth and adult choirs. The Pageant revealed itself in all its splendor, which I found to be quite inspiring; during the blizzard just after Christmas, I composed an arrangement of 'Greensleeves' to be sung at next year's Pageant. On Christmas Eve the adults and youth sang at the 4:00 service (with an especially lovely youth duet opening 'O holy night' by Juliana Latif and Elizabeth Hammond), and at the late service the adults were joined by a fine string quartet.

We are blessed to have many outstanding musicians in our choirs (and supportive choir parents), as well as outstanding instrumentalists in the parish and in the area, which combined with our delightful setting and community, will no doubt make it possible to grow from strength to strength. An annual series of concerts and special afternoon services is being planned to begin in Fall, 2011.

The staff and clergy have been very supportive and welcoming, and working with them is a joy. Thank you to them and to all who have made the transition to a full time musician, after the long and distinguished tenures of Ralph and Jane, possible and relatively smooth!

Peter Stoltzfus Berton

## Christian Education at St. John's 2010 Annual Report

September to December:

I spend many summer days reading Children's bibles. Yes, you can find me at Winding Trails with a bag of Bibles! I choose various bibles for the grades because each one is unique and fits the grades differently. Also, the bibles do not always choose the same stories to focus on and I like to have the grades all learning the same story so I have to tweak the books each week.

The Read and Learn Bible offers an easy read to the lower grades. Its text highlights the important words and provides a definition on the page for the children to reference.

The Children's Bible in 365 stories offers a more complex, compact story for the older children. It gives the story with a lot more detail, but still rated G.

I also pull in other Children's bibles such as The Children's Story Bible and picture books on the subject for the youngest children. The older children use the above mentioned bibles as well as the Holy Bible.

I have found that the children are more engaged and more knowledgeable when they can actively participate in the readings and the lesson. When all grades learn the same story, we can continue the lesson in Word Alive. Then all aged children can actively participate as a group in the lesson of the day.

This fall, we covered Noah, Joshua, Gideon, Samson, and Ruth. Each lesson took place over a two week period. This allowed for more in depth projects as well as catching any children who were not present for both weeks. We ended the fall with Market Place. The entire Christian Education wing was transformed into an Old Testament Market place. We have music, food, costumes, dancing and booths. It was a complete hands-on experience. The children were offered period clothes to dress in. The Rt.-13 ran the booths and the children rotated in groups every twenty minutes. In one of the stations, Sue Thaxton taught the children simple dances set to music. It was really wonderful to watch the children take in the entire experience. . The Rt-13 did a phenomenal job representing shop keepers. They provided a wonderful community service by helping the younger children in this way.

In October, the children gathered candy from Halloween to send to our troops over seas. This was our community service project. They wrote letters and sent pictures to thank the men and women for serving our country.

The children had a terrific time sorting the candy and packing the boxes. In the end, Nancy George and I packed six boxes to ship to Teddy George and the men and women serving with him in Japan. We sent 61 pounds of Candy!

January to June:

The intergenerational Lenten program continued this year. Families with and without children gathered in Hubbard hall for a variety of Lenten projects. We offered Calendars to decorate and fill in, Mite boxes to decorate and prayer beads to create. The biggest hit was the prayer beads. The room was packed and the event was a lot of fun.

There were also two evening activities planned during Lent. One was to join the adults in making dinner for Loaves and Fishes. The second was all about the Pretzel. The children learned about the history of the pretzel and its history dating back to the monks thousands of years before. They learned about it's beginnings during Lent and the meaning of the shape of the pretzel. They of course got to make and eat pretzels too!!

As a community this term, we hard-boiled twelve dozen eggs and decorated them for residents of the Hugh's home.

We concluded our term with Youth Sunday and a farewell to Jane Penfield.

As a community, we are building the fundamental blocks of our future. Families who actively participate on a weekly basis have children who are comfortable at our church. These children view our community as a second home. There is great value in praying together. All ages as one large group. Each generation has so much to teach the other. The older generation has many lessons to teach, but so do our youth. I know we are successful when I hear children, young children, young adults alike call St. John's their second home. We are successful as a community and as a church when this occurs.

Margaret Smith  
Director of Christian Education

## Annual Report 2010

### **Journey to Adulthood, A Program of Faith Formation for Youth**

The year 2010 spanned the end of the two-years of each youth group, (Rite-13, J2A and YAC), and the beginning of the next two-years. In the fall of 2010, each group moved to the next level, with present Rite-13 youth becoming the new J2A, present J2A youth becoming the new YAC, present YAC seniors graduating and going on from St. John's and YAC juniors becoming our Journey Seniors. We invited the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders to join us as the new Rite-13.

Each returning group continued to focus on a meaningful exploration of who they are and where they stand in relation to each other, the greater community and God. And even the new Rite-13 has begun to look outside of their immediate family and peer groups to the greater community, with ideas for serving Christ in serving others.

#### **Rite-13 Leaders: Pouyan Afshar, Allison Beed, Halsey Cook and Libby Palifka**

Rite-13 youth (ages 12-14) worked throughout the remainder of their second year together, winter and spring, focused on the needs of the less fortunate. They have considered their own advantages compared to those just a mile or two away, in Hartford. They have served a meal at the Cathedral's soup kitchen and they have considered carefully how they can help the Greater Hartford community by repeating their riverfront cleanup day from last year. When this group returned in the fall, their **new leaders, Marcie Ashford, David Beers and Giselle Genece**, welcomed them back as our new **J2A group**. They have been becoming acquainted, and finding a focus for their group this fall. They are also earnestly completing hours of community service to help pay their way for the upcoming pilgrimage in the spring of 2012.

**J2A Leaders: John Earnhardt, Marilyn Glover and Masha Ringquist, and Larry Percival** The group participated in confirmation classes in February and March, and was confirmed at the Cathedral on Easter Eve. They spent the spring focusing on community service, with all students finding some way to give of their time and talent for the benefit of others. Their endeavors have ranged from volunteering at an animal shelter, to working after school at a nursing home, to spending spring vacation working with underprivileged children. The group has spent many hours this year fund-raising and studying to prepare to go on pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland, and walk in the footsteps of St Columba. Thirteen young people and five adults departed for Edinburgh in June amidst the well-wishes of parents and friends. They spent ten days in the land of the Celts, discovering the faith and kindness of the people they met, the awe of holy places like Rosslyn Chapel, Iona Abbey, the Bay of St. Columba, and even the peace of meditation on self-made labyrinths at Camas. They saw God in faces, in places and in each other. The teens amazed the leaders. The leaders connected with the teens. The group returned quite overwhelmed by the beauty, peace and spirituality of the place. They would like to thank all who have so generously supported them in this life-changing journey. In the fall, they returned to meet new leader, **Brad Babbitt, and two of their former leaders, Eleanor Barnes and Larry Percival**. They made a powerful presentation of their pilgrimage to the parish, and have since been studying ministry, in an effort to find their place in giving back to the church. Come spring, we will hear what they are prepared to do as their work in the church.

**YAC Leaders: Tom Cox, Buffy Ineson, Wendy Lincoln and Alex Vance**

The YAC (ages 16-18) is a small group of dedicated young people who came together occasionally last spring to serve in the church and reach out to the community in individual ways. Some of these young people were busy with preparations for their post-graduation future, but still attended church and helping within the parish community. In the fall, those who hadn't graduated continued to be a part of our community, acolyting and checking in at Christmas.

The new Rite-13 group which convened this fall is led by **Beth Grieco, Nancy George, Mark Proft and Jeff Verney**. This is one of our largest groups ever, totaling 22! It is a very enthusiastic group, and we look forward to their growing together in spirit, maturity and friendship.

**The Journey to Adulthood** is a program that could not exist without the enthusiasm and love of ten to twelve adult parishioners every two years. Over the six years that they are in the program, these teens have the opportunity to have a meaningful connection to these mentors. All of the teens and I would like to thank the parishioners of St. John's who support them in their endeavors to develop their faith, and to address problems of poverty, hunger, disease, disaster and war around the world.

Cynthia Lawler  
Youth Ministries Coordinator

## **Altar Guild Annual Report 2010**

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: Mari Merwin, Carol Perkins, Karen Stook, Janet Willard

Returning: Judy Schaffer

Resigning: Nancy Morrell

### Service Recognition

5 years: Dianne Jones, Faith Weidner

10 years: Helen Cooke, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Buffy Ineson

15 years: Barbara Abbott, Alycia Evica, Evelyn Mitchell

25 years: Shirley Blean, Ann Krissinger, Judy Schaffer

30 Years: Margaret Thomas

35 Years: Edith Connolly, Anita Parsons, Carol Sonne

### Special Duties

Linens: Bette-Jane Hardersen and Shirley Blean

Secretary: Janet Willard

Flower Donations: Helen Cooke

New monthly Clean-up schedule is working well especially with the new polishing chart to keep track of what needs to be done each month.

New Sunday schedule was introduced with 3 people scheduled for 10:30 take down and one of those people also doing 8:00 take down and 10:30 set out between the services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Pedersen

Altar Guild Director

**LAY READERS AND MUSICIANS**  
**Annual Report – for 2010**

During 2010 the Lay Readers assisted at 99 services in the main church. Moreover, the Lay Readers and Musicians conducted 52 services at Hughes Convalescent Home.

Details of the full “Lay Readers and Musicians” report is available in hardcopy form by request – please contact the church office at 860.523.5201.



## HOUSE COMMITTEE of ST. JOHN'S

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting – January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011

### 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 2011 meeting were **John Beir, Louise Blood, Jonathan Festa, Charles Hardersen, Jim Miller, and Mark Proft**. The committee also relies on the expertise of the following parishioners in the subjects noted; David Ringquist – environmental matters; Bill Uricchio – church history; John Roche – computers & office equipment; Committee meetings in 2011 are generally held every other month. The next meeting will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> and all meetings are open to all parishioners interested in learning more about the work of the House Committee.

### Projects

Enhancements and major maintenance undertaken or completed in 2010:

1. The project to create a digital inventory of the church is largely complete and will be electronically documented when new computers are installed in the office.
2. All exterior lighting was repaired and a new light was installed outside the west end of the education wing.
3. On the recommendation of the energy audit, vacancy sensor light switches were installed in key locations and quotes were obtained for interior storm windows.
4. The maintenance program for the European Beech tree continued and a number of the larger trees on the church property were trimmed.
5. The sexton's house had exterior stairs replaced and a new garage door installed.
6. A new copier was purchased to replace the previous model which had reached the end of its service life.
7. All lights in the church were replaced. This is a major project involving the rental of a lift and the removal of many pews. During the replacement of the lights, a few of the chandelier mountings were found to be loose. A contractor was hired to re-fasten all the chandeliers.
8. A review of the office computers and server was conducted and it was determined that the server could be used for another year or two, but that five of the computers should be replaced. Replacement will take place in 2011.

### Parish Participation

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.**

We are actively seeking new members for the House Committee and invite anyone with an interest in the history, architecture, and stewardship of the church building and grounds 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 2010

**Global Missions Membership:** Alycia Evica, Bette-Jane Hardersen, Charles Hardersen, Sarah Kieffer, Nancy Latif, Miriam Lockhart, Kathleen McIntosh, Marie Montas, Nancy Latif, Mari Merwin

In 2010 the outreach of the Global Missions Committee continued to focus on the companion relationship with the parish of Santa Cruz del Norte in Cuba and on the support of the Saint Sauveur School in Les Cayes, Haiti. We succeeded in launching a Global Missions web page for the new St. John's website. (*Sjparish.net/Home/Get involved/Global Missions*) A special appreciation goes to Kathleen McIntosh who, after six years of dedicated service as chair of the Global Missions Committee, stepped down in May of 2010. Sarah Kieffer took the chair in September of 2010. We welcome new members. Come and see.

**Cuba:** Despite a slowdown in communication early in this year, Global Missions has persevered to sustain our companion relationship through correspondence with the parish of Santa Cruz del Norte. Lack of computer access for priest-in-charge Father Fernandez has made communication very difficult. So our goal this year was to provide Fr. Fernandez with funds for a parish computer. After many months of effort, we were able to convey the funds to Cuba for him to purchase a computer.

This fall we have been rewarded with emails from Fr. Fernandez through a new intermediary source. In this correspondence Fr. Fernandez has invited St. John's to visit Santa Cruz del Norte. He was resolute that the parish of Santa Cruz del Norte wants to continue a companion relationship with St. John's.

We are planning to send three to four representatives from St. John's on a mission trip to Santa Cruz del Norte later on this year, and we have renewed our travel license for this purpose. Since economic conditions are very hard now in Cuba, we are planning to stay in a nearby hotel with board so that our visit will not put a burden on the family food rations of our companion parishioners.

In an email Fr. Fernandez wrote that the companion relationship with St. John's "is a blessing to us". We pray that in 2011 there will be more opportunity to develop fellowship with our companion parish of Santa Cruz del Norte.

**Haiti:** Global Missions has continued to provide support to St. Sauveur School in the Saint Sauveur parish. The school provides education to about 340 students from early childhood to Grade 6. The first class of ten students in sixth grade passed national exams in 2010 - a source of great pride for the school.

The year 2010 brought an earthquake, flooding, hurricanes, and cholera to the island of Haiti. While Saint Sauveur School escaped damage during the earthquake, the parish rectory was damaged. Then the school sustained damage to the septic sewer system. Generous St. John's parishioners came forward and donated funds to repair these both of these damages. From the Global Missions budget money came to provide classroom windows in the school to prevent any future rain damage. Luckily, there was no damage reported from the hurricanes. Superior sanitation at the school has been credited for keeping cholera to only one reported case which was successfully treated.

Global Missions sponsored the visit of Father Colbert Estil, priest-in-charge of St. Sauveur School, to St. John's parish from April 23 - April 27. At church on Sunday, April 25, Fr. Colbert spoke at the Forum, read the gospel in french during service, and spoke again at a potluck supper given in his honor in the evening. St. John's was able to hear first-hand about the conditions, needs, and priorities of the school. At the end of the visit, St. John's sent Father Colbert home to Haiti with two suitcases full of school supplies, children's clothing and shoes - all of which were much needed in the wake of the flooding.

We are grateful for the many blessings of Saint Sauveur School which provides the children of Saint Sauveur parish and about 40 earthquake refugees with the foundation of a good elementary education. An added blessing in 2010 was the provision of overnight refuge at the school for families who were temporarily displaced during the floods.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Kieffer

## **Parish Life Committee Annual Report 2010**

The Parish Life Committee at St. John's Church plans a schedule of events during the church year with the purpose of promoting fellowship amongst parishioners, clergy and church staff. We believe that the more parishioners feel engaged in the lives of other church members, the more their worship experience, as a group, will be enriched.

With that in mind, we planned a variety of events, hoping to attract a large and diverse group of participants at every gathering and to facilitate interaction. Our schedule was meant to complement a number of events planned by other committees so that there was a monthly "social opportunity" for most members during the winter, spring and fall seasons.

The schedule of events for the calendar year 2010 was as follows:

- January 29, 2010 Family Game Night in Hubbard Hall
- February , 2010 Fat Tuesday Dessert Party (Men of St. John's)
- March 26, 2010 Family Games Night in Hubbard Hall
- April 9, 2010 Gourmet Food Auction at O'Brien's Home
- April 28 Book Discussion, "The Lost Symbol" by Dan Brown
- May 1, 2010 Retirement Party for Ralph Valentine – Helped with reception
- May 23, 2009 Parish Picnic following Youth Sunday (Sexton and Clergy)
- September 24, 2010 Cocktail Party at the home of Brad and Janet Babbitt
- October 19, 2010 Book Discussion, "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks in reception room
- October 29, 2010 PipeScreams – hosted reception afterward in Hubbard Hall for 75
- November 17, 2010 Book Discussion, "The Lemon Tree" in reception room
- December 1, 2010 Girls' Night Out and Greenery Decorating

In January, we hosted the first Family Game Nights, attended by approximately 40 people, held in Hubbard Hall with pizza provided by the church and drinks and desserts brought by participants. Fun was had by all.

In February, the Men of St. John again hosted Fat Tuesday dessert party.

In March we held the second Family Games night attended by approximately 20 people.

In April, Susan Clemow and Laura Roche planned and hosted the Gourmet Food Auction and cocktail party at the O'Brien family home. We also held light dinner and book discussion on Dan Brown's "Lost Symbol" in the reception room attended by approximately 10 people.

In May the retirement party for Ralph Valentine was organized by the choir and Parish Life Committee helped the night of the party. We also held the Parish Wide picnic. Held outside, with lawn games, hot dogs and side dishes.

In September, we started the fall season with a cocktail gathering at the home of Brad and Janet Babbitt. There was a great turn out of about 40 and all guests seemed to enjoy themselves in the Babbitt's beautiful home. Our thanks go out to the Babbitt's for hosting this lovely evening.

In October we held light dinner and book discussion on "The Lemon Tree" in the reception room attended by approximately 10 people. We also hosted a reception for the choir organized Pipscreams event attended by approximately 100 guests.

The final event of the 2010 season was a Girls' Night Out to decorate wreaths for the Christmas Festival. A small, but talented group of decorators convened, ate and drank and created some fabulous wreaths for the Christmas Fair.

By and large, the events were well attended and successful by most standards. We are grateful to the members of our committee who worked hard to make all of the events as successful as they were. It is our hope that the events of 2011 will be even more popular. We welcome all suggestions and new members to our committee!

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Earnhardt  
Ginger Gillespie  
Janet Babbitt  
Parish Life Chairs  
January 25, 2011

Committee List:

Janet Babbitt  
Kim Byrd  
Lindsey Carlisle  
Susan Clemow

Nancy George  
Lori Noyes  
Laura Roche  
Brooke Whittemore

**Newcomer's Committee – St. John's Episcopal Church  
Annual Report 2010**

The Newcomer's Committee started the year as a stand-alone committee after its separation from the Public Relations Committee (renamed the Communications Committee). This was done due to the Communications Committee's short-term focus on the church website redesign and the mid-term and long-term focus of effectively utilizing the church website and established media channels to spread the word of St. John's Church activities and programs – all these goals required dedicated and specialized resources that were not consistent with the hospitality focused ministry of the Newcomer's Committee.

During the initial transition period and startup of the newly formed Newcomer's Committee, the established events for welcoming new parishioners continued throughout the year. "Newcomer Welcome" dinners were held at the home of the Rector during April and October 2010. While attendance was quite good for the April dinner, only 3 new members were able to attend the dinner in October. The dinners have been a wonderful time of food and fellowship but the Newcomers Committee is currently in the process of evaluating if there are better methods of meeting new parishioners in a small group setting. News of the evaluation will be posted on the church website under the "Visitors/Newcomers" section.

A significant focus of the committee for the year was the establishment of a dedicated group of volunteers to serve on the committee. Brooke Whittemore worked with Patrick Perkins to recruit some new committee members to serve as hospitality greeters and make follow-up phone calls to visitors. Unfortunately, the parishioners that were contacted were unable to commit to this initiative due to other obligations. The search for new members continues and anyone who is interested in joining the group is urged to contact Patrick Perkins or the Church Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Perkins  
Brooke Whittemore

January 24, 2011

## **Annual Report of the Saint John's Communications Committee, January 30, 2011**

**Communications Committee Statement of Purpose:** The Communications Committee effectively markets and communicates the mission and programs of St. John's Church in alignment with the St. John's Strategic Plan, which calls our parish to be a welcoming Christian community through which all can discover meaningful connections with God and with one another.

The Communications Committee was newly established in the Spring of 2010. A small but enthusiastic group worked through the year to formulate the Committee's Statement of Purpose and then subsequently to develop objectives and prioritize initiatives in support of that Statement. These initiatives encompass communications both within St. John's as well as outward to the broader West Hartford and regional communities through a variety of modalities including traditional print and broadcast media; electronic, internet and social networking applications; and direct community involvement on behalf of the parish.

The Committee's most significant achievement in 2010 was the deployment of a new parish website. St. John's web presence is frequently our sole "face" in a time of accelerating adoption of the internet as the primary means for communication, information exchange and collaboration. Much deserved credit goes to the Reverend Pat Perkins for untold hours of training, research, design and implementation of the site. In addition, thanks to Lisa Mahoney for her tremendous contributions in development, management and maintenance of the site content. We also appreciate the contributions of a number of parishioners who have been empowered to populate various pages within the site. Moving forward, the Committee will continue to work with other St. John's groups in order to keep the material fresh, current and meaningful so that the website will be a consistently informative and dependable resource for both St. John's members as well as the broader community.

If you have not had the opportunity to peruse the website and admire the hard work of these folks, I urge you to do so: [www.sjparish.net](http://www.sjparish.net). And if you're on Facebook, join our Group: "St. John's Episcopal Church - West Hartford CT."

The Communications Committee plans to undertake a number of important projects in 2011:

- 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.
- Create a "how-to guide" to assist parishioners, committees, staff and other St. John's groups to attain self-sufficiency in communication within St. John's as well as to the external community.
- Manage tactical marketing and communication of St. John's to external audiences (potential new members, the local West Hartford and Hartford communities, and across the region). In 2010 our Committee supported expanded communication of the annual Christmas Festival. Moving forward, we will identify and seek further opportunities to promote significant St. John's events and attributes such as the music program, guest speakers, Christian Education, youth programming, and other key differentiators.
- Determine appropriate opportunities for St. John's to achieve broader visibility in the community and to manage parish participation. For example, our participation in Celebrate! West Hartford last June was expanded to the entire two-day event. (Thanks to all those who helped promote both our Church...and our jelly bean count!) We see other opportunities to have fun while talking about the Good News to be found at St. John's. For example we anticipate having an active

parish involvement in the Bishops 5k Walk/Run in May, to participate in the annual Park Road Parade in October, and to warmly welcome our neighbors who vote at St. John's each November Election Day.

We seek new members to help us with our plans. Please join us!

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Hardy, Committee Chair

[johndwardhardy@yahoo.com](mailto:johndwardhardy@yahoo.com)

Cell: 203.912.3704

Committee Members: John Hardy, Chair; Lisa Mahoney, Pat Perkins

## **Community Service 2010 Annual Report**

The Community Service Committee successfully enabled St. John's to partner with our five chosen agencies, by providing grants and enabling hand-on opportunities for parishioners. The five agencies are:

Covenant to Care, Journey Home, Y-US, Loaves and Fishes, and Family Life Education.

We also supported our adopted DCF Social Worker with donations to support her caseload families. The Church gave generously to the VNA Christmas basket requests and the Easter Basket drive.

Mary Jo Keating,  
Chair

## **Planned Giving – 1841 Legacy Society**

The Planned Giving Committee was created in 2010 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 six times during the year. Under John Garvan's leadership, an operating plan was prepared which we intend to review and update annually.

With Vestry approval, the St. John's 1841 Legacy Society was established to recognize those current and former parishioners and friends who have remembered St. John's in their will, trust agreement, life insurance, IRA or other related legal or financial instrument.

In November, an "Enrollment Form" was mailed to give parishioners the opportunity to become founding members of the 1841 Legacy Society. We are pleased that many have already made their intentions known. Anyone who joins on or before November 1, 2011 will become a founding member. Membership does not involve disclosure of any financial information.

The Church bulletin on All Saints Day included the names of all those who have left bequests and legacies since 1901 (as we do not have earlier records.) We recognized and celebrated over 140 individuals whose gifts have made possible, among other things, the building of our Church, the rebuilding after the 1992 fire, the development of programs, education and music, and the support of outreach, including extending our reach to the children of Les Cayes, Haiti.

Plans in 2011 include more communication with the parish through Cloister Comments and our website, follow-up visits with parishioners who request them, one or more informational sessions, and a recognition event to celebrate the founding members of the 1841 Legacy Society.

Many thanks to the faithful and talented Committee members whose names are listed below and thanks to Joyce Reemts for her advice and assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Walker, Chair

Eleanor Barnes

Buffy Cech

Susan Clemow

Ellen Flynn

John Garvan

Paul Glover

Ross Hatch, Warden

Jay Noyes

Julia O'Brien, Warden

Joseph Pace, Rector

**St. John's Church  
2010 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 individuals, and the outreach committee, 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 2009**

<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Coordinator</u></b>
January	Rite 13 Group
February	YAC Group
March	Joe and Outreach
April	J2A
May	YAC Group
June	Rite 13 Group
July	Lissie Brooks
August	Caroline George
September	Susan Clemow
October	Rite 13 Group
November	J2A Group
December	YAC Group

**Those who helped in the kitchen or served in 2010**

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

## Christmas Festival Annual Report – 2010

This past December's Christmas Festival broke new ground. Net profit from the event came in at \$9,133.95, an increase of 15.5% over the \$7,908.06 collected in the prior year. The most noticeable area of improvement was the Silent Auction which brought in \$3,140.00, more than one-and-a-half times the \$1,845.00 netted the prior year. New sales records were achieved with Attic Treasures (\$850.23), Country Kitchen (\$1,076.50), Holiday Greenery (\$1,019.91) and the Christmas Café (\$384.56). We introduced some new revenue ideas like the Tea Cup Raffle, Pictures with Santa and Jean Mitchell's Hats, which all contributed nicely to the overall net proceeds.

We are constantly amazed at how efficiently the Fair is orchestrated and this is due largely to the efforts of its volunteers. This year's event would not have been possible without the public relations support of Lisa Mahoney and Jen Evans; skilled chefs Mei-Wa Brouillard, Carol Perkins and Ginger Gillespie, as well as the spirited handiwork of Nancy George and Heidi Gostyla; and the brawn of Dwight Latif, John Roche, John Beir and Claude Brouillard. Finally, we would like to extend our personal thanks to Stewart Murchie who threw himself into the cash management role with grace and good humor, as well as the Boy Scouts that served as our ambassadors of Farmington Avenue. Having participated in organizing the past five Christmas Festivals, Lindsey and I look forward to supporting the new chairpersons who will be coordinating the event later this year. These events have a history of bringing us into the spirit of the Season with many laughs and make you forget that you are raising funds for a very worthy cause.

The Carlisles

**The Men of St. John's**  
***Annual Report for 2010***

***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!