

# ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A COMMUNITY TRANSFORMED BY THE LOVE OF CHRIST

CAPITOL WAY SOUTH & 20TH AVENUE SOUTHEAST • OLYMPIA, WASHING-



## REPORTS TO THE 153<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 4, 2018 ❖ 9:15 AM



# Our Vision & Mission Statements

Adopted by the Vestry, 2010

St. John's is a community transformed by the Love of Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to love the Lord God, to love our neighbors as ourselves and to live out our Baptismal Covenant so that we build a community transformed by the love of Jesus Christ.

## St. John's Leadership



**The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel**  
Bishop of Olympia



**The Rev. Robert C. Laird**  
Rector



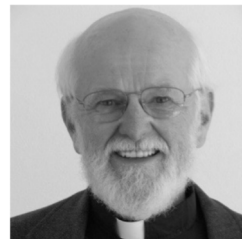
**Bill Van Hook**  
Senior Warden



**Nikki Weekes**  
Junior Warden



**The Rev. Terri Lolcama**  
Deacon



**The Rev. Don Maddux**  
Associate for Hispanic  
Ministry



**Gustavo Portaro**  
Associate Pastor

### 2017 Vestry

#### Class of 2017

Mary Conley Law (Clerk)  
Ron Leo  
Elaine Ross  
Laura Tayne

#### Class of 2018

Michael Clifthorne\*  
Denise Hammer  
Tracie O'Brien  
Bill Van Hook

#### Class of 2019

Catherine Atwell  
Robert LeRoy  
Mark Teply  
Meredith Weekes



**Dr. Curt Sather**  
Organist & Choirmaster



**Sergio Gómez**  
Musician for Hispanic



**Michelle Lozar**  
Parish Secretary



**Lance Avery**  
Treasurer

# 153rd Annual Meeting: Agenda

February 4, 2018 • 9:15 AM

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Opening Prayer Fr. Robert C. Laird
2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting
3. Introduction of 2017 Vestry
4. Thanking the Vestry Class of 2017
5. Election of Vestry Members
6. Appointment of Senior Warden
7. 2018 Budget Review Lance Avery
8. Update on Hispanic Ministry Fr. Don Maddux
9. Open Discussion, Questions and Answers, etc.
10. Closing Prayer and Sending Forth Deacon Terri Lolcama

# Minutes of the 152 st Annual Meeting February 12, 2017

**OPENING:** Fr. R.C. Laird opened the meeting with prayer at 9:15 a.m.

**WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER:** Fr. R. C. Laird called the meeting to order and recognized Jim Stanford as the St. John's member with the longest history as he celebrates his 81st birthday.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The motion to approve the minutes of the 151th Annual Meeting was made and seconded . The motion passed. Minutes were approved.

**INTRODUCTION OF 2016 VESTRY AND CANDIDATES FOR 2017:** Fr. R.C. introduced the Vestry members of 2016. He presented the class of 2016, Troy Atwell, Gerry Apple, Barbara Kincaid, and David Little and offered thanks for their contributions, each member was presented with Leatherbound copies of the NRSV Bible. The class of 2015 will receive a copy for their service, Randy Hammer will receive a hand carved guitar stand.

**ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS:** Ballots with the Nominations of the candidates for the vestry: Catherine Atwell, Bob LeRoy, Mark Teply, and Meredith Weekes and nominations for delegates and alternates to the diocese convention: Catherine Atwell, Troy Atwell, Julia Moore, T.F. Moore, delegates; Michael Beaton, Daren Chidester, Mary Conley Law, and Judy Williams. Ballots with candidate names were distributed to voting members.

**APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR WARDEN:** Fr. R.C. announced the appointment of Bill Van Hook as Senior Warden. Positions of Junior Warden, Clerk/Secretary and Treasurer will be selected at the first Vestry Meeting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Don Duncan presented the budget report for 2016 at the end of the year we were approximately \$3000 over the projected income. The number of pledges for 2017 has increased.

**DON DUNCAN SERVICE AWARD:** Fr. R.C. thanked Don for his 16 years of service to the congregation as volunteer treasurer and backup sexton. Don has asked to retire this year. Lance Avery has been asked and has agreed to serve as treasurer.

In recognition of Don's service Fr. R.C. announced the creation of the Don Duncan Service Award. A plaque will be created. The names of volunteers who have been of outstanding service to St. John's will be engraved. It will not be awarded annually but as is warranted.

The members of the congregation gave Don a standing ovation.,

**HISPANIC MINISTRY UPDATE:** Fr. Don Maddux reports that the Hispanic ministry is thriving and growing. Gustavo Portaro, Charo Portaro, and Michael Beaton continue their journey to ordination. Dr. Curt Sather has added to the music of the service. On February 12, the Rt. Rev. Gregg Rickel will confirm 15 individuals. The service is open to anyone interested.

**PARISH BYLAWS:** The second revision of the bylaws was presented to the congregation for approval. Lou MacMillian moved seconded the motion to accept the revision to Section 3; article II. A sub motion was made by Daniel (?) to substitute 50 for 25 to constitute a quorum, the sub motion was defeated. Question on the original motion was called and passed by voice vote.

**DISCERNMENT MEETING REPORT:** Allen Ziegler presented the results of the recent Discernment meetings.

Thank you to all who facilitated, took notes, answered questions and offered you voices.

Approximately 15 discernment conversations from Dec 10, 2016 through Jan 15, 2017 with over 80 participants (about 40% turnout)

Concern about the roof came up a lot as did sound system, parking and floor plan re-configuration. Other great information about facilities and our mission and ministry

Report of the findings will be delivered to Vestry on Thursday, Feb 16.

Vestry will deliberate the report and will make recommendation about how to move forward with next steps at its March meeting

Full results and next steps will be reported to the congregation after Vestry meeting.

Over next few months, the project list will settle and estimates obtained before we move to the Feasibility Study (phase 2 of the capital campaign)

**CLOSING PRAYER AND SENDING FORTH:** Fr. R.C. Laird.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Conley Law

Secretary/Clerk St. John's Vestry



St. John's is a community transformed by the love of Jesus Christ. This statement of our identity resonates in me for many reasons, most of all because it is never-ending: Jesus' love is constant, as is our transformation by that love. It will be three years since I arrived here as a priest this Easter, and I can hardly believe the transformation that has taken place here in that time. 2017 saw many significant developments for St. John's, which continue into 2018 and beyond for our community of faith.

In 2017, the Vestry and I continued to focus on three major programmatic goals for St. John's: music, ministries with children and families, and welcoming and incorporating new members. We focused significant attention on each of these goals, and those efforts paid off. Our music program has grown under the visionary and careful stewardship of Dr. Curt Sather. His performance of all the organ works of J.S. Bach last March was a musical highlight for the entire Pacific Northwest; it also raised significant funds for the installation of our new pipe organ, which is approaching completion. Our choirs have grown in numbers and are each tackling challenging new repertoire, and the St. John's Concert Series continues to make a unique and significant contribution to the South Sound cultural scene. The Vestry has worked with the Budget & Finance Committee to ensure the entire music program is funded adequately, and that we have the resources to continue growing the music program in 2018 and beyond.

We spent time laying the groundwork in 2017 for what will be a transformational year for ministries with children & families this year. The Vestry and I have committed to re-launching Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at St. John's in 2018, which is the culmination of nearly a year of praying, reflecting, and working to build a team to support this vital ministry for children. We also worked in 2017 to prepare to re-launch our St. John's Youth Group, which will begin this month with an afternoon of bowling and fun. These programs are essential for families at St. John's, and our investment in building them will help transform the lives of children and families here for years to come. We are deeply indebted to Denise Hammer for the extraordinary passion and organization she has brought to our Sunday School and youth programs for the last number of years, as we as the support she has given to the new initiatives we are beginning in 2018.

2017 also saw the launch of our New Growth committee, which has been focused on welcoming and incorporating newcomers into our parish. We have rebranded all of our membership materials, as well as training greeters to help make visitors feel welcome and at-home here. We have launched a series of events, both at the church and away from it, to help people feel part of our community both on Sunday morning and throughout the week. We have also redeveloped our processes for communication with visitors in the office,

resulting in better tracking of and communication with new members and families. This committee, which was superbly led by Ron Leo in 2017, has built a strong foundation for new growth at St. John's which is already supporting new growth and discipleship here.

2017 saw the start of the hard work of planning for the revitalization of our physical plant here. It is no secret that the roof over our sanctuary has never been watertight, and it has reached the end of its useful life. With the help of the Episcopal Church Foundation, we completed a process of discernment to decide how to address our building's needs, and the input we got from the congregation told us to move forward with a vision for the whole campus, not just the roof. A committee has begun the work of exploring the details for envisioning that work, under the leadership of John Warjone, and with the help of our architect, Clint Pehrson. That Master Plan Working Group continues its work, and will have more to report this spring and summer. In the meantime, we continue to benefit from our relationship with Olympia Community School, who have informed us of their desire to stay for the 2018-19 school year, with the consent of the City of Olympia (who had to approve the space for that continued use). OCS has been a blessing to us these last two years, and we look forward to another, final year with them starting this fall.

The Vestry has also worked hard with Budget & Finance and our treasurer, Lance Avery, to streamline our parish budget and financial reporting, to reflect as accurately as possible way our parish community raises and spends money. It has been a significant undertaking, and both the Budget & Finance Committee and Vestry deserve our thanks for their efforts. As I said many times to both of these groups this year, budgets are moral documents, and show the true values of our community through the way we allocate money. I am deeply grateful to everyone who worked so hard to help us achieve the transparency and clarity we did this year in our finances.

It takes a dedicated team of amazing individuals to accomplish the kind of ministry we accomplished this year at St. John's. Our lay leadership, staff, and members have done incredible work, for which we are all grateful. Thank you to everyone who has helped make St. John's the unique and wonderful parish it is!

The Holy Spirit is at work here, transforming this community through the love of Jesus Christ. It is an honor to serve here as your rector, and to be a witness to the outpouring of the Spirit upon this community, and through our ministries on our neighbors, here in Thurston County and around the world. This is an amazing place, and I give thanks for each of you being a part of it each day. Blessings upon you all for 2018 and beyond.

## Hispanic Ministries

The Rev. Don Maddux

Hispanic Ministry at Saint John's (San Juan) continues to grow in depth and strength. Thanks to Sergio Gomez, Dr. Curt Sather, and others, the music for services continues to diversify and improve.

With federal actions against members of the Hispanic community, much of our focus has been on ways to help inform and protect people whose lives and families are endangered. We have helped people get legal advice, and the Saint John's vestry made an initial contribution which helped bring about the founding of a legal defense fund in the diocese.

Our Fiesta Latina dinner and auction, and the Fiesta of Our Lady of Guadalupe, were wonderful times of sharing with others in the church and community. Lay leadership is strong with seven eucharistic ministers and numerous lectors.

Michael Beaton and Charo and Gustavo Portaro continue to contribute excellent, well prepared sermons to the Sunday worship. Both Portaros and our faithful Master of Ceremonies for the liturgy, Daren Chidester, are active in "The Iona School," the Bishop's training program for leadership. A Discernment Group meets with Michael Beaton as he continues his quest to become an Episcopal Priest.

With plans for Ash Wednesday and Lent, we also are looking ahead to baptisms and first communions at Easter, and already have five *quinceañera* celebrations on the calendar for spring and summer.

Thank you all for your prayers and support of this important ministry.

Donald Maddux, Hispanic Ministry Associate, St. John's

## Deacon's Report

The Rev. Terri Lolcama

***"Come, follow me,"*** Jesus said, ***"and I will make you fishers of men."*** At once they left their nets and followed him. ***Mark 1:17-18***

As we enter into the 2018 church year and the year of Mark; we may want to reflect on our actions and how we chose to follow Jesus last year. How have we extended encouragement and love to our brothers and sisters? St. John's Church invites and embraces the messages of Jesus to take risks, to share our faith, and to bring others into the flock. I am very thankful to serve St. John's as your Deacon. My focus these past six years has been to support, embrace, and enhance leadership in all the various ministries; but especially the leadership and participants on the Outreach Committee as they strive to bring our attention to serve the needs of our community. Our faith draws us into living out our Baptismal Covenant; and St. John's has strived in many ways to show the love of Jesus to newcomers, friends, and neighbors. Many have stepped up and taken leadership roles this past year or been a part of a ministry reaching out to those who live on the margins of our society. ***"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35***

Your generous contributions at the weekly birthday and thank offerings has allowed us to support the needs of the homeless, the sick, and the hungry in our community and the greater world. We have financially supported Adopt a Cambodian Family, Camp Michael, Chaplains on the Harbor, CIELO, Diocesan Legal Defense Fund, Free/Emergency Dental and Medical Clinics, Interfaith Works Emergency Shelter, Episcopal Relief and Development, Kairos Prison Ministry, Little Red School House, Salvation Army Community Kitchen, YWCA Other Bank, Thurston County Food Bank, and Diocesan Seafarers. Many have been

supported El Hogar, Latina, and CROP Walk Ministries. As well many, many in kind donations have been made.

I was not present for the fall Ministry Faire. I understand it was a big success in extending invitations for everyone to participate in the many, many ministries at St. John's. Newcomers and longtime members were invited to discover the many ways we can become a part of the church. Becoming a part of a church is often the hardest part for newcomers. "How do I fit into this web of people?" "Why would I come to a place where no one talks to me?" It is not always easy to feel welcomed into a parish family. Everyone who enters our doors has something to offer and they enter our doors with a hopeful heart. We grow in faith and numbers by our hospitality which in turn supports newcomers to join in the many ministry opportunities. We continue to extend our hands and hearts and with ***God's help we will "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being."*** ***Baptismal Covenant – BCP pg. 305***

In June I began a four month sabbatical to rest and rejuvenate my body, mind, and spirit. I cannot explain what happened to me during that time but it helped to clear the "cobwebs" of stress and anxiety that had been building up over several years. Thank you to Bishop Gregory, my parish priest, the staff, and my wonderful parish family for allowing me this time away. None of us can even begin to "follow Jesus" if we are not physically and spiritually nourished. Here I am Lord – show me the way!

***"Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."***

***Thanks be to God!***

## Senior Warden's Report

Bill Van Hook

It has been a blessing and privilege to serve as St. John's Senior Warden over the past year. 2017 was a very exciting year for our church. The work of the Vestry and parish on our shared journey has continued.

In 2017 St. John began the process of discernment of our vision for what we want our ministry to become. That included beginning the process of developing a master plan for our physical campus. Through facilitated meetings with you, our church family, we developed a consensus about what our building needs are going forward. The Vestry has retained an architect and an engineering firm to begin the planning process. The needs assessment and planning work is currently underway guided by our master planning group.

One of the high points of the year (for me) was the ordination of Fr. Doug Dornhecker. It was a fabulous event. Unfortunately, our joy was tempered when we learned of Doug's reassignment to St. Mary in Lakewood soon after. We welcomed Rev. Juli Mallett to our parish family as Curate but had to say goodbye to her when, at the end of the year, she followed her spouse to the wilderness of Vancouver B.C.

The Vestry has continued its work streamlining our processes for meetings, communicating effectively before and after meetings in order to keep our meeting time as productive as possible. Our average meeting time is now under two hours, a major accomplishment. During the year we adopted a collaborative virtual work platform for the vestry.

During 2017 we continued our relationship with Olympia Community School and modified our upstairs space to better fit their needs. Unfortunately, we will see that partnership end this year due to St. John being unable to meet fire and ADA requirements to host a school in our facility. That relationship has been a blessing to both the school and St. John's, and we are grateful that they will be on our campus until the end of this school year.

With the retirement of Don Duncan as our parish Treasurer it seemed time to shift to a more robust accounting software package for our parish books. Lance Avery, our new Treasurer, has completed that process. The St. John budget ended the year in the black (barely) due to generous giving in December.

Our Music Ministry has been a blessing to all of us this year! Bach Around the Clock brought hundreds of people into our church. Some of them have come back as members. Our Christmas Lessons and Carols service was glorious. My thanks goes out to Dr. Curt Sather for his work to make St. John a center for sacred music in Olympia.

It has been a humbling experience to be your Senior Warden this past year. I wonder at the dedication and selflessness of all the people who bring their talents and energy to our ministries. We are truly blessed by your presence among us. I look forward to all of the good things to come in 2018.

## Junior Warden's Report

Meredith Weekes

The junior warden is 'the people's warden' and therefore it is her duty to listen to the concerns of the congregation and to take these concerns to the Vestry. It is also the duty of the junior warden to facilitate care for the building and grounds, with the help of the Building and Grounds Committee.

The Buildings & Grounds Committee comprises Ric Weatherman, Dennis Cooper, and Ray Willard, with the help from John Sanchez and Mark Tepley. We continued to keep up the maintenance of our properties, including the boilers, kitchen stove, pipes, sidewalks, and routine yardwork.

We were fortunate to be able once again to offer space the Olympia Community School and, with some renovation to our space upstairs, to accommodate their increase in size.

That relationship has been a blessing to both parties, and it will be with heavy hearts that we see them off in June.

Thanks to Lucy Clifthorne and Curt Sather, the organ project begun in 2015 will be completed in early 2018. Phase 2 of the Maser Plan, the evaluation of the uses of the building and property, was presented to the congregation, who gave their opinions and advice to Clint Pehrson, who will further develop the plan for the Working Group and the Vestry. The repairs to the roof will be part of that plan.

Serving as the Junior Warden has been a learning experience for me - one which I have thoroughly enjoyed - and I thank you for the opportunity to have done so.

## Centering Prayer

Dr. Curt Sather

Since its formation in September 2016, St. John's Centering Prayer group, which meets in the Parish Hall every Thursday at 12 noon, has been a solid part of the spiritual development of St. John's. More than 60 people regularly participate in the group, with an average weekly attendance of 15-25 people, including many people who do not attend St. John's. In addition to a 20-minute period of silence, exercises in Lectio Divina (sacred reading) and other methods of exploring

God's presence in our lives are employed as we grow spiritually, both individually and as a group. The ripple effect of peace, love, and healing that emanates from our weekly circle certainly spreads throughout Olympia, across the country, and into the universe.

-Curt Sather, Centering Prayer Facilitator

# Treasurer's Report 2017

Lance Avery

	Jan - Dec 17	Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Individual Contributions</b>			
Pledges	319,006	326,568	97.68%
Contributions/Loose Plate Offer	27,959	24,996	111.85%
Special Services Contributions	6,700	8,000	83.74%
Spanish Ministry	15,487	20,004	77.42%
<b>Total Individual Contributions</b>	369,152	379,568	97.26%
Investment Income	11,336	14,000	80.97%
Space Use Income	37,076	16,350	226.77%
Transfer from Designated Funds	42,554	11,930	356.7%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	460,118	421,848	109.07%
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>Work Outside Congregation</b>			
Diocesan Assessment	65,462	61,590	106.29%
Outreach	15,674	13,200	118.74%
<b>Total Work Outside Congregation</b>	81,136	74,790	108.49%
Personnel Costs	271,480	260,280	104.3%
Facility Expenses	45,992	43,200	106.46%
Office Expenses	34,215	23,988	142.63%
Parish Programs	21,581	19,590	110.17%
Cap Fund Expenses	4,221		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	458,625	421,848	108.72%
<b>Revenue in excess of expenditures</b>	1,493	0	100.0%

## Revenue & Expenditure Budget Overview January through December 2018

	Jan - Dec 18		Jan - Dec 18
<b>Revenue</b>		<b>Expense</b>	
<b>Individual Contributions</b>		<b>Work Outside Congregation</b>	
Pledges	311,931	Diocesan Assessment	55,907
Contributions/Loose Plate Offer	29,626	Outreach	13,000
Special Services Contributions	8,000	<b>Total Work Outside Congregation</b>	68,907
Spanish Ministry	15,525	Personnel Costs	282,384
<b>Total Individual Contributions</b>	365,082	Facility Expenses	47,505
Investment Income	10,800	Office Expenses	32,640
Fundraising efforts	22,400	Parish Programs	42,140
Space Use Income	44,700	Cap Fund Expenses	3,600
Transfer from Designated Funds	34,194	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	477,176
<b>Total Revenue</b>	477,176	<b>Revenue in excess of expenditures</b>	0



## Music Program

Dr. Curt Sather

The music program at St. John's continued with fervor in 2017. The Parish Choir continues to sing weekly at the 10:30 a.m. service; the Jubilate Choir sings several times a month; the Compline Choir has increased in size, and attendance at the 8:00 p.m. Sunday Compline Service has grown in the past several months; the Spanish Choir "El Coro" and musician Sergio Gomez lead the singing at the 6:00 p.m. Sunday Spanish Service; the Spiritus Dance Ensemble add to worship on special occasions, including performances at the Bach-around-the-Clock, Street Fest, Lessons & Carols, and there was a special Hula workshop with a Sunday morning appearance in worship. Taizé services during Lent and Advent include instrumentalists and vocalists from the congregation, and the Olympia Sacred Jazz Ensemble and St. John's Trumpet Quartet continue to enhance Sunday morning services. In addition to Sunday services, the singing of a hymn at the Wednesday morning 7 a.m. service has also been established. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Lessons & Carols Service included 50 musicians from St. John's and other communities. We are especially blessed to have the regular presence of jazz vocalist LaVon Hardison in our halls. St. John's Concert Series continued with its usual array of instrumental and choral groups; a Baroque concert, Jazz

dinners, and a Gospel Brunch have also enhanced St. John's musical offerings. Bach-around-the-Clock, Curt Sather's 24-hour marathon of the complete organ works of J. S. Bach on 21 March 2017, met with great success, filling the pews throughout the day, video broadcast around the world, and raised over \$30,000 for the organ installation project.

The Schlicker pipe organ project moved ahead by engaging Bond Organ Builders of Portland, Oregon, to complete the installation. The choir area in the church has been expanded and we look forward to it being covered with hardwood.

The donation of a new piano for the Parish Hall by Art Wienandt and his family in memory of his wife Mary has been a great asset to rehearsals and performances. The Parish and Compline Choirs have new choir vestments, and the Parish Choir's robing room has been moved from the basement to the ground floor.

In addition to Curt Sather's job as Organist & Choirmaster, he continues to perform throughout the region, teaches organ, piano & voice students, teaches music to our resident Olympia Community School.

In 2017 we note the passing of former Organist & Choirmaster Kary Hyre, and Parish Choir member and frequent substitute organist/pianist Carol Sherrell.

## The Church Library

Janice Jackson

The Library Ministry keeps the adult and children's libraries up to date and in order. There are books, DVDs, music and reference materials for use by anyone who wishes to check them out.

We recently became a line item on the Church Budget but will still raise money to purchase books with monies collected in the June Jumble, the Christmas Faire, donations in the form of money or books and an occasional raffle. Portions of the money will be placed in the church budget. We have a wish list of books to buy compiled by requests from parishioners. Anyone wanting to add to the list can leave the name and author in the checkout box in the adult library or they can buy the book and donate it. Gently used books are always welcome!

The library is always open unless a group has scheduled the room for a meeting or when the church is closed. If the library doors are closed, please check with the office or knock to see if the room is occupied. To check out books or other items take the card out of the envelope inside the front cover. Fill out your full name and the current date, including the year. Put the card in the drop box on the wall by the Library door. When you return the books put them in the basket under the drop box. There is no time limit, but if you keep books too long a

volunteer will call with a reminder to return the book.

The Children's library does not have check out cards and can be taken out at any time. Just remember to bring them back so other children can enjoy them.

Once a month some of our volunteers read to the children in a Sunday School class. Any one from the congregation can assist in this.

Our library volunteers are members of the Pacific Northwest Association of Church Libraries, an ecumenical group with members from Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Our South Puget Sound Branch meets 8 times a year at hosting churches. Volunteers learn about other books recommended to be added to the libraries and learn of new authors.

The Library features a display of art by a St. John's artist every quarter. The wall is located in the library to the left of the door. We are always looking for a volunteer to post their art, poems, pictures, sewing and more. Please contact any librarian or volunteer if you wish to have your art on display!

Library volunteers meet monthly on the third Monday at 1:00 in the Library. We always welcome new members or visitors.

Janice Jackson and Diane Russell, Co-Librarians. Mary Knotts, Jennifer Jones, and Nicki Weeks, Volunteers.

## Piece Keepers Quilting Group

Mary Ann Mahurin

Piece Keepers Quilt Group meet in the church Parish hall Monday afternoon starting at 12:30 pm. Our group is open to anyone wanting to learn about quilting or to those that have experience. Our quilt group members are Kathleen Greenman, Laura Tayne, Margaret Schepke, Mary Ann Mahurin, Sharon Wallace and Dorn Barr.

## Sunday School & Camp Michael

Denise Hammer

*Sunday School* continued with the use of Weaving God's Promises, which is a curriculum specific to the Episcopal faith. This program weaves Episcopal history and theology into fun and engaging activities, incorporating multiple learning styles. Sunday School continued to have a shortage of available teachers and volunteers to study and teach the curriculum. This will be the final year of using Weaving God's Promises, with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd scheduled to begin in September 2018. Average attendance has been 4-6 students each week from September to June. Student ages range from preschool to early middle school.

*Youth Group* did not convene in 2017. Two youth from St. John's did attend the Diocese of Olympia's Junior Youth

Conferences, held biannually.

*Camp Michael* had a successful 45th year of camp with the theme of the Fruit of the Spirit. Approximately 75 campers attended the five day overnight camp in July. St. John's had many campers attend and was well represented. Campers experienced daily worship, prayer and fellowship in the morning, followed by afternoons of swimming, archery, arts and crafts, and games. The evening concluded with songs and prayer around the evening campfire. Currently, the Board is seeking a head Camp Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator and Fundraising Coordinator. The 46th year of Camp Michael is scheduled for July 24-28, 2018.

## Daughters of the King - QUINN NEAL CHAPTER

Kathryn Ness

The Order of the Daughters of the King is a religious order for women in the Episcopal Church. We invite women of all ages who are seeking a more structured path of discipleship. Our mission is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world. The Order was founded in 1885 and as Daughters of the King, we follow a Rule of Life which consists of a Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service. As a chapter, each member prays daily for those on our prayer list, attends monthly meetings, and serves as a volunteer at St. John's or in the

community. We provide the "blue" cards in the pews in the church for prayer requests which are given to a member to add to our list. We also receive prayer requests through the St. John's website.

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 11:30am in the Guild Annex. Our meetings are open to women who wish to join us for our meetings, in praying with us for others or exploring more about the Order. For more information, please contact Fawn Hacker.

## C.H.A.T. (COFFEE HOUR AFTER TEN THIRTY)

Carolyn Maddux

Holy hospitality is an essential part of growing and nurturing our congregations. In the past year, various angels have supplied the 8 a.m. congregation with baked goods; 40-plus individuals and families have hosted CHAT (Coffee Hour After Ten-thirty); Andrea Castro Hernandez has orchestrated providers of food for socializing after the 6 p.m. service, and Lance Avery has made breakfast each month for the 7 a.m. Wednesday crew. Many thanks to all who have taken part in these endeavors.

CHAT will see a turning of the tables again for Lent this year. Instead of an abundance of munchies in Lent, we'll come to

the table in the parish hall bringing something (food offering or cash offering) for the hungry served by the Thurston County Food Bank and other outreaches. (There will still be animal crackers or something similar for children.)

After Easter, CHAT will embark on a new plan; stay tuned, and be prepared to participate. Attendees at all our worship services are reminded that the coffee time afterward is a time to make newcomers feel welcome, so take a few moments to get acquainted with someone you don't know yet. That's what holy hospitality is all about.

## CropWalk

Bill Unbehaun

St. John's has participated in the Thurston County CROPWALK for at least 30 years. It is an opportunity to help people here at home and around the world develop sustainable food and water sources. It happens the first

Sunday of May. Contact Bill Unbehaun for more information - [unbie1@comcast.net](mailto:unbie1@comcast.net)

Office volunteer duties include but are not limited to: answering phones, making calls, maintaining the Sunday service book, copying, mailings, preparing children's bulletins for service, general office duties.

Thanks to Michelle Lozar for her guidance, assistance and patience.

Volunteers for 2017: Rod Baldwin., Kay Cooper, Mary Knotts, Mary Conley Law, Mary Ann Mahurin, Edith Pill

The parish mailing list is maintained in the church office by volunteers. Changes in mailing address, phone numbers or email should be sent to the office or emailed to [maryconleylaw@gmail.com](mailto:maryconleylaw@gmail.com). The current mailing list used for general mailings has 405 family or individual addresses.

The addition of ***This Week at St John's*** as an order of service insert, e-blast email, Facebook post and Tweet has increased the regular communication within the parish. **This Week** is published by the rector on Friday and a hard copy is

included in the order of service on Sunday. **This Week** includes the regularly scheduled activities as well as the specific activities of the church for the week. Parishioners are encouraged to contact the office ([michelle@stjohnsoly.org](mailto:michelle@stjohnsoly.org)) if they do not receive the regular email.

***St. John's Chronicle:*** continues to publish once a month and mailed to all active members and others on request. **The Chronicle** includes articles about events and people at the church and of interest to this population. The monthly calendar of events is included. Mary Jane Hancock ([maryjanehancock@gmail.com](mailto:maryjanehancock@gmail.com)) serves as editor and requests articles monthly from the various interests of the church. She compiles the articles and submits them to Christie Kruger Guydish ([Christie.couger@gmail.com](mailto:Christie.couger@gmail.com)). Christie prepares the articles for printing and publication on the St John's Web Site.

***St. John's web site:*** Christie Kruger Guydish updates and maintains the St. John's web site. ([www.stjohnsoly.org](http://www.stjohnsoly.org)).

## The Welcome Team

Ron Leo

In June of last year, a small group of clergy and vestry members met to look with "fresh eyes" at how we, as a church, go about welcoming newcomers to our parish community. We came to the following conclusions:

1. Hospitality is a core strength of our parish culture. However, it is informal, unstructured and inconsistent. There should be an aspect of "intentionality" at St. John's that is part of our corporate ministry to the community of Olympia with regard to hospitality and welcoming.

2. We wanted to develop a structured welcome ministry that effectively incorporates newcomers into the community life of St. John's. Accordingly,

(a) we needed a working group that meets regularly to assess and build on our progress; (b) we wanted to recruit and train lay members with good people skills from our parish to be greeters; and (c) we wanted our clergy to be an integral part in guiding its development and progress.

3. Accordingly, we began with small, incremental steps last June to build this ministry. You undoubtedly have noticed the new pew cards in the sanctuary, as well as our "Welcome Station" and banner in the parish hall, inviting our visitors and guests to "Start Here."

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We have a small, but dedicated group of volunteers who are attentive after each service to greet with our visitors and guests and formally welcome them to St. John's. Finally, we prepared a fact sheet that explains and reminds us of who we are, what we do, and why we do it. We hope you find this information helpful. Who are we? We are fellow parish members who firmly believe that welcoming newcomers into our midst is a calling that we, as Christians, are obliged to do in living out our faith and fulfilling the mission of St. John's in Olympia.

What do we do? We dedicate ourselves to cultivate an intentional attitude of hospitality and fellowship, which we offer to all guests

who come to St. John's seeking a community in which to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." 2 Peter 3:18

How do we do it? We offer ourselves as hosts and guides to our guests before and after each Sunday service and introduce them to the fellowship of our congregation.

Where do we do it? Anywhere on the campus of St. John's when we come across a first-time guest, but especially at the entrances to the sanctuary and parish hall and during the coffee hour after the Sunday services.

Why do we do it? Because we, too, have entered as strangers into new places or groups and wondered whether we would be welcomed, judged, or ignored. So we understand from our own experience that coming to an unfamiliar church for the first time can be an unsettling and intimidating feeling. As members of St. John's, what is our response? We are taught in Scripture to "do to others as you would have them do to you." Luke 6:31

How much time and effort is required to participate in this ministry? As much or as little as one feels called to offer and make available. We will accommodate the comfort level of anyone who feels called to participate in this ministry. At the very minimum, we asked that you raise up this ministry in your daily prayers so it accomplishes its purpose of faithful service to God and our neighbors

Need more info? Please visit the Welcome Ministry table during coffee hour. We'll be happy to answer any questions and receive your comments and suggestions. Thank you.

Rev. R.C. Laird (Rector)

Nicki Weekes (Junior Warden)

Mark Tepley (Vestry Class of 2019)

Ron Leo (Vestry Class of 2017)

## Busy Bees

Jenny Loudon

A group of women from St. John's and St. Benedict's, with two Lutherans, the Bees have as their mission the support and encouragement of girls and young women who lack adequate or traditional support from their own families. In 2017, we elected a new Chair, Mike Flothe, from St. Benedict's. Our Secretary is Lin Hampton, and our Treasurer is Sharon Ziegler.

We began, years ago, working mainly with girls at Brentwood Home for Girls in Lacey. We continue to provide birthday parties and gifts and back to school parties and supplies for them, as well as Christmas stockings and Easter baskets, and self-care items like shampoo when they enter the Home. In addition, we have been giving money to support the work of Community Youth Services (CYS), for some time, and we also, with help from others here at St. John's, contribute snack foods for the Teen Drop-n Center at CYS, Rosie's Place.

In the past year, we have expanded our ministry to assist the Young Women's Christian Association's "STEAM" camps for young girls. In these summer, winter, and weekend "camps" the YWCA trains and motivates girls to increase

their understanding and interest in the five fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics ("STEAM"). Finally, we also, with help from the rest of St. John's in early 2017, contributed scarves, hats, and gloves for CIELO's school-age (and younger) clients who receive help with homework (or baby-sitting) there, and for those who attend classes in English at CIELO.

In order to do these things, we raise money twice a year. The Bees help to set up and run the June Jumble, and are given a share of the profits for that. In the fall, we work (like the Busy Bees we are!) for months to produce the things we sell at the Xmas Faire: flavored honeys, beeswax candles, honey fudges, and so on. This past year we did better than ever at both the Jumble and the Faire.

We meet monthly, except during the summer, on the second Tuesday of the month at St. John's from 1-2 p.m., to plan our activities and for fellowship. Twice a year, in June and December, we have a special luncheon, generally a potluck in the Parish Hall at St. John's, for fun and to celebrate. The Bees are a friendly, as well as industrious, group of women, and we always welcome newcomers warmly!

## Parish Nurse

Usrah Claar-Peck, MSN, RN

The parish nurse continues to accompany parishoners to doctor's appointments as requested, does many informal consultations at church, and the occasional first aid. As a lay

Eucharistic visitor, she has several homebound individuals whom she visits monthly to bring communion and an informal health check while visiting.

## Men's Group

Bill Unbehaun

We are a group of a dozen or so men from this congregation and several others in the community. We have met almost every Saturday morning from 8:30 to 10am this past year, discussing books, chapter by chapter, and reflecting on our lives as Christian men.

This year we have read and discussed The Cost of

Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, When Christians Get It Wrong by Adam Hamilton, and are currently enjoying Aging as a Spiritual Practice by Lewis Richmond. We heartily invite men who are exploring what faith means to join us. Contact Bill Unbehaun at [unbie1@comcast.net](mailto:unbie1@comcast.net).

## St. Mary's Guild

Meredith Blundell

St. Mary's Guild is committed to raising funds for the purpose of enhancing the worship and common gathering place of St. John's. Our main project this year was the purchase of the chimes for the new organ.

Our meetings are currently held the 3rd Thursday of every month at 12:30 pm. Our main fund raising event is the Christmas Faire held each November. We have put on hold any new projects until the new organ installation is complete.

## Monday Morning Crafters

Mary Ann Mahurin

We meet Monday morning 10 am in the Parish Hall to share skills, patterns, fellowship, laughs, talents, hugs, a tear now and then and worship. Some come to begin a project, some to finish a project, maybe they need help figuring out a

pattern or maybe they found a pattern some one in the group has been looking for. Yes, we help each other, enjoy being with each other and learn from each other. "Come and See" you just might like what you see and join us!

## 2017 StreetFest

Carolyn Maddux

A broadening base of parish participation and an appealing outreach made StreetFest, already an Olympia tradition, even bigger and better in 2017 under the continuing leadership of Gerry Apple and David Little.

Originating as an outreach experiment, St. John's Sesquicentennial Block Party in 2014 had enough pizzazz that it has continued with free food, music and dance, and activities for kids, and displays by public service groups, and was extended with an outdoor *misa en Español*.

Lee Mohler arranged entertainment that included our own bagpipers, Ann Hall and Joby Winans; the Artesian Rumble Arkestra; and organist Curt Sather with Mary Alice Olsen and young dancers, Kathy Scarborough, Jim Stehn, and others.

The event continues to be eco-friendly, with portable food in compostable containers (hot dogs, lemonade, nachos, ice-cream sandwiches). The city, as arranged by George and

Karen Bray, assists with providing extra containers for compostable waste. David and Gerry arranged for the various exhibitors, Lee Mohler and Curt Sather managed the entertainment schedule, the Events Committee headed up the food service, and Lance Avery cooked enchiladas for participants in the outdoor Spanish-language mass, which was brilliant with numerous guest musicians joining Sergio Gomez, Curt and the Choro. Alisa Eggers oversaw kids' activities with the help of Helen Johnston and Wendy Little. Julia Moore arranged for a banner to be hung on the Capitol Way bridge. We covered a bit more of the neighborhood with hand-delivered invitations this year, and that has the additional benefit of providing South Capitol neighbors with information about our regular services and other events.

A boon for planners this year was the incorporation of the event into the parish budget. Word has it that Gerry and Dave are looking for volunteers to help chair StreetFest 2018.

## Women's Spirituality Group

Vickie MacMillan

The Women's Spirituality Group is a beloved, long-time institution at St. John's. We meet on the 1st Saturday of the month from 10 until noon. All women are invited to attend. Please invite women friends that you think would be interested. Perhaps you will meet someone new, get to know someone better and talk about things that matter. Laughter and tears are sometimes part of the group. Beginning in fall 2017 and continuing on into 2018, we are viewing the Phyllis Tribble DVD series, *Chasing Canonical Characters*, which gives a feminist theologian's view of well-known biblical characters. Each month we use one topic from the DVD series as a jumping off point for group discussions and

related experiential activities with which to explore and share our own stories of being women today. We set our spiritual intentions with an opening prayer, meditation and/or the setting of an altar, and invite anyone to lead this important piece of our time together. We take turns bringing a light snack and putting the coffee on. Vickie MacMillan and Julia Moore are coordinating the group this year, and we encourage all members to take a turn at facilitating a monthly discussion topic and activity. For more information contact Vickie at [inspiramacmillan@gmail.com](mailto:inspiramacmillan@gmail.com) or Julia at [juliasews@comcast.net](mailto:juliasews@comcast.net)

## Kairos Prison Ministry

Rob Michie

Kairos Prison Ministry remained active in Washington State throughout 2017. The State institutions where Kairos ministers include the women's corrections facility in Purdy, and the men's correction facilities in Monroe, Clallam Bay, and Stafford Creek near Aberdeen.

The ministry at these facilities involves one to two full four-day weekends per year where forty to fifty volunteers put on a Cursillo-type event designed to bring Christ to life for the 'inside' participants. The event immerses up to 42 inmates into a very personal encounter with Christian volunteers who have completed a three to four month training program leading up to the Weekend given 'inside'. Many of those 'insiders' who participate in the Weekend event are changed forever by the Holy Spirit.

Following the Weekend event volunteers in the Kairos program return to the institution on one Saturday each

month to share a program of music and fellowship aimed at maintaining and strengthening the faith of all the graduates.

Volunteers who have attended a Cursillo are encouraged to participate in Kairos and experience the love that Christ has for those who are in prison. In fact, as Christians we are called to visit Jesus in prison. Interested women should contact Terri Lolcama at [360-754-8819](tel:360-754-8819). Interested men should contact Rob Michie at [360-866-0523](tel:360-866-0523).



## Events Committee

Laura Tayne

The Events Committee had a busy year coordinating dinners, buffets, and gatherings. We are dedicated to bringing our parishioners together - and welcoming the community at large into our midst to celebrate the richness of St. John's. There are roughly 20 committee members and we always welcome new folks who enjoy cooking, decorating, baking, and serving! Events this 2017 included: *Easter Vigil Celebration* - A feast following the Easter Vigil service. This grand buffet features devilled eggs and sweets and savories provided by our very generous parishioners. *English Tea* - A traditional tea presented by the committee in partnership with the Daughters of the British Empire. A perfect springtime opportunity for flowers, hats, fine china and tasty traditional treats. *June Jumble* - The annual rummage sale offers donated items for sale to the public. The Library, Busy Bees and Events Committee work together to sort, arrange, and greet the public on Saturday. The proceeds are shared, and leftover items donated to The Estate Store and Value Village. The proceeds support parish outreach and committee mission. *C.H.A.T.* - The Events Committee hosts C.H.A.T. twice during the summer: once for an ice cream social and once for a root beer float extravaganza. *Christmas Faire* - The Christmas Faire, held in November, bring crowds of happy folk into St. John's to shop for handmade and handcrafted gifts. Along with our hospitality, the public is treated to tasty treats and seasonal music. The Events Committee performs the set up and contracts with all parish and non-parish vendors. In addition, the Olde English Pub offers soup, savories and sweets for Faire attendees. *Bach Around the Clock* - While Curt played for 24 hours in celebration of Bach's birthday in March, the Events Committee offered breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. *Reception Buffets* - On occasions of celebration - Bishop visits, ordinations, retirements, etc, the committee and the parish rise to the occasion by presenting an abundance of finger foods, punch and champagne. *Kitchen and Pantry* - The committee organizes and maintains kitchen and pantry equipment. This year's upgrades include a new frost-free freezer for the pantry and stand-up reception tables for reception. Members also launder and maintain tablecloths used for events and ALWAYS appreciate volunteers who can wash, fold and return linens after an event. We look forward to the another year fulfilling our Mission - "Providing the St. John's Parish with a welcoming and hospitable reception for special and designated events."

## Sunday Service Participants

Mary Conley Law

St John's Service Participants assist in the regular worship services at St John's. The participants are volunteers giving their time to help make the various services of worship meaningful and hopefully smooth flowing. We have 5 audio engineers; 12 acolytes; 10 Eucharistic Ministers/Chalice Bearers; 24 Lectors; 9 tellers; 17 ushers. As some of these volunteers serve in more than one capacity we have 48 parishioner volunteers. "Master Scheduler Pro" is used to facilitate the scheduling of the volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a service participant please contact Mary Conley Law at [maryconleylaw@gmail.com](mailto:maryconleylaw@gmail.com). Thank you to each of you who volunteer for your contributions to the worship at St John's.

## Altar Guild

Mary Ann Mahurin

St. John's Altar Guild assists our clergy by preparing the church for all services and special occasions with communion feast. What are these occasions one may ask? Services on Sunday 8 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm (Spanish), Wed. 7 am, Baptisms, Confirmations, Memorials, Christmas, Easter, The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Ordination, a visit from our Bishop, or many more that could come up. We have 4 teams working one week each month. Each team has a Captain, a flower person and team members who set up the Altar for communion, clean the vessels after communion, wash and press the linens and set the table (altar) for the next service. This is done each and every week of the year. Mary Alice Olson is the person that keeps our Faire linens beautiful and ready for Christmas and Easter. Thank you Mary Alice! Mary Ann Mahurin, director  
Dorn Barr, Co-Director



## El Hogar Mission in Honduras

Sue Michie

We at St. John's continue to support El Hogar, *The School of Love and Hope*, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Our student is Arnol Josue Lopez Gonzalez, who we have sponsored since he entered El Hogar in 2015 as a first grader. He is entering the fourth grade in February, 2018. He is doing well and enjoys the happy and loving atmosphere at El Hogar.

The Mission of El Hogar is to provide a loving home and education in a Christian environment for abandoned, orphaned and hopelessly poor boys and girls, enabling them to fulfill their ultimate potential as productive human beings in Honduras. El Hogar makes a huge impact on those children lucky enough to be a part of such a loving and caring home and school.

St. John's committed \$2400 to support Arnol in 2017. Our check was sent to El Hogar in February, thanks to you - his sponsors - and your generosity. We will be sending our check for the 2018 school year in February after successfully raising more than the \$2400. We will send approximately \$4000 this

year, either raising our support for Arnol if it is needed (each child may have 2 or more sponsors to reach the \$5600 needed to support that child). If he does not need more support we will help to support a second child. The need is great at El Hogar.

We are proud that we are able to send our check in February each year when the school year begins. For many years it took us until September to reach our goal (and our goal was much smaller 20 years ago!)

Your support for El Hogar is outstanding. Please continue to save your loose change to be collected in the colorful baskets on each 2nd Sunday of the month. Dollars and checks are welcome as well. And keep Arnol, the other students, and the staff at El Hogar in your prayers.

## Outreach Committee

Sherry Sullivan

***Mission Statement: The Outreach Committee of St. John's is entrusted by the congregation to disperse funds to those people and organizations that compassionately attempt to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our local community—and beyond.***

In 2017 with Vestry support, parishioners' financial contributions, In-kind donations, and volunteer hours, the Outreach Committee continued meeting basic needs of those in our local community—and beyond. We began the year with a balance of **\$6,000**. By year's end, over **\$3,000** was added from Sunday "Thanks Offerings." The offertory from St John's "Lessons and Carols" Advent service raised another **\$750**, dedicated to the YWCA Other Bank.

Generous "In-kind" donations included non-perishable food items to the Thurston County Foodbank; personal hygiene and cleaning supplies (not covered by food stamps) to the YWCA "Other Bank"; and healthy snacks for young street people served by Rosie's Place. At Christmas, 36 residents in Olympia Transitional Care and Roo-Lan Nursing Home facilities received personal gifts from St. John's members. Once a month, 10-15 volunteers prepared and served **150-175** hungry men and women at the Salvation Army's Community Kitchen. Volunteers from St John's also served at the Overnight Emergency Shelter, Kairos prison ministry, and the Food Bank.

The following non-profit organizations benefited from St. John's financial support: Chaplains on the Harbor (**\$200**); CIELO (**\$723**); the Diocesan Seafarer's Mission; Episcopal

Relief & Development (**\$200**); Interfaith Works (**\$1,000**); Interfaith Works Overnight Emergency Shelter (**\$1,000**); Kairos (**\$400**); The Olympia Free Medical Clinic (**\$1,050**); and the Union Gospel Mission No-fee Dental and Medical Clinics (**\$1,000** and **\$250**). St John's also contributed **\$1,500** toward a Diocesan Legal Defense fund to help support legal services for immigrants.

Please note the various ways of continued giving through the year: **"Thanks and Birthday Offerings"** in Sunday service; any purchase at **Ralph's or Bayview Thriftway stores using Thriftway Rewards card** (1% of your total purchase goes to St John's); donations of personal hygiene and cleaning supplies to the **YWCA Other Bank**; checks or non-perishable food to the **Thurston Co. Food Bank**; and healthy snacks to **Rosie's Place**. Thank you, St. John's!

Current Outreach Committee members: Sherry Sullivan, Judy Williams, Mary Helen Hansen, Julia Moore, Janet Cherry and Mark Teply, Bill Van Hook and Anne Hall, Patricia LeRoy and Terri Lolcama. We welcome new members, visitors, and always suggestions from the congregation!

I want to report briefly on the highlight of my experience as a first time St. John's delegate at the Diocesan Convention held on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. Besides doing the business of the church, such as electing officers, ratifying budgets, and hearing from our Bishop, the convention provides an opportunity for worship, information sharing and fellowship. My favorite part was the worship services for this year's convention, which was themed: "Wherever Bread is Broken."

The word "bread" was broken down into its 4 component parts: water, oil, wheat and yeast, and the meaning of each was further developed in one of the 4 liturgical services held throughout the 2 days. The greater message was that each of these ingredients is also a symbol of some aspect of our faith, and I got to see representatives from various churches as they participated in each service.

Opening liturgy reminded us that as Pacific North Westerners, we are surrounded and blessed by an abundance of water. Worship leaders for this ceremony were members of the Mission to Seafarers which serves the needs of sailors and the Episcopal church of St. Andrew's in Port Angeles. After the Bishop's blessing of the baptismal font water, we were abundantly washed with sprays of water flicked from cedar boughs. As a newcomer I was warned by my neighbor to take my glasses off and get ready for a real dousing.

In Friday Evening Prayer we were reminded that baptismal oil is simply scented olive oil, the same product harvested in Jesus' world. As well as being an ingredient in bread, and fuel in lamps, oil is primarily used in worship to

anoint for service and healing. Representatives from Chaplains on the Harbor in Aberdeen and St. Luke's in Ballard are both engaged in serving and healing marginalized and suffering people and so they lead Evening worship.

Saturday Morning Liturgy honored wheat, using Jesus' teaching that a grain of wheat must go into the ground and die before it can sprout into new life, pointing to both the cost and inevitability of resurrection. Accordingly, the worship leaders for this ceremony came from La Iglesia de la Resurreccion in Mt. Vernon, and Faith Church in Pouso, congregations largely made up of people who have found new life in the U.S. after periods of trial and hardship. I was reminded also of the work of our own Iglesia de San Juan.

The Closing Liturgy on Saturday looked at yeast's role in our faith. Jesus grew up with yeast as a biblical metaphor for sin and corruption, but in his parable of the woman leavening her bread, he flipped the metaphor on its head to point to the Holy Spirit's inexorable influence in the world. Sin and death will never have the final word. Members of the diocese's tiniest congregation of Sedro-Woolley and 12-year-old Eli Foster represented the yeast among us by leading this ceremony.

The hymns, prayers and readings all beautifully supported the breaking bread theme. I came to this convention thinking it would be dry and uninspiring, and I left spiritually filled to overflowing. I heartily recommend being a delegate. I promise you a meaningful experience that will enhance your membership in this congregation and this diocese.