

A photograph of the interior of St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove. The view is from the front of the sanctuary looking towards the altar. The altar is a white, ornate structure with a central cross and a large, multi-paned stained glass window above it. The window features a central panel with a cross and several smaller panels with various religious scenes. The altar is flanked by two tall, narrow stained glass windows. The altar is decorated with white flowers and greenery. The pews in the foreground are filled with white lilies and other flowers. The church has a high, vaulted ceiling and white walls. The text "St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove" is overlaid at the top of the image.

January 23, 2022

St. John's Episcopal Church – Tower Grove

The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri



The Staff

The Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Priest-in-Charge



Tracy Baker, Music Director
Bob Emert, Parish Administrator
Jim Kern, Accountant
Gary Pey, Sexton

The Vestry



John Eads, Senior Warden
Margarita Tschomakoff, Junior Warden

Ann Balsamo
Brent Brower-Toland
Liam Clements
Anna Hall

Steve Hoeplinger
Jeff McIntire-Strasburg
Ann Quay Rushing

Table of Contents

Agenda for the Jan 23, 2022 Meeting	5
--	----------

Minutes of Jan 17, 2021 Annual Meeting for Approval	7
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Ministry Reports

<u>Committee Name</u>	<u>Page</u>
Acolytes	23
Altar Guild	24
Book Group	17
Building and Grounds	18
Caring Committee	19
Christian Formation	19
Communications Committee	20
Confirmation Class	19
Episcopal City Mission	22
Financial Reports	26
General Adult Offerings	20
Godly Play	19
Hospitality	21
Junior Warden's Report	16
Lectors	24
Mann School	22

Music	24
Outreach	22

<u>Committee Name</u>	<u>Page</u>
Parish Administrator's Report	17
Peace Meal	22
Priest's Report – Nancy	12
Racial Justice	23
Senior Warden's Report	15
Special Worship Services	24
Ushers & Greeters	25
Vestry Nominees	10
Winter Outreach	23
Worship	23
Young Adult Group	20
Youth Sunday School	19

**St. John's – Tower Grove
2021 Annual Meeting Agenda
January 23, 2022**

Call to order and opening prayer, Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn

Establishment of a quorum, Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, John Eads

Polls declared open for Vestry nominations- Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn (Polls will be open for 30 min., then election will follow)

Election of Vestry members:

Liam Clements (re-election for new term)

Ronya McCool

Correne Murphy

Mary Anne Pikrone

Finance report and review of 2021 budget, Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn

Recognition of Senior and Junior Warden, Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn

Thanks to John Eads, Senior Warden

Announcement of appointment of Ann Quay Rushing as Senior Warden

Margarita Tschomakoff resigns as Junior Warden; Vestry will elect a new Junior Warden

Recognition of outgoing Vestry members: Anna Hall, Steve Hoeplinger, Jeff McIntire-Strasburg

Ministry reports

Senior Warden's report – John Eads

Junior Warden's report – Margarita Tschomakoff

Book Group – Christine Watts

Building and Grounds – Rodney Malone

Caring Committee – Allyce Bullock

Christian Formation

Adult offerings – Brent Brower-Toland

Godly Play – Travis Hall

Young Adult Group – John Eads

Youth Sunday School – Rodney Malone

Communications Committee- Jeff McIntire-Strasburg

Hospitality – Anna Hall

Outreach

Episcopal City Mission – Christine Cannon
Mann School – Christine Watts
Peace Meal – Phyllis Jacobson
Racial Justice – John Eads
Winter Outreach – Travis Hall

Worship

Worship and Altar Guild- Ann Rushing
Music-Tracy Baker
Lectors-Correne Murphy
Acolytes – Hannah Harkey
Ushers and Greeters- Jeff McIntire-Strasburg

Adjournment and closing prayer

Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting – Jan 17, 2021

Call to order and opening prayer by Rev. Sally Weaver

Establishment of quorum by Rev. Sally Weaver and confirmed by Senior Warden John Eads (over 40 people present)

Polls declared open for Vestry nominations

Approval of 2019 annual meeting minutes

Diocesan delegates and election of Vestry members

Vestry Members

Brent Brower-Toland

John Eads

Ann Quay Rushing

Margarita Tschomakoff

Diocesan Convention delegates

Lorie Kintz

Correne Murphy, alternate

Finance report and review of the 2021 budget

Ann Balsamo reviews the budget from 2020 and proposed 2021 budget. We are finishing in the black, though down in pledges and place due to not being in person for most of the year. Medical reimbursement in '20 was for previous clergy, the Hunger Task Force provided a grant for Peace Meal, and we received a PPP loan for clergy expenses. Now, we are paying assessment to the diocese and paying back White Loan. We were able to end the year with money in the bank. Some questions: Is the rental income too optimistic? These projections are similar to the neighborhood. Are the building upkeep projections too low? We've made consistent upgrades of major infrastructures so don't foresee as many building-related costs. Additional improvements have been made to the kitchen by an anonymous donor.

Called Priest Rebecca Ragland joins the call to say hello and express her excitement to work in ministry at St. John's.

Recognition of Senior Warden & Junior Warden

Announcement to appointment John Eads as Senior Warden, per Rebecca Ragland.

John Eads agrees to serve as Senior Warden for another term. Margarita has also accepted another term as Junior Warden.

Ministry reports [See written reports]

Deacon's report – The Rev. Kevin McGrane

Appointed postulant to the priesthood, completed ordination exams, and will be meeting with the Bishop again soon before his leave on January 31. He will be going to Trinity Episcopal Church in St. James, MO. His ordination date is set for June 19, 2021. He is grateful for his relationships in this community. He helped start the new Racial Justice Committee and played a large role in the Building and Grounds Committee, coordinating efforts to rehab and utilize space for rental income.

Senior Warden's report – John Eads

Junior Warden's report – Margarita Tschomakoff

Book Group – Christine Watts

Building and Grounds – Deacon Kevin & Rodney Malone

Looking for one more person to join the committee. Gary Pey (sexton) has received a list of work to do and has seen it through. His work will continue. There has been less wear and tear on the building this year. Water concerns continue in the sanctuary.

Caring Committee – Allyce Bullock

Working with the Parish Administrator on a spreadsheet to keep prayer list up to date. Calls all members of St. John's to pray for the prayer list regularly.

Christian Formation

Adult offerings – Brent Brower-Toland

Adult offerings have been well attended this year and there will be more to come in 2021, i.e. Lenten book study.

Godly Play – Travis Hall & Emily Bosch

Young Adult Group – John Eads

Youth Sunday School – Rodney Malone

Communications Committee

Hospitality – Anna Hall

Outreach

Episcopal City Mission – Christine Cannon

Mann School – Christine Watts

Peace Meal – Phyllis Jacobson

There are 7 coordinators currently with the Peace Meal. Over 3,000 meals served. A grant from Hunger Task Force and donation from St. Peters helped continue efforts for this ministry. Request to see if God is calling any younger members to step up as coordinator.

Racial Justice – Kurt Greenbaum & John Eads

Getting started as a group and planning where the group and conversations will go.

Winter Outreach – Jeff McIntire-Strasburg

There was only one time that WO was initiated last year, and now coordination efforts are being organized through the Cathedral.

Worship

Acolytes – Hannah Harkey

Altar Guild – Ann Quay Rushing

Lectors – Correne Murphy

So many people have stepped up and agreed to help with reading.

Music – Tracy Baker

Ushers & Greeters – Jeff McIntire-Strasburg

Adjournment and closing prayer

Brief Vestry meeting follows:

- Jeff McIntires-Strasburg offers the nomination of Margarita Tschomakoff as Junior Warden. Brent Brower-Toland seconds. Unanimous vote to accept.
- Ann Balsamo motions to accept the \$9000 Housing Allowance requested by incoming priest Rebecca Ragland. John Eads seconds. Unanimous vote to accept.
- Discussion of leave-taking policies that Rev. Sally and Deacon Kevin will adhere to upon leaving St. Johns. There will be a community-wide discussion of this on their last Sunday, January 31, 2021.

2022 Nominees for St. John's Vestry



Mary Anne Pikrone

A Chicago native, I attended Catholic schools and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Loyola University. I spent 50 years in newspaper journalism (in northern Ohio, Rochester, N.Y., and Richmond, Va.), including two stints as newsroom union president.

In Rochester and Richmond, my beats included religion. I covered the first Eucharist of Rochester's Merrill Bittner; she was one of the "Philadelphia 11" women who were ordained Episcopal priests in 1974. In Richmond, I did a five-part series about what U.S. seminaries were teaching about the divinity of Jesus. My beat taught me to appreciate and honor the strengths and differences among various denominations. I covered other beats, including politics and education, and was assistant city editor, night local/online editor and Virginia editor. Before retiring in 2014 in Toledo, I wrote editorials.

My decision to switch to the Episcopal Church was cemented by former Bishop Smith's response to Ferguson: He said we needed peace **with justice**. I also found I could be nurtured by the church's liturgical and reform traditions, enlightened social conscience, talented clergy, involvement of laity and the warmth that emanates from St. John's.

In St. Louis, I've led the Tower Grove East Community Garden, am secretary of the TGE Neighborhood Association, and have volunteered at Shenandoah Elementary School and the International Institute.

At St. John's, I've served on the communications committee, put out the weekly bulletin, helped at coffee hour and Peace Meal and, at one time, I think I was in charge of the kitchen. I hope I can help to overcome covid restraints and other challenges, be open to new outreach, support the Rev. Nancy, draw new believers by practicing what we preach and show we sinners still aim to be followers of Christ.



Ronya McCool

I am honored to be considered to serve on the Vestry at St. John's. Originally I am from Joplin, and lived in Arizona, Kansas, and Virginia before my husband Michael and I relocated to St. Louis in 2008. When I was growing up, my family always visited different churches for Christmas and special holidays; so here I began attending Episcopalian churches, and was drawn to the restful beauty of the liturgy, the church's compassionate nature, and its commitment to racial and social justice. I was baptized in 2016 at Christ Church Cathedral but sought a more local congregation and started attending St. John's in 2018.

I earned my bachelor's in English from James Madison University in Virginia, and a master's in library studies from the University of Alabama, where I studied library-based social justice and public health partnerships. Currently I serve as the assistant director at Richmond Heights Memorial Library over in Richmond Heights. There are some strong similarities between public library work and the work of the church, and I hope to aid the vestry in helping St. John's continue Christ's example of servanthood to our community as well as finding new ways to connect with that same community (and hopefully beyond) through thoughtful outreach and program planning.



Correne Murphy

As a life-time mid-westerner, life has taken me from Nebraska, to Kansas, to Colorado, and finally Missouri. Thirty-three years of that journey were spent as a member of the Benedictine Monastery for women in Atchison, Kansas. I earned my Masters in Music Ed. from Colorado University in Boulder. (How I love those mountains!) My years as a music educator were spent in the classroom and working with bands/orchestras, choirs, and as Director of Liturgical Music

for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas (five years). In 1988 I moved on from my religious community and eventually found myself in St. Louis where I worked for TWA and then American Airlines. I traveled the world. Since my retirement I have volunteered with the St. Louis Symphony, the International Institute, walked the streets in protest, cooked for the homeless, and now have a nonprofit business: Person to Person Street Ministry. Strengths I will bring to the Vestry are good organizational skills, and the ability to recruit and work with others. I have a deep love for the liturgy and believe that our daily lives and efforts need the underpinning of a good spiritual foundation. I am grateful to the St. John's community for accepting me and wish to contribute to the future of this praying community with any skills I may have.



Liam Clements

Liam was born and raised in Cincinnati, OH and was christened in the Church of England. After finishing a term of service with AmeriCorps in Oxford, MS, he moved to St Louis in 2016 and has been attending St John's with his wife, Hannah Harkey since 2018. He joined the vestry in 2020.

Priest's report — Submitted by The Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn

Christ Has No Body But Ours

Let me begin my sermon explaining that this is the Priest's part of our Annual Report. Each year, we gather in person or virtually to review what St. John's has done in the past year, to elect new leadership and adopt the budget for the coming year. I am your new priest. What I have learned about you in this nearly one year that I have been with you, first as deacon and now as your priest in charge, is that you cherish your community here at St. John's and that you go about doing acts of service within the community and out in the world. Your service among yourselves and in the larger community sets you apart. It is what makes you St. John's.

In this sermon, I will attempt to recognize these things that makes you St. John's. I may forget someone or something, so I apologize in advance if I do.

Let me go back to our Epistle from First Corinthians for a moment. I can't imagine a bit of scripture that more aptly describes our community here at St. John's than our Epistle today. I love Paul and Paul does go on sometimes, but he really got it right in this passage.

By way of context, Paul is writing in the middle of the first century to his Jesus followers in Corinth. Paul established this community of mostly gentile followers there. He has been traveling and preaching throughout the Mediterranean basin and in this letter, he writes back to the Corinthian community. He seeks to give them advice on a variety of matters. In today's Epistle, he is straightening them out on what it means to be community.

He says, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were baptized into one body-Jews or Greeks, slaves or free- and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." He goes on: "Indeed the body does not consist of one member but of many...If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members but one body."

Here at St John's we have many members of this body doing all sorts of things, here and in our Tower Grove South community.

We are widely known for PeaceMeal, our Saturday evening meal prepared and offered this last year on a to go basis. In 2021, despite the pandemic, PeaceMeal served more 2600 guests. Volunteers from various churches and organizations, and our own St. John's, prepared and served hot meals, sides and desserts. PeaceMeal again was awarded a Diocesan and Task Force on Hunger grant to help keep the doors open and the food cooking.

Limited by the pandemic, our St. John's volunteers were unable to tutor children at Mann School, but did help to distribute books, including bilingual books, and food to Mann families.

St. John's ministry at Episcopal City Mission, sponsored birthday parties in March and November for children held in the City's Juvenile Detention Center.

St. John's continues to be involved with adult formation and reading groups. Each week, members participate in a Lectionary Study online, reading and discussing the scripture lessons before our Sunday service. The Racial Justice group read two books and discussed them, had a speaker and now seeks its future direction. The Book Group read six books, met virtually and outdoors six times.

While Godly Play and Youth formation have been on hold because of the pandemic, a Confirmation class was planned in late 2021 and will begin later in February, 2022. In cooperation with Trinity, CWE, we will prepare five of our St. John's youth for confirmation.

The Hospitality Committee did an excellent job of feeding us, even during this pandemic. The Hospitality folks brought baked goods to the Vestry members' homes during their virtual retreat and offered socially distanced coffee hours after our Sunday service in April, October, November and December and after my ordination in July, helped serve treats to our guests. The Committee arranged

the Homecoming Picnic at Tower Grove Park that was a huge success, as well as the celebration after the Hanging of the Greens.

The Caring Committee coordinates our very active Prayer List that is reported in the weekly Bulletin and Newsletter. Members who could not attend services and wished to receive the Eucharist were visited by the clergy or a member of the Committee. In addition, the Committee has begun a Prayer Partner initiative.

The St. John's community continued to participate in worship online through March, 2021. St. John's Zoom worship was particularly successful. The readings were provided by various readers each week, reading from their homes, with occasional visits online by pets and toddlers. After church coffee hour was also virtual and enhanced by the placement of our worshippers in random small groups that allowed members to get to know people they did not know. During Holy Week, we offered a virtual hand and foot washing, as well as a Good Friday Service online, focusing on issues of justice during pandemic times. While it was wonderful to get back to worship in person in April and May, the Zoom service provided a warmth and connectedness that is hard to replicate.

In 2021, St. John's had a challenging period with our clergy. The wise and experienced Interim Priests, Dr. Warren Crews and Reverend Sally Weaver as well as long serving Deacon Kevin McGrane, left the community in early 2021. The Reverend Rebecca Ragland resigned in February. For February and March, I was your deacon on training wheels and your only clergy. Fortunately, the Reverend Michael Dunnington signed on as Interim Priest in April. He provided a much needed calm and stability and the opportunity to have Eucharist during our services. And he was a marvelous teacher and mentor to me. We are grateful for his service here! I joined as your Priest in Charge in October.

When we got back to a live service, we were thrilled to have an Easter celebration and several worship services outside in the Wainwright courtyard. By May, we were back in the sanctuary. The Worship Committee monitored Covid concerns and offered changes to our practices as necessary. The lectors continued to pronounce the word. Tracy Baker played the organ and piano and two choir members led us in song. Although we served the host during Communion, an effort to offer wine was ended after four services due to growing pandemic concerns. But we did figure out how to serve wine not using the common chalice!

We are grateful for our Building and Grounds Committee that worked to maintain the roof over our heads and complete the big projects left over from 2020. These included overseeing moving the administration and priest's offices to the Wainwright building and preparing the remaining offices for lease in the other building. By the time that Rev. Dunnington arrived, the priest's office was complete and quite comfortable. Later in the summer, the former administration and priest's offices were leased.

Of course the Vestry met each month, first on Zoom and then in person. They kept on top of things and kept us together. In their retreat they created a Divine Purpose Statement that we proudly announce on our website and that beautifully captures the essence of who we are and what St. John's is all about.

St. John's was able to meet our budget for 2021, albeit with a small deficit of about \$4000 or about 2%. This was due to a shortfall in our pledged income and significantly increased building expenses over budget.

St. John's finance team and Vestry created a 2022 budget that is realistic but that also projects a deficit of about \$17,000 or about 8%. This reflects an accurate estimate of building expenses and a realistic, but reduced pledge income. If additional pledge or other income is received, we may narrow or eliminate that gap. We do have some unrestricted savings to cover this deficit, but we hope not to have to dip into that. As a member of the finance team, we welcome any member with a head for figures or a talent for fundraising!

We hope to learn from our participation in the Diocese Requiem or Renaissance project about how we may engage in evangelism and other efforts to improve our membership and financial condition. We understand that our decrease in membership and financial support is something happening throughout the Diocese and in most Christian denominations everywhere. But we hope to develop competence in addressing these issues.

For the time being, I am satisfied that we continue to move forward. I believe that we have a unique and welcoming message. I expect that 2022 will be a year for reflection, commitment, growth and service. And I am thrilled to be here.

Let me close with the words of the Sixteenth Century Mystic, Teresa of Avila.

She wrote:

Christ has no body now, but yours. No hands, no feet on earth
but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ looks compassion
into the world. Yours are the feet with which Christ walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which Christ blesses the world.

Let's go out and continue to be the body of Christ. Amen.

Senior Warden's report – Submitted by John Eads

In 2021, St. John's faced many challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose ever changing obstacles, both unpredictable and unprecedented. However, in the face of a challenging year, St John's has continued to grow, learn, and love. The resiliency of our community never fails to amaze me. St John's continues to be a reflection of Christ's love in our community and that beacon of hope is the direct result of the hard work of each and every person in this beautiful congregation.

In 2021 we were blessed to call the Reverend Nancy Emmel Gunn to be our priest in charge. In

2022 St John's will continue to grow and adapt to the pandemic. St. John's will also have to confront the budget constraints faced by many small congregations. As we tackle these issues, there is no one I would trust more to lead us through this journey than Nancy. She's been a blessing to our community and will be a blessing to the greater St Louis area for years to come.

Your vestry had a very busy year as you might imagine. We began the year with our first ever virtual annual meeting and we are now beginning 2022 with another virtual annual meeting. We participated in a virtual work day and retreat in February and another virtual workshop in November where we adopted a divine purpose statement for St. John's. We had frequent email communications and additional weeknight meetings as well. It is my hope that 2022 is a less busy time for your Vestry, but time will tell!

All in all, 2021 provided the congregation with opportunities to grow and learn. I expect 2022 will provide similar opportunities for growth. I pray that our community continues to be the reflection of Christ's love and peace that we are known for. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Senior Warden over the past two years and I look forward to passing the torch!

Junior Warden's report – Submitted by Margarita Tschomakoff

2021 was a year with widely fluctuating pandemic developments, which, like in 2020, determined what our parish's life would look like. In the previous year I was tasked by the transitional clergy with a supportive role for the clergy and the congregation.

Pandemic Task Force

Most of St. John's functions remained in virtual format for the first part of the year. I monitored the situation with the spread of the virus locally and reported statistics to the vestry. Data on infections in the City and in our zip code was used in considering a potential time of reopening of in-person services, in agreement with the Reopening Plan created by the Worship Committee in May 2020 and approved by the Bishop. Falling infection and hospitalization trends at the end of January and February were starting to look encouraging. Eventually in the spring St. John's was able to start in-person services. We had a successful and smoothly run outdoor Easter service, which was followed by other in-person services later in the spring and summer. Several vestry meetings and other gatherings were also held in-person, both outdoors and indoors.

Archives

Continued efforts in exploring St. John's archives proved to be difficult in 2021. Like many public and private facilities which were not operating in-person for most of the year, the Diocesan Archives were also closed for visitors. This made it necessary to be patient and wait for the time when I can spend time at the Archives office, a situation which we hope will become possible in 2022. The archivist, herself the daughter of St. John's priest in the 1940's, has indicated that she will support our research into the parish records. More than 15 years ago St. John's old records were transferred to the diocesan archives to ensure proper care and

preservation. A few of Bryan Cather's writings on the history of St. John's have been located, and will be provided to the parish. A small remaining part of archival materials is still at St. John's and will be reviewed for relevance and storage.

Building and Grounds

During 2021 I assisted the Building and Grounds committee with certain projects such as inspections, communication with utility people, and meeting with the apartment tenants for contract purposes.

Parish Administrator's report – Submitted by Bob Emert

My duties this year have, for the most part, continued as normal. Of course, the exception being under different interim priests, priest-in-charge, deacons, etc. They all had/have their own style and ways of doing things. I'm happy to say that Rev. Nancy and I are settling into our routines together nicely. The biggest change in my routine is that I have taken over some of the responsibilities of bookkeeping at St. John's. In addition to my administrative duties, I now also pay bills, enter deposits, verify credit card charges, etc. Basically, I do the day-to-day bookkeeping. Jim Kern is still doing the financial reporting while helping me navigate the everyday bookkeeping tasks.

Book Group – Submitted by Christine Watts

We met the usual six times last year, even with the pandemic. Most of the meetings were in person, either outside or in a member's screened in porch, but we also used Zoom when the situation warranted it, as we are doing for this month's meeting. We have time for fellowship and snacks at the beginning of the meeting, with the discussion on the selected book following. Members take turns selecting books to read. Most of them are literary fiction or memoirs, and often take a look at social or moral issues. Last year's books included:

January - *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance. This memoir describes the author's white working class origins in Greater Appalachia, and some of his family's difficulties with poverty and addiction.

March - *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins is a riveting novel about a mother and small son who flee from a violent situation in Mexico, becoming part of a great stream of immigrants to "el Norte".

May - *The Last Children of Mill Creek* by Vivian Gibson was the highlight of the year, since the author attended our meeting. She wrote about her childhood in a beloved Black neighborhood of St. Louis, demolished to make way for "urban renewal."

July - *The Giver of Stars* by Jo Jo Moyes is an historical novel about the WPA packhorse librarians of the Depression era. These women journeyed on horse back through the remote mountains of Kentucky to carry out Eleanor Roosevelt's program of bringing books to those who never had them.

September (postponed to October) - *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman is a thought provoking and comical novel about a failed bank robber and a hostage situation in Sweden.

November - *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* by Rachel Joyce is a novel set in England's villages and countryside. The book has end-of-life themes of regret, estrangement, friendship, suicide, dementia, final quest, and eventual redemption, all while Joyce maintains a light, deft, even playful tone.

Building and Grounds – Submitted by Rodney Malone

Building and Grounds in 2021 had essentially four areas of concentration:

1. Routine Maintenance
2. Building Plant Updates
3. Rentals and Leasing
4. Long Range Planning

1. Routine Maintenance: Things come up. The Committee is made aware of these concerns by the community. The Committee (mostly through Gary Pey) fixes these concerns. This maintenance in the last year included but was not limited to:

- a. Hoffman's work on the Parish Hall HVAC system
- b. Working on bathroom toilets
- c. De-icing walkways during winter
- d. Repairing Apartment windows
- e. Replacing faulty outlets and fixtures

2. Building Plant Updates: There are obvious Building Plant needs. Gary Pey puts them on his list, and then he completes the task list. These updates included but were not limited to:

- a. Preparing the old Priest's Office for rental
- b. Preparing the new Administrator's Office for use
- c. Preparing the new Priest's Office for use

3. Rentals and Leasing: There are properties to lease/rent. The Committee (mostly through Allyce Bullock) works to advertise these spaces, lease these spaces, and maintain them. These spaces were:

- a. The old Administrative Office leased.
- b. The old Priest's Office leased.
- c. The continued lease Joan Brackman
- d. The continued residential lease on the second floor.
- e. The continued cooperation with the Basement tenant.

4. Long Range Planning: The Diocese and Kuhn Construction cooperated to establish a Needs Assessment of the physical plant. As of Jan. 1, 2022, that Needs Assessment had not been submitted to St. John's.

Caring Committee – Submitted by Allyce Bullock

The Caring Committee involves caring and praying for each other. The Committee consists of Allyce Bullock, Chair, Phyllis Jacobson, and Christine and Dale Cannon. Allyce coordinates the prayer list with Parish Administrator and Pastor Nancy. The opportunity to have someone including yourself placed on the prayer list is mentioned in the eblast. There is a very active prayer list read at each worship service and listed in the Sunday bulletin. Phyllis and Pastor Nancy are the primary visitors to parishioners homes. After a meeting this year, we began a Prayer Partner initiative which has had minimal participation. This is also mentioned in the eblast.

Christian Formation –

Godly Play (ages 5-10) Coordinators: Travis Hall & Emily Bosch

Godly Play has been on hold since concerns about viral transmission required a move to virtual Sunday meetings. The challenges created by the pandemic made conducting anything like the Montessori-style curriculum we have established for this age group impossible, particularly given that all other St. John's offerings including the Sunday service are conducted virtually. There was consideration of sharing virtual resources of other parishes, including St. Peter's virtual childrens chapel, but the time conflicted with our Sunday service. Coordinators of this education area look forward to reconnecting St. John's youth with Sunday formation opportunities at the earliest opportunity.

Youth Sunday School (ages 11-15) Coordinator: Rodney Malone

Since the church went online in March of 2020, Sunday School has ceased to meet. We will re-evaluate in Spring of this year to determine the best course of action for our teens in the future.

Confirmation Class

Sally† had the wonderful idea to hold a confirmation class for our older cohort of young parishioners in advance of the new Bishop's visit last year. Parents encouraged holding off until in-person meetings resumed out of concern that this important rite of passage would lose some of its significance as a virtual event. Nancy† revisited this opportunity early in her tenure, and has organized a joint class with clergy and young parishioners at Trinity (CWE) to begin in February for a 6 week period.

Young Adult Group Coordinator: John Eads

Prior to the Pandemic, the Young Adult Group was organized around regular monthly meetings ("outings" and "innings"). The pandemic created real challenges for these house gatherings and spontaneous events. As the health crisis eases and warmer weather returns in the new year, we look forward to gathering again.

General Adult Offerings

Coordinator: Brent B-T

1. **Lectioary Study.** Sustainable weekly offering meeting before Sunday Service from 9:15 to 10 am during the year with a break in the summer months. Intended to be accessible for regular attendees or occasional visitors with no advance preparation required. We read the Sunday lessons and entertain brief discussion of each, with sustained attention on the Gospel reading, which we consider together in *Lectio* style. Phyllis and Keith have continued to convene this meeting virtually throughout the past year of pandemic time. We will re-evaluate in-person meetings at the earliest convenience.

2. **Seasonal Offerings.** We choose a focused topic for study relevant to the liturgical season. In 2021, there were offerings for seasons of Lent and Advent which included a light meal at evening sessions.

Lent 2021: Sunday evening virtual book discussion of *Reaching Out* by Henri Nouwen. This event was well-attended with a series of 6 virtual meetings.

Advent 2021: Thursday evening reflection series using texts from the Advent compilation *Watch for the Light* which includes selections from a wide variety of ancient, medieval and more recent Christian authors. 6-8 parishioners participated in this in-person meeting, held at the B-T's, weekly.

St. John's community also enjoys an ongoing **Book Club** with monthly virtual offerings throughout the year organized by Christine Watts.

Communications Committee – Submitted by Jeff McIntire-Strasburg

The committee has only met once in the past year, but members have stayed busy ensuring that timely, accurate communications are going out to the parish community. Committee members participate in copy editing of weekly e-blasts and service bulletins. The St. John's website is updated as needed, as is the Facebook page.

The committee's special projects have largely been tabled, as membership has shrunk from five to three members. Projects the committee will likely pick up in the new year include continued development of editorial guidelines for parish communications, expansion of website and social media content.

Hospitality – Submitted by Anna Hall

Though our year didn't resemble a 'normal' routine of gatherings and coffee hours, we did our best to creatively gather and offer hospitality to the community, while maintaining and prioritizing safety -

- Our year began in weekly virtual gatherings with the church building still closed for in-person services or coffee hours. Rather than our usual pot luck for the Annual Meeting, we joined together via zoom and offered a fun raffle of ten ordered treats from local organization and downstairs tenant *Welcome Neighbor STL* of hummus, naan, and baklava. Rev Sally Weaver and Anna Hall delivered the treats to the ten winners the following morning. At the end of January, the Hospitality Committee and Vestry put together gifts for our departing leadership, Rev. Warren Crews, Rev. Sally Weaver, and Deacon Kevin McGrane.
- The Vestry had a virtual retreat on March 12 and 13, 2021. Anna Hall ordered and delivered tea and baked goods to each vestry member.
- With a transition to meeting in person outside in the courtyard in April, we had some distanced coffee hours of to-go cups and grab and go donuts. We were able to stay masked and distanced while outside, but visiting and connecting in person. Judy Headley provided cupcakes and assisted to prepare coffee.
- After the Ordination of Rev Nancy Emmel Gunn, the Parish Hall was prepared to host a small cupcake and toast celebration.
- Rev. Nancy's first Sunday with us was on October 3rd and a coffee hour was hosted in her honor with coffee, tea, and donuts.
- On October 24, 2021 we were able to have our annual Homecoming Picnic at the Gurney Picnic Site in Tower Grove Park. The Hospitality Team met together leading up to the event to prepare and decide on food to order and provide, and tasks to divide

and conquer. An Eventbrite invitation was created and sent out to the St. John's community. We requested an rsvp to know how many sandwiches to order, but had extra as well. We ordered sandwiches from Jimmy John's and cupcakes from Fedderhoffer's Bakery. Chips, fruit, and drinks were also provided. Pumpkins and paints were available for the children to have an activity. The weather was lovely and warm and it was great to gather and share a meal. A goodbye gift was given to Rev. Michael Dunnington and a welcome gift to Rev. Nancy.

- Coffee hour was provided on November 21, 2021 for our culmination of stewardship and in-gathering.
- On December 12, 2021 we gathered as a community to celebrate Hanging of the Greens. The sanctuary was decorated with greens and poinsettias, then we sang carols around the piano. We gathered in the Parish Hall with snacks. The children decorated the Christmas tree and painted ornaments. Christine Cannon prepared stockings for all the children of treats and gifts.
- A final coffee hour was offered on December 26, 2021 to celebrate Christmas.

Outreach

Episcopal City Mission –

St. John's continued our long term relationship with The Episcopal City Mission and the Detention Center Birthday Party during 2021. We sponsored two birthday parties; March and November, by providing birthday gifts, pizza, soda, candy for the bingo games, balloons and party ware. Because of Covid restrictions we could not physically host the parties but we delivered everything to the event coordinator at the center. We are on schedule to host in March and November in 2022.

Mann School – Christine Watts and Phyllis Jacobson

St. John's efforts as a community partner with Horace Mann Elementary School in the Tower Grove South neighborhood have been very limited this year due to the pandemic. In person tutoring has not taken place since March, 2020, but we are looking forward to resuming once it is reasonably safe to do so. We supported and participated in a distribution of items to Mann families, including books, uniforms, and food, sponsored by the Little Bit Foundation. Phyllis once again purchased and distributed bilingual books.

As schools continue to heroically facilitate the best education they can for our children in the midst of a world-wide health crisis, it's important to keep all of them and particularly our neighborhood elementary, Mann School, on our prayer list.

PeaceMeal – Submitted by Phyllis Jacobson

PeaceMeal continues every Saturday with nine regular teams, including St. John's, plus two once-a-year teams. We currently have six coordinators/coordinator teams from St. John's. We also have other people or groups who ask to volunteer with us. In March of 2020 our regular eat-in routine with time to visit with guests had to change to take-out bags served from the Parish Hall entrance. Nonetheless, in 2021, we were able to continue every week and by and large with decent weather. So now we have continued non-stop every Saturday since PeaceMeal began officially in 2009.

The number of guests ranged from 40 to 60 – averaging about 50 - with a total number served approximately 2,600. The menus are decided by each individual coordinator. Scott Splater still helps with purchasing. A short description of PeaceMeal is on the church web site under the "Serving Our Neighbors tab": Peace Meal - St. John's Episcopal Church - Tower Grove (towergrovechurch.org)

Thanks for all the parish support, personally and financially. A special Diocesan grant in addition to the 2021 Task Force on Hunger grant, plus donations from some of the church groups and individuals, have continued to support the ministry this past year. Besides money, weekly Panera Bread donations are picked up by a team of volunteers. All assignments of coordinators, churches, and bread pick-up are on a rotating basis.

We are thankful to have PeaceMeal on the church's weekly prayer list and encourage all members to keep this ministry in your daily prayers as well. We will need lots of wisdom (with guidance from our clergy) about re-opening to our "usual" way of serving and visiting. We would also like members to put St. John's PeaceMeal dates on their calendars –the 2022 schedule lists February 12, May 28, July 16, September 3, November 5, and December 24. Another need is for at least one new "food-safe" certified coordinator by late March.

Racial Justice – Submitted by Kurt Greenbaum

The group entered hiatus in late 2021 pending discussions about the leadership of the ministry. Members successfully conducted a book study for the parish and others who were interested in attending. That study focused on "The Broken Heart of America." The group is conducting another ongoing book study focused on "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent." The group conducted a speaker series in the first half of 2021 with sporadic attendance. The initiative was abandoned.

Winter Outreach – Submitted by John Eads

We were not activated this past year due to COVID but we look forward to participating in this important ministry in the future

Worship

Acolytes – Submitted by Hannah Harkey

I am happy to report that, although off to a slow start because of the holidays, the acolyte program is up and running!

Because of Covid restrictions, etc. we didn't run the program for most of 2021 but mid-Fall, the Worship Committee decided that we could get it started again! With the addition of wine at Communion, it will be especially helpful to have the acolyte support!

We have four (maybe 5) committed acolytes (6 if you include me!) for 2022. Because of the Holidays things have been slightly delayed, but we now have a schedule for 2022.

Altar Guild – Submitted by Ann Quay Rushing

Altar Guild was back to full swing this year. Opening with an outdoor Easter worship. Altar Guild has kept track of the changing guidelines and brought back Communion bread and for a short while the wine. We will continue to monitor the guidelines and hope to be able have full Communion next year. Thank you to all the Altar Guild members for their continued support.

Lectors – Submitted by Correne Murphy

One of the two major components of the liturgy celebrating God's presence among us is the Liturgy of the WORD. Prior to returning to physically gathering in church we gathered virtually via Zoom. This ministry was carried out through the generous gift of time and voice by four different parishioners each Sunday. Thus the readings from the Old Testament, Psalms, and New Testament were proclaimed each week as well as leading the Prayers of the People. Upon returning to church there is a rotating schedule of seven lectors. One reader takes care of all the readings and Prayers of the People.

There have been occasions when multiple readers were needed: the reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday and the presentation of Lessons and Carols at Christmas.

Music – Submitted by Tracy Baker

As nice as it is to be back in person worshipping, I have to say we are still met with challenges. HUGE thank you to all who have lent their talents, especially Matt and Phyllis, to make music happen during the service. During Advent, the choir was meeting before service to prepare some things for the service. We will continue that during Lent and Easter. If you have any interest at all in joining the choir, the commitment right now is minimal....Sunday mornings at 9:45. Until the pandemic is less threatening, there will be no weeknight rehearsal. The less exposure the better, I think. Also, if you would like to play/sing a solo for the offertory or communion, please let me know. Any variety of music we can provide the congregation would be most appreciated. It would be lovely to have guest musicians play an instrument or sing to enhance our worship service at St. John's. Let's hope and pray the pandemic is over soon, and we can rebuild our choir!

Special worship services – Submitted by the Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn

This past year we celebrated two weddings at St. John's! During Lent we offered two unique services, a virtual hand and foot washing at our Maundy Thursday service and the virtual Stations of the Cross for Pandemic Time on Good Friday.

Ushers & Greeters – Submitted by Jeff McIntire-Strasburg

Greeters/Ushers returned to duty with the return of in-person worship. Six parishioners served in this capacity in the early Summer; by the end of the year, that number had dropped to four. Because of our numbers, we have combined the duties: one person each week serves as both greeter and usher.

Greeting now includes ensuring that everyone who comes to a service signs in for COVID-19 contact tracing purposes.

Financial Reports

St. John's Financial Reports (see separate spreadsheet)

St. John's 2022 Budget and comparison to 2021

	Jan-Dec Actual	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
INCOME			
40000 · Income			
40100 · Pledges & Offerings			
40110 · Pledge Income	84,751	102,836	96,000
40130 · Plate	1,713	5,000	5,000
40140 · Other Offerings	7,242	5,000	6,000
40170 · Fundraising	0	5,000	5,000
Total 40100 · Pledges & Offerings	93,706	117,836	112,000
40200 · Grants			
40210 · Diocese Of MO Clergy Support	33,000	33,000	30,000
40220 · Medical Insur Reimb	0	0	0

40230 · Church Assistance	15,000	15,000	15,000
Total 40200 · Grants	48,000	48,000	45,000
40300 · Peace Meal			
40310 · Diocese of MO Task Force	9,346	7,500	7,500
40320 · Parishioners Donations-PM	1,100	1,000	1,000
40330 · Other Peace Meal Donations	645	4,500	4,500
Total 40300 · Peace Meal	11,091	13,000	13,000
40500 · Other Operating Income			
40510 · Rental Income	19,650	33,000	26,100
40550 · Other Misc Income	722	1,000	1,000
Total 40500 · Other Operating Income	20,372	34,000	27,100
Total 40000 · Income	173,170	212,836	197,100
EXPENSE			
60000 · Program Expenses			
60100 · Clergy Expense			
60110 · Clergy Salary	12,195	40,491	50,210
60115 - Assist Clergy	0	13,753	0
60120 · Clergy Med Insurance	995	0	3,981
60130 · Clergy Pension	2,278	9,764	9,111
60140 · Clergy Life Insurance	81	0	324
60150 · Clergy Continuing Ed	0	611	500
60160 · Clergy Mileage Reimb	0	442	301
60170 · Clergy Expense acct	0		
60180 · Clergy Discretionary Fund	0	0	0
60190 · Supply Clergy	21,920	0	1,000
Total 60100 · Clergy Expense	37,469	65,061	65,427
60200 · Personnel - Non Clergy			
60210 · Parish Administrator	12,945	12,000	15,000
60220 · Director of Music	14,000	14,000	14,000
60240 · Childcare Providers	0	3,000	0
60250 - Sexton	287	6,500	4,500
60260 · Bookkeeper	3,090	4,500	2,000
Total 60200 · Personnel - Non Clergy	30,322	40,000	35,500
60300 · Other Personnel Expenses			
60310 · Payroll Taxes	2,034	0	2,200
60320 · Personnel Screening	0	0	0
60330 · Workers Comp Insurance	421	0	450
60340 · Payroll Service	850	0	850
Total 60300 · Other Personnel Expenses	3,306	4,000	3,500
60400 · Diocese			
60410 · Diocesan Pledge	12,000	12,000	14,599

60420 · White Loan	4,111	5,000	4,200
60400 · Diocese - Other	0	0	0
Total 60400 · Diocese	16,111	17,000	18,799
60500 · Worship Expenses			
60510 · Liturgy & Worship Supplies	1,071	3,750	1,100
60520 · Musicians	975	0	1,000
60530 · Music Supplies	610	0	600
60540 · Organ / Piano Maintenance	200	0	200
Total 60500 · Worship Expenses	2,856	3,750	2,900
60600 · Christian Education			
60630 · Publications & Subscriptions	442	0	400
60610 · Adult Christian Education	0	0	100
60620 · Children's Christian Education	0	0	100
Total 60600 · Christian Education	442	1,000	600
60700 · Hospitality Expense			
60710 · Parish Life Events	719	0	750
60720 · Food for Meetings	100	0	100
60730 · Vestry Retreat	239	0	250
60740 · Gifts	461	0	450
60750 · Conventions & Meetings	250	0	250
Total 60700 · Hospitality Expense	1,770	2,000	1,800
60800 · Outreach Expense			
60810 · Peace Meal	11,091	13,000	11,100
Total 60800 · Outreach Expense	11,091	13,000	11,100
60900 · Communication-Office Expense			
60910 · Printing & Copying	5,821	0	4,600
60920 · Office Supplies	2,976	0	3,000
60930 · Office Equipment	302	0	255
60940 · Advertising	100	0	100
60950 · Postage & Delivery	224	0	250
60960 · Telephone & WIFI	5,647	0	5,700
60970 · Website	0	0	0
60980 · Software	284	0	250
60990 · Dues & memberships	250	0	250
Total 60900 · Communication-Office Expense	15,604	15,000	14,405
Total 60000 · Program Expenses	118,970	160,811	154,031
70000 · Building and Property Security			
70100 · Building & Grounds Maintenance			
70110 · General Plant Upkeep	15,596	4,500	15,600
70120 · Rental Maintenance	0	0	0
70130 · Kitchen Renovation	0	0	0

70140 · Cleaning Service	7,110	5,000	7,100
70150 · Janitorial Supplies	380	400	400
70160 · Snow Removal	0	0	0
Total 70100 · Building & Grounds Maintenance	23,085	9,900	23,100
70200 · Occupancy Expenses			
70210 · Gas			
702101 · Spire - 288548	1,286	0	1,300
702102 · Spire - 188548	2,475	0	2,500
702103 · Gas - 088548	534	0	500
70210 · Gas - Other	0	0	1,700
Total 70210 · Gas	4,294	6,500	6,000
70220 · Electricity			
702201 · Electricity 4110	3,177	0	3,200
702202 · Electricity - 4119	2,320	0	2,300
70220 · Electricity - Other	0	0	0
Total 70220 · Electricity	5,496	4,000	5,500
70230 · Waste Disposal	5,778	3,000	5,800
70240 · Sewer			
702401 · MSD 0162576-3	1,427	0	1,500
702402 · MSD 0419946-9	661	0	600
70240 · Sewer - Other	0	0	0
Total 70240 · Sewer	2,088	1,000	2,100
70250 · Water	644	500	650
70260 · Security	1,367	700	1,400
70270 · Building Insurance	14,363	12,000	14,500
Total 70200 · Occupancy Expenses	34,031	27,700	35,950
Total 70000 · Building and Property Security	57,116	37,600	59,050
80000 · Service & Advocacy	1,758	300	1,500
Total Expense	177,845	198,711	214,581
Net Ordinary Income	-4,675	14,125	-17,481