



2022 ANNUAL PARISH REPORTS

St. John's Episcopal Anglican Church
4112 34th Street, Mount Rainier, MD 20712

SENIOR WARDEN - 2022 ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

Two years have gone by since I first took the oath and pledged to the best of my ability, God being my helper, that I would faithfully carry out the duties of the Senior Warden. I WAS TERRIFIED!!! What had I gotten myself into? We are in debt up to our eyeballs; building needs a lot of work done and many other doubts and fears kept creeping up. The enemy magnified all our weaknesses in my eyes & I was absolutely sure that we were in such bad shape, the doors would be closed for good – On my watch!

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 – My Grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.

The faithfulness and support of all the parishioners who stayed amidst the turmoil and the strife that the church still faces, the awesome teamwork and collaboration between all the groups and ministries, each playing their part, ensured that we are still standing 2 years later, and will continue to stand.

Here are some of the 2022 highlights that I'm extremely proud of:

- **Financial Literacy Education Series** - hosted by The Stewardship & Evangelism Committee and facilitated by our Treasurer; on the basics of Managing Personal Finances. This was a very educative and eye-opening exercise which created a space for open dialogue about setting our financial goals, how to avoid unnecessary debt and be better financial stewards of our parish. There is a wish by several parishioners to repeat this series in 2023.
- **Adopt-a-Project Program** – The Junior Warden took an inventory of tasks needing to be done and challenged all parishioners to adopt and complete a project. Parishioners showed up and showed out, successfully completing all the projects on the list.
- **Spring-Cleaning Project** – 14 days, we cleaned out rooms that had been used to hoard and store trash. Our Boiler Room became a less scary room to go into. We discovered a few hidden treasures but mostly trash stored over the years and ensured that it was all properly disposed of. We scrubbed, vacuumed, mopped, disinfected, painted the sanctuary, changed the lighting, removed the unwanted critters that had become tenants. In short, we took pride in our house.
- **Installed new Security cameras** – Our building is well lit and more secure, thanks in part to the cameras, that also serves the community as well as the Mt. Rainier PD, in crime instances.
- **Security simulation training** – complimentary training offered by the Mt. Rainier PD, to partner and assist us in our efforts to keep our building safe which in turn keeps the community safe as well.
- **Newly Re-designed website** – Huge thanks to Shona Bramble for taking on this project. We now have a well-designed and functional website, easy to navigate and updated weekly with fresh content which also links to an Instagram and Facebook page, thereby increasing our social media presence.
- **Acolytes returned to the Altar** – after a long absence due to Covid, we were proud to bring back our Acolytes to resume their service at the altar.

- **Honored our Remarkable Older-Adult parishioners**, for their volunteer work to our congregation and the community.
- **Morning Prayer Services** – 2nd Sunday of every month. Empowering our Postulant as well as our Eucharistic Ministers in bringing the word to the congregation.
- **Diocesan Confirmation** – St. John’s was proud to have 5 candidates presented for confirmation and reaffirmation of vows, after successful training delivered by our Postulant, Diana Edwards.
- **Community Health Fair** – hosted by The Social & Cultural Committee in partnership with the Washington Midtown Lions club. Successful outdoor event, serving the Parish as well as the Mt. Rainier community, complete with a health mobile offering free BP Checks, free Eye exam, free hearing/screening, diabetes-and-our-diet health seminar from Mrs. Samyetta Sanyeolu.
- **Outreach Ministry** continues to be a priority that we will not neglect. Our provision of food to our Parishioners and the Mt. Rainier community will continue to be paramount.

That’s just to name a few!

Membership is picking up steam also, with an increase of 5% for 2022. More parishioners are coming back to in-person worship.

Finances are trending up slowly but surely. With the full transparency of our contributions to the church and monthly updates from the Treasurer’s office on our financial health, Parishioner trust is on the rise as made evident by a surge in contributions.

Loss – We experienced the devastating loss of Parishioners and friends of the parish, but our resolve is still sure. We continue to lift our eyes to the hills from where our help comes.

Next Steps:

There is still much work to be done! There are more mountains and valleys to climb but we know whose we are and whom we serve. God’s faithfulness will continue to see us through this year and beyond because as a church, we have proven to ourselves and to God that we can be good stewards of what He has trusted us with. Our uniqueness is what sets us apart from any other church and that is what fuels our determination to keep our doors open and remain in this community.

Thank you all for trusting me with the care of this Parish for the past 2 years. I look forward to what God is doing in and through St John’s. It is a great privilege and an honor to serve as Senior Warden.

Faithfully submitted,

Deanie Anderson
Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN
2022 ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

Since taking on the role of Junior Warden, I've since had a different perspective of church life. It's been a busy year and we're not done yet. I can't say thank you enough to every parishioner, ministry and group within St. John's that has stepped up, heeded my call when I challenged everyone to adopt a project, showed up when we needed to Spring clean and declutter our church, provided supplies for Social hour and everything else that I begged, threatened or asked to get done.

Thank you especially to the Women of St. John's, the Mother's Union, the Men of St. John's, the Choir, Stewardship committee. The seniors and most of all, my Security team. Mr. Leslie Rogers-Wright, Mr. Christopher Johnson, Mr. Paul Ruffins and Mr. & Mrs. Desmond Slowe. These folks have stood with me to make sure the building is safe during worship. They ensure that the church stays clean and secure before leaving out on Sundays. They are my extra set of hands and eyes that aid in making sure we do our part to make St. John's continue to thrive.

We have accomplished a lot this year but there's still much more to be done. This building is over 100 years old, so there will always be maintenance required to keep it in good shape. We have replaced, repaired, overhauled, re-installed and reset; but we have more to that needs to be done. As the year progresses, I implore every parishioner to think seriously about what being a parishioner at St. John's means to you and let that answer be your guide in how you continue to support the church and all the efforts being made to keep the doors open.

There remains much to be done, in order to maintain, improve, and, in general, take care of our "Beautiful Historical Church" on 4112-34th Street in Mount Rainier. To that end, I will continue to beg, threaten and cajole for items that I need throughout this year.

So, I say thank you in advance and look forward to what we can all accomplish this year together.

--Sonia Anderson--

Junior Warden

Submitted - Sunday 29th, January 2023

St John's Episcopal/Anglican Church Choir Report for 2022

Mission Statement;

Using the guidance of the Holy Spirit, striving to develop music through an intergenerational program and utilizing individual musical gifts for the purpose of expressing praise and spiritually enriching worship experience.

The choral music at St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church provides traditional and contemporary music for worship services. The choir sponsor a number of additional events through the year. These events such as Choir Festival and Nine Lessons and Choral offer enhanced opportunity for choir members to participate, as well provide outreach to the Mt. Rainier community.

The choir work hard to bring not only a variety of music to St. John's, but music that serves a purpose to enhance the word, and in edifying the listener. The choir director and organist works diligently and thoughtfully about what songs to put on our congregation's hearts and minds. From preludes to postludes, each song is prayerfully considered in hopes to speak to those who hear it. Whether it's a song you've never heard, or a tune you've always know, it is our sincere hope that when you hear the music, you may forget this world and be transformed in the knowledge of Christ.

Even though the world is still full of uncertainty, we hope those of our congregants who worship at home through streaming/online, will decide to show up in person and join in enhancing the service at St. John's, while the choir is happy to introduce new repertoire to its congregation.

The choir is proud to have put together a well rehearse full choir festival and nine lessons and carols last year. We thank all of our choir members who worked diligently both in rehearsals and individually learning the music that was performed. As we look forward to the year 2023, we hope to see and have new members join our mission, as we strive to develop music, to enhance our worship service.

We pray and hope that all who hear the music at St. John's Episcopal/Anglican church will feel God's presence and feel their hearts lifted in a way that only music can. **Soli Deo Gloria!**

Faithfully Submitted

David E. Cole CD

Cornelius A. Johnson Org

Stewardship and Evangelism Committee:
Annual Report – 2022
Presented 29-Jan-2023

Madam Chairperson, All,

I am honored to present this report on behalf of the Stewardship and Evangelism Committee of St. John's Episcopal Parish, Mount Rainier.

Introduction

This report is prepared for the 2023 Parish Annual General Meeting on behalf of the Stewardship & Evangelism Committee (S&EC) and covers activities for 2022.

The committee is responsible for the development of Membership pledges of time, talent and treasure and for the growth of the St John's parish.

Stewardship and Evangelism Activities 2022

In keeping with its Goals and Objectives, the Committee organized, hosted or attended a number of events at the Parish or in the diocese during the past year. These included:

- **Organizing Groups & Committees Program Plans (Feb)**
- **Seminar on Budgeting and Personal Finance Mgmt (Mar –Apr)**
- **Annual BBQ Fundraiser (July)**
- **The Annual Pledge & Stewardship Drive (Oct – Dec)**

Organizing Groups & Committees Program Plans

On Feb 24th, this meeting organized by the S&EC, was convened with the heads of organizations in the parish to determine their program plans for the year, scheduling and expected benefits for the parish. Each chairperson provided an outline of each activity in their program. It also served to determine what or if any funding would be required from the treasury and any expected revenue from the programs.

Seminar on Budgeting and Personal Finance Mgmt

This seminar, in conjunction with the Treasurer, was held in Lent over 5-1hr sessions from Mar 8th – Apr 5th for the benefit of members of the parish. The overall goal was to provide tools and information to develop and manage a budget and improve their personal finances. The content was developed and taught by Treasurer Layard Pabs-Garnon and included topics such as Budget Preparation and Monitoring and Effectively Managing Debt. The course proved to be very insightful and received glowing feedback from the participants. Thanks Layard!

Annual BBQ Fundraiser

Once again with the Seniors Group, the S&E Committee hosted a fundraising BBQ on July 16th. It was planned to be an afternoon of good food and outdoor fun but the weather did not cooperate. Still the event raised \$2325.00 that was donated to the parish to help reduce a specific expense. Our thanks to all members of the parish who supported it. The event will back this year...bigger and better!

Annual Pledge Drive & Stewardship Campaign

The 2022 Pledge Drive was kicked off on Canvassing Sunday, Oct 16th and ended on Commitment Sunday 4th Dec. Under the theme "*See, we are doing a new thing.*"

The goals of the campaign were to:

- I. Raise a minimum pledge revenue of \$250,000.**
- II. Procure 75 Pledge Units**

III. Grow the congregation by a minimum of 5 members in 2023

As of Jan 7th this year the results were:

- **Number of Pledges Submitted: 64 (85% success);**
- **Pledged Contributions: \$152,700.00 (61% success)**

While we did not meet our stated pledging objectives, the results were encouraging since they indicated ongoing improvement over 2020-2021 results and reflecting a deepening commitment to service by our congregation. Glory to the Almighty! The committee extends heartfelt gratitude to all those who pledged their time, talent and finances. We also thank Rev. McKenzie and Collier for their Stewardship Sermons and give shout-outs to **Augusta McCormick, Neneh Jawara and Simone Bramble** for their powerfully moving testimonies on what it meant to be a steward of St. John's. Finally I have to thank **Carol Hazlewood and Leslyn Aaron** for designing and procuring the posters used to advertise the campaign.

Major Challenges in 2022

- **Improving in person attendance for Sunday services**
- **Increasing overall membership**
- **Improving church finances.**

Plans for 2023

The Committee has agreed to hold the following events for 2023:

- 1) Steward Fair (Held 15th Jan 2023)
- 2) A Workshop on Congregation Grow & Development (18th Feb 2023)
- 3) Mental Health Awareness Training for Adults and Children (Apr –Jun)
- 4) Annual BBQ Fundraiser (Sat July 15th 2023)
- 5) Community Health Fair with Lions Club (Sat Oct 14th 2023)
- 6) 2024 Pledge & Stewardship Drive (Sun 15th Oct –Sun 3rd Dec)

S&E Committee Membership Participation

The S&E Committee held regularly scheduled monthly meetings during the year with fair attendance and consistent, active and productive participation. We are blessed by the Almighty to have this amazing focus and energy- exactly what is required to help the committee overcome the significant challenges and meet its objectives and obligations to St John's. I therefore gratefully thank the committee members for its hard work during the past years and will continue to look forward to your support.

Treasurer Pabs-Garnon also joined the committee this year and are grateful for his presences.

On behalf of the committee, I also extend thanks to the Wardens, Treasurer, Supply Priests and members of our congregation for the encouragement and support they have shown the S&EC. We continue to look forward to that support.

Let us not be daunted and move forward as we continue God's work in his vineyard at St John's with renewed HOPE, FAITH, LOVE and ENERGY.

Respectfully Submitted,

Neil Knights

Neil Knights

Chairman, Stewardship & Evangelism Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Treasury experienced a strong year.

We made significant investments in the church's assets. Through the Adopt-A-Project program, we replaced our very old existing AC units with 2 new Rooftop Units, added lighting around the perimeter of the church to improve security, updated the signage outside the church, replaced the kitchen stove with a new state-of-the-art stove and hood, replaced the sump pump and repaired the drainage from the kitchen, gave the church a new coat of paint and replaced the parish administrator's computer equipment. In addition, we have paid half of the outstanding payroll obligations to our staff and continued to make contributions to our endowment fund.

We continue to maintain lean operations even as we extended vacation benefits to our dedicated staff and signed maintenance contracts for the care of our roof and HVAC equipment.

Thanks to the combined contributions from our congregation, parish organizations, funds raised from special events and activities, Insurance claims for replacing the Rooftop units, and grants from the Diocese to maintain our outreach program, we closed the year with a lot more confidence in our financial outlook.

Although fragile, our financial health is stable!

Our budget for the new year continues to reflect the true cost of supporting and growing our various ministries and maintaining our edifice. We expect to initiate pension contributions for qualified staff as well as offer the department's support for efforts to strengthen and augment our programs with alternate funding.

From an administrative standpoint, we will formally implement the policies, procedures, and standards we developed following the September 2020 audit financed by the Diocese to ensure that the department is effectively managed as a guide.

Despite our accomplishments, we are not immune to the continued economic challenges and hardships COVID-19 continues to present. Although the road ahead seems uncertain, our prayer is that we each commit to supporting the financial well-being of our church and, together, we will weather the storm.

Faithfully submitted by

Layard Pabs-Garnon

Treasurer

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S REPORT

Women of St. John's
Report of Activities for the 2022 Year

The Women of St. John's Episcopal Church Mt. Rainier (WOSJ) was formed to support the church by harnessing the strength and resilience of the Women of the Church. During the 2022 year, the Women of St. John's went into full gear to raise funds for the church as well as creating a cohesive bond between its members. We were able to raise funds by

1. Hosting a luncheon sale at the Church Hall which raised a significant amount of money that was used to support the activities of the church.
2. The Annual Women of St. John's Thanksgiving Service. The service was well attended by our patrons, not to mention representatives of other Women's organizations.
3. Yearly member dues

We supported the church in many ways including

1. The purchase of a new eight burner stove for the kitchen
2. The painting of the Sanctuary
3. Contributed funds in upgrading the security of the church
4. Contributed funds to assist in the purchasing of brighter lights for the Sanctuary

We look forward to a successful 2023 year as we continue our work of supporting each other and the church.

Faithfully Submitted

Hannah Rogers-Wright
President

MOTHER'S UNION ANNUAL REPORT – 2022

Introduction:

This report is prepared for the 2023 Annual General meeting on behalf of the Mother's Union which covers activities for 2022.

The Mother's Union is a Christian Organization that exhibits Christian care for families. Considering the fact that Covid 19 is still in existence, the Mother's Union did not waiver in carrying our aims and objectives.

Every Wednesdays @ 7:30pm via conference call - we continue to hold our bible study and prayer meeting. Both Mother's Union members and church members call into this meeting.

Mother's Union activities done in 2022:

- ❖ Regular monthly meetings via conference call - every 1st Sunday of the month.
- ❖ Christ House donation - 3rd Sunday of the month (Quarterly).
- ❖ St Ann's Center for Children, Youth & Families- 3rd Saturday of the month (Quarterly).
- ❖ Participated in Lady Day organized by MU USA Province - 3/2022.
- ❖ Stations of the Cross - Every Wednesday in Lent (starting Ash Wednesday - Easter).
- ❖ Participated in Thy Kingdom Come-(Organized by MU USA Province) 5/13/22 - 5/24/22.
- ❖ Purchasing of Communion Trays for the Church - 5/2022.
- ❖ Participated in various Thanksgiving Services of other Mother's Union Branches
 - 1. St John's Evangelist MU, New Brunswick NJ - 3/2022**
 - 2. Church of Our Saviour MU - 4/2022**
 - 3. St John's Episcopal / Anglican Church MU - 8/21/2022**
 - 4. All Saints Igbo Anglican Church MU - 9/18/2022**
 - 5. St. Michael's & All Angels MU - 10/2/2022**

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Thomas Elba
Enrolling/Branch Leader

2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION REPORT

St John's Episcopal Anglican/Church, Mt. Rainier

31st Jan 2023

Report on The 128th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Washington, DC held at the Washington National Cathedral on 28th Jan 2023.

This convention, presided over by Bishop Mariann Budde, was the first in-person since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic even though attendance was limited to clergy and lay delegates. An estimated 200 plus were in attendance. Egerton Forster-Jones and Neil Knights were delegates for St John's.

This year's theme was **"Taking the Next Faithful Steps."**

The day started with a worship service which was followed by the business of the convention.

Dean Randy Hollerith welcomed the participants after which Bishop Budde reviewed the agenda items prior to its consent and adoption.

Following is a summary of the highlights.

Balloting to fill vacancies on the Standing Committee and representatives to General Convention.

Six sets of Ballots were cast for members to fill positions for Clerical Members of Standing Committee, and for Lay Members of Standing Committee (2 members each elected to serve a 2 yr term); for Clerical Deputy to General Convention and Lay Deputy to General Convention (4 members, each for a 3 yr term); and for Clerical Alternate Deputy to General Convention and Lay Alternate Deputy to General Convention (4 members each for 3 yr terms).

For the first time, all voting was done electronically on personal devices using the VPoll App licensed by the Diocese.

Bishop's Address

The Bishop's address was wide ranging covering such matters as the courage, generosity, innovativeness and resilience shown by churches in the diocese during the pandemic; how many parishes were still struggling to return to pre-pandemic levels of attendance but the majority were doing ok with increasing levels of energy and activity. However, her focus was on reviewing three of her Strategic Priorities namely Inspiring Our People to Grow In Faith, Revitalizing our Congregations to Grow the Jesus Movement and Partnering in Ministry of Equity & Justice.

Inspiring Our People to Grow In Faith was intended to tend to and grow spiritual lives; teach the discipline of prayer and create a path to discipleship. She said the School of Christian Leadership has resources to help congregations with this priority.

Revitalizing our Congregations to Grow The Jesus Movement. The impact of Covid has been a challenge for this priority but congregations are recovering and were able to continue serving members during the pandemic via virtual services. The Task Force on Black Ministries completed its report and a Permanent Committee on Black Ministries will soon be constituted initially led by Canon Dr Robert Philips. Weight of work in parishes in some parts of the diocese is troublesome and she is encouraging those parishes to explore partnering strategies to strengthen their ministries. There is currently a corp of 40 deacons that will support congregations in this effort.

She did mention the diocese was cosigner on four loans for congregations with considerable long term debt- with some of those churches “on the edge of viability” due to effects of the pandemic that the diocese is now forced to take a hard look at.

Another aspect of this priority is to intentionally plant seeds to cultivate younger generations of congregants to help the diocese- and the Episcopal church itself evolve and reinvent itself to survive.

Bishop Mariann explained that this is her 12th year and will likely resign in 2026 after 15th years as bishop.

Partnering in Ministry of Equity and Justice. This ministry through various parishes has been adopting schools, hospitals, working in communities and adopting social causes such as the San Mateo parish in Hyattsville providing temporary shelter, food and clothing to Venezuelan refugees or the Church of Atonement in SE DC acting as a fresh produce distribution site among other examples.

Throughout the convention, several video clips were shown highlighting parishes in the diocese who took initiatives that reflected these priorities such as the three parishes in Montgomery County who took advantage of resources provided by the Creation Care Committee to convert their parishes to solar; such as St Christopher in New Carrollton who has established a relationship with Drs Hospital in Lanham whereby parishioners provide various pastoral services to patients and hospital staff.

Treasurer’s Report – Treasury is made up of the Finance Committee, Investment Committee, Audit Committee and Diocesan Council. Finances were determined to be in order by the last independent audit in 2021. The Operating budget was presented.

Revenue 2022 Budgeted \$4.759M Actual \$4.714M Proposed for 2023: \$4.788M which is \$29K higher than 2022.

Expenses 2022 Budgeted \$4.759M Actual \$4.711. Proposed for 2023: \$4.788 which is \$29K. Representing a balanced budget. Of note Diocesan Assessments will not increase and remain at \$2.3M

Adoption of Resolutions

Resolution 1. On Repentance and Reparations in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

The Reparations Task Force of the Diocese of Washington has worked the past four years to encourage and support the Diocese at large in reckoning with and making reparation for its historical and continuing harms against the Black community.

Four Sections: Apology, Repentance and Reparation; Committee on Diocesan Reparations, Policy Working Group, Education Working Group and Termination. All four Sections adopted with no amendments.

Resolution 2. On Planting Trees to Celebrate Special Occasions. Three Sections: To plant native and non-invasive trees as part of the celebration of special occasions such as confirmations baptisms, marriages, etc; To care for the trees once planted and To safeguard the trees against invasive, non-native plant species. All sections adopted with minor changes.

The resolution seeks to encourage parishes, schools, and other church organizations in the Diocese to plant trees in celebration of special occasions as a symbol of our love of all God's creation and as an act of environmental justice for all which stemmed from last year's General Convention launch of the "Communion Forest" initiative. **See Diocese website for full text.**

Other Business: Arch Deacon Sue Von Rautenkranz has retired after serving for 10 years and will be named Arch Deacon Emeritus. She was instrumental in establishing and managing the Bishop's Diaconate program in 2013 which has since produced four cohorts of forty deacons (Deacons Bramble, Wright and Wilson were in the second cohort).

Parochial Reports are due March 1st, 2023, and Parish Audits Sep 1st 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Neil Knights

Convention Alternate