

# A Voice in the Wilderness

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS | APRIL 2021

## Thoughts from the Wilderness

Hope is in the air! Literally – spring is here and most of us who qualify are being (or have been) vaccinated (and increasing numbers qualify for the covid vaccine). It's been a brutal year of devastating pandemic and racist violence and bigotry. And yet, a year which has included many heroes pulling together working to save lives and doing the many kinds of work that needs to be done even with higher risks; and also a year with more people demonstrating for and working for racial justice and reconciliation. As people of color know, racism has always been here. Now some (not enough) non-Hispanic white people are becoming more aware of it and working as allies with people of color for racial justice.



*As everyone knows, the pandemic is not over yet. Still, with both spring and a rapid increase in vaccine availability happening at the same time – hope is in the air.*



Let us peacefully, joyfully and deeply breathe in that hope in the triple blessing of spring, effective vaccines and Easter itself! Easter – the ultimate good news for Christians, showing us in Jesus' overcoming and rising from death, that we always have hope! God is a God of the living as Jesus explained to those who wondered: When you understand

the scriptures and understand the power of God, then you understand that the dead can be raised. And Jesus gives the example of God's words to Moses at the burning bush, "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob! He is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive!"

Through all the blessings of life and through the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune - like this year – we do not give up hope.

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## CALENDAR for Holy Week

**Thursday, April 1**  
**Maundy Thursday**  
7:30PM via Zoom

**Friday, April 2**  
**Good Friday**  
7:30PM via Zoom

**Sunday, April 4**  
**Easter**  
Sunrise Service  
in the Graveyard  
circa 7:00AM,  
Internet Church 10AM

## A Bit About Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Washing of the Feet (Maundy) and Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. It is so named in the Book Of Common Prayer and also used by other denominations, two being the Lutheran Church and the Presbyterian Church, but not all. The Roman Catholic Church uses the name "Holy Thursday", for example. But throughout the Anglican Communion, "Holy Thursday" refers to the day of the Ascension, and "Maundy Thursday" is the day before Good Friday.

WORD FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

# Happy Easter one and all.

There seems to be light at the end of the tunnel, how appropriate. The Church opening committee has met and we are looking at our options for “in person” gathering. There is work being done to arrange for Father John to broadcast Sunday services from church on YouTube and we plan to follow those services with Zoom coffee hour so we will be able to see each others faces.

We will certainly plan to do outdoor services as soon as it warms up. We will have to determine how we will handle vaccine policy as we gather. Masks will continue to be required, at least for now. As you can see there are still issues to be determined and we still have the next several months to remain

concerned about. As you all know this virus is unlike anything the medical community has ever seen before and its future behavior remains unknown. We will hope and pray. We as a community remain intact and everyone has been terrific doing what they can to help others.

Our Wendy Langlois agreed to Chair the Stewardship Committee as well as taking on a 5 year term as Clerk of the Vestry. Thank you ever so much Wendy. Things will soon be green and flowering so be of good faith and remember we are loved. Hope to see you in church but until then see you on Zoom.

*As ever,  
Elen J Freeston, Senior Warden*



## St. John's Rectory Copake Iron Works, N.Y. Postcard



## Thoughts from the Wilderness

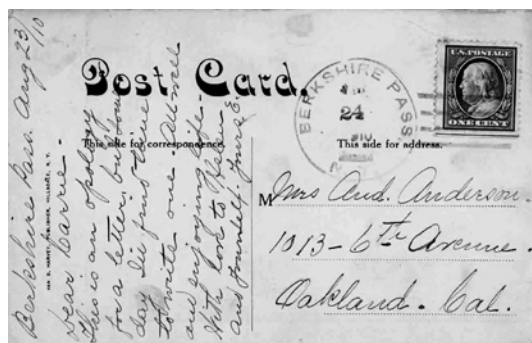
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After winter comes spring; after a pandemic come effective vaccines (thank God for human ingenuity). After the worst that life can throw at us – illness, death, human hatred and economic collapse, come healing, hope, new life and new provision. Much healing remains needed – physical healing, healing from the grief of lost loved ones and the trauma of long-term isolation, and also healing from the wounds of bigotry and hatred.

With hope in our hearts, spring in the air and a new spring in our step let us be channels of God's healing to others and to all of God's creation.

With these things in mind, weather permitting, we hope to have a joyful Sunrise Service Easter Sunday morning. Some have the tradition of doing Easter sunrise services in a graveyard. We hope to have the service in our beautiful graveyard. This will be a joyful celebration of the hope we have for both ourselves and our loved ones who've gone before us. But don't worry if you're not an early bird (I'm not), as we also plan to have an Easter Sunday service at 10 AM on Zoom.

*In peace, John+*



# CAPITAL CAMPAIGN *Update*

As mentioned in the Feb. 2021 issue of *A Voice in the Wilderness*

**Two Capital Campaign projects are slated to begin this Spring season, one inside the church building and the other in front of the building.**

John D. Alvarez II, of the firm Landmark Consulting, was the architect for both projects.

**Inside the church, we will see the beginning of the major initiative to overhaul the Sacristy, from wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling.**

This is an important behind-the-scenes area in great need of renovations, which serves the Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs), Ushers, and, of course, Father John and guest celebrants.

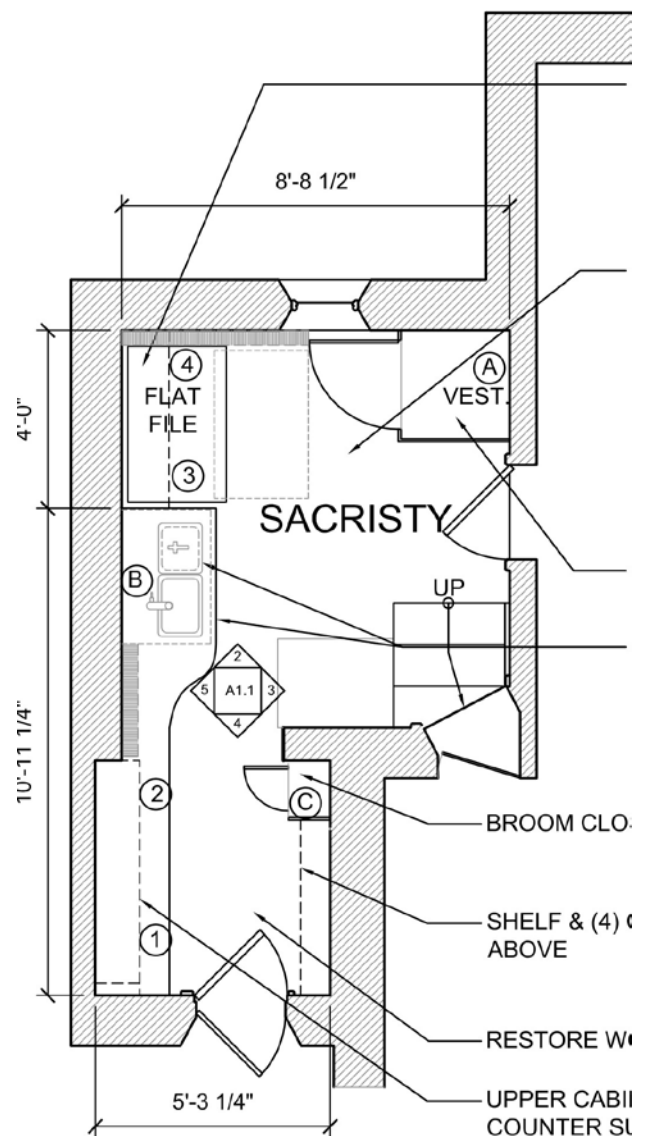
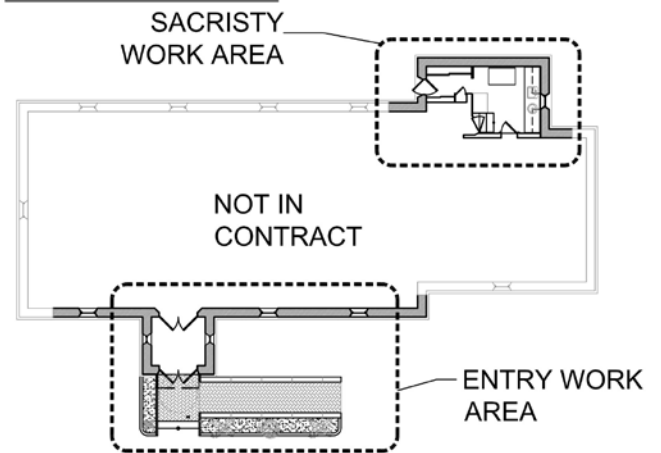
**Outside the church is the construction of a new exterior walkway to the front of the church to provide a more accessible entrance.**

The locations of both projects are shown in the following Work Area Plan, prepared by Mr. Alvarez. To quote from Mr. Alvarez's project summary: *"The proposed Sacristy project includes removals of selected finishes and modern millwork, installation of new lighting, selective electrical upgrades, counter surfaces, millwork, plumbing & associated fixtures, heating, accessories and floor reinforcing with upgraded floor finishes."* To the right is a cropped drawing of the Sacristy project.

To quote from Mr. Alvarez's summary of the church entry accessibility improvements project: *"The proposed accessibility upgrades include the construction of a new inclined walkway, landscaping, exterior landing and stairs to grade. In addition to accessibility upgrades along the south excavation, repairs, water proofing and drainage shall be performed per engineer's site design documents."*

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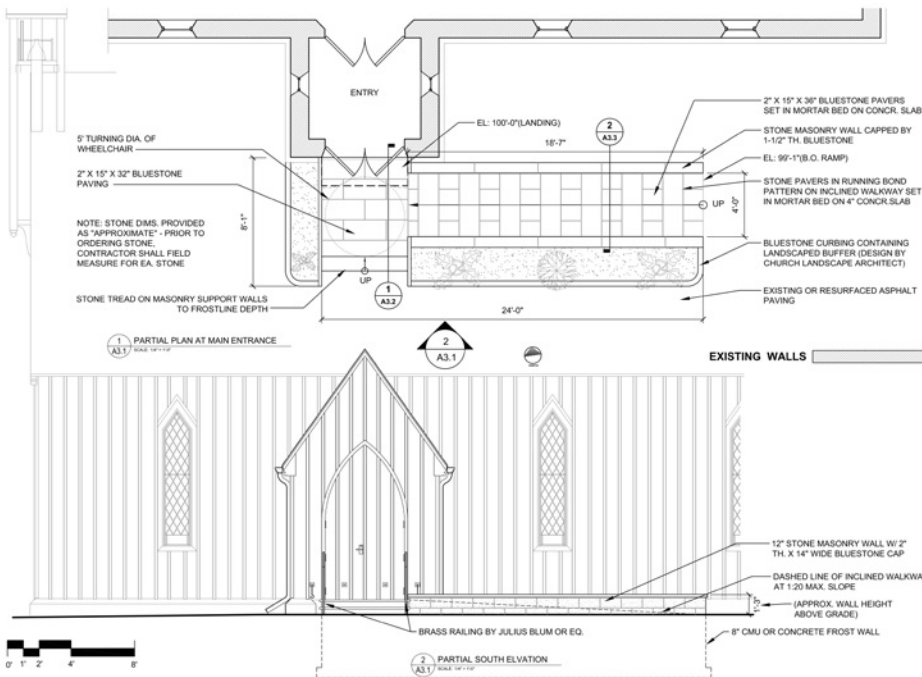
## WORK AREA PLAN



1 SACRISTY PLAN  
A1.1 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

# Capital Campaign Update

Continued from Page 3



## Above is a drawing of the accessibility improvements project.

These two projects are made possible, in part, by a generous \$3,500 grant from the Sacred Sites program of The New York Landmarks Conservancy, as announced in the May 2020 issue of this newsletter. Specifically, this grant was made to help St. John's cover the architectural and engineering fees for the first phase of the Capital Campaign's implementation. This was a 1:1 matching grant, so St. John's had to provide an equivalent amount of funds from other sources, which, of course, we were able to do thanks to private gifts received in the Capital Campaign.

**Stay tuned for information on groundbreaking celebratory events for these projects in the coming weeks.** In the meantime, if you would like to review the Capital Campaign's plans, please see the Summary Brochure. If you would like to make a pledge towards the Capital Campaign, please contact one of us to discuss. You can download a Pledge Form here or we would be pleased to send a form to you. On behalf of the Capital Campaign Committee, we extend our sincere thanks to the many individuals and organizations that have contributed so generously to the Campaign's goal of Sustaining People, Place, and Peace at the Church of St. John in the Wilderness.

*Brian Boom and Lucy Eldridge, Co-Chairs*



Zoom Worship Winter 2021

## A Note from the New Editors

Dear Friends of St. John's,  
We are very grateful for the work that Dale and Louise Peterson have done for ten years, editing and improving the Newsletter for all of us. Thank you, Dale and Louise for such great work and for your friendship in helping the Wann's get started!

As first-time editors, we're fortunate to collaborate with Suzanne Trevellyan of Trevellyan.biz. Suzanne is the designer in this highly respected family firm located in Chatham, NY, and we're looking forward to learning from her as we go.

On a personal note: we were married in Christ & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in New York City in 1994--two Southerners who migrated North and then further North to Columbia County, where we were truly blessed to discover St. John's, Father John, and our kind and friendly church community.

*Peace, Hope, and Happy Easter!*  
*Patricia and Jim*