



Worship God...Care for People...Grow as Christians

**St. John's Episcopal Church
226 West State Street
P.O. Box 504
Sharon, PA 16146
www.stjohnssharon.org
724-347-4501**

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

February 5, 2024

9:15am

Allen Hall

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2023

Annual Parish Meeting Agenda
February 5, 2024
9:15am

1. Invocation and Lord's Prayer
2. Call to Order
3. Appointment of Secretary and Parliamentarian
4. Necrology and Prayers for the Departed
5. Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting
6. Appointment of Voting Tellers
7. Voting Rules
8. Introduction of Vestry Candidates
9. First Ballot for Vestry
10. Resolutions
11. Acceptance of Written Reports
12. Oral Reports, including Treasurer's Report
13. Other Vestry Ballots as needed
14. Any Other Business
15. Adjournment; Closing Prayer and Blessing

Parish Officers 2023

- **Senior Warden:** Rebecca Yoho
- **Junior Warden:** John Kachursky
- **Clerk:** Victoria Barletta
- **Treasurer:** Mark Perfilio

Vestry

Term Expires January 2024

- Victoria Barletta
- Donna Billioni

Term Expires January 2025

- John Kachursky
- Madge Tamber
- Rebecca Yoho

Term Expires January 2026

- Angie Linsay
- Heidi Marshall
- Mark Perfilio

Staff

- **Rector:** The Rev. Dr. Adam T. Trambley
- **Deacon:** The Rev. Erin Herald
- **Music Director:** Ron Gracilla
- **Bookkeeper:** Tony Kropp
- **Secretary:** Mary Moro

List of the Departed 2023

Glenda Yakell
Earl Cumberledge
Theresa Cousins
Fred Cameron
JoAnn Bogolin
Andrew Harakal
Julia Forker
Regina Alward
Kimberly Glover Krivosh Varsho
Albert L. Perrine, Jr.
Robert Edeburn
Ruth Winchell
William Taylor
Eddie Winchell

²⁵ Jesus said ... "I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.
-- *John 11:25-26*

(Moment of silence.)

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May their soul and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God rest in peace. *Amen*

St. John's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting
January 29, 2023 9:15-9:50 am
Minutes

The annual meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church of Sharon, PA was held at 9:15 am, Sunday, January 29, 2023. Fr Adam Trambley called the meeting to order immediately following the invocation and recitation of the Lord's Prayer. All meeting materials were available to everyone. It was determined that a quorum was present.

Victoria Barletta was appointed secretary. Robert Barletta was appointed parliamentarian.

The parish necrology was read. A moment of silence was observed followed by Prayers for the Departed.

Minutes of the 2022 Parish Annual Meeting were accepted as presented on the motion of Tracy Schliep, seconded by Becky Yoho.

Father Adam discussed a project called "All of Us" that is gathering participants from populations traditionally underrepresented in medical studies, as is the case for many in our region. He noted that research using some of this information has discovered that as early as January of 2020 COVID antibodies were already present in Western PA, meaning that COVID was present by December of 2019.

Nick Baron was appointed teller (if needed) for Vestry Elections.

Nominees to three-year vestry terms were announced: Angela Lindsay, Heidi Marshall and Mark Perfilio. Nominations were closed on the motion of Nick Baron, seconded by Barb Lipinski. Lindsay, Marshall and Perfilio were elected to the vestry by a unanimous ballot. Ron Gracilla moved to accept the ballot, and Donna Stamooolis seconded it.

There were no Resolutions presented.

A motion by Barb Lipinsky and seconded by John Kachursky to accept all reports as presented passed unanimously.

Outgoing Senior Warden Madge Tamber talked about the parish's efforts to reclaim some normalcy that were experienced this past year as well as the cherished parts of our life together that have managed to stay constant. She especially mentioned how important music is in the life of this parish. She sees God's presence moving in St. John's in our worshipping community and in our respect for each other's feelings and choices. "Unity is more important than uniformity." She announced that ECS and the Saturday Free Lunches were stable, and that the community lunches had served 10,001 meals in 2022. And she mentioned the St. John's Daycare and Preschool as an ongoing good plan. She thanked the vestry for all the hard work and cooperation, thanked Ron for his technical as well as spiritual creativity, and thanked Fr Adam for his effective leadership.

Father Adam thanked Tracy Schliep and Missy Baron as they rotate off vestry, for the strong and valuable leadership they have provided over the past several years. Particularly since they are both experienced in the healthcare system, they provided invaluable information and support as the parish made its way out of pandemic isolation.

Father Adam discussed the Treasurer's Report and the 2023 Budget. Our investment income is down, but so are our expenses, and we are doing OK given the difficulties of the past two years. Even budgeting a deficit in 2022, we managed to finish with a small surplus. We hope for a similar outcome even though our 2023 budget has a significant deficit, as well.

Father Adam answered a question regarding the work on the sanctuary floor that still needs to be accomplished, specifically about new carpeting/floor covering. The work on this project is ongoing, having been put on hold while the major structural problems were being corrected. We should now be able to begin again with more accurate information

He was also asked whether there was any possibility to be able to have a presence in the office on a more regular schedule. Tina is still battling health problems and has found it very difficult to be in the office in person. The answer to this is unknown at the present time.

Ron expressed his gratitude for being part of St John's Parish Family and his joy at the return of corporate worship and the choir. He also mentioned that the organ has need of some catch-up maintenance but that there is a bequest specifically for organ maintenance that is available to help out with the associated cost.

Ron also said that his hip replacement surgery is scheduled for the end of February and that backup people are in place to serve during his recovery.

Tracy Schliep gave an update on the development of the "Becoming Beloved Community" that is now happening at St. John's. There have already been several opportunities to gather as a parish to explore what Becoming Beloved Community can mean to us. Planned activities include a "1st Sunday" discussion group taking place after the 10:00am service with rotating leaders and subject matter. Anyone interested is invited to attend in the lounge and encouraged to bring ideas and suggestions for ongoing discussions. There will also be a reading corner dedicated to "Becoming Beloved Community."

Meeting closed at 9:50am

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Barletta

Nominees for Vestry:

- S. Richard Steingrabe
- Barbara Ann Sudzina
- Michael Shane White

Voting Rules for Vestry

During the 2024 Annual Meeting, three persons will be elected to the Vestry.

Diocesan Canons require that Vestry Members be Lay Persons in Good Standing. A Lay Person in Good Standing is a person whose Baptism has been recorded in this Church, who has received Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year and who for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God; and who is in union with the convention of this Diocese and who is not prevented from receiving Holy Communion under the Disciplinary Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer.

Those eligible to vote at an Annual Meeting, according to Diocesan Canons, are Lay Persons in Good Standing of the Parish who are physically present, who are at least 18 years of age, who are regular attendants at the services of the local church, and who are regular contributors for the six months preceding the meeting to the support of the local church and to the work of the Diocese and Episcopal Church as shown on the books of the Treasurer..

Note that eligibility to serve on vestry and vote at the annual meeting is now defined in Diocesan Canon.

Stewardship Report

So far, we have 56 pledges totaling \$119,644.00

In 2023, we had 47 pledges totaling \$99,701.50.

In 2022, we had 49 pledges totaling \$116,326.

In 2021, we had 51 pledges totaling \$92,230.

In 2020, we had 67 pledges totaling \$137,225

In 2019, we had 65 pledges totaling \$129,299.

These numbers do not include many people who regularly give and have not filled out pledge cards. Thank you for your generosity!

Alms Fund Report

In recent years, we have tried to move from providing emergency cash ourselves to support of agencies better equipped to offer comprehensive support of those in need and who accept our referrals. This year we also received donations of hundreds of dollars in gifts cards that we have been able to use instead of cash to help with some crisis situations.

Alms Fund Balance January 1, 2023: \$666.26

2023 Alms Fund Income

Sunday Plate	\$ 776.50
Baptisms/Funerals/Weddings	\$2,289.42
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>\$3,065.92</i>

2023 Alms Fund Expenses

General Assistance	\$ 197.81
Utility Assistance	\$ 220.31
Rental Assistance	\$ 300.00
Plainsong Farm (Episc. Farm)	\$ 500.00
Rae of Hope (Farrell Rehab)	\$ 400.00
Episcopal Diocese (Theol Educ.)	\$ 450.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>\$2,068.12</i>

Alms Fund Balance December 31, 2023: \$1,664.06

Summary of Statistics

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average Sunday Attendance	110	106	54*	46**	68**	78**
In-person, both services						
# of Sunday services (in-person)	106	105	64	84	150	109
# of Weekday Services in-person	68	69	15	6	6	5
# of Weekday Services on-line	0	0	202	305	253	250
Estimated Total Weekday Attendance	2415	2001	2378	4032	3457****	
In-person, on-line, funerals, weddings, etc						
# of Private Services	109	94	25	19	29	21
Home communion, Family Baptisms, etc						
Baptisms (Under age 16)	13	5	3	4	7	0
Baptisms (Age 16+)	0	0	0	0	1	0
Confirmations	0	0	0	0	4	0
Receptions	0	0	0	0	7	0
Marriages	5	3	2	0	5	4
Burials	15	13	10***	24	10	14

*2020 Numbers include normal pre-pandemic weeks, re-opened weeks, and streamed services with minimal people present. On-line numbers could make this higher, but could not be accurately tracked.

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*** Some who died in 2020 could not have a burial service until 2021 due to COVID spikes.

**** This number includes those attending funerals, Zoom Evening Prayer, Ron's Noonday Prayer on Facebook, and Thanksgiving services.

Music Director's Report

I am happy to report that we have this year resumed our regular choir singing at the 10 AM service. St. John's Choir as now eleven active members. New members are Lois and David Schneider, and Rochelle Gracilla who is also a clarinetist. Truly, the Lord is blessing us again with choral worship!

We have two new instruments this year. In the Chapel is our own Weber Baby Grand Piano that was purchased locally for \$3,500. Upstairs in the choir room is my donated Hammond Drawbar Church Organ with full pedal board.

The annual music budget overage of \$4,325 needs some explanation. We had a \$1,920 Carillon maintenance and repair expense. It cost \$1,000 to move in the Hammond Organ, the Weber Baby Grand, and move out the Console piano. On Feb 17, the Schantz Pipe Organ needed critical maintenance work in addition to its normal tuning for an unexpected additional \$850. This year's Actual includes \$850 from the previous year. This total additional burden on the budget is \$4,620.

In the next year, we will need to plan for important repair and maintenance issues with the Pipe Organ and the Carillon. I'm also looking at possible Grants to help us in these areas.

Respectfully yours,
Ron Gracilla, Jr. - Music Director

Beloved Community Report

The Journey to Beloved Community, now in its second year at St. John's, meets on the first Sunday of each month with participants taking turns leading discussions. Significant events of 2023 included working with Visit Mercer County to create an underground railroad bus tour, participating in the regional conversation with the Commission to Dismantle Racism, and attending the Urban League annual dinner. Members traveled as a group to the Underground Railroad Heritage Center in Niagara Falls and to a concert and lecture provided by Nathaniel Gumbs. The group hosted Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Croskey, Clarion, PA, who shared their experiences on their Journey to Beloved Community. Beloved Community embraced the expanded pledge of the Commission to Dismantle Racism to include advocating for racial justice.