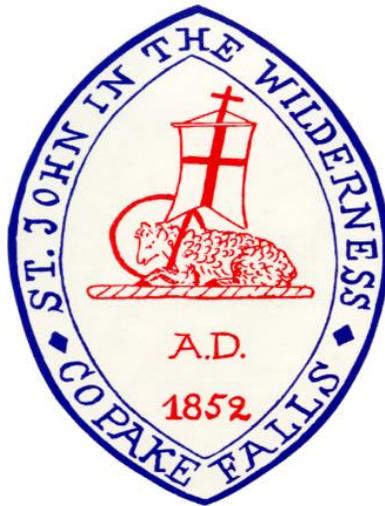


# 2020 Annual Reports

Annual Meeting January 17, 2021

*By Zoom Conference Call  
following 10:00am Morning Prayer*

Rev. John P. Thompson, Rector



Church of St. John in the Wilderness

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**The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestry  
Church of St. John in the Wilderness  
Copake Falls, NY 12517**

**Annual Meeting Agenda  
Sunday, January 17, 2021**

Open Zoom polling	10 am
Zoom Morning Prayer	10 am
Call to Order and Opening Prayer	following Morning Prayer
Report of the Nominating Committee	
Nominations from the floor	
Appointment of tellers and Zoom polling	
Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (January 26, 2020)	
Rector's Report	
Senior Warden's Report	
Stewardship Committee Report	
Building and Grounds Committee Report	
Presentation of remaining annual reports by title	
Finance Committee Report	
Treasurer's Report	
2020 Operating Budget and Endowment Report	
2021 Proposed Budget	
Rector's Appointments	
Report of Tellers	
Other Committee Assignments	
Other Business	
Closing Prayer and Blessing	

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# Rector's Report of Services

January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Sunday Eucharists .....	32
Sunday Morning Prayer .....	41
Weekday Eucharists .....	2
Weekday Morning and Evening Prayer .....	3
Private Eucharists... ..	0
Baptisms... ..	0
Confirmations... ..	0
Receptions... ..	0
Blessing of a Civil Marriage... ..	0
Laying on of Hands & Anointing... ..	1
Funerals... ..	2

## **Rector's Appointments 2021**

Altar Guild Chair: Elen Freeston

Altar Guild Treasurer: Mibs Zelley

Candle Fund: Jane Peck

Acolytes: Harry Koeppel, David Chittick, Margaret Anderson, Brian Boom,  
Wendy Langlois, Vinnie Kobos

Eucharistic Ministers: Harry Koeppel, Margaret Anderson, Brian Boom,  
Wendy Langlois, Lola Neill, Vinnie Kobos

Organist & Choir Director: Edith Hedrick

Church Service Bulletins: Milbrey Zelley and Jane Peck

Newsletter Editors: Jim and Patricia Wann

Treasurer: Karen Flynn

Bookkeeper: Debbie Jones

Assistant Treasurer/Pledge Recorder: Milbrey Zelley

Investment Manager: Charley Musselman and team

Clerk of the Vestry: Open

Sunday School: Wendy Langlois

Graveyard Committee: Buildings and Grounds

Building and Grounds: Marjorie Hoog

Soiree: Open

Stewardship Chair: Open

Capital Campaign Co-Chairs: Brian Boom and Lucy Eldridge

## Rector's Report

Thank you all for being part of St. John in the Wilderness. This is a blessed place to be – even when we are here in a different way these days – on Zoom.

As I said in the September Voice in the Wilderness, 2020 was an astonishing year. New and shocking things kept happening. And now shocking events continue in 2021 - for example, a mob invading the Capitol Building. But the biggest news, of course, is the covid-19 pandemic which has changed all of our lives. Most of us know people who have had the virus and some know those who have died. A couple of our members have had it – though I don't know of a member who has had a serious case. And of course there's been tremendous financial hardship and painful isolation for many in this country and the world. But thank God, human ingenuity has created effective vaccines. The wider distribution of vaccines cannot come too soon.

There have been other blessings this year. In the face of racist police and vigilante violence and killing of black people and other people of color, there has been increased awareness among white people of the destructive racism which has never ended since the first slave was brought to this country in 1619. More white people than ever joined the protests led by people of color for racial justice this summer. St. John in the Wilderness this fall had a lively and rich discussion of Ijeoma Oluo's book, *So You Want to Talk about Race*.

Big thanks are due the Vestry, the lay leadership team I work with -- outgoing Senior Warden Wendy Langlois and Junior Warden Elen Freeston, Treasurer Karen Flynn, outgoing Vestry Clerk Richard Peck and outgoing Vestry member Peggy Anderson. Thanks also to continuing members Lucy Eldridge, Jane Peck, Mibs Zelle, Ginny Johnson and Charley Musselman who served a one year term and is willing to re-up. I thank them for their leadership and good work. And we thank those who assist the Treasurer in her work.

I thank all who participate in vital ministries at St. John in the Wilderness. This includes Sunday morning worship and the live worship music which we have missed enjoying in person. We're grateful too for the ministry of the Candle Fund – we continue to burn the Sanctuary Candle. Those who create the newsletter and bulletin deserve thanks; the Petersons who are outgoing and the Wanns who are incoming editors of *A Voice in the Wilderness*. I want to thank the Stewardship Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee for their good work. Thank you to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their good work. Please look at the list of Rector's Appointments last year and this for many of the leaders of various ministries and committees.

I also want to express our gratitude to new ministries in 2021 like the Reopening Team which I work with and which enabled us to have joyful and safe outdoor worship this summer and several weeks of worship in the church this fall before a resurgence of Covid forced us back to Zoom only worship and meetings. And I want to thank Charley Musselman and Elen Freeston who provided technical support in doing Zoom worship.

See the 2020 calendar in the Annual Report for some of the things we were able to do and some of the things we missed doing this pandemic year at St. John in the Wilderness. See the 2021 calendar for tentative events this year.

We celebrate St. John's ministries and outreach to those in need, for examples, our continued generosity to the local food bank and also to Episcopal Relief and Development. We will continue to support Episcopal Relief and Development on ERD Sunday next month. Members and friends of St. John the Wilderness were also very generous in supporting Christmas Friends which provides gifts for children in need. St. John's also supported Thanksgiving Baskets and Christmas Baskets recently.

When we can resume in person events safely is unclear. But stay tuned. I'm looking forward to that day!

I'm proud of all of you, members and friends of St. John in the Wilderness – your resilience, courage and generosity enables us to move forward into the future with hope.

Finally, we remember and honor those who have passed on this year: David Valden, the Rev. Charlie Close, Andrew Campbell and Oliver Paul Wolf.

Thank you and blessings for the new year.

John+

The Rev. John P. Thompson, Rector

## **Senior Warden's Report**

It's an honor to serve on the Vestry, especially as Senior Warden. For me, it's a good way to give back to the parish and say "thank you." I recently came across my first article as a Senior Warden submitted to our "Voice" newsletter. I optimistically wrote "Over the coming year I have no worries that we can tackle anything that comes our way." Who could've guessed what was coming our way? We, as a parish and as individuals, have truly been challenged by the pandemic this past year, and unfortunately it continues to cause so many people so much pain.

During Lent the Roe Jan Churches scheduled the annual Lenten Wednesday soup and bread suppers. St. John in the Wilderness was the first church to host on March 4th. It was a well-attended evening with wonderful food and good fellowship. Unfortunately, the rest of the program was cancelled. A few weeks later New York was on lockdown and the church doors closed for in-house services.

The Vestry and Fr. John has always strived to keep our parishioners' safety the priority. We started Zooming Sunday Morning Prayer shortly before Easter. When the number of Covid cases in the state and county started to level out and then decrease, a "Re-opening Committee" was organized and met to plan strategy for safe, in-person Sunday Services. Thank you to Elen Freeston, Lucy Eldridge and Fr. John Thompson for their work planning both the outdoor services during the summer months and the in-door services when the weather cooled off.

All the while, Zoom services have continued. It gave our parishioners the opportunity to be together. Thank you to Charlie Mussleman, Elen Freeston, Fr John Thompson, Fr. Walt Zelle and Mibs Zelle as the Zoom Team, From the very beginning, this was the team that perfected the Zoom service. The ability to Zoom is such an important function because it keeps us all connected and allows us to carry on with church business. It's a good thing. Our Vestry has been meeting on Zoom since the beginning of the pandemic. The various committees have continued with their work as well.

Thank you to Marjorie Hoog who heads up the Building and Grounds Committee and thank you to Brian Boom and Lucy Eldridge who co-chair the Capital Campaign. Both Committees have been laying the groundwork for upcoming renovations and upgrades to the church. Some projects had to be put on hold this past year but quite possibly may be able to start this coming Spring. Thank you to Lucy Eldridge who chaired the Stewardship Drive for 2021. Our pledges are so important as they help support St John's operating expenses. We thank all who generously pledged this year; we continue to ask for your support throughout this coming year.

I'd like to thank the members of the Vestry for their true dedication, hard work and spirit. Thank you to Richard Peck, Clerk of the Vestry and also to Karen Flynn, our Treasurer. This coming year will be better than the last. With God's grace, when it's safe, we'll be able to return to in-person church services again and have Edee and the choir back, singing our favorite hymns loud and clear.

Respectfully,

Wendy Langlois

## Church Calendar for St. John in the Wilderness, 2020

January 22, Wednesday, Ecumenical Worship Service, Our Lady of Hope Church, 6:30PM

January 26, Sunday, Annual Meeting, Burke Hall, 10AM (January 19 annual meeting cancelled due to snow storm)

February 2, Sunday, Winds in the Wilderness concert, 3PM, reception follows concert, Burke Hall

February 20, Wednesday, 10AM, St. John's provides soups for Our Lady of Hope lunch for Women, Infants & Children, WIC, (sponsored by Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene County)

February 26, Wednesday, Ash Wednesday 10 AM and 7:30PM services

March 1, Sunday, Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

March 4, Wednesday, Lenten Supper, 6:30PM followed by Lenten Service  
*Services the following four Wednesdays at other churches cancelled as of March 18.*

March 29 Aging Life Service Coffee Hour with Amy Carman (*postponed*)

April 5, Sunday, Palm Sunday, (via Zoom), 10AM

April 9, Thursday, Maundy Thursday, {via Zoom with Christ Church, Greenville), 7PM

April 10, Friday, Good Friday, (via Zoom with Christ Church, Greenville), 7PM

April 12, Sunday Easter (by Zoom with Christ Church, Greenville), 9:30AM

April 19, Sunday, *Talk by Dale Peterson at Roe Jan Historical Society, "St. John in the Wilderness, Richard Upjohn's Rural Masterpiece in American Architectural History."* 3PM, followed by visit to St. John's (*postponed*).

April 22, Wednesday, Earth Day

April 25, Saturday, *Baptism of Crosby Jacob Brown, 12 noon, New Paltz (postponed)*

May 31, Sunday, 3PM, Hudson Valley Deanery Meeting. Begin with Evening Prayer. (Hosted by John+ via Zoom)

June 5-7, Friday, Diocesan Convention (Postponed)

August 8 and 9, Saturday and Sunday, Sacred Sites Open House Weekend,  
Saturday 1-3PM,

August 9, Sunday, 12-3PM, *Art of Applique* Quilt Exhibition Opening, 5PM,  
Saturday, August 8

August 15, Saturday, Copake Falls Day, Salad Bar, 11AM (Cancelled)

August 16, Sunday, Deanery Meeting, 3PM Begins with Evening Prayer (hosted  
by John+ via Zoom)

September 13, Sunday, Stewardship Pledge Campaign begins

October 4, Sunday, 3PM, *St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals, followed by  
walk to Roe Jan Historical Society to view children's exhibition of animal art  
(done by children at Roe Jan Library), refreshments, visits by local vets, animal  
rescue organizations. (Cancelled)*

October 24, Saturday, Diocesan Convention (Business Meeting only) via Zoom

October 24, Saturday, *Stewardship Harvest Dinner, 6PM (Cancelled)*

November 21, Saturday, Stewardship Toast, 5PM via Zoom

November 26, Thursday, Thanksgiving Day

December 6, Sunday, Holiday Bazaar, Rectory Porch, 12-4

December 13, Sunday, Deanery Meeting, 3PM via Zoom

December 16, Wednesday, Blue Christmas, 6PM via Zoom

December 24, Thursday, Christmas Eve, 7:30 PM, Service, via Zoom

December 25, Friday, Christmas Day

## Diocesan Convention 2020

The (Zoom) Diocesan Convention was an abbreviated (due to covid) business meeting Saturday, October 24 – one day only. Wendy Langlois and I zoomed in for convention. The main news from convention was that Bishop William Love, the Diocesan Bishop of Albany, announced his resignation effective February 1, 2021. “Bishops Love’s issuance in November 2018 of a Pastoral Direction requiring his clergy to refrain from performing same-sex marriages... violated the Discipline and Worship of the Church, which Bishop Love promised to uphold in his ordination vows.” *Office of Public Affairs of the Episcopal Church.*

Bishop Love: "The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church and I, the Rt. Rev. William H. Love, Bishop of Albany voluntarily entered into an Accord which became effective October 21, 2020, with the unanimous approval of the Disciplinary Board of the House of Bishops... I will resign as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Albany, effective February 1, 2021; I will begin a one month terminal sabbatical beginning January 1, 2021; I agree to continue to abide by the January 11, 2019 Restrictions placed upon my ministry by the Presiding Bishop until the effective date of my resignation as Bishop; I will work with the Presiding Bishop through the Office of Pastoral Development to help foster a healthy transition from my leadership as Bishop Diocesan, as the Diocese begins a new chapter in its history; and lastly, I acknowledge that upon February 1, 2021, the effective date of my resignation as Bishop Diocesan, my November 10, 2018, Pastoral Directive regarding B012 will lose force."

So, like all other Episcopal dioceses in the United States, clergy and laity in the Diocese of Albany will be able to celebrate same-sex marriages (as has been the case here since January 11, 2019).

John Thompson+

## Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee of St. John in the Wilderness launched the 2021 pledge campaign with a wonderful letter written to the parish by Senior Warden, Wendy Langlois. Dale and Louise Peterson generated a comprehensive list of those people to send pledge requests, and printed up the request letter, and pledge card.

As in past years, several members spoke during Sunday services as to their feelings about the church, including member Jay Corcoran. Following are bulleted remarks from Jay's pledge talk concerning his high regard for the church:

- The place (beauty of the church at the base of the mountain) with a candle-lit interior like many European churches
- John's accessible sermons and how he ties the gospel and other readings on how we can apply those lessons to our daily lives, and the emphasis on community service
- The prayer and meditation group...when I think about the challenges of 2020, especially the Pandemic, one of the silver linings was the chance to join a terrific group of people to discuss a short passage from the bible and meditate for 20 minutes each Wednesday. Something so simple, yet something which provided much-needed balm for the soul

Pledges for 2021 started to arrive in the early fall and by October 23, 17 donors had pledged with a total of \$38,718. As of January 6, 2021, the number of pledging units had increased to 46 pledging units with a total of \$84,898. In place of the usual Stewardship Dinner, (due to the Pandemic) a Stewardship Toast took place on Saturday, October 24 via Zoom. We are grateful, of course, for the continued generosity of the church members toward the day to day, week to week, month to month, operating budget of St. John's. This year, thank you notes were sent to all people who had pledged so generously to the 2021 campaign.

Although we did not meet our pledge goal of \$98,000, we are nonetheless cheered by the steady and generous giving on the part of members of St. John's. Thanks, of course, goes to all those who have participated; and most especially, hats off and heartfelt thanks to our hard-working and able Pledge Treasurer, Mibs Zelle!

Lucy Eldridge, Chair

## Building Committee Report

In spite of the challenging events of 2020, the Building Committee has been able to move forward, although not quite at the quick pace we had hoped.

- The drawings for the **Sacristy Renovation** are almost complete. We expect to put the project out to bid in February 2021. Our Architect is Jack Alvarez, who also worked on the bell tower project some five years ago.
- The bid documents for **replacement of the boilers and hot water heaters** at both the Church and the Rectory are complete. We would love to have someone volunteer to be in charge of getting and awarding the bids. We expect the work to be done this Spring. The documents were generated by Crawford Engineering.
- The drawings for the **accessibility ramp for the Church entrance** are almost complete. The architect Jack Alvarez worked in concert with Jamie Purinton, our landscape architect. We should be able to go out to bid in the Spring.

After the three projects above are bid and awarded, we will know how much remaining funds we have to spend, as the Capital Campaign project is ongoing and has not reached its stated goal.

We believe that the following projects are prioritized:

- Cosmetic upgrade of the **Church interior**;
- Upgrade of **Burke Hall**;
- **New shed and porch** to support outdoor functions (including our large outdoor benefits) and new **parking area next to the Rectory**.

Parallel to these efforts, we are planning to apply for an upgrade of the **Pomeroy graveyard** and have received a generous pledge toward the creation of a **gathering place for meditation and prayer** at the East end of the property.

Thank you to the members of the Building Committee, which includes Lucy Eldridge, Bob Flynn, Elen Freeston, Dale Peterson.

Anyone interested in volunteering to bid the work above, please contact me at [mjie82@aol.com](mailto:mjie82@aol.com).

2021 promises to be a constructive year!

Marjorie Hoog

## Capital Campaign Committee Report

The Capital Campaign Committee was formed in 2017 to coordinate the fundraising effort for long-term needs of St. John's buildings and grounds. During 2020, the Committee included among its membership Brian Boom (Co-Chair), Lucy Eldridge (Co-Chair), Karen Flynn, Martha Glantz, Marjorie Hoog, Virginia Johnson, Marilyn Kay, Dale Peterson, Louise Peterson, and John Thompson. David Eldridge continued serving as a pro bono advisor. In 2020, the Committee held meetings on January 26, February 23, and October 3.

In St. John's 2019 Annual Report, the Capital Campaign Committee reported that a brochure describing the vision and goals of this initiative, *Campaign for St. John in the Wilderness: Sustaining People, Place, and Peace, 2019-2022*, along with supporting documents, have been published and are available online at <https://www.stjohnw.org/> or by request as printed documents from one of the Committee co-chairs. As reported in the 2019 Annual Report, 59% of the Campaign's goal of \$322,000 had been achieved. By the conclusion of 2020, gifts and pledges towards this goal had increased to 69% thanks to the ongoing generosity of individual parishioners and community members, private foundations, local businesses, and non-profit organizations, such as the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society.

The Committee continues actively pursuing gifts from private philanthropies. For example, this year we received a \$3,500 grant from the Sacred Sites program of The New York Landmarks Conservancy to help with architectural and engineering fees for the first phase of the Capital Campaign's implementation. Other funding requests are pending. For example, the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation was asked to support St. John's preservation efforts to maintain interior finishes of the church, including painting of interior, gold leaf lettering, refinishing pews, and new carpeting, and Trinity Church Wall Street was asked for general support of the Capital Campaign; Trinity was the original donor that funded St. John's church and rectory buildings, and more recently Trinity supported St. John's Bell Tower preservation project. Additional funding requests are planned for 2021, such as to The William G. Pomeroy Foundation.

The Committee is very grateful to the many people and organizations that have generously supported the Capital Campaign's vital theme of sustaining people, place, and peace at St. John's into the future. Individuals wishing to contribute to St. John's Capital Campaign for the first time, or those who would like to make a supplemental gift in addition to their initial pledge, may obtain a 2021 Capital Campaign Pledge Form from one of the Committee's co-chairs. Organizations interested to learn more about St. John's Capital Campaign and how its goals are

synergistic with supporting community wellbeing are likewise invited to contact us. St. John's facilities already play an important role by providing spaces for people to gather for learning, fellowship, and growth. The Capital Campaign will raise funds to enhance St. John's community role by increasing accessibility of buildings and grounds, adding new parking, and creating new paths and gathering places, such as an outdoor prayer/meditation circle.

Brian Boom and Lucy Eldridge, Co-Chairs

## **Family Programs and Activities**

There were no scheduled activities this past year due to the pandemic. I'm hoping to "think outside the box" with some modified activities as we head into 2021. My goal is to keep St. John in the Wilderness visible to our community with activities geared towards the neighborhood children and their families.

For instance, I'd like to somehow work out a "virtual" Easter Egg Hunt either by having folks send photos of their own family Easter egg hunts and then figure out the best & safest way to share those pix.

Other possibilities that are family friendly & good community outreach:

To celebrate our Patron Saint, St. John the Baptist on his feast day by bringing back the play we did many years ago.

Earth Day activities/recycle/eco-awareness, etc.

St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day – animal awareness/pet friendly activities.

The Community-wide Christmas Pageant.

These are some activities to think about. The trick will be making them pandemic-safe for everyone. As I mentioned above, it will have to be inventive and not your "normal" style of presenting the activity but it's worth a try to figure it out! I'd love to hear anyone's thoughts on this.

God Bless and stay safe,

Wendy Langlois

## From the Organ Bench

We don't have much to report this year, thanks to COVID-19. We hope that the new year will allow us to recover our mission to "make a joyful noise" for all of you.

Meanwhile, we wish you all a safe and healthy 2021.

Sincerely,

Edee Hedrick

## 2020 Annual Report from the Altar Guild

As we are all too familiar, 2020 has been a year like no other. Thank God. The Altar Guild has been at home like everyone else. We were involved in preparing for outdoor summer services and with preparing the church for inside services, though they were brief. I believe it is realistic to assume that 2021 will be much the same, at least until we can be outside. Take heart, we are all still here and hope to stay so. This too shall pass and our community, thanks to zoom has been able to visit our little faces. The Altar Guild is here and we look forward to dressing the church and enjoying our lives together.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Elen J. Freeston, Chair

Altar Guild Account	
Opening Balance 1/1/20	\$531.74
Deposits	\$377.57
Interest	\$0.06
Withdrawals	\$0.00
Closing Balance 12/31/20	\$909.37

## ECW Treasurer's Report, 1/1/20 – 12/31/20

Account 45000809

Balance 1/1/20	\$1,598.17
<b>Income</b>	
Interest	.09
Total Income 2020	.09
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pledge	\$ 800.00
Balance 12/31/20	\$ 798.26

The ECW is and has been inactive for about two years. When services that are needed that the ECW had done in the past these services are now being done by individuals. Therefore, we have decided to close the ECW account and transfer the remaining balance of \$798.26 to the Church as our final pledge.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane C. Peck, Treasurer

## Birthday and Memorial Candle Fund

As of December 31, 2020, there were 40 members of the Birthday Candle Fund.

New members are always welcome and you do not need to be a member of the parish. In order to become a new member please contact Jane Peck, 518-329-2734; [jcp@fairpoint.net](mailto:jcp@fairpoint.net), and indicate the month and date of your birthday (the year is not necessary) and your address. About the time of your birthday you will receive a birthday card with an envelope for you to send in a donation to the Birthday Candle Fund. Please be sure to indicate on your check that it is for the Birthday Candle Fund.

The Memorial Candle Fund works about the same way but instead of birthdays this fund remembers our past friends or relatives. The memorial candles can also be to honor someone special or special events or for anniversaries.

Finally, the Sanctuary Candle is lit for one week and can be used for the same remembrances as the Memorial Candles.

The Birthday Candle Fund birthday, the Memorial Candle Fund and Sanctuary Candle donors are all printed in the Sunday Bulletin.

The Candle Fund was started in 1952 by Isabel Kilpatrick as a way to raise money to support the purchase of the candles. Until 1964 the candles were the only source of light in the Church. We still use the funds received for the candle funds to pay for the candles. As time goes by the members that support these funds are decreasing so new members are really appreciated. By supporting the Candle Fund, we are helping to balance the budget. St. John in the Wilderness is known throughout the community as “the Candle Church”. Help us to keep the candles glowing and continue with our tradition.

Many thanks to all who have supported these Funds as we begin the 68<sup>th</sup> year of the Candle Fund.

Jane Peck, Coordinator

## **Birthday and Memorial Candle Fund Treasurer Report**

Balance 12/31/19		\$5,511.91
	Birthday Fund Donations	\$431.00
	Memorial Fund Donations	\$150.00
	Easter Candles	\$0
	Christmas Candles	\$0
	Interest	0.56
	2020 Income	\$581.56
	2020 Expenses	\$0
Balance 12/31/20		\$6,093.47

The treasurer has not deposited any donations since May 8<sup>th</sup> to the Candle Fund Account. Donations received and deposited to the bank from May 9<sup>th</sup> through December 31, 2020 total \$262.00. This amount is included in the balance above.

## Website Report

Our website, [stjohnw.org](http://stjohnw.org), is in its fourteenth year. Last year we received 15,430 visitors, a 7.2% decrease from 2019. Most needed information is on our front page and many visitors don't go past that. Next most popular pages (in December) are *Voice in the Wilderness* (6% of visitors) and Archive (6%). Almost half our visitors call from outside Columbia County. Although our website serves basic and useful information, it has not kept up with advancing technologies like Cascading Style Sheets, PHP, or integration with PayPal. We would welcome the participation of persons with competence or interest in website design to aid in website improvement. I would like to pass the website on to them as soon as convenient.

<http://stjohnw.org/>

Charley Musselman, Webmaster

### A Voice in the Wilderness

In 2020 A Voice in the Wilderness, the church newsletter was published five times:

- The February issue included news on the January Annual Meeting, including changes to church leadership.
- In March, the Voice first reported on the impact of Covid-19. Sunday services were put on hold.
- May brought news of the Capital Campaign and the start of planning for construction, with the start date anticipated in 2021.
- In September members of the parish were invited to tell about their experiences during pandemic. Karen Flynn told of her work at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington. Jean Peck said she is well cared-for in her senior living community near Rochester, but with limitations on visits with family. Marya and Bob Dodd missed concerts at Tanglewood, days in the Adirondacks and other summer pleasures, including outdoors Eucharist.
- November brought news of suspension of Eucharist again with the return of colder weather. It was announced the Dale and Louise Peterson will retire as Voice editors after the 2021 Annual Meeting. Jim and Patricia Wann have graciously agreed to take the helm in 2021.

With great thanks for your support over the last ten years,

Louise and Dale

## **Finance Committee Report 2020**

The finance committee members: Martha Glantz, Lola Neill, Karen Wimmer, and Karen Flynn reviewed last year's budget and Merrill Lynch endowment account. The proposed 2021 budget was also reviewed via e-mail with background assistance from our bookkeeper Debbie Jones. The committee accepted the resignation of David Webb and thanks him for his service and support and oversight of our investments over the last few years.

2020's budget was generally successful due to additional funds received from the Brandt estate, fuel bills prepaid in 2019, and the receipt and forgiveness of payroll protection funds. Thanks to Charley Musselman who worked with our bookkeeper to do the work to obtain the PPP money.

Our budget for 2021 is based on many unknowns centering around the ongoing pandemic.

Our pledges are holding fairly steady thanks to the continued generosity of our loyal members, but we remain uncertain when we will be able to conduct fund raising activities or in person church services. The good news is that we have monies in our checking and savings accounts that can be used to augment the budget for 2021.

With the resignation of David Webb, the vestry will need to appoint a committee to review our investments in both our Merrill Lynch (Endowment Account) and JP Morgan Chase (Capital Campaign Account). The vestry plans a virtual meeting with our Merrill Lynch representative and the newly formulated Investment Committee early in 2021.

Thank you to the Mibs Zelle for her work on collecting, categorizing and depositing pledges and donations, Lucy Eldridge and the Stewardship Committee, Louise Peterson for her work on the capital campaign, the Vestry, Father John and all who have adapted to the virtual world of 2020 and 2021. It takes a village!

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Flynn, Treasurer

<b>Church of St. John in the Wilderness</b>						
<b>Investment and Interest Income 1/1/20-12/31/20</b>						
	1/1/2020	Deposits	Withdrawals	Int/Div	Investments Gains/Losses	12/31/2020
<b>General Savings</b>						
Key Silver MM	\$ 51,069	\$ 23,205	\$ (24,300)	\$ 26		\$ 50,000
Key Saver Graveyard savings	\$ 4,346	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 4,346
<b>Investments</b>						
ML Equity Portfolio	\$ 377,294	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 81,052	\$ 458,346
ML Fixed Income	\$ 347,698	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,185	\$ 359,883
Chase Upjohn Capital Fund	\$ 191,072	\$ 57,128	\$ (1,950)	\$ -	\$ 15,389	\$ 261,639
<b>Total</b>	\$ 971,479					\$ 1,134,214

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS			
2020 Final Budget / 2021 Proposed			
	2020 Proposed	2020 Actual	2021 Proposed
<b>INCOME</b>			
Plate Offering	\$ 4,500	\$ 253	\$ 1,000
Pledge	\$ 96,000	\$ 88,150	\$ 85,000
Special Offerings	\$ 1,000	\$ 68	\$ 500
ECW	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 798
Special Events	\$ 18,000	\$ 607	\$ 3,000
Gifts	\$ 5,000	\$ 27,492	\$ 5,000
Rental	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,000	\$ 381	\$ 300
Interest Income	\$ -	\$ 143	\$ 150
Subtotal	\$ 127,200	\$ 117,894	\$ 95,748
Payroll protection	\$ -	\$ 15,600	?
Transfer from Endowment	\$ 1,500	\$ -	
Transfer from Checking and Savings			\$ 31,400
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 128,700</b>	<b>\$ 117,894</b>	<b>\$ 127,148</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Rector</b>			
Salary	\$ 41,556	\$ 41,556	\$ 42,390
Employer Portion FICA & Medicare	\$ 4,488	\$ 4,651	\$ 4,578
Pension	\$ 11,100	\$ 10,571	\$ 11,322
Medical Ins.	\$ 12,100	\$ 12,099	\$ 12,100
Travel & Expense Allowance	\$ 3,400	\$ -	\$ 3,400
Housing Equity Allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Professional Development Allowance	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
F.I.C.A.	\$ 480	\$ 480	\$ 490
Organist	\$ 6,264	\$ 6,264	\$ 6,390
Church School	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	\$ 4,450	\$ 4,450	\$ 4,540
Music	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 400
Convention Del.	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Discretionary Fund	\$ 450	\$ 505	\$ 450
Diocesan Assess.	\$ 4,995	\$ 4,995	\$ 5,000
Deanery Assess.	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75
Electricity	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,094	\$ 1,100
Heat	\$ 8,300	prepaid	\$ 8,300
Telephone	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,554	\$ 1,600
Cleaning	\$ 5,460	\$ 5,510	\$ 5,600
Repairs	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,231	\$ 2,000
Maintenance	\$ 9,800	\$ 4,976	\$ 5,000
Office Supplies	\$ 800	\$ 1,137	\$ 900
Postage	\$ 425	\$ 151	\$ 200
Insurance	\$ 4,975	\$ 4,731	\$ 4,975
Outreach	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 129,568</b>	<b>\$ 108,529</b>	<b>\$ 125,610</b>