

A Voice in the Wilderness

Newsletter of the Church of St John in the Wilderness
Copake Falls NY
February 2020

St. John in the Wilderness Rector's Report for Annual Report

From the [2019 Annual Report](#)

First, thank you all for being part of St. John in the Wilderness. Participation and church attendance remain above average for a rural congregation these days.

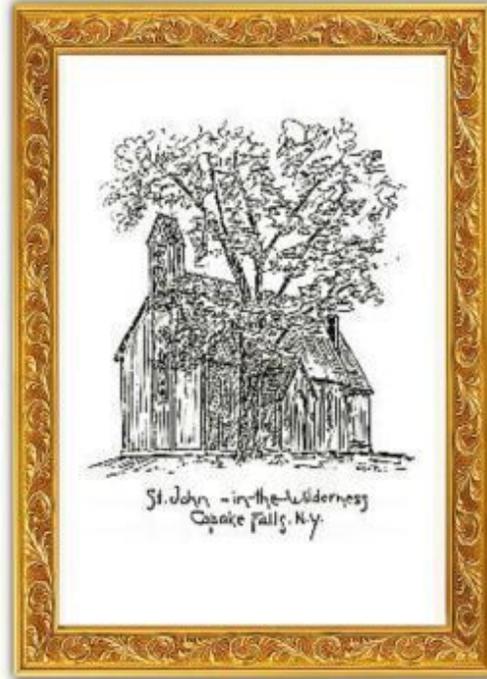
Thanks are due the Vestry, the lay leadership team I work with -- outgoing Senior Warden Marjorie Hoog and Junior Warden Wendy Langlois, Treasurer Karen Flynn, Clerk Richard Peck, outgoing vestry members Susan Mollo and Zita Kobos. Thanks also to continuing members Elen Freeston, Peggy Anderson, Lucy Eldridge and Jane Peck. I thank them for their leadership and good work. And we thank those who assist the new Treasurer Karen in her work.

Being brief, I will thank you all by naming the vital ministries at St. John in the Wilderness. These include all who participate in Sunday morning worship, and the specific ministries of acolytes, ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and the beautiful music we have every Sunday. We're grateful also for the Community Epiphany Pageant. The Altar Guild makes the church beautiful. We're grateful too for the ministry of the Candle Fund. Those who create the newsletter and bulletin deserve thanks. I want to thank the Stewardship Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee for their good work. And thanks to those who organized the successful Soirée last summer. Thank you to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for their good work, especially Marjorie Hoog, the new Chair. *Look at the list of Rector's Appointments last year and this, for many of the leaders of these ministries and committees.*

See the 2019 calendar in the Annual Report for many wonderful things happening at St. John in the Wilderness thanks to members and friends

like you! Like the wonderful interfaith Exploring Pilgrimage event here last summer. And there was the field trip to The Clark Art Institute for the hope inspiring sound installation.

We celebrate St. John's ministries and outreach to those in need, for examples, our 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.



And this Wednesday join in the ecumenical Christian Unity Service at Our Lady of Hope at 6:30 PM.

Finally, we remember and honor those who have passed on this year: John Shakshober, Edwin Houghtaling, Edward Peck, Al Thompson, Germana Sachs, Tim Kay and John Shepherd.

Thank you and blessings for the new year.

John+
The Rev. John P. Thompson, Rector

Senior Warden Report

At the January 26th Annual Meeting (postponed from the scheduled date of January 19 due to snow) we welcomed three new members, Ginny Johnson, Milbrey Zelle and Charley Musselman, to the Vestry. I'm so happy that these folks accepted the invitation to be part of the Vestry. They already do so much during the year for our church.

Ginny is a big part of the food team during our annual Soiree fundraiser and also is on the Capital Campaign Committee.

Mibs has been a member of the choir for many years and is part of our Altar Guild.

Charley manages our church website and is very supportive in all

church activities.

With a grateful heart, we thank the exiting Senior Warden, Marjorie Hoog and Vestry-women Susan Mollo and Zita Kobos. To Marjorie, Sue and Zita, we are truly blessed having you in our Parish Family. Thank you so much for all your contributions this past year.

Elen Freeston has moved into the position of Junior Warden. I'm looking forward to the coming year and I have no doubt it's going to be a good one! We'll be welcoming back Peggy Anderson, Lucy Eldridge and Jane Peck.

Over the coming year I have no worries that we can tackle anything that comes our way. I'm sure there will more to report in the next parish newsletter.

Our next Vestry Meeting will be Friday, February 14th, starting at 7:30PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Wendy Langlois
Senior Warden*

Capital Campaign Update

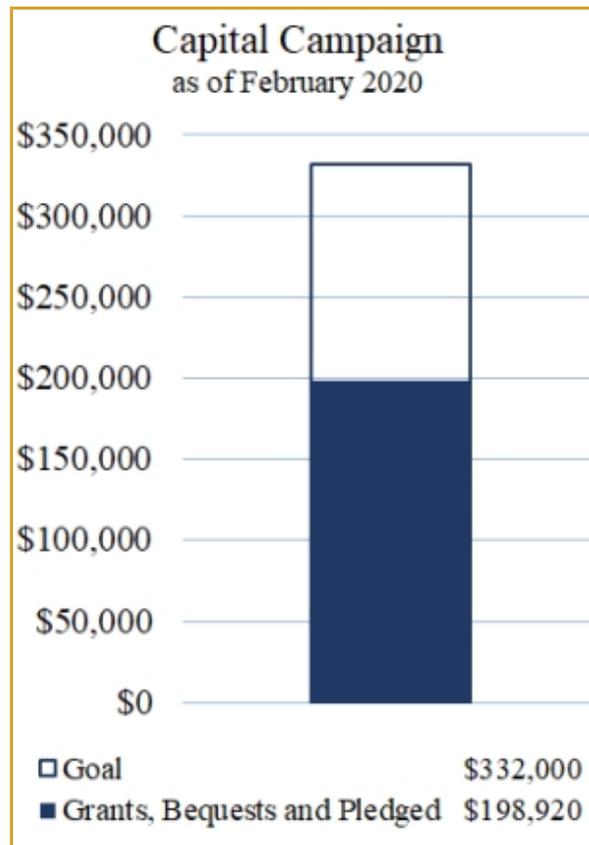
In the most recent issue (Advent, November 2019) of *A Voice in the Wilderness*, we announced that St. John's Capital Campaign, a three-year sustainability initiative, had achieved 58 percent of its \$332,000 goal. Since then, additional gifts and pledges have been received, bringing the amount raised to \$198,920 or 60% percent of the goal.

These funds are already being put to good use to make the needed repairs and improvements to the church and rectory identified in the Capital Campaign; please see the update from the Building Committee in this issue.

As reported previously, St. John has received two grants from the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation for Capital Campaign goals, one for the now-completed refurbishment of the Rectory porch, and the second for a soon-to-begin refurbishment of the Sacristy. Since the most recent update, the Capital Campaign Committee has been active in applying for grants from additional organizations.

In December, we sent a letter requesting support for our Capital Campaign to Trinity Church Wall Street. Trinity had been the original donor that funded both the church and rectory buildings of St. John's,

designed by Richard Upjohn, renowned architect of many Gothic Revival churches, including Trinity Church Wall Street. Much more recently, Trinity Church Wall Street supported St. John's Bell Tower preservation project. Last month, we applied to the Sacred Sites program of The New York Landmarks Conservancy, requesting a grant for architectural and engineering fees for the first phase of the Capital Campaign's implementation.



We look forward to connecting with even more parishioners as well as other local, regional, and national stakeholders about a sustainable future of St. John's. Printed copies of [*Capital Campaign for St. John in the Wilderness: Sustaining People, Place, and Peace, 2019 – 2022*](#) are available from Committee members. The document is also available online for review and download [here](#). Capital Campaign pledge forms are available for download [here](#).

Brian Boom and Lucy Eldridge

2020 Building Projects

Using the Capital Campaign Report as our guideline, the Building Committee has prioritized the following projects for 2020:

1. sacristy renovation
2. accessible church entrance and undercroft egress
3. church foundation
4. heating upgrades at both Church and Rectory

Work on the sacristy is underway and other projects will be started this spring.

Dale Peterson

February 28, Wednesday, Ash Wednesday Service

March 1, Sunday, Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday

April 5, Sunday, Palm Sunday

April 9, Thursday, Maundy Thursday, Seder Meal, 6PM, Eucharist,
7:30PM

April 10, Friday, Good Friday, 10AM and 7:30PM services

April 11, Saturday, Easter Egg Hunt, 11AM

April 12, Sunday, Easter

April 22, Wednesday, Earth Day

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Newsletter of the Church of St. John in the Wilderness (Episcopal)

Copake Falls, New York 12517

The Rev. John Thompson, Rector

Wendy Langlois (1/21) Warden

Elen Freeston (/22) Warden

Vestry

Charley Musselman (1/21)

Peggy Anderson (1/21)

Lucy Eldridge (1/22)

Jane Peck (1/22)

Virginia Johnson (1/23)

Milbrey Zelle (1/23)

Richard Peck, Clerk of the Vestry (1/21)

Karen Flynn, Treasurer

Eucharists

Sunday, 8:00 AM (spoken)

Sunday, 10:00 AM (choral)

stjohnw.org

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