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**Annual Meeting Agenda
Canterbury Hall
January 26, 2020**

Opening Prayer – Vicar

Call to Order – Senior Warden

- Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Meeting
- Bishop’s Committee Nominations and Elections
- Treasurer’s 2019 Report and 2020 Budget
- Fund-Raiser Ideas
- Photo Review of 2019

Closing Prayer – Vicar

St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
January 27, 2019

Approximately 35 people attended the meeting. Signature page was passed around and a copy is on file.

Opening Prayer –Vicar

Call to Order – Vicar (due to absence of Senior Warden, Senior Warden, who was ill)

Minutes from the 2018 annual meeting – Vicar presented the minutes; Marianna R. made a motion to accept; Junior Warden seconded the motion; unanimously approved.

Nominations – Vicar presented the Bishop's Committee (no new members nominated; all members from late 2018 continuing to fill their terms). Vicar also presented Nominations for Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Convention. No motion was required. Attendees unanimously approved all categories in one vote. Please see page 5 of report for all names in above roles.

Treasurer's Report and Budget –Treasurer

Overall message is that St. A's in good shape financially.

Assets:

- > ¼ million dollars in fund assets
- generosity of giving
- all revenues categories *better than* budgeted (except vicarage rental income: ½ year only)
- Loose Change campaign a success

Expenses:

- Overall less than budgeted
- Thank you for all of the volunteer labor
- Many improvements to church building, exterior, and vicarage
- Debt paid off to diocese (for handicap access project)

Pledges:

- Average pledge made in 2018 for 2019 went up

2019 Budget approved by Bishop's Committee; ratified at Annual Meeting by all.

Comments – Vicar

We are not a small church – more like medium-sized. St. A's is a beacon and a light to URI, diocese, and beyond. Spirit-filled prayer. Thank you!

Strategic Plan, 2018-22 – Rich Y.

Annual meeting an opportunity to revisit and amend as needed. Highlights:

Goal 1: Parking plan explored in depth and set aside: too expensive.

Positives: significant parking agreement with URI, much more specific; becoming more closely involved with university.

Weekends and weekdays after 5 pm: permission to use CDC lot

Other times: Obtain and display temporary permit from Cheryl in office to park at CDC or on Bayberry to avoid towing

Goal 2: on track

Goal 3: Experimentation continuing; adult ed program active this year

Goal 4: Focus on 'creative activism' – what type of activism best for us? Issues URI faculty/students interested in—for example, good food movement; loving the earth/sustainability

Goal 5: Vicar already involved in campus ministry; very successful transition; will need our help to carry out this ministry

Other News – Vicar

A fruitful and challenging 2018. Acknowledgment of those in our community we lost, including Vicar Emeritus the Rev. John Hall.

Worship time: Shift from two services to one has been an adjustment; enjoy unity and cohesion of congregation, yet change can be difficult. Bishop's Committee voted to try one 9:30 service during Lent – please be communicative about your response to this ... experimenting.

Lent: Addition of Thursday night Taizé Service (5:30) to soup (6pm) and movie evenings

New committees/Initiatives—sign-ups sheets on hand

- Music & Liturgy Team
- Activism Team
- Sunday School Team (noted that we have Godly Play materials that are adaptable for all ages; positive feedback on team approach; hope to begin in the fall)
- Rock-a-thon / Silent Auction

FUNd-raising Ideas:

- *Rock-at-thon* (Vicar has experience from other parishes)- simple and effective
- *Silent Auction* (emphasis on experiences rather than things; explore good ideas from other organizations who do this)
- Other ideas always welcome

Susan B. introduced the idea of creating a directory of parishioners' skills/talents so we can better connect when needing advice, work done, etc.

Upcoming Events

February 24: Rock-a-thon (pledge sheets to come)

March 10: Service time change to 9:30 AM for Lent

March TBA: Guitar concert by Victor Main

May 11: Annual Yard Sale

Closing Prayer –Vicar

Respectfully submitted, Annie K.
(in absence of Margaret R. – Clerk)

St. Augustine's Bishop's Committee and Delegates to Convention

(Terms expire at the Annual Meeting of the Year Indicated)

2019 Officers

Rector: The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Knisely

Vicar: The Rev. Beth Sherman

Senior Warden: Carolyn Davis (2020)

Junior Warden: Roy Heaton (2022)

Clerk: Margaret Rostrup (2020)

Treasurer: Victoria Escalera (2021)

Assistant Treasurer: Jane Grenier (2021)

(non-voting, B.C. Appointee)

2020 Nominations for Officers

Senior Warden: Carolyn Davis (2023)

Clerk: Margaret Rostrup (2023)

2019 Bishop's Committee Members

Jane Bates (2021)

Annie Kammerer (2021)

Patricia Steere Fox (2020)

Mary Walsh (2020)

Dwight Giles (2022)

Richard Youngken (2022)

2020 Nominations for Bishop's Committee Members

Annette LaRosa (2023)

Patricia Steere Fox (2023)

2020 Nominations for Delegates to Convention

Carol Miro (2020)

Bonnie Sardinha (2020)

2020 Nominations for Alternate Delegates to Convention

Susan Brown (2020)

Kathie Gibson (2020)

Senior Warden Report

Senior Warden

Dear Friends,

2019 was our first year with our new Vicar & Chaplain – and “no grass grows under her feet!” We have a new Activism Team, monthly “Relax and Refresh” meditation-type sessions, Friday afternoons “Coffee Lounge” for students, some events with the Child Care Center next door such as the launch of our new bat houses (made by URI students), and many new contacts and events at URI. Just read her report. Of course we and the students love Willow and Tinkerbell, too!

We completed the clergy “transition” on June 30th when we sadly said goodbye and happy retirement to Archdeacon Jan. Jan was our Chaplain at URI and in that role, restarted and grew our campus ministry. We were also blessed with many volunteer hours and guidance in “tech stuff,” office support, paint jobs, and campus activities by Jan’s wife, Ann. We pray for their happy and healthy retirement. Jan passed the baton to Deacon Rob who is also Chaplain of the URI football team. We are blessed with his sermons and his cooking skills for student dinners! We continue to be thankful for Rev. Susan S. and her continued guidance with the pastoral care team, liturgy and choir, and support to Vicar with the running of the church. We also thank Gail W., retired deacon, for her thought-provoking and humorous sermons.

Your Bishop’s Committee was very busy this year with some major unexpected capital projects. You received an email list from me last fall and after writing that letter, we had to put a new roof on the vicarage. See Jr. Warden, Junior Warden’s report for all the details. We dipped into our savings to handle these expenditures and did not incur any loans. However we are postponing some projects in 2020 and hoping our very weary Jr. Warden can get a break.

We were also busy with some new fund-raising events that included some enjoyable social times within the congregation. See the report by our Treasurer, Vicki E. We look forward to more fun times in 2020! Finally, the Bishop’s Committee thanks all of you for your generosity in pledges, your buying power and support for our many fund-raisers, and the many hours of work and creativity that you all provide to our church home.

Peace and blessings,
Senior Warden

Junior Warden Report

Junior Warden

There were some pretty significant things done this year, and we spent more from our capital budget than any time in recent memory. For 2020, I’m hoping that we can get by without any big expensive projects.

Drainage: The first significant project was getting the drains checked and cleaned by Diffleys, and now all of our important drains are in good shape. They created a catchment basin outside the door from the kitchen, which feeds into the drain going under the stones area. So now, the area where water tends to accumulate (just outside the boiler room) is now pretty well-drained, and I very much hope that we won’t see any more water seeping into the boiler room or kitchen.

Garage roof and shed: Then in the summer, the garage got its roof replaced, and the old sheds on

the uphill side were torn down and replaced by a single shed, with a concrete apron around its edge, to help with the flooding problem we've always had there. That problem is not yet fixed, as there is still work needed on the drainage on the uphill side of the building. More about that below. The garage work was done during the summer. The creation of the new shed allowed us to move some large items like the grills out of the two garage bays, freeing up space and giving us better room to move around.

Vicarage heating system: We had a RISE audit of the vicarage, which resulted in an offer by RISE to subsidize the installation of cellulose insulation in the walls, which were uninsulated. But – the audit also revealed that the boiler had an inadequate draft, and as such was hazardous for CO leakage. The problem turned out to be the design of the exhaust pipe, which had been problematic all along. The solution to that was going to be expensive and disruptive, and the auditor pointed out that National Grid was offering large rebates for switching away from oil-burning systems to electrically driven heat pumps (mini-split, in our case). The Bishop's Committee had long and extensive debates on the relative merits of the switch, which turned out to be even more expensive than the boiler-exhaust rebuild would have been. The rebate offer was helpful, but the decision was mainly driven by other considerations – the discovery that the boiler was thirty-five years old, the need to control humidity during the summer and avoid persistent mold problems, plus the chance to eliminate an outdoor oil tank standing above bare soil, which is a major environmental liability. It will reduce our fossil fuel consumption, allow Vicar to better control the vicarage temperature (with less heating of unused rooms) and maybe save on energy costs over time. At least we can hope that will prove true. The new mini-split system went in, in late September and is designed to provide adequate heat at outdoor temperatures down below -5 degree F. At the same time, the vicarage got a new heat-pump water heater. Shortly thereafter, a wood-stove insert and chimney liner were installed so that Vicar can have fires when she likes, while heat loss up an open chimney flue will be curtailed.

Vicarage roof and wall insulation: With the boiler gone, RISE quite nicely managed the contractor that insulated the walls of the vicarage, and even covered most of the cost. So we should need less heat to keep the place comfortable in the future. Once this job was done, I had hopes that we were done with the vicarage for a while, but, no such luck. We had a rainy few weeks in December, and Vicar started noticing water leaking around the chimney. Then there was water leaking from the bathroom window casing. We needed a new roof. The job was done in a day – the 31st of December, the last day of an expensive year. I felt relieved when it was done. The roofer had to replace 5 sheets of plywood that had developed wood rot, so we were due for that roof. Let's hope we really are done now.

Exterior oil tanks: We discovered that the church's oil tank (located under the ramp platform) had developed some rust along the seams, to the point where the oil delivery company would have refused to refill the tank if they had noticed. We found it first, though, and had the old single-wall steel tank replaced by a (Roth) double-wall outdoor storage tank that carries a large insurance policy as part of its warranty. Our potential liability for an oil leak should be eliminated. Once that new tank was about empty, Dwight E. very kindly spent a large part of a day in December, pumping all of the oil from the now-unused vicarage tank to the church's new tank, so it didn't go to waste. We still need to get rid of the old empty vicarage tank.

Church yard and Stream: There was outdoor work done, as well. Annie and Richard took the lead in creating the new butterfly garden, which we received as an anonymous gift. The butterfly garden is at the east end of the building. Less visible, but still significant, Hiroko spent parts of numerous days, digging out the stream bed, to better channel the stream into the area where we want it at the lower end of the property. And she cleared out some of the brush along the sides of the stream, and planted ornamental flowering bushes instead. I also cut back a large quantity of wild forsythia growing around the garage. We hired a landscaping company to dig out the stream bed behind the garage, and move the bed over to the property boundary and away from the garage,

where it was eroding the foundation. They filled the area behind the garage with stone to help stabilize the area against further erosion and stream-bed movement. They were also hired to dig a trench and install a drain pipe off the end of the brick walkway going into the church yard. The end of the walkway tends to fill with water, and remain wet for long periods after rainfall, so the bricks have grown a coating of moss and algae and often get dangerously slippery. In the future it should be easier to keep the bricks dry, but it will still require some vigilance and effort. The area to the left of and uphill from the garage still needs to be re-contoured so that it drains away from the new shed. The landscaping company was not able to accomplish that before the December rains rendered the job impractical.

Smaller jobs:

Re-paint the two entrance doors with red paint. They look a lot better. Move a large wooden desk (donated by Jane G.) from her house to the office. Help Vicar build bat houses with some students. Clean out and reorganize the garage bays. Move the trash and recycling bins to near their pickup point, so they don't have to get relocated every Friday morning before collection.

Re-hang the rainbow flag on the sign next to the main road, and re-plant the "Episcopal Church Welcomes you" sign down by route 138.

Cut down the rest of the cedar trees along the edge of the parking area, giving much improved winter lighting of the parking area. Now you can better see the church from Bayberry Road. The tree trunks are available for future projects. Also, fix the lighting around the walkway to the vicarage, so Vicar isn't walking home in deep shadows.

Remove the huge brush pile at the lower edge of the lawn. You may note that there is still brush there, as more brush has since been cut, but the pile is greatly reduced.

Zeke O. and I replaced the two windows facing into the walkway from the kitchen area. The old ones were in quite poor condition.

Vicki E. and Vicar took the lead in painting and cleaning up the meeting space outside the kitchen (Coffee lounge) so that it is much more attractive and relatively uncluttered. Vicar and some students created some of the wall decorations there.

An Eagle Scout (Jack H.) built and installed the shed - now located outside the Kitchen area door - to provide a drop-off site for donations to the Rhody Outpost. The quantity of food being donated each week has increased significantly this fall and the shed he built has helped meet the need for space.

2019 Chaplaincy Report

Vicar

Archdeacon Jan continued as primary chaplain during the spring semester. She has done such an amazing job that anyone following in her wake is in very good stead. Likewise, Deacon Rob has done great work with the football team, and other athletes. I am grateful, and very lucky to have followed Jan and to be working with Rob. I shadowed Jan this past spring, which was such a gift. It enabled me to meet many of the staff on campus with whom Jan had relationships. This eased my way as Jan prepared for her June retirement.

Feeding continued to be a big theme in 2019. We hosted the Women's Track team in January as they were mostly on campus during the winter break. In February, Hillel hosted a multi-faith Shabbat service, in memory of Avi S. I attended this, along with two of our students, one of whom helped lead the event. We hosted Feed a Friend meals in February, March and April, as well as September, October, November and December. St. A's parishioners enthusiastically provided the food at these events, and engaged in lively conversations with the students, who love the home cooked meals and the chance for chats with people of all ages.

The chaplain's association, comprised of the URI chaplains from a variety of religious backgrounds, meets every other month. St. A's is the gathering place. From our convivial fellowship we have discovered mutual support as well as opportunities to plan shared events. Every February we present an MLK Jr. award to someone who embodies Dr. King's values. This November, during Diversity Week, 5 of us provided a workshop to students.

In February, a group of a dozen students went tubing as a recreational event. February also marked the beginning of Lent, during which Ashes-to Go was offered in front of the Memorial Union. One student was a part of the ashes team, which included Jan, Deacon Rob, the Vicar, and Carol M. and Nancy B. During the spring semester, Bagels and Bibles continued, with 3 adult leaders alternating leading, and 1 or 2 parishioners attending. Although student attendance was small (two) we all loved participating! Students were also invited to attend the Thursday night Lenten Taize service, soup, and film night. One of the highlights in February was a presentation by President Dooley and Bishop Knisely, speaking about Science and Religion. A few hundred people attended, and their presentation engendered lively discussion. Also in February, a well-loved student died unexpectedly. The chaplains were alerted immediately and asked to give support, which three of us did. The invitation to be a part of this loss was an indication of the significant value placed on the chaplaincy by URI's administration.

During spring break, St. A's continued to host/house a group of students from the Center for Career and Experiential Education who do an alternative spring break event, which is geared around local community service. As Lent continued, we shared a food collection project with the children from URI's Child Development Center. We met with the one of their classes to talk about food needs, then loaded the cars, and delivered the goods to the Johnnycake Center in Wakefield. During Holy Week, Deacon Rob led students and parishioners throughout campus for a beautiful Stations of the Cross service. Other opportunities were explored to deepen our ties to the Child Development Center. A new relationship was forged with the children's librarian at the Kingston Public Library, who works closely with the CDC. In May, she used the St. A's property for a storybook gathering for the CDC kids. This December we supported the children's art projects to fight hunger, and they joined us to learn about bats and view our new bat houses.

April was the biggest of the Feed a Friend gatherings, and was overseen by Deacon Rob. It drew many of his football players. This was Jan's final Feed a Friend, and she was given a football signed by the entire football team and was presented to her by Coach Fleming. In April, one of the Italian professors used our kitchen to teach his advanced class how to make pasta and sauce! May, recognizing that for some students, having tools to combat stress during exam time would be useful, a friend and I offered a sound healing event. 28 people showed up-5 students and the rest either from St. A's or community members. This successful turn out sparked similar offerings, such as a June labyrinth walk with a parishioner playing meditative music on the flute, and a July Drumming circle. From the success of the May sound healing, the idea of the Relax and Refresh monthly gathering was born. It was held the first Thursday of every month, and geared towards giving students and others contemplative tools and opportunities to experience calm.

Jan had the honor of giving a short inspirational speech at graduation, which went extremely well. With sadness, we sent her, and her wife Ann, off at the end of June. The day included a big farewell gathering, attended by many, including President Dooley.

During the summer, I attended a couple of luncheons hosted by the interim chair of the Community, Equity, and Diversity department. In June, a few of us chaplains tabled each week at new student/parent orientations. Three of us chaplains were invited to be a part of the freshmen Student Leadership orientation over Labor Day weekend, which gave us a chance to meet new students, and to lift up chaplaincy on campus. Sunday evening in Labor Day weekend there was the annual gathering for first year students called First Night, which features student groups and clubs sharing information with new students. That night, two of our students-as well as me, Rob Izzi and a couple of parishioners-helped promote St. A's and our programs. At this gathering, we gained around 24 students to our email events list.

Twice during the fall, we had kayaking outings, which drew students as well as parishioners. The formation of an "outing" group, which would include kayaking, hiking, and other nature related trips, is in the works. In September, we launched our new Coffee Lounge, which takes place on Friday afternoons while the Rhody Outpost-the student food pantry-is open. The lounge created a new venue for building relationships, particularly with students who live at Grad Village, many of whom are from countries outside the US. Weekly, we offered fresh drip coffee and homemade sweets. Parishioners joined in to chat and welcome students. In December, thanks to Judi B. we continued the tradition of making sweet holiday breads for residents at Grad Village. This year, we also donated dozens of hand knitted hats and scarves to Grad Village. The Coffee Lounge enabled us to deepen our ties with Rhody Outpost and forge meaningful relationships with the Outpost staff person and volunteers. There is an ongoing conversation with one of the student volunteers, who is a Nutrition major, about using our kitchen to teach good nutrition/healthy eating habits. Food insecurity continues to be a challenging issue on campus, particularly amongst the students at Grad Village, and amongst many of our athletes.

Through my role as chaplain and because of my weekly participation in the Mindfulness group on campus, I was invited to participate in the Fresh Check Mental Health event on the Quad, and the Thirsty Thursday event at the Rec Center. Any invitation that heightens exposure to St. A's and our chaplaincy is embraced. Events like the Rhody Block Party on the Quad (where I was introduced to URI's Quidditch team) were opportunities to build relationships. In November, the chaplaincy at St. A's was the subject of an article in the campus student newspaper. In December, two students and I participated in Church Beyond the Walls in Providence.

Amy Albert, who coordinates the Center for Career and Experiential Education, is a great resource for us. Because of her work with student volunteers, we had Habitat for Humanity Club members help us make bat houses. And we hope for more student volunteers as we prepare to keep bees and build our own hives. Sustainability and a serious commitment to the environment are core values at St. A's and we hope that those values provide a way of drawing students into our common life. When the local chapter of the Sunrise youth movement landed at St. A's, and now see us as their home, we were delighted! Their group, and the Sustainability Club, are two that we hope to forge deeper relationships with. Other groups, like the URI Dance Club and the Center for Career and Experiential Education, are using our space more and more and finding us to be a place of welcome.

Deacon's Report

Rev. Rob Izzi

As an overview of my first full official year at St. Augustine's, my chosen word is blessed. I do feel blessed to be here and many times over to be a part of this very rich and nurturing

congregation at St. Augustine's. I say many times over because of the incredible people who have been placed in my life as I work through my first diaconal assignment. Although I am comfortable here, I do feel I am still settling in as I have not completely found the balance of family, work, coaching and my ministry here at St. Augustine's. I feel and know I should be doing more here with the church directly and in campus ministry and I am confident Vicar and I will find what that is. I do want it noted in this report of the gratitude and appreciation I feel for Pastor Vicar. Vicar is always gracious, understanding and firm when she feels the need, especially with me working on arriving and doing things in a more consistent and timely manner. I have promised this and have not delivered on that promise and for that I apologize publically to Vicar and the entire congregation.

As for the coming year, I expect to hit the ground running in increasing my involvement in campus ministry assisting Vicar in campus chaplaincy and doing more for the Football Team. I do believe we are on the same page and the entire clergy team and I am "all in" for supporting Pastor Vicar's approach to affecting change in this church. It is one of wisdom and evolution, coupled with a great capacity for compassion, nurturing and a refreshing sense of humor. The foundation here will be me to open up to the outside and dig into what I should be doing as a Deacon, identifying needs of the community and being a prophetic voice to raise those concerns to the congregation and find sustainable solutions to address them.

This year, once more I will be planning the Good Friday Stations of the Cross Walking Liturgy and hope to continue the increase in our numbers of participation as we move into our fourth year. I will be continuing with the Football Team and have already been discussing more involvement with Jim Fleming and St. Augustine's to add more opportunities for worship and campus activities. One idea I would like to share in this regard is the institution of a Men's Prayer Breakfast that will include not only the men of St. Augustine's but players from the team. I know full well the "exclusive" connotation the name of the group has, but in defense, there are things that can be opened up and discussed in that environment that would not come to surface in a communal group. I have had great success at both St. David's and Trinity and the potential here is immensely greater because of our proximity to campus, but more importantly our relationship to it. As for my relationship with St. Augustine's, I cannot reiterate enough the gratitude and thankfulness I have for you and how supported and appreciated I truly feel. My love to you all and God's peace be with you and your families in 2020.

Rev. Rob

Clergy Team Report

Vicar

Our fabulous clergy team of Archdeacon/Chaplain Jan, Deacon Rob, Retired Deacon Gail, Priest Associate Susan and the Vicar met monthly, before each Bishop's Committee meeting, to discuss issues, plans, and dreams. We are so very fortunate to have this group of clergy to support the ministry at St. A's, as we are in a diocese where it is common for a clergy person to be "solo".

During 2019, we introduced two new teams to the ministry at St. A's: Activism, and Liturgy and Music. Their reports are included in this Annual Meeting booklet. In 2019, four people who were close to us passed away: George W., Yuzuru S, Herb S, and The Rev. Jean B..

During Lent, the Vicar led a Quiet Day at St. A's, and on Thursday evenings in Lent, we gathered for Taize, soup, and a film that addressed contemporary issues. Relax and Refresh, a monthly offering devoted to gaining tools to release stress and aimed at students at URI, found a home amongst a wider circle of

participants. Starting in the summer, we offered labyrinth walks-with Jessica Wilson playing flute-one of which was a part of our Relax and Refresh series. Our relationship with the Child Development Center deepened through various opportunities for interchange. This included the local children’s librarian offering a storybook, complete with life sized cardboard props arranged throughout our beautiful acre of land. In the spring, Anne R. oversaw our United Thank Offering (UTO) and Carol B. coordinated Episcopal Charities, which included a sermon by the leader of Beautiful Day. In May, the Tuesday EfM group held its year end graduation, with a third century Eucharistic liturgy at the center of that celebration. Also in May, the Vicar became a part of the diocesan Creation Care Task force. During the summer, the St. A’s Ukulele band took birth, and has played once a month, ever since. At the end of June, we said goodbye to Archdeacon/Chaplain Jan and her wife Ann. This was a sad day for all of us, yet also a day in which we truly celebrated the fullness of both of their ministries at St. A’s. The Vicar is grateful for the tutelage given by Jan, who enabled the chaplaincy transition to be as seamless as possible.

In September, we were delighted to start a Sunday School class, which has drawn 5 children, and is wonderfully taught by Sue D. Roy H., Eric R, and Nancy B. In October/November we made two kayaking outings, which included both parishioners and URI students. There is hope that an actual outings group may emerge. Early fall, we tried a Beatles Mass, and hope to do that again in 2020. The Vicar and Annie K attended a panel on the opioid crisis which was held at Ascension, Wakefield. One of the presenters at that gathering will be a part of our 2020 Lenten series. To mark the feast of St. Francis, a Blessing of the Animals service took place in the context of the Sunday morning liturgy, happily with no dog, cat or bird fights! The Vicar participated in an ecumenical Gun Violence Vigil at St. Peter’s Narragansett mid-fall. In October, we held a Celebration of a New Ministry for the Vicar and St. A’s, with Bishop Knisely presiding. In early December, the Vicar led an Advent Quiet Day for the Blackstone Deanery.

Throughout the year, a small group of us met for book group after church. The books we read in 2019 were: Always We Begin Again; The Benedictine Way of Living, The Heart of Christianity, Care for Creation-A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth, Adult Faith-Growing in Wisdom and Understanding, and Parables-The Arrows of God. During Epiphany season, Anne Ravenscroft led us in the Good Book Bible study.

Throughout the year, a small band of parishioners and clergy attended protests around climate change, anti-Semitism, and anti-Islamophobia, thus maintaining St. A’s longstanding tradition of witnessing for justice.

The Bishop’s Committee, under the able leadership of Senior Warden and Junior Warden, guided us through a year that was both full programmatically and full in terms of work done on buildings and grounds. New fundraisers were added, which not only increased income but created new opportunities for fun and fellowship. A Coffee Lounge for students became a focal point and a great chance for deeper interchanges between parishioners and campus folk. In 2019, we welcomed 6 to 8 new parishioners. All in all, it was a very good year for St. Augustine’s.

PARISH WORSHIP STATISTICS

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Total attendance at Sunday Worship (51 Sundays; one service cancelled due to snow)	2,891	2,493	2,520
Average Sunday attendance	55	48	50
Total Easter attendance	143	113	105
Total weekday Eucharists	11	4	4
Total private Eucharists	17	11	38
Baptisms	0	2	0
Confirmations/Receptions	0	0	0

Burials	6	4	4
Marriages	0	2	1

WORSHIP

Altar Guild

Nancy Gavitt

A big thank you to my fellow members of the Altar Guild who each week faithfully prepare the church for worship. We also decorate the church prior to Christmas Eve and Easter services. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board so people can indicate when they would like to bring in floral arrangements in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Bonnie S. joined us in December bringing our number to 12. New members, men or women, are always welcome to join us. Thanks to Marianna R. and Patty F. for making our Communion bread.

Pastoral Care

Susan Stiles

The Pastoral Care Team continues to meet monthly under the guidance and supervision of Clare S. a licensed family therapist. We have been provided with new opportunities to consider how temperament brings both gifts and challenges to visits. Some of the visits made this past year have given us a better understanding of the importance of silence and listening when we are not sure how to respond to a situation. We learn appropriate limits to what we may or may not do to be helpful. Often just being present with someone in grief or pain is all we are able to do. It can be an uncomfortable moment of “non-action”.

This is the list of study and practice we have used since we started the training with Clare.

- * Training in reflective listening in order to provide and maintain safe space for conversation and prayer
- * Resources to enhance skills and self-understanding
- * The engendering and strengthening of a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect as a team with diverse gifts and abilities that comes together to allow for healing in a community
- * The gathering of resources for and the maintaining of a binder for use by team members with materials for particular areas of pastoral care

Members of the team of Patti P., Mary B, Roy H., Carol M., Bonnie S., Nancy B., Ann D., Vicar and Susan S,. The guidance offered by Clare S. helps each of us recognize our gifts and challenges, and encourages us to care for self and other with balance and integrity.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Nancy Lee Hampton Beeley

We have two Lay Eucharistic Visitors-Nancy B. and Bonnie S.-who take communion to parishioners, be they at home, hospital, or nursing home. This past year, 38 communion visits were made. To make a request for a Eucharistic visitor to bring communion, or for a clergy visit, please call the office. If you leave a message, please make sure to include the name, telephone

number and address for the person requesting or wanting a visit.

Liturgy

Susan Stiles

Last year a Liturgy and Music committee was formed to help with planning for seasonal music and liturgy. They meet 5 or 6 times a year to choose music appropriate for each liturgical season.

Formally there are six liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost (which includes what we call Ordinary time.) They are marked by colors on the liturgical calendar as: blue, white, purple, and green. There have been changes over the years to reflect the changing tones in theology. One of the more recent changes has been to use blue altar hangings in Advent where we formerly used purple – blue representing hopeful anticipation, purple a thoughtful time of repentance. Many thanks to Mary W. for creating the new blue hangings for Advent. Music and liturgy make those same seasonal shifts.

Our music choices have grown to include the Ukulele Band and music from a variety of sources. This offers us an opportunity to sing old favorites from the “*Blue Hymnal*” as well as new favorites from *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, and *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. And Vicar has introduced us to new music from all three! Learning new music is good for both brain and spirit!

Members on this committee include: Rod L, Ann D, Mary B, Mimi B. Annie K, Roy H., the Vicar and Susan S.

Music

Rod Luther

For the past several months I have been working with Vicar, Susan, and the Music and Liturgy Team to choose music for Sunday services at St. A’s. I have benefitted greatly from their suggestions and guidance in this process. We have continued to use a variety of sources, including standard Episcopal hymns from the Blue Hymnal and supplementary material from *Wonder, Love and Praise* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. Several members of the congregation submitted lists of their favorite hymns, and we have tried to include them as well.

Choir: We have a larger choir now than we did a year ago and a core group that comes every Sunday. They are sounding better than ever! Rehearsing regularly continues to be difficult because of the many activities and commitments of our members. In 2020 I plan to introduce some new material for the choir with the goal of singing more anthems than we did last year. Finally, let us not forget about our Ukulele Band. They have already made a strong contribution to our music program and will continue to do so throughout 2020.

As always, I welcome musical suggestions from the congregation and clergy. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy 2020!

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Cheryl Petrosinelli

Among the integral pieces of the website is the sermon page. The sermons are recorded (audio only) and uploaded to the site. They can be accessed by clicking on the sermons link at the top of the home page. Leslie O. has been helpful in updating the site's design. Thanks are also due to the Bishop's Committee, staff, and others who are willing to up- date the electronic calendar so that it is kept up to date.

Many thanks to our dedicated volunteer, Bonnie S. who organizes the bulletin, insert and music each week.

Gallery Opening

Cheryl Petrosinelli

Our Gallery in Canterbury Hall hosted a Photography Show featuring the work of The Rev. Noel Bailey from April 7 – April 21. We encourage the use of the gallery and would love to see more exhibits in 2020.

Accounting

Jane Grenier

~~~ Day in, week out, month in, year out ... the numbers keep flowing! ~~~

Many thanks to the volunteer banking deposit preparers and reconcilers (Michaela J., Amy T.), and to Jessica W. for participating in the audit process. Thanks as well to Amy T. for maintaining vendor files.

Stewardship

Vicki Escalera

We kicked off the 2020 stewardship campaign/pledge drive in October, with the Vicar's stewardship letter going out mid-month. Three parishioners gave stewardship reflections during different Sundays' announcements: Annie K., Dennis M., and Zeke O.. All three reflections were moving, with each speaker interweaving personal stories with their reasons for giving time, talent, and treasure to St. Augustine's. Annette L. shared a written story about why we give, which was included in the Sunday bulletin. All in all, it was an upbeat campaign with very good results.

Although we lost two generous pledges due to departures from the parish between 2019 and 2020, we gained four new pledge units for 2020. (The pledge units' count submitted for 2019 and 2020 has a difference of only one, however, rather than two because there were three parishioners in 2020 vs. two in 2019 who provided only an oral commitment and are therefore not counted in the submitted pledge numbers.) We anticipate actual pledge units to be at least 50 in 2020 and the actual amount to be higher than the amount submitted on pledge cards. The total of capital and operating pledges combined increased \$4,902 for 2020 compared to amounts submitted for 2019. Of the 41 parishioners who submitted pledge cards for both 2019 and 2020, 18 increased their combined pledges, five decreased them, and 18 remained the same.

	<u>Submitted for 2019</u>	<u>Actual for 2019</u>	<u>Submitted for 2020</u>
Operating Pledges Count:	46	48	47

Amount:	\$111,738	\$120,715	\$110,060
Average:	\$2,429	\$2,514	\$2,341
Capital Pledges			
Count:	22	25	28
Amount:	\$10,580	\$14,225	\$17,160
Average:	\$481	\$569	\$613
TOTAL AMOUNTS	\$122,318	\$134,940	\$127,220

FUNDRAISING

Vicki Escalera

Fundraising efforts revved up in 2019 with several new events. The fundraising goal for 2019 was \$12,425, approximately 50% higher than 2018's goal of \$7,820, in order to achieve a balanced budget for the year. Not only did the events raise \$13,704 (10% over goal!), each event was successful in building community among those who participated. In addition, a quilt raffle near the end of the year raised funds for Campus Ministry.

Rock-a-thon – This event was suggested by our (at-the-time) new Vicar. Vicar and five other ladies of St. Augustine's obtained pledges of support from families, friends, and other parishioners and gathered with their rocking chairs in the hospitality room after church on February 27. After two hours of non-stop rocking and chatting, \$960 had been raised.

Hiroko's Garden Tea Party -- Inspired by planning for the upcoming Silent Auction, Hiroko hosted a tea party after church on May 5th when her glorious primrose garden was in bloom. The rainy day (as it turned out) didn't dampen anyone's spirits given the tea and delicious finger foods served up inside Hiroko's warm and welcoming home. This event raised \$200 from participants' donations.

Yard Sale – This annual fundraiser for St. A's was its usual success on Saturday, May 11th, raising \$2,514 from the sale of all sorts of donated household stuff. The event's organization, staffing, and clean up required some heavy lifting – literally – by its hard-working team of volunteers. In addition, \$132 was received from 2018 yard sale items that were sold on consignment in 2019.

Silent Auction – Various parishioners offered their goods and services for others to bid on in conjunction with a delicious pot-luck dinner held on Thursday, June 27th. Thanks to the generosity of the auction items' donors and bidders alike, \$2,312 was raised from this effort.

Wilson's Garden Party – Jessica and Doug W. shared the beauty of their garden – and some great refreshments! – after church on July 28th. Participants donated \$501 for attending this event.

Concert – Peg R. suggested and organized a concert by URI's very talented classical guitar instructor, Victor Main, to take place at the church. Victor provided a beautiful afternoon of music in the sanctuary on a warm Sunday in September (the 15th). A split of the proceeds from the ticket sales raised \$261 for St. Augustine's.

Christmas Crafts Fair and Gift Basket Raffle – This annual 'tour-de-force' of St. A's fundraising efforts, held on Saturday, December 7th, was the best ever. Beautiful items made by talented parishioners were the primary money-makers, with plenty of demand for decorated wreaths, gifts baskets, and home-baked goodies. Judi B. led a strong supporting cast of volunteers to plan and carry off the event, netting \$6,824 for church operations.

Quilt Raffle – Senior Warden's neighbor donated a lovely, large quilt she'd made to the church, which the Bishop's Committee elected to raffle off, designating the net proceeds of \$650 for

Campus Ministry. The drawing occurred after the church service on December 15th.

Yard Sale and Christmas Fair

Judi Betty

Both were great successes, not only because of the funds raised, but in building a closer relationship with each other. Working together towards a common goal created new friendships and a better understanding of our collective abilities and limitations. Many thanks to all who helped in any way, I think this includes everyone in the parish. The totals raised for each event are in the treasurer's report. The date for this year's Yard Sale is May 2nd, so start saving your stuff!

Grants

Dwight Giles

The Grants Committee has not written any grants this year, but have some plans for next year.

HOSPITALITY GROUP

Coffee Hour

Amy Tully

The mission of the Coffee Hour is to offer hospitality and an opportunity for community gatherings. Coffee and baked goods have been offered for weekly services and special occasions. I would like to thank Mary W., Roy H. and Bonnie S. for their help in making Coffee Hour run smoothly. I would also like to thank those who assist with cleaning up afterwards.

Welcome House Meal Team

Jessica Wilson

St. Augustine's provides a monthly meal to Welcome House of South County, a 501-c-3 non-profit located at 8 North Road in Peace Dale. Welcome House was founded in 1987, with participation from St. Augustine's, as an ecumenical effort to address homelessness. It now provides nightly shelter and meals for up to 17 people in its main building, and offers transitional and supportive permanent housing, case management, and advocacy. 225 people each year benefit from these services. A soup kitchen, open Monday—Friday for lunch, serves 18,000 meals annually. On a daily basis, as many as 80 people are assisted through Welcome House programs.

In the past, St. A's parishioners delivered home-cooked meals, salads, and desserts, but due to new health laws, we are now asked to provide only items prepared in commercial facilities subject to state inspection. This typically consists of meats, vegetables, salad ingredients, and dessert purchased at grocery stores. Our guideline is to provide enough to feed 25 people. Team members purchase the items and physically deliver them to Welcome House.

We make these deliveries the first weekend of every month. On each of our weekends, two people are “on”. One person brings meat and vegetables, and the other brings salad and dessert. We therefore have 24 slots to fill in a year.

In 2019, each person got 3 assignments for the year. Members’ schedules are always accommodated. Some members ask to bring all components (meat + vegetables + salad + dessert) on one date; this way they only have one other date. Others bring one component (meat + vegetables, or salad + dessert) on 3 dates.

We currently have 8 people on the team and would be pleased to welcome new members.

GARDENS/LANDSCAPING

Annie Kammerer

It has been a fruitful year for the garden team – many dirty hands contributing to much work! Here are a few highlights:

Garden team meetings: we gathered as a team around the table twice this year to strategize and exchange ideas. Together we mapped out St. A’s beautiful acre, naming each of the gardens and learning more about the variety of habitats we are blessed with. In 2020 the map will be complete, and on display for all.

Garden Fund: With thanks to Hiroko for a generous contribution in memory of her husband Yuzuru, we now have a dedicated line in the budget to help support the care and upkeep of our gardens.

Letter to Parish: In June we sent out an invitation to all with several ideas about how to support the garden team. We have several new members (yay) and plant donations. Parishioners completed a stone boundary around the labyrinth as a way to remember a loved one.

Butterfly Garden: Thanks to an anonymous donations, St. A’s now has a beautiful butterfly garden beneath the stairs descending from the altar end of church. It was designed and installed (June – early September) by Sal Ribera (with Annie and Amy), a local stonemason and garden designer. Along with plants he selected, Deb S., Nancy G., Jill, and Jan T. all donated butterfly-attracting plants. The garden was formally blessed at the end of a service this fall. It provides a lovely focal point for a visible corner of our acre.

Weeding and planting: As schedules permitted, this work was shared across the garden team on designated Thursdays, and many other days. We are blessed with young eager gardeners--Eve, Gabriel and Michael—who helped out several Sundays after church.

General garden updates: Drainage issues in the labyrinth were much improved by Rich’s ingenuity, and now by the redirecting of the brook behind the shed. With Hiroko’s leadership we transplanted *many* astilbe babies from the labyrinth, and fostered some out for sale at the upcoming Yard Sale. We also lay down nourishing mulch on the labyrinth to improve soil quality and help protect against erosion. Hiroko also contributed countless seedlings and bulbs from her gardens that we then planted hither and yon. Hiroko also worked with the strength of Paul Bunyan to guide water flow near the Memorial Garden through digging, and using logs and stones. A URI student helped us to transplant a few shrubs and scrub the stone walk leading to the gardens.

Financial Supplement

