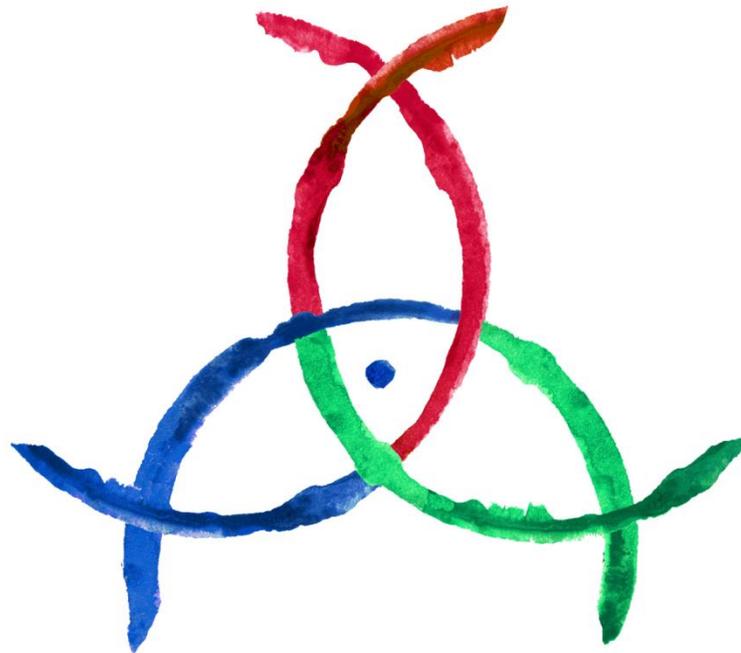


182ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
AND MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, October 1, 2017



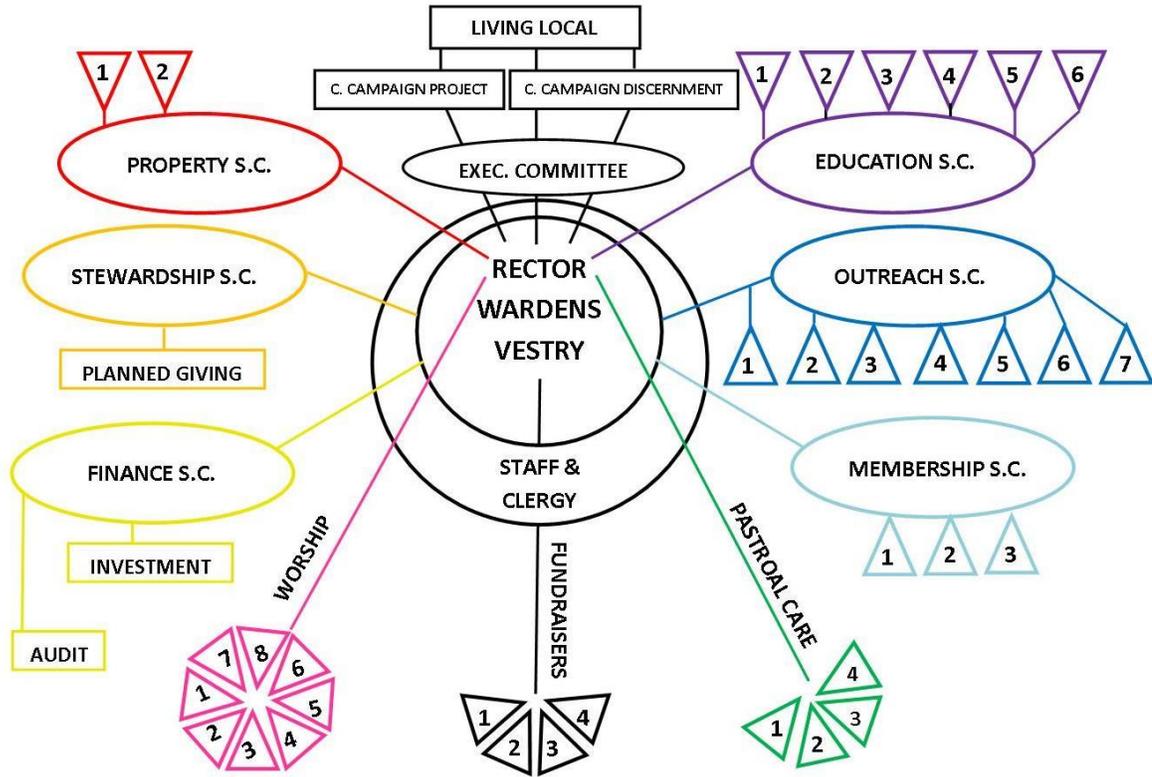
St. John's Episcopal Church
234 French Street, Bangor, Maine 04401
(207) 947-0156 office@stjohnsbangor.org

**Reports for the
Program Year 2016 - 2017**

"To the Glory of God and for the common good"

Reports for the Program Year 2016 - 2017

St. John's Episcopal Church Committee Structure



LEGEND

Standing Committee of the Vestry	Special Committee or Task Forces	Ministry Group	<i>ITALICS</i> : Inactive Group
WORSHIP			
: USHERS	: PRAYER SHAWLS	: MAINTENANCE	: FOOD CUPBOARD
: OFFICIANTS	: BAPTISMAL SAMPLERS	MEMBERSHIP	: MUSIC & ARTS
: EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS	: EUCHARISTIC VISITORS	: WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP	: CHRISTMAS BASKETS
: LECTORS	FUNDRAISERS	: WELCOME GROUP	EDUCATION
: ALTAR GUILD	: RUMMAGE	: MEN'S BREAKFAST	: ADULT BOOK
: ACOLYTES	: POINSETTIA SALES	OUTREACH	: SUNDAY SCHOOL
: CHOIR	: FOLK FESTIVAL	: U.T.O.	: YOUTH
: ALTAR FLOWERS	: OTHER	: PARTNERS MINISTRY	: CONFIRMATION
PASTORAL CARE	PROPERTY	: 2ND SATURDAY	: PARENT BRIGADE
: MEALS MINISTRY	: GARDENS	: SOUP KITCHEN	: EFM

WORSHIP GROUPS

USHERS - Jim Blanchette

Membership: We currently have 23 parishioners who usher for Sunday services and special events. This past year we had 1 new parishioner to be part of our committee. (Thank you to all who serve the parish and community in this valuable ministry).

Mission & Purpose: Greet people as they arrive at our church, pass out bulletins, assist new or visiting people, take the offering, guide people to communion, and handle any issues that may arise during the service.

2016-2017 Highlights: Helped usher for special services such as Evensong, Holy Day Services and Funerals.

2016-2017 Objectives met: To have ushers at all Sunday Services and special services.

Ministry Hopes for 2017-2018: Recruit new people, especially for the 8:00 service, to usher and keep all ushers informed of any changes to our procedures. We will continue to serve and assist St. John's parishioners and newcomers at all major services.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - Joe Wright

Membership: Lois Soule, Nancy Dymond, Cassy Palmer, Lorraine Schinck, Joe Wright

Mission & Purpose: To assist on the altar during Eucharist on Sunday and at other services requiring licensed chalice bearers. We all consider it a blessing to do the EM service as part of our own worship.

2016-2017 Highlights: We have dedicated volunteers, some of whom have other duties such as reading the lessons. Our schedules can conflict which means reading and serving the chalice during the same service.

2016-2017 Objectives met: All services were covered even during significant weather challenges.

Ministry Hopes for 2017 - 2018: We will continue to fill the schedule as well as find volunteers for special services. Perhaps find another licensed chalice bearer or train a new volunteer.

Faithfully, Joe Wright, EM scheduler



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LECTORS - David Field

Membership: 8:00 Service: David Field, Ross Moczo, Cynthia Oakes, Deborah Thompson, Edward Thompson, Howard La Rue. 10:00 Service: Sarah Danser, Katharine Fodnaess, Jerry Lyden, Cassandra Palmer, Page Stevens, David Ulrich, Joe Wright, Eric Boberg, Jane White-Hassler, Tom White-Hassler.

Mission & Purpose: To provide readers for the lessons at the regularly scheduled services on Sunday mornings, at the monthly Evensong services, and at special services during Holy Week and Christmas. At the 10:00 Sunday services, the lector also reads the Prayers of the People. Lectors also provide refreshments for the Sunday coffee hours in regular rotation with other Parish groups.

Ministry Hopes for 2017 - 2018: Continue to serve the Parish according to our mission and purpose and to maintain a viable group of lectors.

ALTAR GUILD - Lois Bergmans

Membership: Patty Hamilton, Pat Sprague, Lorraine Schinck, Cindy Oakes , Lois Bergmans, Nancy Henry, Lura Williams, Nancy Nicholson, Meredith Allbright, Kelly Sadosky, Angela Sadosky, Candice Scoth, Cindy Lufkin

Mission & Purpose: to prepare the necessary linens and vessels for the celebration of the Eucharist.

2016-2017 Highlights: We have continued to welcome new members

2016-2017 Ministry Objectives met: Candice Scoth has joined the Altar Guild we are glad to have her. We are in the process of replacing old fair linens.

Ministry Hopes for 2017- 2018: Continue to reach out to prospective new members. Continue to replace old fair linens.

ACOLYTE - Nancy Dymond

Membership: 8:00 am Patricia Sprague, Frank Bennett
10:00am Team 1--Rachel-Miller Treat/Megan O'Donald, Jeremy Marks, Chance Romero, Kristin Weeks
Team 2-- John Connors, Adam Miller-Treat, Cuthbert Steadman, Nancy Dymond, Kristin Weeks
Team 3--David O'Donald, Anna Nangle, Veronica Young, Kristin Weeks



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Mission & Purpose: Our mission and purpose is multi-fold. Acolytes lead the processions and recessions at all services. We are responsible for lighting and extinguishing the candles on the free standing and high altars. We assist our rector (as well as guest clergy) and deacon in the sanctuary during the offertory and at communion.

2016-2017 Highlights: The acolyte teams consist of person's age 11 years old and up. Your acolytes served at regular and special worship services, Evensong, Advent and Holy Week with commitment and grace.

2016-2017 Objectives met: We added to our ranks and have continued with training.

Ministry Hopes for 2017 - 2018: This year we welcome Chance Romero, Cuthbert Steadman, Anna Nangle and Veronica Young. We now have 3 teams that serve 2 consecutive Sundays each. 10:00am team leaders are veterans Rachel Miller-Treat and Megan O'Donald, John Connors, David O'Donald. Our hope is to add people to the 8:00am roster. Acolyte training will continue on a regular basis during the year with the goal of each acolyte learning and becoming confident in handling all of the acolyte duties.

It's been my pleasure serving as Head Acolyte for the past several years. I look forward to being a member of the congregation more often while still being a member of acolyte Team 2. I also look forward to delving into other church ministries. I'm confident that our young people will step up to the challenge of leading their teams. Acolytes, Carry On and Walk Proud!!

HEAD CHORISTER - Claudia Blanchette

It is truly a privilege to have Robert and Nancy Ludwig at St. John's. Their wealth of musical knowledge, experience, and wisdom leading choristers of all ages, personalities, and singing levels is so helpful in allowing us to make a worthy offering to this parish, community, and God.

The music we offer for the special services such as Advent Lessons & Carols, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, and Evensongs strengthens our faith. The hymns and psalms enhance the theology lessons and gospels for each service. Hymns also unite us with the various ages of the parishioners in attendance and with the spirits of those that dwell in this holy place.

Our choir is honored to sing for loved ones and the community at funerals, baptisms, and the annual Martin Luther King Service. Robert & Nancy are always trying to build up our ranks of youth singers. They teach them not only what their voices are capable of, but also how to read music, proper posture, participation, music theory, and to respect each other/the clergy/and the worship space...our beautiful church and chapel.

Communication is very important and we are lucky to have Robert send us a weekly newsletter with everything we need to know for that week and upcoming events. It is a joy to rehearse each week in the beauty of the Nave. At the end of our rehearsals, everyone is given the opportunity to offer up concerns they have for a closing prayer before heading home.



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One of my duties, as head chorister, is to keep the choir organized in lining up on time before services and observing a quiet time before entering the church, answering any general questions, taking attendance, organizing the Easter Breakfast for choir & clergy, and ensuring everyone has proper vestments.

In the summer months we have a pick-up choir with whoever is in town and is willing to sing. We welcome anyone who has an interest in singing to join us and try it for a Sunday. This past summer we had Alex Mower accompanying us on the piano. Kay Lindstrom played the organ for a couple of Sundays.

Lastly, we always recite this Chorister's Prayer at rehearsals and warm-ups:

Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and that what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

Claudia Blanchette
Head Chorister

ALTAR FLOWERS - Eileen Irwin

52 Sundays, 3 special (Easter, Christmas, Palm Sunday), 5 Lent, and 4 Advent.

Through September 30th - 30 Sundays have been sponsored. If the remaining 9 Sundays have sponsors, we'll finish 2017 having 39 Sundays sponsored. Please continue to sign the Flower chart in the Narthex
Thanks to all who have supported this ministry in 2017

PASTORAL CARE GROUPS

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING - Bonnie Allen

Membership: Bonnie Allen, Judy Allen, Eileen Irwin, Cindy Lufkin, Marina Nixon, Esther Rauch, Evelyn Robbins, Connie Russell, Lois Soule, and Jane Zenk

Mission and Purpose: Members gather from one to three o'clock on the last Wednesday of the month to knit prayer shawls which are then distributed to those in need of the love and support of our community and to those celebrating special events in their lives. Some shawls are donated to hospice groups for distribution.

2017 Highlights: Many beautiful shawls were made and distributed. Our meetings are well attended and offer a time of fellowship and community.



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Ministry hope for 2018: We hope that this ministry can continue to reach out to those in need of our support. If you wish to become part of this ministry or to arrange for the gift of a prayer shawl, please contact any member of the group. If you are interested in knitting prayers shawls but don't know how to knit, come and join us and we will help you to get started.

BAPTISMAL SAMPLERS - Nancy Henry

We make a counted cross stitch sampler for a child that is being baptized in our church for a reminder of this special time. It is usually worked on 16 or 18 count aida cloth. If anyone is interested in helping or learning how to do this, we would like to have you join us. Other members are Lura Williams, Cindy Lufkin, Inez Toothaker, and Nancy Henry.

EUCHARISTIC VISITORS - Deacon Ann McAlhany

Membership: Jim (and Claudia) Blanchette, Donna Demmons, Bruce Mallonee, Evelyn Robbins, David Ulrich, David Bergquist, Anne Marie Miller, Sheila Stratton

Mission & Purpose: To connect our homebound parishioners with us and we with them, by regular monthly visits with communion. *We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.*

2016-2017 Highlights: Two long-time members moved on to other parts of the country - best wishes and thanks for your faithful service to Judy Allen and Ann Wilbanks.

We miss the departed: Tom Benson, Ted Cass, Ellen Frederick, Christina Read, Don Scripture, Carter Taylor. It is a privilege to have been part of their journey home.

2016-2017 Objectives met: We are delighted to welcome three new members in the past year.

Ministry Hopes for 2017 - 2018: To complete training for the new members.

FUNDRAISER GROUPS

RUMMAGE SALE - Claudia Blanchette

Membership: Volunteers of women, men, and teens of the parish, organized by Claudia Blanchette, Nancy Henry, and Judy Jones.

Mission & Purpose: We hold two sales a year: Spring & Fall. The money raised helps the budget of St. John's. The process of collecting, sorting, pricing, and holding the sale provides valuable fellowship for



Reports for the Program Year 2016 - 2017

all involved. We welcome any able workers on set up days and sale day, whether you can spare an hour or more. The actual sale of items benefits the local community by giving them the opportunity to purchase useful household objects, books, toys, jewelry, bedding/linens, and clothes at bargain prices. The sales lighten the load of “stuff” in our homes and makes useful “treasures” from the items donated. We amazingly receive really good quality items from sources such as: people donating items from the death of a family member, households that are downsizing or moving, kids outgrowing clothes/toys, and just the process of people weeding out their excess/unwanted items knowing they will go to a good cause.

2016 Highlights: The items not sold from each sale are taken to organizations that benefit the Bangor community such as Salvation Army or Goodwill. Occasionally we are able to give blankets/towels to a pet shelter and help families who can't afford anything. We also donated remaining men's suits and ladies dresses to an organization who helps dress people looking to interview for jobs, who can't afford expensive wardrobes to make that first good impression. This year we were able to have a jewelry table that was fun and successful at both the Spring and Fall sales. Thank you to Inez Toothaker for arranging all the jewelry so beautifully. We really appreciated all who joined us in boxing up and cleaning up after our sales, making the process go so quickly. Thanks Eric Steadman for recruiting some of the men from the “Dads” group to help and Jim Blanchette with his truck and utility trailer.

2016 Objectives met: Yes, we provided a much needed ministry and raised approximately \$3240.00 from both sales. Our sales have a reputation in the community for being well organized, good variety, and great prices.

Ministry Hopes for 2017-2018: More opportunity for parishioners new and old to work together for one common goal, and remind us that we are valuable helpers for the local community and parish. Our sales provide a worthy service for those wishing to donate their surplus belongings and to those wishing to acquire needed items on a limited budget.

PROPERTY GROUPS

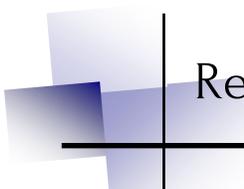
GARDENS - Mary Wright

Membership: Mary and George Wright

Mission & Purpose: Develop and maintain the garden areas around the church

2016-2017 Highlights: The highlight of this year's garden activity, was the excellent work performed by Mitchell Landscaping to re-plant the areas above the new retaining wall and to plant in the steep hillside adjacent to the steps leading to the Undercroft. Hopefully, this will diminish future erosion of the hillside.

Ministry Hopes for 2016 - 2017: Next year perhaps some work can be done to improve the look of the far edge of the property where the old church pinnacles are located



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PROPERTY COMMITTEE - Tim Pearson

Membership: Tim Pearson, Jim Blanchette, Jeff Perry, Ralph Robbins, David Bergquist, Ben Treat, Bruce Mallonee, Mike Demmons

Mission and Purpose: To improve the looks and appearance of the Church, the parish office building, and the grounds by maintaining the structures, by doing small repair projects, and by organizing property cleanups in the Spring and Fall.

2017 Highlights: Mechanical Services, Inc. came to our assistance on at least three occasions to address heating issues in both the parish office building and the Church. The flat roof on the rear of the parish office building had a serious leak in January which was patched but did not completely resolve the issues. The decision was made to replace the aging roof with a tapered flat roof to eliminate the issue of puddling of water. We had a successful Spring Cleanup of the parish grounds on the first Saturday in June. There were a number of minor plumbing issues which were resolved by Nichols Plumbing as well as lighting issues which were resolved by Pearson Electric. The retaining wall project begun by Burns Construction last year was finally completed and Mitchell Landscaping re-did the landscaping around the retaining wall as well as the hill going down to the undercroft. The siding on the front portion of the south side of the parish office building was completed by Carefree Homes, Inc. The “sagging front porch” of the parish office building was finally repaired.

2017 Objectives Met:

- The leaking roof issues on the parish office building have been resolved
- The retaining wall project has been completed as well as the landscaping around that area
- The siding on the front portion of the South side of the parish office building has been completed
- Troubleshooting of weekly issues has been successful

Ministry Hopes for 2017-2018:

- Spring and Fall Cleanups
- Insulate heating pipes in the undercroft
- Replace broken windows in the undercroft
- Re-Key the Church and the Parish Office Building
- Paint the Sunday School rooms
- Rebuild the entrance porch on the South side of the Parish Office Building
- Repair the cracks on the façade of the Church
- As best as possible keep up with all the wishes of Mother Rita

MEMBERSHIP GROUPS

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - Cass Wright & Marisue Pickering

St. John's Book Group has had another good year of meaningful reading, invigorating discussions and deepening friendships. We welcome all women to the group whether they can attend regularly or only occasionally.

The meetings take place in the homes of members and included a lovely outing at the lakeside cottage of Fran Clukey.

The group experienced two special events. In the spring the group met with St. James Book Group for a pot luck supper with special guest Kate Braestrup, author of *Here If You Need Me and Anchors and Flares*. The two groups met together again in the summer for a pot luck supper and power point presentation by John and Marisue Pickering of John Philip Newell's walking pilgrimage of Iona as put forth in *The Rebirthing of God*.

Other books read this year were *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman, *Walking the Bible* by Bruce Feiler, *Celtic Way of Prayer* by Esther DeWaal, *Listening to the Heartbeat of God* by John Phillip Newell, *Accidental Saints* by Nadia Boltz, *Deep River* by Howard Thurman, *Jesus and Buddha: Parallel Sayings* Marcus Borg, editor, *The Beautiful Mystery* by Louise Penny, and *A Dog Walks into a Nursing Home* by Susan Halpern.

Respectfully submitted,

Cass Wright and Marisue Pickering

WELCOME COMMITTEE - Cynthia Oakes

Membership: Cynthia Oakes, Sara Lynn Brubaker, Donna Demmons, Nancy Williams, Jane Zenk, Nancy Henry

Mission and Purpose: Is to greet new members and visiting people to our church and inform them about ministries, projects, outreach, education and events that we have to offer at the church and the community at large.

2016 Highlights: Cynthia Oakes took over as the chairwomen of the Welcome Committee and Page stepped down in 2015. In 2016 _we are looking to update the information in our welcome bags that the ushers had out to those who visit us on Sundays. Cynthia will orchestrate the Newcomers Welcome Brunch and send out the invitations. Both new visitors and people who have been visiting recently in the



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last year or so and people of the parish who just feel new are invited. The brunch will take place on Sunday, October 22 after the 10:00 am service.

Sara Lynn Brubaker has assisted Cynthia Oakes in greeting and welcoming people at the 8:00 am service and inviting them to the coffee hour so they can ask questions and get to know us better.

We are keeping a list of our visitors through the red sign in book in the Narthex and encourage all who visit to sign their name, address, email and/or phone if they choose so we can invite and notify them of events they may want to attend.

We look for volunteers to bake for this event so please contact Cynthia at 843-6225 or Vanessa at the church office.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - Jim Blanchette

Membership: Open to all men of the parish. Our usual attendance is 8-15.

Mission & Purpose: Fellowship on the second Wednesday morning of each month. We meet for breakfast at the Coach House Restaurant in Brewer at 7 AM. We discuss current events, church history, personal experiences, share stories, and occasionally invite quest speakers. We usually finish by 8 AM so everyone can go to work or continue with their day.

2016-2017 Highlights: Our guest speaker for November was retired Rev. Lev Sherman. He shared experiences of his years of growing up, going to seminary school and being attracted to Maine and serving as rector in several parishes. He talked about trying to get two small churches in central Maine to get together and have services together. In March 2017, Andy Hamilton lead us in an exercise in (Living Local: Joining God) which is a project from the group and supported by the Diocese. We read a lesson from Luke followed by questions and answers from the group. We also discussed the legalization of marijuana and the effect it may have on drivers and the problems in enforcing the offenders.

Ministry Hopes for 2017-2018: To continue our monthly breakfasts, whether we have just a few or a big group, and encourage more men from St. John's to join us. There is always good food, great and interesting conversations, and excellent fellowship. Also to have more speakers.

OUTREACH GROUPS

OUTREACH REPORT - David Ulrich

St John's has been providing hearty hot meals for our community for about 25 years. We gather mid-morning and the parishioners who volunteer share fellowship and fun. We are in need of new volunteers. Unfortunately there were more than a few instances in the past year when we got food on the table but it



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was touch and go, with just a few souls doing a lot of work. If you have ever thought about joining us, now is the time. We could really use your help.

Dorothy Day continues to be very popular, serving well over 100 guests' a delicious spaghetti lunch every 4th Tuesday at the Salvation Army.

Second Saturday serves a monthly, hearty lunch of baked beans, stir fried rice, macaroni and cheese, roast chicken, fish sticks, hot dogs and deserts in addition to take home PB&J sandwiches and if there are leftovers, take home "seconds" to 40 to 70 guests. New guests are often surprised by the variety and quality of our lunch.

The popularity of Dorothy day is due to our well known spaghetti lunch but also because more people know about the Salvation Army but more importantly, by the end of the month most people have exhausted their foods stamps so continuing this ministry provides a vital service.

Likewise, Second Saturday serves a vital purpose however the number served varies quite a lot because Second Saturday can occur anywhere from the 8th to the 14th. Food stamp cards are loaded around the 12th so sometimes Second Saturday happens when people have few alternatives and some months cupboards are stocked.

The Food Cupboard at BAHS gets donations from our parishioners (canned only) that are delivered to the shelter by Jim Blanchette. The BAHS food cupboard relies solely on food donated by the community – there is no USDA surplus food. This is an important source of basic food needs for the poorest and most severely mentally ill in our community. USDA pantries require a photo ID, which many cannot afford, and there are mentally ill people who are too paranoid to share their personal information at a USDA cupboard.

SOUP KITCHEN - Christine Szal

Membership: Many loyal, caring cooks and servers, some of long-standing, and others relatively newcomers.

Mission and Purpose: To serve a healthy and filling noontime meal at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

2016-2017 Objectives met: Yes.

Ministry Hopes for 2017-2018: To continue to provide a monthly healthy meal for the hungry people of Bangor.



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FOOD CUPBOARD - Jim Blanchette

Membership: Members of St. John's

Mission & Purpose: To transport food given by parishioners at the church to the Bangor Homeless Shelter for the food pantry every Sunday.

2016-2017 Highlights: This September 2016 for our 2nd all parish food drive we FILLED the back of Jim's truck thanks to everyone in the parish that contributed food to the shelter.

2016-2017 Objectives met: The food donated was taken to the Bangor Shelter every Sunday after church. We had a very successful all parish food drive this September with a lot of food donated. Even the Sunday School classes participated in gathering can/box food.

Ministry Hopes for 2017-2018: To continue taking the food donated by the parish to the shelter and look forward to a 3rd annual all parish food drive this September.

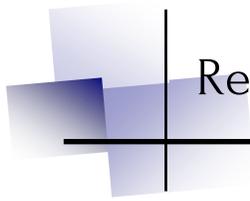
MUSIC & ARTS - Bruce Mallonee

The Committee on Music and the Arts exists primarily to support the Ludwigs in all their efforts--as they play, direct, and teach. We will continue to consult them as members of the committee to determine how we can best accomplish that foundational purpose. At the very least, we will ensure participation and publicity for our special services: our Evensongs, our All Souls' Day Choral Requiem Mass, and the annual Martin Luther King Day celebration that we share with other area churches.

We further seek to enhance the musical life of the parish, and the outreach that comes with it, by hosting concerts by outside groups. Robert Ludwig is Artistic Director of the Bangor Area Children's Choir, a splendid ensemble that performs twice each year at St. John's and brings under our roof hundreds of parents, grandparents, and friends of singers who otherwise would not have occasion to visit us. Robert was also approached by a representative of the Vox Nova Choir of Brunswick, as a result of which that group will be presenting four concerts at St. John's, extending from November of this year to June of next.

Yet more: the United States Air Force Heritage of America Woodwind Quintet will perform at St. John's on October 18. Heidi Powell and Richard Hsu, splendid Baroque violinists who use our space to teach their students, will reciprocate by playing on at least one occasion during the year. And we continue to seek other groups whose appearance might fit with our community presence and evangelical mission.

Our portfolio is rounded out by miscellaneous tasks: providing dinner for the Air Force woodwind group, hosting an Evensong reception, and considering a possible fundraiser. We could use another member in this lively and productive group.



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Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Mallonee for the Committee on Music and the Arts

CHRISTMAS BASKETS - Cassy Palmer

In 2016 St. John's served 12 families with a total of 26 kids.

This year we cut the number of families that we served from 20 to 12 and the number of kids 51 to 26. We eliminated the gift cost by asking parishioners to use their own money to buy a \$20 gift for a child; this allowed us to provide more groceries for each family. Last year the cost of food per basket was \$48.99, this year the cost was \$85.26.

Donations to the Christmas Basket fund in 2016 totaled \$2059. The total fund before the grocery bill was \$2546.51. The bill for groceries was \$1566.73. This leaves a surplus in the account of \$979.78.

Christmas Basket fund at beginning of year	\$ 487.51
<u>2016 Donations</u>	<u>\$2059.00</u>
Total fund before grocery bill	\$2546.51
Total fund before grocery bill	\$2546.51
<u>Groceries</u>	<u>\$1566.73</u>
Surplus in Christmas Basket Fund	\$ 979.78

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION GROUPS

ADULT EDUCATION - Patricia Sprague

Membership: varied according to the particular program offering

Mission & Purpose: The mission of the Adult Education & Formation program at St John's is to help facilitate a mature Christian faith and way of life through education in Scripture, theology, history, and Anglicanism. Formation is advanced when our faith and our lives are an integrated whole.

Book groups:

- Being Disciples, Rowan Williams
- Bright Evening Star, Madeleine L'Engle
- We Preach Christ Crucified, Kenneth Leech

Video Series:

- Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture, Walter Bruggemann
- 5 Marks of Love: Living Life Marked as Christ's Own, SSJE

Scripture Study:



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The Great Bible Experiment, Massachusetts Bible Society
An Introduction to Bible Study, Anne Robertson
Conversations on Scripture: The Gospel of Matthew

Lecture Series:

Rite I, five lectures presented by Bruce Mallonee, Lev Sherman, Anne Mallonee, and Mo. Rita

Spiritual Discipline Introductions

Chanting the Psalms

Examen Prayer

Centering Prayer

2016-2017 Objectives met: Adult Education & Formation offered a variety of programs.

Ministry Hopes for 2017 - 2018: To expand methods of delivering education and formation opportunities, in particular utilizing the internet for in-home study and as an on-line meeting space.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Patricia Sprague

Membership: Parish children, age 3 – Grade 6

Mission & Purpose: The mission of St John's Sunday School is to provide for our children with a firm base for building a life-long faith in God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and to start them on their journey of discipleship. We do this, in partnership with parents, by having them become increasingly familiar with the great stories of the Bible, theological concepts, and the Anglican way of worship.

2016-2017 Highlights: We continue to use the Weaving God's Promises curriculum, with its age appropriate lessons and activities. Attendance in Wiggles and Grades 4-6 was strong, while Grades 1-3 had only a few registered students. Several new teachers joined the Sunday School staff, and a new director (Pat Sprague) was appointed.

Special observances for children: Maundy Thursday and Stations of the Cross, Epiphany pageant

Family/group activities: Grinch Night, game night

Youth Sunday participation across all ages

2016-2017 Objectives met: A capable and dedicated teaching staff was in place, providing our children with age appropriate Christian education.

Ministry Hopes for 2017 - 2018: Increased teacher development and support; introduction of a common class format; greater integration of our children into the worship life of the parish.



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SR YES - Patricia Sprague

Membership: There were six members of the Senior Youth group during the 2016-2017 program year.

Mission & Purpose: The primary mission of the SR YES group is to prepare St John's teens to make the decision whether to accept the Sacrament of Confirmation, thereby committing to a life of Christian discipleship. Membership in the group also fosters positive community building during a particularly formative stage of life.

2016-2017 Highlights: In April of 2017 the group spent several days aboard the Maine Seacoast Mission's boat Sunbeam, participating in the MSM's mission by visiting two islands: Matinicus and Isle au Haut. Our Youth worked on road clean-up, helped host islanders, aboard the Sunbeam, and learned about joys and challenges of island life. In June the group once again went on a mission trip to Cambridge, MA, accompanied for the first time by the JR YES group, where all participated in several feeding ministries, attended an outdoor church service, and learned about outreach ministry in a large urban setting.

Senior Youth continued to serve lunch on the fourth Sunday of each month at the Bangor Area Homeless Shelter.

Five SR YES members chose to be confirmed in May of 2017.

2016-2017 Objectives met: After study, discussion, and reflection, all members were able to make an informed decision regarding their choice to be confirmed or not.

Ministry Hopes for 2017 - 2018: The three-year cycle for SR YES will be completed in the spring the group makes a pilgrimage to Taize, France. The group will also be choosing, designing, and completing a service project during the year.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENT BRIGADE - Eric Steadman

Membership: Eric Steadman, Ben Treat, Phil Hickey, Alan Marks, Joe Connors, Alisa Wing, Rich Romero, Tim O'Donald, Keith Young

Mission & Purpose: We support the mission of the Sunday School by providing security at the front door, guiding students to their classes, and coordinating their return to the service. We also provide substitute coverage for Sunday School when teachers are absent. Beyond Sunday School, we help with special projects such as Parish Cleanup Days and Rummage Sales.

2016-2017 Highlights: Weekly coverage of the Parish House during Sunday School. Successful cleanups after Rummage Sales.



Reports for the Program Year 2016 - 2017

2016-2017 Objectives met: Yes.

Ministry Hopes for 2017 - 2018: We hope to plan social activities for families and recruit new members to the Brigade.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY - Nancy Ludwig

Membership: Frank Bennett, Shirley Boberg, Scott Burgess, Phil Hickey, Nancy Ludwig, Pat Sprague, Inez Toothacre, David Ulrich

Mission & Purpose: “The Education for Ministry Program is a four-year study and group reflection process for the formation of Christian ministry through the development of knowledge, attitude, skill, and identity as Christians. Published texts and essays provide the primary knowledge content in the study of the Christian tradition.” (Reading and Reflection Guide introduction). Year One focuses on the Old Testament; Year Two, the New; Year Three, Church History; and Year Four, Theology and Ethics.

2016-17 Highlights: One of our members, Ann Wilbanks, completed the program.

2016-17 Objectives Met: Yes

Ministry Hopes for 2017-2018: Diligent study and enlivened thought and conversation.

VESTRY TASK FORCES

LIVING LOCAL - Andy & Patty Hamilton

Team: Lynne Brubaker, Andy and Patty Hamilton, Roger and Shirley George

Initially we began with offering *Dwelling in the Word* readings among our many church groups; these included diverse groups such as the men’s breakfast group, the vestry the knitting group, Junior yes, prayer shawl group as well as some random coffee hour participants. The reading activity was well received and generated a lot of discussion. We found that we did have to spend some time explaining the need to listen closely as the person would be reporting not on their own thoughts but on what their partner said. A great listening skill opportunity! It was challenging to help people listen and report and not analyze the answers of their partner.

One surprising piece of learning for our team was that no matter the age or genders of the people the responses to the readings overall was surprisingly similar. I think this supports the concept that no matter who we are we are more alike than different and we need to support language that prevents ‘othering’ such as “she spoke surprisingly well” (unsaid for a drug addict) for example.



Reports for the Program Year 2016 - 2017

Second our LL guiding team set out to interview church members. It was difficult at first as participants did not really understand what we were doing and team members found it challenging to explain the 2 year process. Still they were friendly and open about answering the questions and participating. Sometimes the responses were 'off topic' but still led to good discussions. Overall people seemed to identify with God working among us in small groups. Most felt the connection with one to one communication and work. It did not matter if this was home after surgery or working in church groups or working in the community. The intimacy of the small group seemed to re-occur in our conversations.

Observation:

I think I can easily say that the observation component of our work was very interesting! We observed people at the local casino, the area YMCA, the public library; a street near the church, an alternative church called the "Rock Church" as well as the "together Place" a location for people with cognitive challenges to socialize and gather, and an area laundromat.

Each location seemed to have its own culture and flavor. The laundromat is in a particularly stressed neighborhood with lots of rental units that are in poor condition. These apartments are often places of last resort for a place to live. The neighborhood is near down town and services but it's still quite a walk. The laundromat is near one of the two convenience stores that sell a lot of tobacco and alcohol and snacks but little nutritious food. It is a long way to a healthy grocery store. It is here that many young parents with small children are trying to grow and survive. Names have been changed to "protect the innocent" below (not the real Bangor Laundromat)

Community Member interviews:

These were challenging interviews for the team, some of us found this easier to do than others Lynn was the champion and did the bulk of interviews. She had a meal with a young homeless man in one of the more notorious breakfast locations. He was not really able to focus on the questions because he was too tired and hungry and kept falling asleep. Other interviews happened with known community members. One particularly memorable interview happened with a convenience store clerk who was asked by a young single mother asked her to watch her toddler for her. She was very concerned and upset about the interaction. She indicated that parents are so stressed and have so few places or safe people to rely on or turn to for help. Interviews also happened at the library and included some older people who are finding living in our town challenging financially and socially or emotionally. They indicated a need for low cost activities and more activities for senior community members

Discernment:

The group met after completing the four stages of work indicated above and discussed in depth how we felt about each stage and what we thought were important components to share with our church and the larger living Local effort.

Where might we be seeing/hearing God in listening work that we did? In congregation and in Community?



Reports for the Program Year 2016 - 2017

In the congregation: our youth group and Christian Ed as well as our music program

In the Community: the library, family activities at the local parks and recreation programs, the new multicultural center and the regional “our Katahdin” support for communities near us suffering from the loss of important industry and jobs

What are the common Themes that keep emerging?

Small groups, need to survive and grow, thanks/appreciation and music

What key images did people use that are interesting to note?

“Praise service”, “church at Walmart” “stress parents and community” “druggies and undesirables”

What key stories help to capture well what we learned from this listening?

We noticed the key stories centered on personal attention; things such as a visit from the priest when someone was dying, visits from church members after surgery or the birth of a child, personal notes. The desire and need to feel special included and a part of a family that cares. Another concept was the idea that each of us has something important and unique to offer.

What are the important challenges for participating with God that we have learned about from this listening?

One big challenge mentioned over and over was the competition for time, pressure to attend all children’s events such as sporting events even on Sunday. Connecting with youth seems to be more difficult today especially with technology. The idea that some people are not acceptable “druggies”.

What is spirituality when it’s not church attendance? Many people consider themselves ‘spiritual’ but do not affiliate with a church what does this mean? How does it challenge us to connect?

What could be some opportunities for participating with God and coming along side our neighbors that we have become aware of through this listening?

Transportation is a big unmet need and we have a bus system, there are groups working on this such as “walk N’ Roll” how might we participate? Should we?

Could we partner with other area churches on various programs and services? Our in town high school could we help teach promote Civility and ethics?

We need to meet people on their own terms

The need to address people across the life span but particularly at the ends like with child care and perhaps senior care—here might be the place to use individual special talents



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The public library is a big melting pot of people from all walks of life, young and old, rich and poor they are a huge resource and possibly a place to begin our work

Respectfully submitted

St John's Episcopal Bangor Living Local

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECT - David Field

Ministry Group: Finance Committee and its sub committees: Investment, Budget, & Audit

Membership: David Field, Chair, Ross Moczo (Treasurer), Jim Blanchette, Ken Huhn, Chick Rauch, Christine Szal, Roger George, Marsha Connors.

Mission & Purpose: The Finance Committee's primary task is to develop an annual budget for presentation to the Vestry, with a concomitant chore of regularly monitoring of actual income and expenditures against the expectations of the budget and communicating status and trends to the Vestry. A subcommittee deals with advice regarding endowment investments. Auditing is done by members of the Committee, sometimes with the help of a representative from the Diocese. The Committee is also responsible for counting the collections at the various services. Members of the committee also provide refreshments for the Sunday coffee hours in regular rotation with other Parish groups.

2017 Highlights: Collaborated with the Stewardship Committee on a pledge estimate and provided a balanced budget for consideration by the Vestry. We spent a considerable amount of time developing, for recommendation to the Vestry, changes in our fund accounting procedures to more clearly identify Endowment and Income Funds, streamline the list of funds, and provide greater clarity with regard to fund balances.

2017 Objectives met: Balanced budget, completion of procedural audit.

Ministry Hopes for 2018: Provide budget projection information to the Stewardship Committee to allow it to meet its duties in a timely fashion. Continue to oversee church income and expenditure comparisons with the budget in order to assist in maintaining a balance. Continue to track and review fund accounting in hopes of continued improvement.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DISCERNMENT - Sarah Danser & Ben Treat

Summary of Cottage Meetings

In March and April of 2017, St. John's held a series of eleven Cottage Meetings as a way of bringing small groups of parishioners together to stimulate ideas and share thoughts about our dreams for the church and, through sharing, to listen to where God is calling us as a church. This document summarizes the observations of parishioners at these eleven meetings.



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These meetings were part of the Discernment phase of the Capital Campaign, to determine whether the parish should proceed to the Feasibility Study phase. Over 70 people took part in this process, including 10 hosts who provided refreshments and meeting space, and 8 discussion facilitators who were coached in the process by Leslie Pendleton, the Episcopal Church Foundation consultant engaged by the Vestry to lead us through the Discernment phase.

The level of participation in the meetings and the ideas brought forward indicate sufficient interest in capital projects to justify a feasibility study for a capital campaign

What We Do Well

Participants in the Cottage Meetings were asked what we St. John's do well. The general themes that emerged in the responses to this question can be grouped into the areas of, in no particular order: Liturgy and Worship; Music; Pastoral Care; Outreach and Feeding Ministries; Worship Setting; Sharing our Facilities; Community and People; and Youth. Values we found central to St. John's identity had to do with community, family, and offering a sense of warmth, beauty, and home.

What Might We Do Better? What Are Our Challenges? Who Do We Want to Become?

Examination of what we find challenging or burdensome brought forth ideas about steps we might take to align our facilities and programming with who we are and want to be as a parish. These ideas centered on a number of different themes. Those include, in no special order:

Liturgy and Worship

Chiefly, we wish to reach out to new people and new generations by offering a variety of worship services and by reducing barriers to understanding and participating in them.

Buildings – *the Church and its rooms, the grounds, and the Parish House*

Parishioners expressed concern about our buildings. Many or most meeting participants view our buildings as not representing optimally who we are or wish to be; participants also feel that our buildings are not optimal for our current needs and are not equal to the task of realizing the future participants spoke of during Cottage Meetings.

While the Church, in particular, is deeply cherished, people also described this building as expensive, outdated, worn, underused, or used inefficiently. The worship space is beautiful, but it is also uncomfortable and can be intimidating. Participants see a contradiction between a grand Nave and an underwhelming Undercroft. Many suggestions centered on updating and refreshing the interior of the Church; making the Undercroft and other rooms more functional, versatile and inviting; and ensuring that our spaces are clean, safe, pleasant, and easy to navigate. Maintaining the Church is expensive, and an outlying opinion exists that we can no longer maintain the Church at all and should divest ourselves of all our properties.

We would like to add beauty, appeal, and spiritual richness to our Church grounds. Participants spoke of the memorial garden and the possibility of a labyrinth.



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A variety of ideas came forward about optimizing or repurposing our Parish House space, to make it more productive in serving our ministries. A minority opinion prefers to sell the Parish House, which would necessitate buying another property or moving the Parish House's functions (office space, Sunday School, Al-Anon and AA, and so on) into the Undercroft. The Capital Campaign will need to address the need to maintain these services while the Parish House structure is in need of significant repair.

Generally, we seek a cost-aware balance between an appreciation of our aesthetic and historic value (including the stained glass windows) and a desire for functionality appropriate to the needs and ministries of a modern urban church. We must prioritize our structures and plan for their ongoing maintenance.

Outreach and Community

Participants envision a church that is out in the community – sharing resources, fostering relationships, providing spaces, services, and events for our neighbors, and making sure we are communicating widely and effectively.

Inreach

We want to improve communication and personal connection among parishioners. This could mean offering additional and more varied fellowship opportunities that encourage us to share of ourselves and get to know one another.

Children and Youth

The chief theme that emerged from the youth was variety and interactivity. We want to offer activities and formation that engage and involve youth in worship and in the parish community, helping them to stay spiritually connected as they grow older.

Christian Formation and Spiritual Life

We seek creative opportunities for adults to wrestle together with scripture or life issues. Questions were raised about the impact and attendance of current offerings. We welcome opportunities to gather together in small groups and retreats.

Parish Growth and Newcomers

Our sense is that we must be reaching out, going where the people are and “sowing the seeds.” We will need to grapple with how to appeal to the unchurched, which could include researching and understanding what they want and need from church. We note that we are part of a diverse community and our growth is tied to the patterns of growth in the surrounding community. Additionally, our overall patterns of behavior should be welcoming, and we should engage newcomers.

Church Administration and Finances

Concerns centered on planning for the future; transparency; and making best use of the resources that we already have, including knowledge and skills.



Reports for the Program Year 2016 - 2017

Music

We would like a wider range of musical expression and participation; youth particularly voiced this interest. Hosting musical events draws in funds and brings us recognition by engaging the wider community.

Next Steps

With gratitude to the participants, hosts, and facilitators of the Cottage Meetings, and drawing upon the views expressed at those meetings, the Vestry is working to identify specific Capital Campaign projects that will help us to become the church that parishioners have envisioned. These projects will be described in a forthcoming letter from the Vestry to the parish, after which the cost of these projects will be assessed and a Feasibility Study will be conducted.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Vestry,
Sarah Danser and Ben Treat