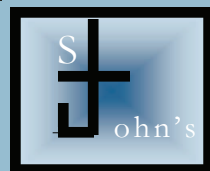




St. John's Episcopal Church  
210 North Main Street  
Versailles, Kentucky 40383



Phone: (859) 873-3481  
FAX: (859) 873-4197

Website: [www.stjohnsky.com](http://www.stjohnsky.com)  
Email: [info@stjohnsky.com](mailto:info@stjohnsky.com)

# Annual Parish Meeting



NOVEMBER 10, 2013

## *Wednesday Morning Bible Study*

2013 was an exciting and fulfilling year for the Our Gang Reading Club and Gossip Exchange. Among other scholars, we were introduced to Christian Theology and History of Christian Thought by Alister McGrath. The "theology" of our 21 century faith was the result of discussion / argument over the first three centuries of Church History. As we reviewed the positions taken by the faithful, some of which were rejected, our appreciation of the process was increased to admiration. The intellectual energy and faith development of The Early Church Fathers, as they sought to understand and communicate not only the history but the meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, not only imparted to the mind but stimulated the soul to new enlightenment and purpose.

Next we undertook the study of the Synoptic Gospels by Keith Nickle--but first we read Paul's Letter To The Romans because it provides the best outline of his theology that dominated the period. We discovered the first gospel was not Matthew but Mark, and traced his contribution to the Christ story through the remaining gospels. In discovering the time-line of the production of these writers we encountered much of the current / then situation within the community of believers more clearly. Often we discovered our personal theological positions among the many writers now seen as central to our traditions. Certainly we were better able to articulate our questions and positions, and appreciate those offered by other members of the Club.

You are invited to share our experiences each Wednesday at 10:00AM for Morning Prayer, followed by our discussion. Oh, and you aren't required to have a Ph.D. to understand and appreciate our next book. The member of the Club select it, and I haven't a clue as to the subject .But it will be interesting and on point for the understanding and practice of our Christian faith.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Fr. Jay Pierce

## *Youth Activities*

All ages

All of the Parish youth were invited to join in our annual Christmas Pageant that was held during the 10:00 service , the Flowering of the Cross for Easter, the Derby party, Vacation Bible School in July, the Halloween party in October, the Kirkin' o' the Tartans, and the Samaritan's Purse shoe-box drive in mid-November.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Emily Cardwell



## *Reading Club*

The Reading Club is a program open to fourth and fifth grade students who are recommended by their teachers and are at least a year behind in their reading skills. Reading Club is primarily for students who are not receiving additional help through the school system (although they may have been recommended for such help), but are struggling to keep up with their peers. Remediation in basic reading skills is done in a fun, non-threatening and loving atmosphere. During summer camp, the remediation takes place in the mornings with afternoons devoted to building self confidence and a love of reading through typical camp experiences. The school year program reinforces these skills and attitudes in after school meetings every other Wednesday.

The Men's Club of St. John's has made this program possible by providing the financial underpinnings of the operation. They organize the Roger Reeves Memorial Golf Scramble in May of each year and raise an amazing amount of money to buy the books, supplies, food and transportation that are the mainstays of a program such as this. Without their support, this mission could not exist.

We have been fortunate to build a strong relationship with the Woodford County Schools. They send us delightful students and provide transportation to St. John's after school. We pay for transportation for the summer program, but the bus garage sets up the route and schedule for pick up and take home duties. Volunteers from St. John's and other churches and venues provide the support, much of it one-on-one, that these students need. We can always use extra helping hands and would love to talk to you about this program. See Betty Gill, Sara Meekins, Linda Reeves or any one else who helps with Reading Club to find out more.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Sara Meekins

Food Bank- We fulfilled our duties to help staff the Food Pantry in October 2013. Teams of two assisted the regular food pantry staff and clients with food distribution and selection. St. John's is responsible for staffing three weeks each quarter, Mondays and Fridays from 5:15 p.m.—7:30 p.m. There must be two people each night, and it helps if one of them is able-bodied enough to do some heavy lifting. St. John's will continue to contribute pasta, sauce, canned fruit, and crackers. Please bring these products to the church to be delivered to the Food Pantry.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Louise Jones  
Vestry Member and Outreach Coordinator

### *Parish Life*

As the year started I was very excited that first on the docket was to start a Sunday Concert Series. To this date we have had three concerts and one already scheduled for February of 2014. Next we had a wonderful Ice Cream Saturday that was for the parish but also outreach to the community of Versailles. Next came our fun croquet tournament for our parish members. We started, and are still in the process of printing our pictorial directory that is being done in-house by Rick Keeling. Our Ministry Fair held in Hosea Hall was a lot of fun and hopefully educational for everyone to know all our church has to offer. I am looking forward to the start of our new Supper Groups that will start soon in October and November and again in January and February. 2014 is going to be full of new, different, and exciting ventures! We will be starting on our new cookbook that will be in conjunction with a tasting luncheon. I thank the members of this Vestry for all their support and enthusiasm for my ideas and suggestions. You as a parish, I also thank for your participation and support. I look forward to the coming year and having you all be a part of all our activities!

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jane C. Hansen



## *Needlepoint*

It is hoped that when you think of me you think needlepoint. It has been worked on for a very long time, if you consider when the chapel needlepoint was started in the seventies and early eighties. The Rev. Carl Belden was the rector and we started with the chapel. It was some thirty years later that we were able to start on the kneelers for the altar. The choir area is now in progress with the first row of kneelers in the nave. There are plans in the works for the next area but at age 86 I'm not sure I will last that long. Input is desired.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Maribell White

## *Outreach*

Community Dinner- St. John's Community Dinner was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday of the months of April, July, September and December in 2013. In July, we served 153 meals but during the school year, we can expect 175 or more, as the Community Dinner also prepares food to serve Woodford County Students that participate in the "Meals for Mentors" program. Student participants are tutored by other Woodford County School students (usually Seniors from Woodford County High School) in subjects that the student participants are having difficulty with in their classroom. St. John's volunteers help to prepare and serve the meals to the participants, tutors and coordinators of this program. This provides the participants with a hot meal before leaving to go home. Families of these students may also request a meal to eat at the church or to carry out to their homes.

Clothing Bank- The clothing Bank is coordinated by Sara Meekins. Sara and other volunteers meet on assigned Monday mornings to sort clothing donations and prepare them for the distribution on the next day (Tuesday afternoons) to Woodford County residents that come to the Clothing Bank. One of the other Clothing Bank activities is "Undie Sunday;" a drive held by each church to collect new socks and underwear for children prior to the start of the school year. St. John's has been an active member of the Clothing bank for several years.

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

Submitted to  
St. John's Parishioners  
210 North Main Street  
Versailles, Kentucky 40383

Submitted by  
St. John's Vestry  
St. John's Ministries Directors  
210 North Main Street  
Versailles, Kentucky 40383

## *Music continued*

Finally, no organist/choirmaster in the Episcopal Church has a more supportive rector than I do. Fr. Philip has been with me every step of the way as I have worked to strengthen and shape the music for our worship. His wise counsel, his response to the needs of the music program, and his pastoral care as my supervisor have made my first year at St. John's successful and a spiritual experience. The folks of this parish have made me feel quite welcome, and I feel blessed to be a part of the ministry here at St. John's.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
William A. Webber (Bill)  
Organist/Choirmaster, St. John's

## *Music and Worship*

I will let our most talented Choirmaster and Organist speak to the music part of this ministry--I think it's the best we've ever had at St. John's.

In worship, the more the merrier! Lots of new faces at St. John's mean we are growing, and I think we are a joyful parish family who truly love and care for one another. I look forward to bringing in new servers from the Time and Talent parts of the pledge cards. I hope everyone finds a spot in which to serve. There's lots to do! And I thank everyone who already takes part by ushering, torch bearing, cooking brunch, being acolyte or chalice bearer, gift bearing, etc.,--you all make our worship together mean so much to all of us.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Vickie Duff

I began working for St. John's the last Sunday of November, 2012, Christ the King Sunday. Starting work so close to Advent and Christmastide was indeed a challenge. The parish choir worked diligently to prepare music for those two seasons. During this special time of the year, I began recruiting additional choir members, and running a split chancel utilizing all of the choir seats on both sides.

Beginning my tenure with 14 choir members, by January of 2013 the parish choir was blessed with 20 members. At the Bishop's visitation in August, the choir was at its peak with 28 singers. At Bishop Hahn's consecration at Christ Church Cathedral, I accompanied David Gess, Buzzy Nave, and Linda Nave as we sang in the Diocesan Choir for this special day in our diocese.

Early in my tenure, the parish choir began using Anglican double chants in singing the Psalm each Rite I Sunday. The service music for Rite I was changed to accommodate better congregational singing, and traditional church music standards have been used for the offertory anthems, both Anglican and not. For our Rite II services, more contemporary Christian music has been utilized. On three occasions, we have been blessed by the instrumental work of Ron Mobley (mandolin), Sam Hawkins (string bass and guitar), Ben Harper (12-string guitar), and Teresa Range, better known as country singer Derby Laine. At Easter, the parish choir was accompanied by percussion and trumpets.

In July of this year, I traveled to Atlanta to attend an organist convention. I spent some time speaking with organ builders and bouncing ideas off of these folks as to how we could finish and improve our wonderful Hook and Hastings pipe organ. Louisville organ builder Pete Webber has been retained to do the repairs and upgrades to our instrument. The parish raised the money for this work in just a few weeks. We are truly blessed by the generosity of the folks at St. John's.

Given the nature of growth in our parish choir this year, Fr. Philip has approved an addition to the music program. Professional voice coach and soprano Shauntina Phillips will be joining the music program in September as the section leader of the soprano section. Shauntina is a voice teacher at Centre College, has a master's degree in vocal performance, and has been a staff soprano for St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Memphis. We welcome this fine musician to our staff. Betty Gill has been retained as assistant organist, and is organist during my vacation time during the year. Bob Elkins, former music director at Ascension Episcopal Church in Frankfort, will conduct the parish choir during my vacation time. We have wonderful talent here at St. John's, and those of us in the music program hope that what we do each Sunday blesses those who come for worship, and inspires more congregational singing.

## Table of Contents

### Contents

- I. **November 11, 2012 Minutes**
- II. **Treasurer's Report**
- III. **Rector's Report**
- IV. **Sr. Warden's Report**
- V. **Lay Ministry Reports**
  - Altar Guild**
  - Building and Grounds**
  - Christian Formation**
  - Clothing Bank**
  - Daughters of the King**
  - ECW**
  - EFM**
  - EYC**
  - Flower Guild**
  - Garden**
  - Meals Ministry**
  - Men's Club**
  - Music**
  - Music and Worship**
  - Needlepoint**
  - Outreach**
  - Parish Life**
  - Reading Club**
  - Wednesday Morning Bible Study**
  - Youth Activities**



**Annual Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2012**

At 11:20 a. m., Reverend Philip Linder called us to order with an opening prayer.

Last year's minutes were reviewed. Walter Kuntz pointed out his name was misspelled.

Read Miller moved minutes to be approved, Walter Kuntz seconded, minutes were approved.

Fr. Linder thanked Ned Meekins, Cindy Sullivan, and Bill Clark for their service to the Vestry.

Fr. Linder thanked Vestry Nominating Committee members Sammy Cundiff, Ned Meekins, Cindy Sullivan, Bill Clark, and Debby Edelen for their work this year on Vestry nominations.

Fr. Linder presented this year's Vestry nominees: Becky Arthur, Jay Box, Todd Cooper, Jane Hansen, and Louise Jones.

Read Miller moved that nominations cease, motion was seconded, all in favor, nominations ceased.

Fr. Linder reviewed the eligibility to vote and ballots were passed out.

Fr. Linder reviewed the rules for election of four delegates to Diocese convention and introduced the delegate nominees: Becky Arthur, Gayle Box, Vicki Duff, Ron Mobley, Ann Richmond, and Jane Hansen.

Read Miller moved that nominations cease, it was seconded, all in favor, nominations ceased.

Katherine Harper presented the financial report because Julie Skeeters, Treasurer, was unable to attend meeting.

Gayle Box inquired about income from Kroger gift cards to which Katherine reported \$3200 received to date. Gayle encouraged everyone to use for groceries, gas, and pharmaceuticals.

*Men's Club*

St. John's Men's Club is a fellowship of men who meet once a month during the year. Its purpose is to be of service to St. John's in performing tasks as identified by the Rector and/or wardens. Some of these tasks involve the maintenance of the physical plant, such as changing furnace filters seasonally, assisting with the Roger Reeves Memorial Golf Scramble that benefits Woodford County Reading Club, working the garage sale venue of the Church Bazaar, hosting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and fulfilling any other needs that are brought to its membership.

The Men's club generally forms after the start of the new calendar year, coinciding with the formation of the new Vestry, and meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. Our meetings are informal, often held away from the church proper at the home of Sam Hawkins, 239 Morgan St., and always involve food and a heap- ing measure of Christian fellowship.

We invite any interested men, new or not so new to St. John's, to come, break bread with us and share in this part of the body of Christ. We hope you will attend these fellowship meetings as an opportunity to meet other seekers and be a part of this dynamic and growing group.

Respectfully submitted, I remain,  
Faithfully,  
Ben Harper



## *Garden*

I've had so much great help this year from David Beshear who has trimmed the boxwood by hand and trimmed trees, vines, etc. He transplanted evergreens from the front urns to the St. Francis statue, cleaned out the stairwell, mulched everything, sprayed shrubs for leafcurl, as well as many other things. He has planted and maintained the Columbarium and patio too.

Who needs me? I still water, weed, trim, every week and I am pleased with our work. Jane Hansen has helped with trimming ivy also.

The weather has mostly cooperated and it will soon be cold so the gardens can sleep....and we can too!

Respectfully submitted by,  
Jo Hughes

## *Meals Ministry*

Meals Ministry is a part of the Pastoral Care Ministry at St. John's. We provide meals in any time of need. In the past year we've prepared meals for about ten different families and parishioners in Woodford, Fayette, and Franklin counties. There are several ways to help--prepare and deliver meals, prepare meals for someone else to deliver, or just deliver the meals. Please do let someone know if you or your family need meals delivered in any case--new baby or home, illness, death--we are here to serve. Our visits can be as quick as knocking on the door and handing off the meal, or as long as you'd like to have us visit. We can also prepare and deliver meals without knowing the recipient at all--the meals can be delivered by your friend, pastoral counselor, or Fr. Philip. Please don't hesitate to ask; if we can help, we surely want to help.

Faithfully submitted by,  
Vickie Duff

Walter Kuntz moved the finance report be approved; it was seconded and all approved.

Fr. Linder described the budget process. Once all pledges are received next weekend, 11/18/2012, the Finance Committee begins creating the budget.

New Business was opened to the floor.

Read Miller asked what was happening at Hughes House and whether pledge money was being used for the work being done. Katherine explained that no pledge money is used for updates. A donor gave \$100,000 dollars to be used specifically for Hughes House. The updates include repairs to maintain structural integrity.

Fr. Linder thanked Betty Gill for her service as organist during the interim period. Both organist and piano leaders quit this year and Betty stepped up along with Katherine Harper who organized supply musicians.

Fr. Linder announced we have called a new organist choirmaster and pianist to lead the music program. His name is William (Bill) Webber. Fr. Linder read his bio. He will start November 25.

Walter Kuntz announced we are doing the Angel tree charity again this year.

Read Miller requested review of church by-laws and questioned eligibility of Vestry election voters. Fr. Linder said it would be put to Vestry.

Ballots were tallied and the elected Vestry: Jay Box, Jane Hansen, Todd Cooper  
Deputies: Vicki Duff, Ann Richmond, Gayle Box, Ron Mobley, and alternate Jane Hansen.

Fr. Linder acknowledged Ned Meekins for his incredible service to St. John's as Senior Warden. All applauded!!

We sang a closing hymn and Fr. Linder said a blessing.

It was moved to adjourn, seconded, and meeting adjourned!

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Sandknop

## Letter from the Treasurer

Since taking on the role of Treasurer in March 2012, I have decided that it indeed does take a village to run a church. Without the help of Kathy Sparrow (Secretary) and Katherine Harper (Senior Warden and Finance Chair), I would be totally overwhelmed with this role. Their patience and guidance, as well as the remainder of the Vestry and Fr. Philip, is much appreciated. As the Assistant Treasurer, Tom Robbins has lightened my job load and provided an additional segregation of duties by reconciling the bank statements each month. Also, without your continued generosity as a congregation, I would have very little to treasure and a whole lot to struggle with budgeting.

While the 10/31/13 draft financial statements (labeled as Balance Sheet Analysis October 2013 and Vestry Monthly Income Statement January to October 2013) are provided as a supplement to this letter, the letter you are reading was due in early October, so it only includes the highlights of activity through September 2013.

### Key Points:

- 2012 year-end financials showed that we ended the year with a loss of \$12,713.70, approximately \$27,650.30 less than the budgeted loss of \$40,364. While pledges were only 93.13% of (or \$13,161 less than) the budgeted amount, revenues still came in \$10,197.95 over budget. For various reasons (including the departure of both music directors for a portion of the calendar year), expenses came in \$17,452.35 less than budget.
- In CY 2012, a parishioner anonymously donated \$100,000 specifically for the restoration of the Hughes House. In the spring of 2012, the donor agreed that \$10,000 of the original donation could be used to help St. John's retire a loan that had been taken out during the Capital Campaign. Between August 2012 and January 2013, approximately \$95,007 worth of work was completed on the Hughes House (\$90,000 paid by the original donor, \$3000 paid with non-pledge/undesignated donations, and \$2007 waived by the contractor).
- The 2013 budget was set with the expectation of a loss of \$19,910. As of 9/30/13 with 75% of the year having passed, we are at a loss of \$14,470.50 for the year. While we are still operating in the red at this point, the amount is approximately \$462.03 ahead of what we had budgeted for at this point in the year. In addition, if all planned pledges were up-to-date through the end of this period, we would be another \$6,432.69 ahead of our budget – still in the red, but closer to break-even.

## *Flower Guild*

This is the first year, in many years, that the Flower Fund has been able to keep on an even base. It had been my experience that by this point in the year, "Flower Guild/Fund" was a negative amount on the Monthly Church Balance Sheets. Because more parishioners have donated to this Fund this year, I can rotate off of the Vestry with a feeling that we, the church, have succeeded in lots of different areas; even in the smallest area, like flower costs. Admittedly, wholesale flower costs have gone up like everything else but we made it! Please give thought about gratefulness, birthdays, anniversaries, special people, celebrations, graduations, deaths, and the list can go on and on.

The suggested donation amount is \$35.00 - \$50.00 or more per Sunday. Remember to call the church office, 873-3421, by the Monday before your chosen Sunday and speak with Kathy Sparrow. She will see that your special message is printed in the bulletin, written as you wish. Flower donations are a way to become more involved and more knowledgeable of one another. AND, flowers just look good and are soothing to the eye.

The growth of the group hasn't changed but little over the past year. We are always looking for new members. If you do any arranging of flowers in your home, we want you. The woods would be almost silent if only the best birds sang....and that goes for flower arranging, too. I have toyed with the idea of a flower arrangement class, just the basics of arranging in a church setting. The class would be a safe place to let yourself experiment, change the "norm", learn the terms like knife, bowl, container, scissors, and broom, and dustpan. AND, there are no grades nor criticisms. If it sounds like something you'd like to try then please call me (859)873-9744 or (859)396-9490, e-mail me: ckinkead2010@windstream.net, catch me at church, catch me at Kroger's. It is fun to do and you'd be surprised how good you are after only a short time.

Most importantly, I thank each and every one of you who has helped over many, many years; you know who you are!! Please send in your Time/Talent interest sheet during the Stewardship drive. I hope we will meet many more "artists" as we move into the New Year.

In God's Service,  
Cindy Kinkead



ECW members participate in all the mission activities of our parish. Our annual business meeting to elect new officers will precede the festive Holiday Brunch on December 14, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Christine Brasseale, President

*EfM*

EfM has enjoyed a productive and rewarding learning experience this year, expanding from six participants during the 2012-13 study year to eleven students this current (2013-14) year. While Ann and David Richmond, Elaine Menges, and Sarah Sandknop are currently in the fourth year of study, Katherine Harper and Kevin Roberts were joined by returning EfM student Julie Ross in year three. Dana Gilliland, Jan Keeling, Cindy Kinkead and Linda Wardle have embarked on their first year of study.

Also new to the program this year is a totally revamped set of course materials replacing the entire Sewanee-based study publications. And while the subject of study remains the same for each of the four years – Old Testament, New Testament, history of the Church, and theology – the new source books appear to cover a much broader spectrum of study than the older materials.

It continues to be both a privilege and a pleasure to serve God and St. John's as mentor of the EfM program.

Ned Meekins

*EYC*

All middle and high school students were invited to attend EYC functions. A fun activity as well as an out-reach activity were planned each month including: 30 Hour Famine overnight trip to Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Lexington – youth learned about hunger in the world and did learning service projects while they fasted 30 hours; they then served as lectors and guest preacher at St. John's. Youth also had a chance to: attend the pool party at Falling Springs, game day in Hosea Hall where a Wii was set up for youth to do interactive games, Winter Jam concert, help organize and teach at VBS, ice-skating at Lexington Ice Center and fixed breakfast one Sunday morning for the church.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Emily Cardwell

- Unusual/irregular expenses covered by parishioners:
  - In early 2013, multiple repairs had to be completed on Rachel's House (St. John's rental house) prior to securing new renters. A parishioner stepped forward and donated \$750 to help off-set a portion of those unexpected costs.
  - In March 2013, a parishioner anonymously donated \$2428 to cover the cost of refinishing the hardwood floors.
  - In May 2013, a parishioner anonymously donated \$1200 to cover the cost of the consultant who facilitated the Vestry's strategic planning session.
  - In the summer of 2013, multiple parishioners stepped forward and donated a total of \$8065 towards the repair and completion of the church organ. As of 10/9/13, a total of \$1500 has been spent towards this activity.

- What I have traditionally termed the "break-even accounts" (those that have both revenue and expense accounts related to the same activity) have shown a positive relationship with revenues being greater than expenses for the first time in several years. These activities include Breakfast (#40120 vs. 50198) and Flowers (#40109 & 40130 vs. #50290 & #50295).

- In addition, the upturn in the market has led to our two restricted asset investment accounts seeing a combined growth of \$33,334.56 in value since the beginning of the year.

If you have any questions about these statements, please do not hesitate to contact myself or another member of the vestry. My contact information follows.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Skeeters  
Cell: (502)320-1913  
Home: (859)879-8627  
julieskeeters@yahoo.com

## Rector's Report

Dear Friends,

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see everything has become new!* (2 Corinthians 5:17) These words of St. Paul in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, captures for me the essence of the new spirit, unity, joy, and excitement that we are experiencing in our church and community of faith! We have been blessed by God's grace as we move forward together for the mission and ministry of St. John's!

This past year has been most notably marked by the development and implementation of the **Strategic Plan 2013-2016** for St. John's through the work of the Vestry and full inclusion of the parish. Together we have discerned that God is calling us to 5 Goals: *Engaging Membership; Expanding Programing; Focused Outreach; Effective Communication; and, Abundant Resources for a Vibrant Congregation.* These goals will each have specific tasks assigned to them with a process to measure our results, and will serve as a living and evolving plan to define our direction and hopes as a parish for these three years.

This past year has also been one in which God has blessed us with new members and families in the life and mission of St. John's! More and more children fill our pews and our weekly Sunday brunch is usually filled to capacity. Our Sunday attendance has now on a number of occasions broken the 150 mark, which is a significant increase from just a short time ago. Perhaps our most joyful Sunday was the day that our new Bishop Doug Hahn came to celebrate, preach, and confirm nine members as Episcopalians!

The center of our life as a community of faith, from which we are born anew, is our coming to Jesus Christ each week on Sundays to hear the Word spoken and preached, confess our sins, and hold out our hands to receive Jesus into our very hearts through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Our Sunday worship has been greatly enhanced by a dynamic music program and growing choir led by our Organist and Choir Master, Bill Webber. Much of the behind the scenes work in preparation for our Sunday and special services, as well as the daily tasks of administration for St. John's is carried out by our Parish Secretary, Kathy Sparrow. I am deeply grateful to both Kathy and Bill for their talents and dedication to the life and work of our parish.

I am as well so thankful for the work and faithfulness of our Vestry! Katherine Harper has been an outstanding Senior Warden, and along with Jane Vance as Junior Warden and our Vestry members we have worked as a team always keeping our focus on being faithful to where God is leading us in our service to our parish members, the wider community, and the Diocese of Lexington. And of course none of our work would matter without the countless volunteers who give of their time and talents to St. John's mission and ministry.

## Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King are called to live by a daily Rule of Life, pledging themselves "to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish" (DOK Nat'l Handbook). As Daughters, our highest priority is to pray daily for our church, its Rector and for all members of St. John's.

The St. John's Chapter of the Daughters of the King has completed another year of ministry. Our annual Advent Quiet Day was inspirational. Our Chaplain, Fr. Jay Pierce, has celebrated Eucharist for us as part of our meetings. Again this year one of our group acts of service was preparing breakfast for the children and volunteers of Reading Camp. In addition, we installed a new member and welcomed another by transfer.

These are our more public acts. We also pray for specific needs that are too private to print in the Sunday bulletin. Our Prayer Journal is located in Hosea Hall. We always endeavor to respect the need for confidentiality. If you have a prayer request, please do not hesitate to contact one of our members or include it in the Prayer Journal. If you are interested in knowing more about the Daughters of the King, or attending our meetings, on the last Tuesday of the month, please talk with one of us. We welcome all who are called, For His Sake.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Betty Gill, President

## ECW

The primary on going project for the ECW this year has been hosting the receptions for the bereaved families of our parish. This included setup, serving, and clean up along with laundering the table linens. The food was prepared and delivered to the church by the ladies of St. John's and occasionally by friends of the family.

Our fund raising project was the annual bazaar which provided funds for our needs, a donation to Daughters of the King and funds for the needlepoint project. We have a reserve fund for the needlepoint cushions for the choir which will be provided as needed.

This years bazaar is currently being planned by Co-chairs Nikki Berger and Sara Hel-lard and is scheduled for November 9 and 10, 2013. Julie Ross is Chair of the upcoming United Thank Offering.



## *Clothing Bank*

On January 1, 2014 The Hope Ministries Clothing Bank, sponsored by the Versailles Ministerial Association, will begin its tenth year at the present location on Hope Lane next to the Woodford Community Christian Church. Thirteen local churches contribute time and talent to make decisions, donate clothing and work at the Clothing Bank. The Salvation Army Woodford County Service Unit contributes monthly financial help with the electric bill. Volunteers who decide to take an item from the Clothing Bank make donations that pay for such things as client plastic bags, toilet tissue and cleaning supplies.

The Clothing Bank is open on Monday mornings from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. for receiving and sorting donations and on Tuesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for distribution to clients. It is also open from 10:00 to 12:00 a.m. the first Saturday of each month for both receiving and distributing clothes.

The Clothing Bank served 928 clients from January 1 to August 31, 2013. This is the number of clients who actually signed the check-in book. Most clients take clothing for many family members.

St. John's is responsible for staffing the Clothing Bank in 2014 on the following dates: January 13, 14 – April 14, 15 – July 14, 15 and October 13, 14. We need three or four sorters on Mondays and at least four people to help with distribution on Tuesdays. Come and help us – you will find this a fun and rewarding mission.

Sara Meekins  
Clothing Bank Coordinator

Finally, I continue to be ever-grateful for your call to serve as your priest and rector. In our two and half years of ministry together, ten children have been Baptized into the Christian faith; nine youth and adults have been Confirmed as Episcopalians; eight couples have been married in our church; twelve people have been buried from St. John's; and, many have received hospital visits, home communions, and pastoral care and counseling. Yet, much work in Christ's Name lies before us and for this we are both challenged and thankful. May God continue to work through us and make us a new people through His Son Jesus Christ. To God be the Glory!

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
Father Philip+  
The Reverend Dr. Philip C. Linder  
Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church

## Sr. Warden's Report

2013 has been a time of redefining, realigning and refining at St. John's. From the first Vestry meeting in January to the time of this report, Fr. Philip and the Vestry have worked to meet and answer the challenges of expanding our congregation, addressing the needs and concerns of those who attend our church as well as those outside our walls whom we are called to welcome and serve; and plan for the future of our church.

The Vestry has four main responsibilities: the care of the parish's finances, the care and maintenance of the church facilities, the choosing of the clergy leadership and to assist the clergy in the nurture and extension of Christ's Church. This year, the care of the parish's finances has been a challenge and the subject of much discussion. The continued unease in our economy has challenged the finances of many parish families and our church; however, there have also been those parishioners who have been able to increase their financial support and take on specific projects and for them, the Vestry remains very grateful. Balancing the budget while maintaining programs and staff will continue to be a challenge for the remainder of 2013.

This year, we modified our Bylaws to redefine the responsibilities of the Junior Warden. Buildings and Grounds Maintenance responsibilities are now assigned to a Buildings and Grounds Chair who may or may not be the Junior Warden. The Junior Warden serves as the "people's warden" and may have other responsibilities as Jane Vance did this year in her capacity as Newcomer Chair. At our March Vestry meeting, we accepted Mark Herbert's resignation and elected Louise Jones to fill that vacancy.

We have expanded our online presence and communication to include a more active Facebook page, weekly email notices and reminders and a QR (Quick Response) code to access our web site. Realizing that many in our congregation do not use the internet regularly, we continue to include announcements in our Sunday service bulletins, have printed copies of Eagle Wings available and print and mail quarterly contribution statements which include a very heartfelt "thank you" as well as information about upcoming events.

In June, interested parishioners attended a training session that included basic safety information such as CPR and how to operate a fire extinguisher. Development is under way for a comprehensive disaster management and response plan for the church.

### *Christian Formation*

My responsibility for 2012-13 was Children's Christian Formation. A new class format was set up for our high school students following the 10:00 service. Four different teachers – Ben Harper, John Dearey, Sam Hawkins and Rick Keeling, rotated leading discussions with interested high school students concerning the just-heard sermon. It was the intention that in addition to discussing current church topics with students the men could also serve as sources for advice or mentoring. Attendance was sporadic and small, two or three students, but teacher availability was excellent.

Charlene Gonzalez faithfully led Sunday School for our Nursery age children. Children had the opportunity to paint Bible pictures, create art and listen to short stories while in the comfort of their familiar Nursery and attendants. Attendance was typically three to five children.

Clarita Murphy and Angel Cooper taught our K-3<sup>rd</sup> graders topics ranging from our Liturgical calendar to traditional Bible stories as well as lesser known stories. Children frequently created items to take home to help them remember what they learned. Attendance was typically three to four children.

Sara Meekins and Emily Cardwell taught 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> graders lessons on Prophets and leaders from the Bible. Children created classroom artwork to serve as guides and reminders of what was discussed and often took home hand-outs of puzzles and stories. Attendance was typically two to three students.

Laura Gibson taught a Confirmation Class for 7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> graders. This was a student-directed class, covering the Baptismal Covenant from the Book of Common Prayer in detail, along with the structure, beliefs, and history of the Episcopal Church. They also discussed specifically how to keep Jesus' commandments - what they mean for today's followers. Attendance was typically five to eight students, and five were Confirmed during the Bishop's visit.

Prior to the beginning of the 2013 Sunday School year, letters were sent to every parent who had a child listed on the membership directory inviting them to be part of Sunday School. Unfortunately, as the above attendance indicates from our various age groups, we have not been blessed with regular attendance. This hurt the class format in several ways: discussions happen *best* when a larger group is present and children enjoy discussions *with* their peers, teachers prepare for class but can not teach if only one student attends (due to POSM Trainings) and teachers' lessons that build on previous lessons are impacted due to attendance fluctuations. Possible changes to increase attendance will be looked at for the coming year.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Emily Cardwell



## Lay Ministries Reports

### *Altar Guild*

I am happy to announce two new members to the Altar Guild, Jane Hansen and Sara Meekins. We would love to have YOU on our team if you are interested. We do our best to set a beautiful table for sharing Holy Eucharist and approach our tasks with great reverence and attention to detail. Even if you have no experience or idea of what goes on in the sacristy and setting the Altar, you can become a valued member-- believe me, because I had not a clue when I started back in the 90's. And you don't have to be female! I am so grateful for the devoted members of Altar Guild and their quiet, reverent tasks to make ready the Great Thanksgiving.

Faithfully submitted,  
Vickie Duff

### *Building and Grounds*

We have refinished the floor in Hosea Hall. Ms. Jo Hughes graciously donated the amount for the project. Mr. Bill Ready of Advanced Flooring did the work. In April the Men's Club changed the filters in the HVAC system. We will also, change them again in November. Mr. Darrell Keeling replaced a window in the K-2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday school room. We are currently repairing the brick pointing on the outside behind the altar in the main church. October 19, we will be painting the wrought iron fence in front of the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Todd Andrew Cooper

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” Proverbs 29:18. In May, the Vestry and Fr. Linder began a several-month long process of developing a three-year Strategic Plan for St. John's. Careful always to reflect and prayerfully consider each step in the process, this plan was developed to focus our efforts and manage our resources so that we might best serve God in our community of faith, our community of Versailles and the larger community of the world. In developing the plan, we used our Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Core Values to articulate goals, strategies to achieve these goals and finally tasks with timelines and measurements for achieving these tasks. Our work began with a day-long retreat facilitated by a Certified Strategic Planner. We solicited input from the congregation via an online and paper survey and then held a Sunday morning forum to summarize the results of the survey and receive any additional feedback. At the end of September, we prayed for God's blessing on the plan and launched what will be a guiding, evolving plan for the next three years of our church progress and growth. (See next page)

The first Sunday in October we celebrated the launch of the 2014 Stewardship Campaign with a delicious BBQ prepared by our own parishioners and offered an “open mic” to celebrate not only what we might offer to by way of our financial resources but also what we can offer of our wonderful, entertaining talents! The event was a big hit and may become an annual event.

As I reflect on my three years of service on the Vestry, I'm faced with a wide-ranging myriad of emotions and memories. It has been my honor and privilege to serve with some of the most dedicated and inspiring Episcopalians that I've ever known and I am humbled to list my name with their names in the history of our parish. It has been a rewarding, trying, frustrating and incredibly inspiring three years of spiritual growth for me and I thank you for allowing me this opportunity to serve with you. I offer my special thanks to everyone with whom I have served on the Vestry and especially to Ned Meekins and Jane Vance with whom I served as Wardens and to Fr. Philip whose leadership, guidance and friendship have always been steadfast.

Katherine Harper, Sr. Warden

**Vision Statement**

We envision a future in which we:

- Preserve liturgical and musical diversity
- Offer engaging programs for all ages
- Strengthen our outreach to the community
- Enhance our welcoming, inclusive spirit

**Mission Statement**

St. John's is a community of faith centered on the person and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, striving to reflect the command of our Lord that we love one another. In our worship and life together we intentionally welcome all people, care for one another, feed the hungry, tend the sick, and serve as a home for those seeking God's love.

**Core Values**

- Community outreach and support
- A spirit of family
- Pastoral care
- Liturgical diversity
- Inclusiveness
- Spirituality
- History and tradition
- Education
- The uniqueness of every member
- The joy of ministry

Strategic Plan – Fall 2013 to Summer 2016

**Goal: ENGAGING MEMBERSHIP: To be a flourishing congregation on Sundays and throughout the week**

Strategies:

- Increase participation of current members in ministries and activities
- Integrate new members into ministries and activities
- Reconnect with inactive members

**Goal: EXPANDING PROGRAMMING: To have expanded programs which satisfy the diverse needs of the parish and community**

Strategies:

- Increase the number of ecumenical events offered at the church to both members and the public
- Develop and implement a plan for interaction with other local church participation and for diocese-wide participation with our programs/activities
- Offer more adult Christian education and youth programs
- Increase programs open to the public

**Goal: FOCUSED OUTREACH: To have focused outreach programs**

Strategies:

- Strengthen and expand the Woodford County Reading Club
- Identify and support an international outreach program
- Publish information about outreach programs

**Goal: EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: To have effective parish-wide communication**

Strategies:

- Develop and publish a membership/ministry directory
- Assess the effectiveness of current communication processes and revise/improve as needed

**Goal: VIBRANT CONGREGATION: To have abundant resources to support a growing and vibrant congregation**

Strategies:

- Create a resource development plan guided by the strategic plan that includes human, financial, educational, and physical resources
- Develop a plan to educate the congregation about resources
- Publish timely financial information
- Create opportunities to use the Hughes House lawn