

# **Annual Reports for the year 2021**

## ***also Diocesan Convention 2022***

### ***(as presented at the Annual Parish meeting on January 30, 2022)***

#### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

Dear Parishioners,

It truly has been a most unusual year in our church life and the fact that we are still here a year later is nothing short of God's abundant grace and the resilience of us as a church. It proves that as challenging as things get, we are confident and remain steadfast in our commitment to St. John's and its well-being.

When I came on as the Senior Warden a year ago, I had no idea where St. John's would be a year later. We were on lock down due to the pandemic, we had a mountain of debt, but most of all, no Priest in Charge. Would St. John's survive this year, or would our doors be closed for good .... these thoughts invaded my mind and kept me up many nights. On top of it all, my predecessor passed away without the opportunity to share his wealth of knowledge with me. 'What have I gotten myself into ....' was the narrative that constantly plagued my mind.

However, we serve an awesome God, and His word reminds us that He commanded us to be strong and courageous and not be afraid (Joshua 1:9). It is now a year later, and our doors are still open. The struggles and challenges that we face within our Parish are real. However, we can and will overcome them through our unified and unwavering commitment to living out the loving kindness modeled by Jesus Christ (Philippians 4:13).

Please be assured that after the new Vestry class and Junior Warden has been selected, we will continue as a team to get to the business of taking care of our house, the Parishioners and ensuring that the doors stay open. I hope and pray that as the year goes on, the Covid-19 dilemma we continue to be faced with as a nation, will decline until it no longer poses a threat to our daily lives.

Thank you for rising above the challenges. May God continue to bless and protect all of us, our loved ones, but especially our Parish and may He continue to bless and prosper the work that He has called us to do. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve all of you. I look forward to this year and all the blessings that lie ahead in store for this parish. Please reach out to me at any time with questions, thoughts, or concerns, at [seniorwarden@stjohnsmountrainier.org](mailto:seniorwarden@stjohnsmountrainier.org) or call me at 301.233.5855.

Sincerely,  
Deanie Anderson  
Senior Warden

#### **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

Fellow Parishioners, greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is that time again for our Annual Parish Meeting. A time indeed to reflect in what we were able to achieve, and elect new

Candidates to replace members leaving the Vestry, as they have completed their term of serving. As one of those leaving, I take this opportunity to thank all Parishioners, for their trust placed in me to have served as Junior Warden to the best of my ability, especially since the period of our Re-gathering to Present, during this period of Pandemic, Covid 19. We were able to keep the doors of the Church open for our Parishioners who bravely decided to do in-person Worship, and also continue with the Streaming for those who decided not to perhaps for safety reasons. I do express my sincere thanks to you all for whatever part you played with supporting the operation and running of the Parish.

Special thanks to all our Supply Priests and Family present and past who gave and continue to give us their services, the Choir Director, Organist, Choir Members for services as well rendered. Special thanks to our Administrator for her relentless services and assistance in ensuring that our Sunday Services and other administrative work are properly taken care of. To our Senior Warden for her Vision and Leadership, to our Treasurer for his tireless effort and Accountability with handling of our Finances, since taking Office. To members of the Building and Grounds and Maintenance Committee for their suggestions, input and assistance, in ensuring that whatever was needed to be taken care of was done. To Mr. Brian Roman, and other members of the Communications Team, my sincere thanks for your services in Enhancing our Worship Services making it possible for those of our Parishioners and Friends who still cannot make it in person to attend services. Also, to our LEMs, Altar Guild Members, Ushers and members who plan and put together the distribution of food to the Community during the Food Drives, the Clerk of the Vestry and Vestry Members in ensuring that our meetings were successfully held with your attendance, and input. To family members and friends of this Parish who lost their loved ones during this year under review, and with the Pandemic still existing, please accept our sincere Condolences, and may God continue to console you all as you continue to mourn such loss and may their souls rest in perfect peace.

Finally, I take this opportunity to remind us all of our responsibilities in ensuring that the doors of this Parish are kept open in committing and maintaining our pledges with our Treasure, Time and Talents. The work is plentiful, but the Laborers are very few, in the Vineyard of the Lord. I wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous 2022, as we pray and hope for another regathering soon in Church. Please continue to stay safe, maintain social distancing, and wear your masks.

May God Bless us all.  
Faithfully Submitted  
Egerton Forster-Jones

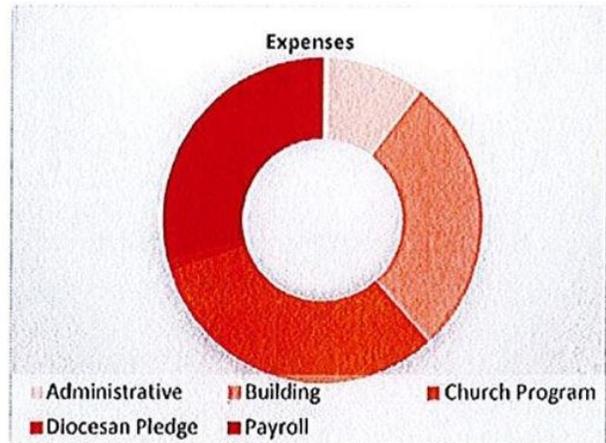
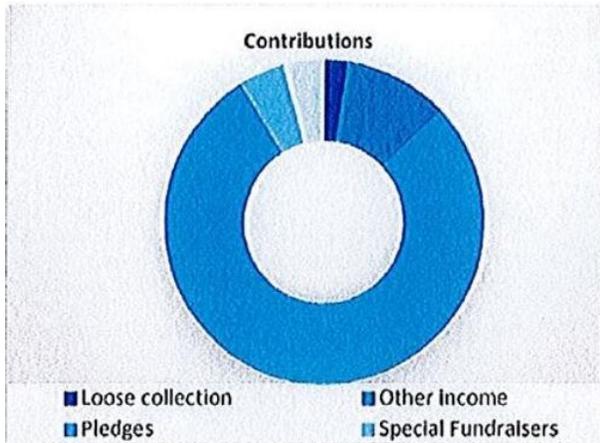
### **ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (2021 FINANCIAL REPORT)**

The Treasury of St. John's Episcopal church survived a second year of unprecedented disruption due to the continuing global COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the anticipated COVID-challenge, we successfully balanced our books; and ended the year current on all expenses, including pre-COVID debts. We maintained our Outreach program and supported a number of charities, including our backpack and hurricane relief drives, as well

as kept our congregation together with livestreams of services, events and meetings and completed urgently needed repairs to our facilities.

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



<i>Loose collection</i>	<i>3,878</i>
<i>Other income</i>	<i>18,509</i>
<i>Pledges</i>	<i>134,846</i>
<i>Special Fundraisers</i>	<i>8,029</i>
<i>Special Offering</i>	<i>7,275</i>
	<u><i>172,537</i></u>

<i>Administrative</i>	<i>18,176</i>
<i>Building</i>	<i>49,032</i>
<i>Church Program</i>	<i>55,099</i>
<i>Diocesan Pledge</i>	<i>2,053</i>
<i>Payroll</i>	<i>50,543</i>
	<u><i>174,903</i></u>

Although fragile, our financial health is stable!

To plan for the new fiscal year, we approved a budget reflecting the true cost of supporting and growing our various ministries and maintaining our edifice. We look forward to offering the department's support for efforts to strengthen and augment our programs with alternate funding and we will continue to share with you your contribution towards our finances with quarterly contribution statements. In addition, we are developing policies, procedures, and standards to ensure that the department is effectively managed using the report in the September 2020 audit financed by the Diocese as a guide.

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

Faithfully submitted by  
Layard Pabs-Garnon

## **REPORT OF THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

Since the pandemic shutdown in 2020, St. John's has been providing live video streaming of our services over YouTube. As the church was able to open and regather for in-person worship in 2021, the streaming service continued. One reason, of course, is that not all parishioners would feel comfortable as yet attending an indoor meeting, but it also fulfills a goal of long standing - to make services available for parishioners unable to attend or who are away from home.

We wish to continue to thank Shaun Oluwadimu for providing the technical expertise to set up the system and for lending some of his own equipment, as well as recommending what equipment St. John's needed to acquire in order to have our four-camera setup. For a while, only he and myself actually operated the system. In 2021 our Committee expanded and several people are now serving as operators. One of our Youth, Christopher Kaloko, volunteered early on and is an expert at running the system. Leslie Wilson and his daughter Laila have also joined our production crew. Another new member is Paul Ruffins, who has brought us his expertise in camera set-up and operation. We look forward to continuing and improving this service in 2022.

The Communications Committee also continues to monitor parish email, maintain our website, [www.stjohnsmountrainier.org](http://www.stjohnsmountrainier.org), and support a Facebook page. We made some enhancements to the appearance of the website during the past year, including providing links to enable payment of pledges and other offerings via links on the site. Further enhancements are planned.

In God's service,  
Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Roman, Communications Director

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT - JANUARY-DECEMBER 2021**

The Community Outreach program was able to resume in October 2020 but with reduced service. Because of the corona virus pandemic, we were no longer able to serve hot meals to the community, but instead drive thru service for distribution of bags was initiated. Groceries were purchased and bags packed and distributed by eight volunteer members of the congregation.

Most of this program was financed through financial gifts from friends of St. John's, consequently, St. John's did not have to use any of its financial resources to support this venture. The distribution is done monthly, on the third Saturday of each month, but this schedule is also subject to adjustment as is necessary. The monthly schedule does not preclude people from coming to the church office when in need.

For the period January-December 2021, bags of pantry supplies were provided for 850 families, and intermittently other non-food items were made available, e.g., face masks, LED light bulbs and winter coats. During the December distribution small gifts were provided for

children. With God's help and the continued support of generous friends of St. John's, we hope to continue this program for as long as we can.

Submitted by,  
Desiree Sloane  
Program Coordinator

## **ST. JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD REPORT**

The year 2021 has been a challenging year in many ways, assuming the role of Chairperson was another curve to learn and to manage, under the watchful eye of Mrs. June Dove (Previous Chair) and Deacon Sandra Bramble. However, with prayer and commitment we began to do the work.

In the middle of 2021, we are happy to report that the Altar Guild recruited willing new members to serve in the Altar Guild ministry. Our current active members include, Fredericka Hamilton, Valerie McGee, Simone Bramble, Brian Roman, Desiree Sloane, June & Ralph Dove, Judith Davies, Egerton Foster-Jones and yours truly.

The Altar Guild team is engaged in Altar setup and cleanup which may include the laundry of Vestments and Fair Linen, various Altar cloths/Hangings etc. replacement of the 7-day Red Ambre Candle and the overall general maintenance of the area surrounding the Altar.

St. Johns Mother's Union help with the ordering and purchase of Altar supplies such as Communion Wine and Hosts, Candles, Candle oil and Candle wicks. Our Mother's Union continue to be a great help with getting Altar supplies to us in a timely manner. By God's grace, we shall continue the devotion and vigilance of St. Johns Altar management, particularly, in seasonal preparation such as Lent, Easter, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. Additionally, we prepare the Altar and Sanctuary for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Praying for God's Strength and Guidance in doing the quiet work we are called to do as members of St. Johns Altar Guild, by keeping our Altar adorned and ready for weekly Sunday worship also rendering assistance to the Celebrant, when called upon to do so.

I thank members St. Johns congregation for their donations that support Altar Flowers, Easter Lillies, Christmas Poinsettias which beautify the Altar and Sanctuary to the Glory of God.

Faithfully submitted,  
Carol Hazlewood

## **WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S**

Report of Activities for the 2021 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. As the COVID

Pandemic continues we were able to meet through conference calls and Zoom not only to keep in touch with each other but also to discuss ways in which we can help the church financially.

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to organize any major fundraising activity but with the resilience of our members we were able to organize our Annual Thanksgiving service which I believe was very successful. We are grateful that we were supported by our guests both online and physically at the Church.

The WOSJ continues to support the Church as we contributed towards the cleaning and sanitization of the church premises prior to the resumption of in person service and also to the regular cleaning of the sanctuary.

As was the practice in 2020 we supported the senior members of the WOSJ by sending them a small Christmas purse in the form of gift cards.

We continue to support our members through telephone calls and our WhatsApp platform during these tough times and would reach out to members in times of bereavement and illness. We are also grateful that we have been able to share in the joys of our members.

We look forward to the full resumption of in person worship at the church so that we could continue our work of supporting each other and the church.

Hannah Rogers-Wright  
President

## **MOTHER'S UNION OF ST. JOHN'S**

Introduction:

This report is prepared for the 2022 Annual General meeting on behalf of the Mother's Union which covers activities for 2021.

The Mother's Union is a Christian Organization that exhibits Christian care for families.

Despite the effect of COVID 19 Pandemic since 2021 to present, The Mother's Union did not waiver in carrying our aims and objectives. Every Wednesday @ 7pm 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 2021: January 2021  
NO MEETING -- NEW YEARS February 2021  
Regular Monthly Meeting via conference call -2/7/21

March 2021  
Regular Monthly Meeting via conference call-3/7/21  
Stations of the Cross- Every Wednesday (started Ash Wednesday- Easter) Donation to Christ House -3/21/21

Participated in Lady Day organized by St Michael and All Angels Church MU- 3/25/21  
Donation to St Ann's Center for Children, Youth & families- 3/27/21  
Participated in A Thanksgiving & Enrollment Service via ZOOM for St John the Evangelist MU,  
New Brunswick NJ- 3/28/21

#### April 2021

NO MEETING - EASTER

Donation of Prefilled wine with wafers & oil to the church - 4/2/21

Participated in A Virtual Thanksgiving & Enrollment Service via ZOOM for Church of Our  
Savior MU- 4/18/21

#### May 2021

Regular Monthly Meeting via conference call -5/2/21

Participated in A Tea Party via Zoom organized by St Michael's and All Angels MU via ZOOM•  
5/8/21

Participated in Thy Kingdom Come organized by Trinity Episcopal Church MU via ZOOM •  
5/14/21

Participated in Thy Kingdom Come organized by Epiphany & Saint Simon MU via ZOOM •  
5/19/21

Participated in Thy Kingdom Come organized by ASIAC MU via ZOOM -5/20/21

Participated in Thy Kingdom Come organized by St John Mt Rainier via ZOOM - 5/21/21

Participated in Thy Kingdom Come organized by MUCOS via ZOOM- 5/22/21

Participated in Thy Kingdom Come organized by MU USA Province via ZOOM - 5/13/21 &  
5/23/21

#### June 2021

Regular Monthly Meeting via conference call - 6/6/21

Donation to Christ House - 6/20/21

Donation to St Ann's Center for Children, Youth & families -6/27/21

Donation of Prefilled wine & wafer to the church - 6/3 & 6/9/2021

#### July 2021

Regular Monthly Meeting via conference call-7/11/21

General Election of New Officers- 7/11/21

#### August 2021

Regular Monthly meeting via conference call - 8/1/21

Annual Thanksgiving Service - 8/15/21 during the 10am service

#### September 2021

Regular Monthly Meeting via conference call - 9/12/21

Donation to Christ House -9/20/21

Donation to St Ann's Center for Children, Youth & families - 9/26/21

Monetary Donation to the Church - 9/11/21

October 2021

Regular Monthly Meeting via conference call- 10/3/21

Participated in A Thanksgiving Service via ZOOM for St Michael's & All Angels MU- 10/3/21

Participated in A Thanksgiving Service via ZOOM for St Charles Parish MU, Regent Village, Sierra Leone via ZOOM- 10/17/21

Participated in A Thanksgiving Service via ZOOM for Trinity Episcopal Church (MUTEC) via ZOOM - 10/17/21

November 2021

Regular Monthly Meeting via conference call- 11/7/21

Donation of candles for alter to the church - 11/3/21

Participated in a prayer session for Victims of the Tanker Explosion in SL organized by MU USA Province via ZOOM - 11/11/21

Participated in A Thanksgiving service via ZOOM for St Augustine's Episcopal Church, Brooklyn NY- 11/14/21

Participated in a prayer session via ZOOM for 16 Days Against Gender Based Violence organized by MU USA Province - 11/26/21

December 2021

Regular Monthly Meeting via conference call -12/5/21

Donation of Barrels - (shipped) to Tanzania -12/12/21

Donation of communion cups and tray to the church - 12/12/21

Donation of Christmas Gifts for kids of St John (Ages 2-13)-12/19/21

Donation to Christ House - 12/20/21

Donation to St Ann's Center for Children, Youth & Families - 12/21/21

I wish to thank all members of the Mother's Union members and Parishioners of St John's Mt. Rainier for their support and participation in all that was done during those trying difficult times in 2021 and that I look forward for their cooperation in 2022 ahead with renewed Hope, Faith, Love and Energy. I pray that the parish will continue to grow in the years that lie ahead and be able to continue God's work in his vineyard.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Thomas Elba

Branch Leader

### **CHOIR REPORT FOR 2021**

This year I do not feel like reporting on the choir as we are all aware of the pandemic's distraction on the world's stage, instead I want to take some time to focus my attention on the functions of a Church Choir.

Since starting my role as Choir Director at St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church, i will like to explain the four functions why the church choir exists. Those priorities help determine the programmatic choices that our music ministry makes. The functions are in a specific priority order, but I also believe each function is equally important as they must be present to have a vital music ministry. The four functions are to lead and enliven the congregation's song, to sing music

that the congregation cannot, to serve as a small-group within the church for faith formation, and to sing beautiful and challenging music to glorify God and to edify the congregation.

1. The church choir leads and enlivens the congregation's song.

This may come as a surprise to some readers that the first and most important function of the church choir is to lead the congregation's song. It is important, however, that this be the top priority. Let's not forget that without a congregation, there could not be a church choir! The singing group would instead be a community choir. But why is it important that that the congregation's song be supported instead of just focusing on the church choir's musical success? Choral musicians inherently know the answer. We are trained for this, we become what we sing. When we take words and put them to music, it becomes part of who we are. Therefore, it becomes imperative that we put as much of the word into the bodies of the congregation as possible. If the congregation can sing it but we don't let them, we miss an opportunity to transform people's lives in the most direct way possible. By giving the congregation new singing skills and confidence, we empower them for the rest of their lives to better embody God's word through music. The great musician John Ferguson once stated that "it is important to view the congregation as the big choir and the church choir the little choir".

2. The church choir sings music that the congregation cannot.

Let's be real. There's lots of great music that needs to be sung that just cannot reasonably be done by a congregation. Whether it's too complex to be done by untrained musicians, or just too difficult to be done without extensive rehearsal, there's a lot of music that cannot or should not be done by a congregation. There are some texts set to challenging music that congregations need to hear, whether it's because it is comforting in times of crises, praising in times of joy, or inspiring in times of apathy. By spending the time and effort to rehearse each week, the choir provides a great service to the congregation by opening up the amount of literature the congregation can be exposed to. Used appropriately, this has significant theological and musical implications, broadening the congregation's experience of the divine.

3. The church choir serves as a small-group within the church for faith formation.

As I imagine this, we all have stories about our choral groups taking care of each other or holding someone up in time of need. When we sing together, a bond is created that unites us unlike any other activity. In a church setting, this function can be intentionally formed and nurtured. Because we meet together once a week to do work for the glory of God and benefit of neighbor, taking care of each other is no longer an option, it's a responsibility. As the leader of this small-group, a church director's job is no longer limited to musical direction, but also spiritual direction. This doesn't mean you're responsible for giving a sermon each week or listening to people's confessions, but it does mean that you are charged with ensuring your group enacts the word you sing week in and week out. A great example of this is the familiar Latin text "Ubi Caritas," something that most church choirs have sung at one time or another. "Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may we love each other with a sincere heart." What I find is that my expectations are almost always met because the majority of my singers have been singing their faith for decades and have already been formed by the church's song. I also always hold myself to the same standard, striving to be an example of showing love and charity while seeking musical excellence. By expecting myself and my

choir to act out what we sing. I always stress that we should with the spirit and with the understanding also. The choir naturally strive to take care of each other. It's a witness that is refreshing to see each and every year I direct.

4. The church choir sings beautiful and challenging music to praise God and edify the congregation. The music that we create should be beautiful and challenging. This is where the majority of our rehearsal time is taken up, because singing challenging music beautifully is difficult to do and takes lots of practice time. It is important that when we sing we sing beautifully, because it touches people's souls. The reason that we work so hard to create beautiful music together is so that we can glorify God and help people experience a holy moment. On the opposite end of the spectrum, it is important that our singing is not distracting and therefore prevent people from having a holy moment. I find that one of the best motivations for my choir when rehearsal is getting into the nitty-gritty, is to say something like, "This is a moment where we can touch someone and help them have a moment with God." Reminding the choir that by changing these little musical details can make the difference in someone's spiritual life goes a long way to power through tough rehearsal moments. It is important however, that the first three priorities in this article are not forgotten when digging deeper and deeper into the rehearsal process to try and achieve our most beautiful sounds. A church choir's job is not just to sing beautifully, but rather it is to minister to the congregation and to each other in a variety of ways, helping to change the world into a more loving and peaceful place.

By taking these four functions and letting them guide your program's decision making, you ensure that the serves as a conduit of faith for both your congregation and choir members. By telling your choristers that this is what and why they do what they do, it gives them a framework to express the importance of the church choir and be an advocate for music ministry. Most importantly, I hope that these four functions can enliven our congregation's singing through the faithful discipleship of our church choir members.

Faithfully Submitted  
David Cole  
Choir Director

### **REPORT ON THE 2022 DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

The 127th annual convention of the Diocese of Washington was held via Zoom on January 29th.  
**(REPORT COMING SOON!)**

Respectfully submitted,  
Brian Roman  
*Delegate to Convention*