

# **St. John's Episcopal Church**

**Hamlin, Pennsylvania**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**For General Meeting August 7, 2022**



## 2022 St. John's Officers, Vestry and Staff:

Priest-in-Charge The Rev'd. Ronald Royce Miller, Ph.D. [rrmjas@ptd.net](mailto:rrmjas@ptd.net) 570-676-9671  
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### Advisory Committee:

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The Rt. Rev'd. Kevin D. Nichols, Bishop  
The Rev'd. Ronald Royce Miller, Ph.D., Priest-in-Charge  
James Griffin, Senior Warden  
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Kathleen Hayes, Director of Music Ministries  
Joan Griffin, Zoom Coordinator  
Deneen Tromba, Parish Administrative Assistant  
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The Mission of St. John's Church

† Welcome All People to Embody the Love of Christ †



**FROM OUR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE:**

4 August 2022

My dear people,

Strange things happen when all that we know and are accustomed to is changed for whatever reason. I need not repeat all that has been said (and some which has NOT been said) about how the COVID pandemic has affected us and our world.

Your congregation - our “little flock” - however, has adapted in many and various ways and even grown and improved, the challenges notwithstanding.

The fact that we seem to be “off schedule” for our congregational annual meeting is rather small stuff compared to the work we have done and the support you have given to insure that our congregational life continued - if a bit changed - and to guarantee that our outreach not only continued but expanded to meet needs around us during the last year. The treasurer’s and committee reports will confirm that claim for sure.

I wish to report that since my last ‘annual report’ on May 19th, 2021, weekly worship has continued uninterrupted and been made publicly available via Zoom every week and, since Palm Sunday, in in-person gatherings at St. John’s as well. That, I’m sure you will agree, is the heart and soul of who we are and want to be.

Other indicators of our on-going vitality, in addition to our weekly Sacramental ministry on Sundays, are in the other Sacraments and Pastoral Offices we offer. Since last May, we celebrated the Sacrament of HOLY BAPTISM of **Jose Alexander Guillen**, on November 22, 2021. I have presided at the WEDDINGS of **Timothy Bosworth to Carlos Alvarado** on May 27, 2022 and **Rahul Nagarkar to Linna Griffin** on May 29, 2022. I have also presided at the FUNERALS of **Helen Visneski** on July 3, 2021, **Magan Anne Ward** on January 22, 2022 **John R. Otway** on March 10, 2022. It is also important for me to record, as you know, that I preached at the funeral of our beloved **Canon John Wilson**, on June 1st, in the Cathedral of the One Holy and Undivided Trinity in Bristol, England.

As we metamorphose from the cocoon of Covid, let us continue to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we recommit ourselves to our Mission Statement to “welcome all people to embody the love of Christ.”

I join you in joyful anticipation of our continuing research into the possible feasibility of developing the acreage contiguous to the church to good use. There will be much excitement - and no doubt much hard work - which will come along with that.

Finally, my deep and sincere thanks to the leadership, the officers, the vestry and every member and visitor to St. John’s who put their flesh, blood and spirits to work in this place for God’s sake.

You inspire me and I love you. You are God’s blessing to me and to God’s own world.

Pax vobiscum,  
Fr. Ron

+The Rev’d. Ronald R. Miller, Ph.D.  
Priest-in-Charge



### **MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR WARDEN:**

As your new Sr. Warden, I have been asked to investigate a possible Continuing Care Retirement Community as a use of our approximately 110 acres surrounding the church. With the recommendation of our Priest in Charge, Father Ron Miller, who has seen several professional nursing care facilities, we began by looking at Greenhouse Project. These are designed so that each of the 12 elders has their own room and own bathroom. They are designed as a welcoming home, with rooms to visit with you family in. They are not designed as an institution. The staff take a much more elder-centric approach to serving the elders, who eat when they want, what they want, sleep as long as they need, and engage in activities that they want. Over the past two years, Greenhouse Project homes have about 40% of the Covid infections of normal professional nursing care homes, and much higher satisfaction rates compared to traditional homes.

We are looking at six such homes outlined below. In discussions with the Salem Township, they are very supportive, pointing to a huge need in our area and high dissatisfaction with services that exist. Wayne County Hospital has offered to move their geriatric care practice out of the Urgent Care across the street and into our facility. They will also refer rehabilitation patients to us.

#### **Advantages:**

Rapidly growing elder population. People/businesses moving to the Poconos from NY and NJ, and people are bringing their elder parents. PA does not tax retirement income, so lots of retirees are coming. The Hideout has recently grown from 3,500 to 4700 homes.

The area growing so rapidly, Salem Township says “Our census numbers are all out-of-date.” Every day there is a new construction permit request. Wayne County Hospital’s Community Health Needs Assessment talks about low percentage of beds for the growing elder population.

And growth is expected to accelerate. The infrastructure funds passed by Congress include amounts to re-instate the train from New York City to Poconos – one of top RR projects for infrastructure funds. Amtrak has already decided on the types of trains and states it will be running in 3 years.

Finally, only 6 professional nursing facilities have been built since 2000. Most of the available product is old and not appealing.

#### **Footprint we Draw From:**

Lake Wallenpaupack to the East to Scranton to the West.

Barrett Township (includes Buckhill Falls and Skytop) to the South to Honesdale and

Waymart to the North.

#### **Six Greenhouse Homes Under Consideration**

1. Alzheimer’s Professional Nursing

2. Alzheimer's Assisted Living
3. Nephrology with dialysis facility
4. Rehabilitation
5. Professional Nursing Care
6. Assisted Living

We will also want to look at independent units to feed the Assisted Living and Professional Nursing Care units. It has been suggested that we discuss this with the Methodists, who are active in this business.

### **Operating Challenges:**

PA has not raised the amount of Medicaid support for Professional Nursing Care for 10 years. We are hearing that about 50% of cost is now covered by Medicaid. Many Nursing Homes are considered at risk. Gov. Wolf recently raised the disbursement from Medicaid by 17% to go into effect in 2023.

Strategy- to be the site where people with means want to go to. People may need to sell their house and use the proceeds to help pay for care, along with any pensions/LTC insurance they may have. We may have to charge more for a premium product to help those with less means.

We will be speaking to Londonderry (Greenhouse Project homes near Lancaster) about their pricing and how they manage this problem.

**A Feasibility Study** is under way.

Sincerely,

Jim Griffin



### **JR. WARDEN'S REPORT**

Due to the slowdown of achieving our goals caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, this report covers goals that were set in 2019 to present. Coming out of the pandemic during this past year, we are moving forward and starting to accomplish some of these goals.

GOALS THAT HAVE BEEEN ACCOMPLISHED SINCE 2019 TO PRESENT:

#### **CHURCH:**

1. New carpeting and refinishing of floors.
2. Installed new flooring in Narthex.
3. New security light installed on east side of church (parking lot).
4. Removed platform and shortened one church pew by alter to allow for more room for new Bishop's chair.

#### **PARISH HALL:**

1. New higher toilets have been installed.
2. West wall corner of parish hall was repaired along with painting of room

#### **GROUNDS:**

1. Roadside church sign has been updated and new letters purchased (work completed).
2. Tree removal on rectory side of property and parish hall will be completed by August 11, 2022.

All emergency repair work on a day to day church operation was taken care of as needed and authorized by the vestry.

NOTE: Most importantly, working with Jim Griffin on the possibility of developing the Church property for the building of a much needed housing and nursing facility for the community.

GOALS TO BE PERFORMED:

1. Hot water in rest rooms.
2. Repair retaining wall behind thrift shop.
3. Alarm security system for all buildings.
4. Repoint church and parish hall foundation walls.
5. New door for parish hall.
6. Re-cladding outside of church building.
7. Redo area around road sign.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Ratcliffe, Jr. Warden

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ALTAR GUILD



For most of the past two years we have been unable to worship in person and so the Altar Guild has been in hibernation.

With in person services starting again in April 2022, the Altar Guild is once again up and running but we are in need of at least one additional volunteer for the month of July. If you are willing and interested in joining us, please contact Marianne Berryman.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REPORT 2022



Getting back to in-person service this spring did not end the desire to continue to provide services by Zoom for members. This created a change in the Zoom delivery given the complications of the sanctuary space and technical capabilities. The Zoom host now must be present in person to run the Zoom so there are dates when there isn't a host. Zoom services are now provided on a see and hear only basis, with no ability for those in attendance in person to hear those online. In addition, the bulletin is no longer being shown on screen so anyone wanting to read along needs to print out a copy from the email sent each week. We continue to experiment with the best way to make sure everyone on line can hear all parts of the serviced. It's still not perfect and likely won't be but we are trying. Services are being recorded and stored on Vimeo with the website occasionally updated to provide links to specific services. It has been a pleasure to help.

-- Joan Griffin

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PASTORAL CARE AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE 2022

“To touch the lives of others and help to the best of our ability anyone requesting assistance.”





**We invite all to participate in the care & support of St John members & friends as well as the larger community that surrounds us.**

In June 2021, the Pastoral Care and Outreach Committees were combined and the chairman's torch passed on. We thank Diane Ratcliffe for her many years of service as the head of this major component of St. John's work.

**Current and Recent Activities:**

- We review members' pastoral care needs with Fr Ron and provide support via inclusion in the weekly service, cards, visits and personal calls.
- There was a work day at St. John's on Saturday, July 2 at which time a lot of much needed work around the buildings and our sign was accomplished. We thank everyone that showed up and pitched in any capacity. Stay tuned for a Fall clean up day in October when we hope to trim back trees next to the Thrift Shop.
- The Thrift Shoppe underwent a through cleaning from floor to ceiling to be more welcoming to our patrons. Pat and Steve White of SP Cleaning did a terrific job
- We are in the process of updating the list of members and friends to improve our communications and pastoral care efforts.
- We continue our monthly donations of \$50 each to Our Kids Food Pantry, serving the Wallenpaupack School District, and the Newfoundland Community Food Pantry.

**Upcoming activities and goals:**

- We are planning a day of reflection that will include a small service and music, hopefully in the Memorial Garden, before Kathleen leaves the East Coast.
- We are currently collecting school supplies to be provided to the Evergreen Elementary School near St. Johns.
- For the Christmas season we will again support several children through the Monroe County Christmas program.
- For Advent, we will sponsor a Reverse Advent Calendar, whereby participating parishioners set aside a non-perishable food item each day to be donated to our local food pantries in January when supplies are at their lowest.
- We are looking for a volunteer to put together the goodie bags of personal items that are donated to women in shelters.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Crossley and Joan Griffin, Co-Chairs

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**THRIFT SHOPPE REPORT**

St. Johns Thrift Shoppe, August 2022:

We've been blessed with a nice steady supply of donations this year and, in spite of covid, have not missed a single open day. We continue our twice a year connection with Little Creek whose members do all of the lifting and climbing for us when we change seasons.

Connections with some of the other groups like the schools and the support group for victims of domestic abuse have been a bit more fragile mostly due to covid. We were thrilled to get our first ever thorough cleaning - windows, carpets, ceiling lights and more - what huge difference and noticed by everyone.



Also, 4 reminders:

1. We do not accept books, CDs and electronics because they do not sell so after a year on the shelves we end up

looking for the appropriate disposal sites.

2. Please remind all not to leave donations outside either the shoppe or the train station. By the time we find them the weather and/or the animals have often gotten to them and they often end up in the dumpster. We will gratefully accept donations anytime we are open.

3. New volunteers always welcomed with open arms - even if all you can give is 2 hours a month.

4. We especially need donations of young children's clothes.

Thank you and God Bless,

Pat Ware

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## **ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Attached**



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## **COMMISSIONING NEW PARISH LEADERS:**

The newly elected and appointed leaders gather before the assembly and are joined by the incumbent members of the Vestry.

**Senior Warden:** On behalf of the congregation of St. John's, Hamlin, Pennsylvania, I present:

[Names of the duly elected members of the Vestry are read], as members of the Vestry of this congregation.

**Celebrant:** Have these leaders been elected by the congregation or appointed by the vestry in accordance with the bylaws of our congregation?

**Senior Warden:** They have.

**Celebrant:** (to the new leaders) Do you commit yourselves to carry out the responsibilities of the office to which you have been appointed?

**Leaders:** I do.

**Celebrant:** Do you reaffirm your commitment to follow Christ and to serve this congregation in his name?

**Leaders:** I do.



**Celebrant:** (to the congregation) Will you do all in your power to support these leaders with your prayers, your honest yet gracious communication with them, and your willingness to help them carry out Christ's ministry in this church as we work together to welcome all people to embody the love of Christ?

**Congregation:** We will.

**Celebrant:** In the name of this congregation I commission you for this work, and pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ. Amen.

Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen