Rector's Essay

O What a Week!

By Jarrett Kerbel (11/20/26)

Beloved members of St. John's, what a week we had. In one week we hosted a profoundly moving program for Veteran's Day, our wonderful Second Saturday Community Meal, and a gangbuster of a Dinner Auction as well. To cap it off, we enjoyed a serene Contemplative Evensong in the Chapel on Sunday evening.

Well done good and faithful servants of Jesus at St. John's!

Color me massively impressed by the industry, ingenuity, creativity, dedication, organizational ability, good will, and determination that went into the creation of these high quality events. Significant funds were raised at the Dinner Auction, but of equal importance was the community building fostered by that fun and freewheeling evening of togetherness.

I could try to thank everyone involved but that list might include more than half the congregation! Many people pitched in to make each of these events a success and that all hands on deck attitude is a beautiful virtue of this church community!

I could not be more grateful.

Putting on big events can be stressful and the details overwhelming. Over and over again I saw adaptability, grace, and good will overcome all obstacles. I saw sober judgment, wise leadership, generous giving of talents, the give and take of compromise, and a clear focus on the objectives at hand.

I have said it before, and I will say it again; what a marvelous community of able leaders we have at this church! It really stokes my belief that God has equipped us well to do His will in this place and time.

Behind the scenes some church members were rescuing people experiencing homelessness from the streets and lodging them in warm motel rooms at night until the shelter's open. Others were walking the sidewalks and inviting folks to Second Saturday, handing out warm clothes and praying with our neighbors on the street. Once again, what a blessed ministry.

Once again, I am grateful beyond words.