

# **2017-18 Annual Report**

## **St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church**



**July 29, 2018**

**627 North Deer Isle Road  
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207-348-6240  
[www.stbrendansme-org](http://www.stbrendansme-org)**

## Our Mission

The Mission of St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church is to

**love, praise, welcome, and serve:**

- to **love** one another as Christ loves us,
- to **praise** God in all things,
- to **welcome** and affirm all persons,
- to **serve** the needs of one another and of those on the island, the peninsula, and throughout the world.

## Our Values

These are our **values** at St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church.

We will:

- **Welcome** others with **respect** and **compassion**;
- **Listen** to others with **trust** and **appreciation**;
- **Seek God's goodness** in each person;
- Strive for **consensus** and **work collaboratively**;
- Join in acts of **loving kindness**;
- **Share our faith** joyfully across the generations;
- **Engage** as many of our **parishioners** as possible, **year-round**, in our common life and ministries;
- **Learn from our past** and look to the future with **hope**.



*The Mission Statement and Values above (Goal #2 of the Renewal Plan) were unanimously adopted by the congregation of St. Brendan's September 10, 2017*

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**St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church  
Annual Meeting – July 29, 2018**

**AGENDA**

11:15 Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes of the Annual Meeting on July 30, 2017

Approval of Minutes of the Recessed Annual Meeting on August 13, 2017

Report of Nominating Committee -- Election of Vestry Officers and  
Members-at-Large & Convention Delegates and Alternates

Treasurer's Report

Comments/Questions for Vestry Officers

Comments/Questions for Ministry Chairs

12:00 Review and discussion of the June 24<sup>th</sup> Parish Forum Survey

Adjournment

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting**  
**St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church**  
**Deer Isle, ME**  
**Sunday, July 30, 2017**

The 2017 Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by Father Edward Dufresne. A quorum was present – 45 members were in attendance.

After an opening prayer, Father Dufresne facilitated a parish discussion focused on the following questions:

Where do you think we have been as a congregation?

Where do you think we are now?

What do you hope St. Brendan's would be like in one to three years?

What are some strengths as a congregation St. Brendan's could build on in the year ahead?

What important issues should we address in the coming year as part of a plan for parish renewal?

The meeting continued with Senior Warden Woody Osborne presiding. The minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were approved.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Skip Greenlaw presented the committee's recommendations for officers, members of the Vestry, and delegates to the Diocesan Convention for the ensuing year:

Senior Warden            Elisabeth Ingoldsby

Junior Warden        Josephine Jacob

Clerk                    Barbara Kourajian

Treasurer             Nathan 'Pete' Dane

Members-at-Large    Miriam Antich (3 year term)

Richard Paget (1 year term) - filling Barbara Kourajian's unexpired term

Continuing Member- at-Large    Peter Tarlton (two years)

Delegates to Diocesan Convention:    Elisabeth Ingoldsby and Woodley Osborne

Alternates to Diocesan Convention:    Julia Walkling and Robert Walkling

A motion was made to approve the report of the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Pete Dane will submit it by title. He mentioned that last year was a remarkable year considering where we began. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we paid all of our bills. This was no small feat considering the amount of our Diocesan assessment. Pete recognized the remarkable generosity of our anonymous donors who made it possible for us to pay-off our mortgage. Pete thanked Ruth Robinson for finding the donors.

The budget going forward is a deficit budget because the Vestry made a commitment to an increased priestly presence. Compared to where we were two years ago, Pete felt we were in remarkable shape. If you want budget details, please email him.

## **Questions for Committee Chairs**

Meg Graham would like us to go back and revisit the people we never paid in the building process. Pete replied it's not that we didn't pay them; they were subcontractors. Meg replied that we have ethical and moral considerations to keep in mind; she was concerned about relationships on the island. Meg asked the Vestry to look into this.

Mickey Jacoba asked if the congregation will see a budget for next year. Pete replied that the Finance Committee will draft a budget, which is based on the calendar year.

Skip Greenlaw commented that Carolyn Mor has done a fabulous job as our bookkeeper. We owe her a great debt of gratitude.

Several people expressed interest in seeing the numbers of the budget. This was deemed important, so people can respond to the Stewardship campaign. It was requested to have the budget included in the eNewsletter.

Bunny Reardon asked if the survey of the outside area addressed any of the issues regarding landscaping. The survey did not. We have tried to get someone to take this responsibility on. Bunny asked if there was money in the budget for landscaping. Skip thought there was \$500-\$600. Bunny suggested perhaps there was someone on the island that could benefit from a paid position to help us with this project. Discussion ensued on the topic including the need for a plan and budget for landscaping.

Mickey Jacoba asked Skip if he had estimates for the items listed at the end of the Junior Warden report. Skip said we have a capital expenditure budget and he has estimates for some of these items.

Marilyn Verhey questioned the budget allotted for our music program as she thought it was woefully low. She spoke to an increase in pay for Connie commensurate with her abilities.

## **Closing Remarks**

Edward stated that at the August 13<sup>th</sup> meeting we will be looking at a new budget and plans for the Stewardship appeal. We will consider a proposed Parish Renewal Plan which will set goals and prioritize what is most important to us.

Woody stated that the Vestry has committed itself to hiring a priest. To do that, he suggested we are going to have to grow the budget and perhaps our numbers a bit. He mentioned two areas he keeps coming back to: Worship and Outreach. He said that today's service was a good example of what we would like our worship to look like. On the Outreach front, he mentioned Dinner is Served and the Windowdressers project. Woody commented: "engaging people in helping others is the most remarkable thing I've seen happening here the past couple of years."

Pete Dane thanked Woody Osborne and Skip Greenlaw for their years of service on the Vestry and thanked Lis Ingoldsby for having recently served and yet agreeing to return as Senior Warden.

Pete Dane moved and Rich Paget seconded to recess this meeting until August 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Woody closed the meeting with a prayer. The meeting was recessed at 12:43 p.m.

**Barbara Kourajian**

**Clerk**

**St. Brendan the Navigator**  
**Minutes of the Special Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, August 13, 2017**

Senior Warden Lis Ingoldsby called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. A quorum was present – 25 members were in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the Report of Findings and to present the Proposed Parish Renewal Plan. Fr. Edward Dufresne reviewed the Report of Findings. He noted that after the July 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, new Parish Strengths were added and some Parish Needs were expanded.

Before the Proposed Parish Renewal Plan was presented, Fr. Dufresne made these points:

This Plan will be the chief focus of our efforts for the next 14 months. It will become our “marching orders.”

Eleven goals were identified in order for us to be strengthened and re-positioned.

This alone is what we will be doing. It’s not this and everything else. This means change; it is an interruption to business as usual.

Fr. Dufresne gave a general overview of the Plan and then went through it point by point. Questions and comments were raised:

Is the decision-making process going to come from the committee/ministry or from the Vestry?

Fr. Dufresne responded that it will be a collaborative process with the Vestry working with the particular ministry.

A comment was made that we may need to reassess our list of wishes. Fr. Dufresne said we may have to go back to the congregation. There will be flexibility.

What will we do in Fr. Dufresne’s absence at the end of November? Lis said there is a plan in foot to put something in place to continue the momentum started by Fr. Dufresne.

Discussion on the budget(s) and when the Stewardship campaign should begin. There will probably be two budgets: one to get us through September 2018 and then a budget after September 2018 when/if a priest is called. We will have a rolling Stewardship campaign with everyone being personally contacted. It will be clear at the end of August 2018 if we can sustain a priestly presence.

Will the Plan articulate other areas of stewardship we will need funding for? Fr. Dufresne responded that it will be the full range of ministry we expect to have but now with the priestly presence.

Fr. Dufresne passed out the Renewal Plan Timetable and stated this plan will require deployment and re-deployment of people throughout the 14-month period.

Comments:

Several felt that the budget/stewardship campaign should begin immediately – do it before our seasonal folks vacate. Fr. Dufresne said these are strategic issues that need to be worked out with the Renewal Team and Vestry.

Meg Graham asked for some clarification on the relationship between the Priest-in-Charge and the Renewal Plan. She commented that people may want to know if the Renewal Plan is working before they commit to increased funding for a Priest-in-Charge.

She felt fulfillment of the action of the plan will motivate people to give. Meg said that Stewardship has to be far more than money and commented that what is exciting and interesting is not the money, but the amount of good stuff that is going on that a lot of members don't know about. Lis commented that the Annual Report provides an account of the amazing amount of activity going on.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Lis asked for a motion to adopt the Parish Renewal Plan to be implemented during a parish renewal period lasting fourteen months (August, 2017 through September, 2018). Peter Tarlton so moved. Julie Pierson seconded the motion. The motion to adopt the Parish Renewal Plan passed unanimously.

Fr. Dufresne asked us to do one more thing: to pray daily for the success of this Plan. He closed the meeting with the Prayer of St. Brendan.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

**Barbara Kourajian**

**Clerk**



**St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church**  
**Deer Isle, Maine**  
**PARISH RENEWAL PLAN**

The people of St. Brendan's adopted the following Renewal Plan on August 13, 2017 to be implemented during a parish renewal period lasting fourteen months, (August, 2017 through September, 2018):

**COMMITMENT TO PARISH RENEWAL**

- 1. Commit to a Plan for Parish Renewal and establish a Parish Renewal Team to coordinate and report to the Vestry on the implementation of the Plan;**

**Who:** The Parish, including summer and year-round members, with the leadership of the Vestry and the Parish Renewal Team in consultation with the Consulting Priest;

**How:** By a congregational vote at a specially called parish meeting and by congregation-wide participation in the renewal work, and, in the case of the Renewal Team, by regularly **strategizing, coordinating and reporting** on the parish's **progress in achieving the Renewal Plan's goals**;

**When:** Throughout the parish renewal period, (in consultation with the Consulting Priest through November, 2017)

**A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE, CARING PARISH**

- 2. Establish a preaching, teaching, program emphasis and put in place a Christian Caring Team to promote a spirit of mutual respect, caring and encouragement in the parish.**

**Who:** the Supply Priests, the Education/Spiritual Development Ministry and the Pastoral Care Ministry

**How:** through emphasizing these themes in preaching, worship Christian education and in community life and by an intentional effort to include summer parishioners in the year-round life and ministries of St. Brendan's;

**When:** from the start of and throughout the renewal period;

**MISSION STATEMENT**

- 3. Revisit, possibly revise and adopt a Parish Mission Statement that will inform and guide every aspect of parish life;**

**Who:** the congregation with the leadership of the Vestry

**How:** through the work of a drafting group, the Vestry and a parish meeting;

**When:** within the first three months of the renewal period;

**PRIORITIES BUDGET & EXTENDED STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

- 4. Develop and carry out an extended stewardship campaign with person-to-person involvement to provide support for parish mission priorities and ministries.**

**Who:** the Stewardship and Finance Ministry, the Vestry and the congregation;

**How:** through a summer and year-round every-member stewardship campaign tied to a budget reflecting the Parish's mission priorities;

**When:** After a budget and financial plan is established, beginning in the Fall, 2017 through Fall, 2018;

## CALLING A PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

**5.** Confirm congregational support for, develop a realistic budget and financial projection for, and partner with the Bishop's Office for **calling a part-time Priest-in-Charge**, perhaps in cooperation with another Episcopal parish, who will work collaboratively with parishioners in mutual ministry and in building community.

**Who:** the congregation, the Vestry, the Finance/Stewardship Committee and the Bishop's Office;

**How:** through a parish meeting and an extended and extensive stewardship campaign;

**When:** by the end of the renewal period;

## COMMUNICATIONS

**6. Communicate** with the entire congregation — summer and year-round parishioners — concerning:

- the progress made on accomplishing the goals of the Action Plan for Parish Renewal,
- all Vestry decisions;
- the financial and stewardship status of the parish;
- progress made in the Ministries of the Parish.

**Who:** a member of the Vestry serving as Communications Officer, the Vestry, the parish ministry leaders with the support of the Parish Secretary;

**How:** through scheduling of parish information and feedback meetings, through oral and written announcements at worship, through the weekly Navigator e-letter, through posting all vestry minutes, financial and ministry reports and parish alerts and news items;

**When:** on a frequent, i.e. on a weekly, monthly and periodic basis throughout the renewal period;

## SURVEY THE CONGREGATION

**7. Conduct a parish-wide survey** to ascertain parishioners' interest and potential involvement in the ministries of the parish;

**Who:** the Vestry, in cooperation with the various ministry leaders;

**How:** through devising, and widely distributing a survey instrument and by compiling results and following up with respondents who offer their services;

**When:** after restructuring parish ministries leadership and before the end of the renewal period;.

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

**8. Continue to plan and implement** parish liturgical and ecumenical **celebrations** that make for **lively, joyous worship**;

**Who:** the Worship and Music Ministry and Organist with the support of the Vestry in cooperation with the supply priests;

**How:** through training and scheduling lay worship assistants, Eucharistic Ministers and through planning, consulting with clergy and through consulting with and receiving feedback from parishioners;

**When:** throughout the renewal period;

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

9. **Develop a small number of outreach ministries** that will help forge a 'parish identity' and provide a **strong ecumenical, service and evangelism impact** and continue and expand St. Brendan's collaboration with other community churches and service organizations;

**Who:** the Outreach and Evangelism Ministry and the Parish with the support of a consulting priest;

**How:** through planning, consulting with clergy and developing, promoting and carrying out programs of service to the community;

**When:** throughout the renewal period;

## LEADERSHIP FOR MINISTRY

10. **Adopt** an efficient and accountable **leadership structure** for the Vestry and the Parish, possibly dividing the work into **five parish Ministries, Worship and Music, Education and Spiritual Development, Outreach and Evangelism, Stewardship and Finance and Pastoral Care** and establish Ministry Descriptions for all leadership and ministry positions;

**Who:** the Vestry and the parish Ministries with the support of the Consulting Priest;

**How:** through drafting, testing out and adopting ministry descriptions delineating the areas of authority, responsibility and lines of accountability for all parish ministries;

**When:** late Fall, 2017;

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

11. **Adopt best management practices in the Parish, including conducting efficient and productive meetings;**

**Who:** The Wardens, the Vestry, the Ministry leaders, in consultation with the Consulting Priest;

**How:** through providing regular oversight and review of Parish staff, through effectively caring for the Parish building and grounds, consulting and budgeting for ministries, through preparing for meetings, setting realistic agendas and implementing strategies to insure positive and productive meetings;

**When:** throughout the renewal period, (in consultation with the Consulting Priest, through November, 2017).

###

## **Senior Warden's Report**

This year witnessed the loyal commitment of our members with the unanimous adoption of a Parish Renewal Plan, crafting a mission and values statement and launching five Parish ministries. The Vestry stepped up to assume a leadership role as the Renewal Team providing oversight and monitoring of Renewal Plan and ministry progress in supporting Goals #6, 7, 10 and 11 of the Renewal Plan (Communications, Parish Survey, Leadership for Ministry and Best Management Practices).

The thoughtful work, time and effort invested in the Renewal Plan by everyone involved – along with the encouragement and sage guidance of Fr. Edward Dufresne and The Rev Vesta Kowalski - has resulted in the formation of a meaningful working structure for St. Brendan's sustainable for the long term. Of the eleven goals set forth in the Renewal Plan, four goals have been accomplished and the remainder are in progress and/or close to completion. Five ministries were established by the Plan, each of which submitted a Ministry Description for Vestry approval, setting forth its ministry goals and responsibilities in support of St. Brendan's mission. Quarterly updates are submitted to the Vestry/Renewal Team to monitor progress. As evidenced in this Annual Report, much has been accomplished. More important however, is the refreshing atmosphere of collaboration that now prevails, as members and ministries are actively engaged in working together, encouraging and exploring new ideas and ways of doing things.

The Ministry reports contained in this Annual Report are a testament and reflection of a growing parish vitality - sometimes 'organic' in nature - however in the end most uplifting, healing and energizing. In short, ***good things are happening!***

The current challenge – addressing Goal #5, the rationale and subsequent options for seeking a more sustainable priestly presence - was the focus of the June 24<sup>th</sup> Parish Forum. The survey results have been encouraging and more information on this will be shared at the Annual Meeting. Additional priestly presence not only involves Sunday services, but is also important to the Senior Warden and Vestry/Renewal Team members, in providing spiritual and administrative guidance and support as they carry out their work.

Needless to say, plans and hopes for 2018-19 and beyond will be influenced by budgetary factors and the upcoming Stewardship campaign, all of which remain on the table for the incoming Vestry's agenda.

What has been clear throughout this process is that we all share a deep love and caring for the health and well-being of St. Brendan's. I am confident our Renewal Plan and ministry work will continue to guide us along our journey of faith, as we seek to fulfill our mission to serve the needs of our members, the island, Peninsula and beyond.

Thank you to the entire Vestry/Renewal Team for their diligent and thoughtful work this year, and to the members of St. Brendan's for the opportunity to serve.

**Elisabeth Ingoldsby**

**Senior Warden**

**July 30, 2017-July 29, 2018**

## **Report of Junior Warden with Buildings and Grounds Committee**

The Junior Warden oversees the church building and its operations, ensuring that things are operating smoothly, and arranging for any needed repairs. The first year has been a steep learning curve. During the year the Buildings and Grounds Committee worked with the Junior Warden to prioritize a list of needs and wants for the Building, to execute projects, and to estimate capital needs for the future, in the face of a barebones budget.

Every year we continue to breathe life into the buildings that house the Church of St. Brendan, as Paul van Buren called us. The sanctuary and the office/kitchen/community room annex host a wide variety of activities. Monday mornings the big room is alive with mothers and infants and toddlers playing and conversing. Later the conference room is full of professional and novice investors sharing experience and perspective as they manage the money each has invested in the Timely Traders investment group that tithes to St. Brendan's quarterly. Later that day the door to the church is open to welcome people to sit in silent prayer and meditation.

The third Thursday of the month St. Brendan's hosts musicians of all sorts to make music together. What started out as a winter experiment has evolved into a monthly event that draws more and more people as participants and audience. Alternate Friday afternoons a group of dedicated rug hookers gathers to hook together. They love the bright afternoon light that floods the hall.

The hall and kitchen availability has enabled individuals and groups to host birthday parties, weddings, funerals, small and large meetings, concerts, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter dinners. The Building Use Committee spent time researching the features and fee structures of other buildings for lease in our area and produced a handsome brochure advertising our community space. We have come a long way and still have a fair piece to go to realize the potential for our building to be self-supporting.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee received from the previous Junior Warden, Skip Greenlaw, a list of anticipated capital improvements composed at a time when St. Brendan's had a larger budget. The Committee met in August to decide which of these improvements were essential, and which could be deferred or achieved in some other way than financing through the annual operating budget. It was generally agreed that the highest priority should be given to matters that involved safety or imminent damage to the building. Expensive and discretionary projects, like the reinforcement of the organ loft, or the trenching around the building to alleviate water in the basement were deemed deferrable. The organ loft simply has to be declared off-limits to all but the organist. The water in the basement on the other hand has been addressed in a different way, costing a small fraction of the \$20,000 that had originally been estimated.

The main project undertaken in the Fall addressed safety, water in the basement, and improvement of the landscaping, all at the same time. Skip Eaton, local paving contractor, was hired to pave the roadside edge of the parking lot with a blacktop apron that made it easier for drivers to enter the busy main road. The granite blocks by the front steps that obstructed the view of oncoming cars were removed to the back of the parking lot for later use. At the same time the large boulders from the back of the parking lot were moved to the edge of the side garden. Most effectively, the water that had been draining off the roof into the nearby window well and into the basement, was diverted into a drain through a buried pipe onto the parking area. With this one project costing only \$5,000 we improved the safety, reduced dramatically the amount of water in the basement, and marked the contours of the side garden. This project demonstrates that some of the larger improvements that have been considered necessary can be addressed in less expensive ways.

Other improvements made were to install new weather stripping on the doors in the new building, stopping the drafts and reducing the heat loss, redoing the St. Brendan's sign in the front of the church, fixing the outside lighting, and getting the malfunctioning closer on the most used door replaced on warranty.

Projects now in process include reconfiguring the steps up to the altar as well as adding a hand rail to keep clergy and servers from tripping and falling on the very narrow steps, having the exterior trim repaired and repainted where necessary, and adjusting a roof vent over the kitchen stove to prevent water infiltration during particular weather conditions. The Building Committee is also planning work sessions to replant the two side gardens, moving existing plants, and adding a few trees and shrubbery. (Our snow plower would like to donate some of the topsoil he makes.) Efforts are also under way to dispose of the portable ramp at the front of the church. (If anyone knows of a church or other building that needs the ramp, please let the Junior Warden know.) In addition it will be necessary to replace what is now a double door on the small annex leading to the basement with a solid door and a new door sill, and to plug a few holes in the church foundation that are also letting in water. These last actions should eliminate the final sources of water entering the basement from winter snow and especially from hard rains.

Projects still under consideration include further improvement of acoustics in the new addition (already considerably better after the second installation of panels), possible gravelling of an additional parking area at the accessible rear of the church, and adding a deck across the front of the church connecting the two front doors, in keeping with the original style of the old New England church.

In the next few years St. Brendan's faces some significant expenses for major building repairs such as replacing the roof, and possibly replacing major sections of the siding on the original church building (though experts have told us that this siding is better than most and hard to replace). There have been ongoing discussions with the Finance Committee as to how to provide for these major capital expenses, and we are generally agreed that a formal sinking fund should be established as part of the annual budgeting process to recognize and provide for these future projects.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Josephine Jacob, Junior Warden**

**Margaret Graham, Chairman Buildings and Grounds Committee**

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **I. The Causes for Celebration**

Two Thousand Seventeen was a year where we successfully managed to deal with our second and last year of an abnormal Diocesan Assessment and have paid it in full. As we entered 2018 we were debt free and able to work within a balanced budget which included increased priestly presence. In fact things were so successful that I cannot think of a negative or cautionary statement to make. Thank you for your generosity.

If you wish to review the details of our 2017 year, please contact me, and I will send you the year end financial statement. The 2017 year end audit report can be found on the following page.

### **II. The Challenging Stuff**

The question going forward is our willingness and capacity to pay for the level of priestly presence we seek. We have successfully navigated a serious internal rift that took four years of exhausting effort on the part of the Vestry, and we now can look forward with confidence to our future.

Thanks are due to the assistance of the members of the Finance Committee this year: our Chair, Ruth Robinson, and members Meg Graham, Stu Pierson and Dan Reardon. Our Audit Committee members, Luke Williams, Kathy Burton and Martha Dane, have completed their tasks in a timely and efficient manner and have already completed the first quarter of 2018! And a very special thanks is due Carolyn Mor for all her work doing the books throughout the year.

**Nathan 'Pete' Dane**  
**Treasurer**

May 17, 2018

We have performed a financial records Audit of St. Brendan-the-Navigator Episcopal Church, Deer Isle, ME, for the year 2017. Our Audit was made in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Maine.

In the Audit Team's estimation, the financial condition of St. Brendan-the-Navigator Episcopal Church is fairly reported in the Treasurer's Report.

In 2017 the Audit was performed on a Rolling Quarterly basis. Each quarter's audit was completed within a few weeks after the close of each quarter. The fourth Quarter Audit was completed in May 17, 2018. With only a minor number of additional items for the year, this finished the Audit for the year 2017.

The Rolling Quarterly Audit process evens out the audit load during the year. We use a checklist as a guide. Moreover, questions that arise are readily addressed by the Treasurer.

There were no significant unresolved differences. We highly compliment our Treasurer Carolyn Mor for the completeness and accuracy of her records in addition to her cordial willingness to address any questions that arose in the course of our audits.

AUDIT TEAM MEMBER: Luke Williams



AUDIT TEAM MEMBER: Kathy Burton



AUDIT TEAM MEMBER: Martha Dane





## **Report of the Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers, members of the Vestry, and delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Convention for the ensuing year:

Senior Warden - Elisabeth Ingoldsby

Junior Warden - Josephine Jacob

Clerk - Barbara Kourajian

Treasurer - Nathan 'Pete' Dane

Members-at-Large - Tom van Buren (one-year term)  
Meg Graham (three-year term)

Continuing Member-at-Large - Miriam Antich (two-year term)

Diocesan Convention Delegates - Skip Greenlaw and Ruth Robinson  
Diocesan Convention Alternates - Rich Paget and Josephine Jacob

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rich Paget, Mickey Jacoba, Martha Dane, and Barbara Kourajian**

## **Worship and Music Ministry Report**

**The mission of the Ministry is to further the mission of St. Brendan's by:**

*Providing leadership through September, 2018 in achieving **Parish Renewal Plan Goal #8**, Continue to plan and implement parish liturgical and ecumenical celebrations that make for lively, joyous worship;*

The Worship Committee has met regularly with the guidance of The Reverend Vesta Kowalski to fulfill the ministry's goals as stated above. So what does this newly formed ministry do?

Following the liturgical calendar of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost, we begin in a different time zone. With Tradition and Invocation as touchstones the committee selects various forms of the Eucharist Prayer, Gloria, Creed, Prayers of the People, Sanctus, and Closing Prayer appropriate to that season. Prayers for special occasions and concerns are added when needed or requested. Special services were planned for Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter. Marking a modest beginning, three special lay-led services were offered for All Saints, Massacre of the Innocents, and Ash Wednesday. At the end of our 'winter season' seeking response to our worship together, the committee distributed a questionnaire to the congregation with three questions to consider: Response to changes in liturgy; What was missing in their worship experience; and Response to lay-led services. A forum held to discuss findings gave an overall positive response to their worship experience.

Our Committee work reaches beyond worship services:

1) We work with the altar guild to support their service including making necessary arrangements for altar set up, supplies, etc. A proposal made by the altar group for special liturgical items was submitted to the vestry.

2) We supply license information and offer training opportunities for both Eucharistic Visitors and Eucharistic Ministers and have had an encouraging response from the congregation.

3) We sponsored two programs on Worship led by Reverend Kowalski.

October: An enactment of the role of each Eucharistic Ministry – a complete success and delight.

April: An overview Presentation of the Prayer Book -an amazing tour de force

Both programs were not only informative, but greatly appreciated and well attended.

4) Not to be overlooked – as part of our ongoing work together:

We consider, discuss, and make decisions regarding concerns and requests that our brought to our attention regarding worship at St. Brendan's that may include everything from wearing of vestments to additional worship opportunities.

And finally in a category of its own:

5) We confer with the Organist-Choir Director, Connie Mayo (who serves on the committee) regarding music and choir offerings and opportunities. As music is such an integral part of the St. Brendan's worship experience, we offer support and work to enrich, enhance, and expand this aspect of our ministry. The Committee commissioned and placed a memorial plaque on the organ honoring Lynn Verhey and David Friedell for the purchase and installation of St. Brendan's organ.

**Submitted by Mickey Jacoba, chair and scribe**

**Committee Members: Pete Dane, Barbara Kourajian, Connie Mayo, Ann Otteson**

**Advisor/Consultant: The Reverend Vesta Kowalski**

***\*\*note: a devoted scribe keeps minutes of our meetings for anyone wishing a copy.***

# **Education and Spiritual Development Ministry Report**

**The mission of the Ministry is to further the mission of St. Brendan's by:**

*Providing leadership through September, 2018 in achieving **Parish Renewal Plan Goal #2: Establish a preaching, teaching, program emphasis and put in place a Christian Caring Team to promote a spirit of mutual respect, caring and encouragement in the parish.***

## **Programs for Winter/Spring 2017-18**

1. On November 20th, ADVENT CALENDARS and CHRISTMAS CARDS were sent to seasonal members and Advent calendars were given to year-round members.
2. On December 17th, Vesta Kowalski led a lively SERMON DISCUSSION after the service. This was followed by suggestions of topics for future discussions. Topics that generated the most interest were: a Prayer Book survey, sermon talks, and a Lenten book study.
3. For the six Sundays of Epiphany, we offered a program developed by St. Mary's Falmouth: "BRINGING CHURCH HOME". The Navigator included a link for each week's program consisting of short passages from the lectionary and spiritual practices which could be followed at home.
4. After the service on February 11th, Vesta presented a PRAYER BOOK survey.
5. During Lent, LENTEN BOOK STUDY discussions were held after services each Sunday based on "Pilgrim Road: A Benedictine Journey Through Lent" by Albert Holtz. Discussion leaders were: Vesta Kowalski, Mickey Jacoba, Ann Ottesen and Pete Dane. The book sparked interesting discussions and reflections from Holtz's travel journals.

## **Programs for Summer/Fall of 2018:**

Meeting of Education and Spirituality Ministry June 17th after Sunday liturgy.

2. Weekly SILENT MEDITATION continues on Monday at 4:30 in the church. Woody continues to be the anchor for this gathering. Last week 14 people sat in silence together. This spiritual ministry is growing each summer. Much gratitude to Woody who faithfully keeps meditation going year round.
3. BIBLE STUDY facilitated by Jane Marsh started two weeks ago on Mondays at 3p.m. in the church conference room. Jane initiated this program with the E&S Ministry team. Her intention for group: "I am hoping that group will grow together in Christ as we share encouraging stories about our own faith journeys of faith, hope and love." The format: read and discuss one psalm per week emphasizing faith aspects of spiritual growth that are presented in the psalm. Attendance has been outstanding: the room is full and we are learning and practicing receiving each others different experiences and perspectives with openness. Each new psalm opens the door to participants sharing their spiritual path.
4. BOOK GROUP: This year's spiritual book group met for the first of four meetings on 7/14. This year's book, The Sabbath, was chosen by Ann, Patricia and Barbara. Thirteen people bought this book after group was announced in church. Nine people attended the first discussion held on the deck of the Tarlton's home from 5-6:30.. The group has grown in number and new faces and discussion of Rabbi Heschel's book was reflective and animated.
5. WORKSHOP ON EXISTENTIAL PHILOSOPHY with Peter Antich PhD 7/18/18  
This workshop led by Peter Antich, son of Miriam and Peter Antich, who recently was awarded a PhD in Philosophy will specifically look at the ethical dimensions of existentialism drawing on Sartre's "Existentialism is a Humanism" and de Beauvoir's Ethics of Ambiguity.
6. To be announced: Workshop on Thomas Merton with Anne Cushman

**Submitted by Ministry Co-Chairs Barbara Wright and Patricia Donahue**

## **Outreach Ministry Report**

**The mission of the Ministry is to further the mission of St. Brendan's by:**

*Providing leadership through September, 2018 in achieving **Parish Renewal Plan Goal # 9** of the Renewal Plan: Develop one or two outreach ministries focused on the needs of residents of Deer Isle and the peninsula, ministries that, in addition to helping people in need, will begin to forge a 'parish identity' and provide a strong ecumenical, service and evangelism impact.*

The Outreach Committee of St. Brendan's began with new co-chairs, Woody & Martha, following the 2017 Annual Meeting. Our goal has focused on arriving at a primary project which would involve parish participation, be helpful to the community, get people involved working together to build community, and would move us to give labor rather than money. We had a number of meetings and ideas – explored working with elementary school students (could provide ongoing activity); had discussions regarding housing for people who are employed on the island and with possible support for the work of domestic abuse on the island by Next Step. We came to no conclusions for the development of "one or two outreach ministries." Our recommendation is that discussion continue.

Many thanks to members of the Outreach Committee: Skip Greenlaw, Richard Paget, Julie Pierson, Ann van Buren, Susan Wade, Anne Williams and Jackie Wilson. And, thanks to the Rev. Vesta Kowalski for being so helpful, encouraging and insightful and attending most of our meeting. And, a big thank you to the entire parish for all of your support and interest.

### **Donations which support our Mission (August, 2017-June, 2018):**

#### **2017: \$2,607.08**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Volunteers for Hancock Jail Residents  | \$ 500.00 |
| Island Community Center                | 250.00    |
| Alfred's Christmas Fund                | 500.00    |
| Hannaford Bros (Thanksgiving meals)    | 508.72    |
| Hannaford Bros (Christmas meals)       | 673.81    |
| Window Dressers (total for 2017 build) | 174.55    |

#### **2018 (January, 2018-July, 2018): \$3,250.00**

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Deer Isle/Stonington and George Stevens College Scholarships | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Camp Kooky Scholarships                                      | 1,250.00    |

**Submitted by Outreach Ministry Co-Chairs Martha Dane and Woody Osborne**

## **Pastoral Care and Welcoming Ministry Report**

**The mission of the Ministry is to further the mission of St. Brendan's by:**

*Providing leadership through September, 2018 in achieving **Parish Renewal Plan Goal #2**, . . . put in place a Christian Caring Team to promote a spirit of mutual respect, caring and encouragement in the parish . . . [and making] . . . an intentional effort to include summer parishioners in the year-round life and ministries of St. Brendan's.*

2018 has been a year of new beginnings for the Pastoral Care Committee. We started out with two new co-chairs who were looking for how to best address the Parish's needs for both full time and seasonal parishioners. We began with a meeting with Vesta to gain some guidance and then launched out finding our way.

Miriam Antich has been a tremendous help in keeping the prayer list updated. She has also established a list of parishioners birthdays (no ages needed J) so that we can stay in touch on each and everyone's special day. If you haven't signed up please take the opportunity to do at the next coffee hour.

We also established a box of cards for various occasions, with stamps and the church directory for all to use. This should enable all of us to reach out in a quick and easy manner when a need arises. Anyone who would like to work with the card ministry would be most welcomed to join in.

We are working at visiting parishioners in the hospital and or those in need at home. Several of our committee and also fellow members of the church have undertaken this mission and have made several visits to offer prayers, comfort and hope. I myself was a recipient of this when I was unable to drive for 3 months and it was very much appreciated.

We are now regularly bringing Communion to members who are unable to attend out Sunday worship service. Several parishioners have been trained so please call if you would like us to come to your home.

We recently have had some new worshipers attending our services and we hope they feel welcomed by all. Please take time and talk with them and get to know each other. Let us welcome all by saying more than hello. Let's all take the time to really get to know each other.

Our goal is to keep in contact with both the year round and seasonal members and make all feel included. Please let us know of your needs so that we can be there for you either in person or in prayer. A phone call, a visit or a card can really brighten someone's day and we are striving to let all know that they are loved. We are a Family in Christ.

**Respectfully Submitted**

**Co-Chairs Diane Greenlaw and Carolyn Mor**

## **Finance and Stewardship Ministry Report**

**The mission of the Ministry is to further the mission of St. Brendan's by:**

*Providing leadership through September, 2018 in achieving Parish Renewal Plan Goals # 4. **Develop and carry out an extended stewardship campaign** with person-to-person involvement to provide support for parish mission priorities and ministries, and # 5 **Confirm congregational support for, develop a realistic budget and financial projection for, and partner with the Bishop's Office for calling a part-time Priest-in-Charge.***

First of all, we want to thank all who pledged to support St. Brendan's for 2018. We know that it is difficult for a small band of troops to support a large mission, but every year you never cease to amaze. It is only due to your generous giving that we have our Church and that it functions in the black.

Secondly, I must apologize for the Stewardship committee who, for the first time in many years if ever, failed to write personal thank-you notes to each parishioner who pledged. There is no excuse; it simply did not get done. It is not that we did not appreciate every envelope that came in the mail or that was dropped into the in-gathering basket. On the contrary, it heartened us. But that gratitude did not pass along to you, as it should have. So rest assured that we are all grateful for every penny that came to our coffers by way of pledge and we pledge to do better in the future.

Our work in 2017 focused on creating a budget for 2018 and on advising the Vestry on creating a capital budget. Our suggested budget for 2018 was conservative and while the Vestry thought we could do better, our projections were quite on the money. We submitted a break-even budget and that is almost what we have at the moment.

We hope by next budget session in the fall (our fiscal year is still the calendar year) that we will have a capital budget in place to include with our operating budget so we can set aside money each year to build our capital reserves.

Finally, we have set up a Fidelity account for the Church with which we can purchase short-term savings vehicles for our unused cash. There are times in the budget cycle when cash builds up and this will help us to make a little money while we wait to spend it. The account also serves as a receptacle for stocks that come to us as donations or pledges. As you may know, if you make a donation directly from your IRA to a charitable organization, you do not have to include this amount as income for the tax year.

At year-end 2017, our equity account with the Maine Community Foundation totaled \$109,661, an increase of about 15% from the previous year and after paying \$1,450 in fees. Our much smaller Endowment Account ended the year with \$7,483, which was about a 13% increase from the previous close after paying just over \$100 in fees.

As a group, we worked well together and found that we have a lot in common, financially. This helps when a group is trying to do the right thing by the Church. Our Treasurer deserves accolades for translating our recommendations to the Vestry just as we voted them.

We look forward to serving you in 2018 and that you will always feel free to ask any of us questions about our operations or any other thing financial that may be on your mind.

Thank you once again for your loyalty to and your love of St. Brendan's.

**Respectfully submitted, Ruth Robinson, Chair**

**Ministry Members: Pete Dane, Treasurer, Meg Graham, Dan Reardon, Judy Miller, Stewart Pierson**

## Prayer of St. Brendan

*Help me to journey beyond the familiar  
and into the unknown.*

*Give me the faith to leave old ways  
and break fresh ground with You.*

*Christ of the mysteries, I trust You  
to be stronger than each storm within me.*

*I will trust in the darkness and know  
that my times, even now, are in Your hand.  
Tune my spirit to the music of heaven,  
and somehow, make my obedience count for You.*

*Amen*