

Annual Meeting

St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

January 28, 2024

Start time 10:45-11:00 am

Agenda

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Appointment of Clerk for the Annual Meeting
- III. Approval of Minutes - 2023 Annual Meeting
- IV. Elections
 1. Election of Vestry Members
 2. Election of Annual Convention Delegates
- V. Hand Vote on Acceptance of the Written Reports and
- VI. Rector's remarks – The Rev. Michael Drinkwater
- VII. Senior Warden's Remarks – Nancy Gregory
- VIII. Financial Overview
 1. Summary of 2023 Financial Report
 2. Presentation of 2024 Budget
- VI. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

St John's Episcopal Church, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Annual Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2023

The annual meeting was opened at 9:06 am with prayer by Fr. Michael.

The first order of business was to appoint a clerk to take minutes for the meeting. Fr. Michael asked for a volunteer and Susan Schultz was appointed clerk.

Those present for the annual meeting were: Nancy Gregory, John Shipe, Deacon Aileen Walther, Joyce Summers, Bill and Kathy Ann Henchar, Faye Sinclair, Tim and Susan Schultz, Geoff Leking, Randy Burroughs, Sharon Kelman, Steve and Nikki Van Vliet, Yvonne Perkins, and Ann Bagby.

The 2022 Minutes were passed out along with all reports to be read silently by those in attendance. These are the reports that were in the packet. Minutes from the 2022 Annual meeting, the Rector's Report, Senior Warden's report, Financial Report, 2023 Proposed Budget, Community Kitchen Report, Blessing Bag Ministry report, Card Ministry Report, Borderland Blessing Bag Ministry Report, and the Prayer Shawl Ministry Report. The Altar Guild Report was on a separate hand-out that was to be included in the packet to be read. Additionally, updated Parish Directories were made available to everyone present.

The agenda consisted of three main orders of business: election of two vestry members, presentation of proposed budget and election of delegates to the annual convention.

Approval of Minutes: There was a correction to the 2022 minutes to include Sharon Kelman as an attendee to last year's Annual Meeting. After amending the minutes, a motion was made by Nancy Gregory to approve, and seconded by Geoff Leking. Thank you to Joyce Summers for preparing last year's minutes.

Fr. Michael asked Randy to move by acclamation as a voting means and that is how voting was accomplished throughout the meeting.

Election of two new vestry members. The floor was open for nominations to fill the vestry positions. Nancy Gregory volunteered to stay on, as she's currently filling a vacancy of a partial term. Nancy Gregory then nominated Geoff Leking for the other vacant position. Nancy made a motion that the nominations be closed with Sharon Kelman seconding the motion. Randy Burroughs was asked to move by acclamation for the vote, those present saying Aye. No alternates were named at this time.

Election of delegates to convention. Two representative were needed to fully represent St. John's for the 2023 convention. The first three are the Rector, Senior and Junior Wardens. The floor was opened for nominations. Ann Bagby, volunteered along with Yvonne Perkins. Nominations were closed by a motion made by Fr. Michael and seconded by Nancy Gregory. A vote was taken by acclamation with all those present saying Aye and both nominees were elected.

The reports that were passed out at the beginning of the meeting were now read and were submitted to the floor for approval. Nancy moved that the reports be accepted as read, with Kathy Ann seconding the motion. Randy again was asked to make a move by acclamation and all reports were accepted as read by those present saying Aye.

Financial Overview: Fr. Michael reported, although expenses were up for 2022, the parishioners also stepped-up and we finished the year with a deficit of only \$3800, instead of the projected \$8000. This was greatly due to the efforts of Nancy Gregory and, the new treasurer, Tony Burnett in securing a FEMA Grant. Their tireless efforts brought in \$6000 to be used for food for the soup kitchen, with another grant available in January of 2023. St. John's Day School has supplemented some of the Churches expensed by paying a portion of Fr. Michael's salary and paying all of our new music director, Hannah Draper Burnett's salary. Raises have been given to reflect a more competitive wage in hopes of retaining our qualified teacher's at the Day School. Fr. Michael feels the cooperative relationship between the Day School and the Church will allow us to move into the future anticipating a balanced budget for 2023. Fr. Michael was asked about the status of hiring a janitor/janitor service by Ann Bagby. She felt this should be priority with a time frame for completion. Fr. Michael said at this time, the vestry is exploring all the options in regards to this subject. In response to this inquiry, John said he is willing to clean and do general maintenance as needed and asked Ann for specifics about her concerns.

Presentation of the 2023 Budget. The budget was reviewed by those present, and a net income of \$45.00 is anticipated for 2023. During the budget presentation, it was noted that the Altar Guild was not part of what was included for the year's expenditures. After a short discussion, Fr. Michael asked Nikki VanVliet to draw up a budget proposal for the Altar Guild for his review.

The Rector's Remarks: Fr. Michael highlighting several areas of ministry. Music is back! Thanks to Hannah and Gabe Mauger, we now have consistent musical offerings at our 10:15 Sunday service. Bill and Kathy have done a masterful job managing the transition back to an eat-in soup kitchen. The Soup Kitchen served 2,240 meals this past year, none of which would have been possible without Kathy and Bill. Kami Allen completed her transition from interim, to permanent Director of the Day School. Fr. Michael is grateful for the opportunity to work with her for years to come. Nancy and John have worked hard at strengthening the relationship between the Church and School. The Chancel Screen booklet is completed thanks to the efforts of Nancy and Tim. It will be dedicated to Rick Bedwell. The Saturday morning bible studies and Sunday formation hours between services, continue to enjoy lively discussions. The vestry comprised of Joyce Summers, Steve VanVliet, Sharon Kelman, Tony Bennett, John Shipe our Jr. Warden and Nancy Gregory our Sr. Warden, worked tirelessly this past year, and the Church is better for their efforts.

Senior Warden Report: Nancy's report reflected on how St. John's has thrived throughout this pandemic. She highlighted the soup kitchen, and the passing of the Health Department Inspection. Welcoming a new Music Director, Hannah. Completion of the Chancel Screen Booklet. Our new Treasurer, Tony Burnett unraveling the red tape for the FEMA grant that the church was awarded.

Nancy noted how the ongoing ministries of choir, caring cards, blessing bags, prayer shawls, prayer chain and all of our other ministries continue to make St. John's grow to serve God and our community. We celebrated the ordination of our beloved Rev. David-Luke Henton and sent him off to begin his ministry in El Paso. We continue to be grateful for Fr. Michael, our beloved priest and rector, for all the ways he enriches our lives here at St. John's.

Junior Warden Report: John Shipe spoke briefly as Junior Warden. He shared that the Fire Inspection was conducted and he was pleased to report we passed. There are still areas of the church that needs repair and he is working to get these things addressed

Music Director Report: Hannah Draper Burnett has been the churches music director since August of 2022, bringing the blessing of music to the 10:15 service. She has established a Community Choral group along with Otero Choir group. She is excited about the possibility of a children's summer camp which would be for grades 3-8. She also works with the Day Care to further education through music. This next year she would like to see the organ get repaired so it can be put into service, she will be working to get this accomplished this next year.

Nancy Gregory moved to adjourn the 2022 Annual Meeting at 10:10 am.

The 2023 Annual Meeting was concluded by all joining in on saying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Schultz

Rector's Address/Report

2023 was a big year for St. John's. We lived through construction, even a very temporary move from our sanctuary to worship in the parish hall. We have sang, prayed, and studied the bible together. We have cooked and made cheese and fed the hungry together. We have been sick, or in the hospital, or had loved ones here and otherwise in a place where health did not feel like a kind word. We have lived a lot of life together.

When I first came to this place I was drawn to your witness to the community. Even then we were feeding more people during the week and teaching more kids every week, then we had people in the pews on Sunday. That is a powerful statement about your faithfulness as stewards of this community. I was drawn to that vision immediately, because I could see that this was a congregation that understands what being the cure to Alamogordo really means. Other congregations look at Alamogordo as a pie to be divided up, but for St. John's it has been a place to care for.

Part of caring for Alamogordo is making a financial future possible here at St. John's. To that end, I would like to thank Tom Overstreet, Nancy Gregory, Tim and Susan Schultz and many others for their hard work in settling the estate of our beloved W. Lloyd Fink. That gift will provide for a financial future for St. John's and could be something this congregation can build on in the coming years. Thank you again, all of you, for your work.

Another part of caring for Alamogordo is our ministry of the community kitchen. In April of this year, our Tuesday crews were joined by Chakrya Sam and others who have helped us to more than double the number of people we feed each month. And with the help of the funding facilitated by Nancy and Kathy Ann Henchar, those added meals were provided at very little cost to the congregation in 2023. Several key partners have also had to step down, leaving significant holes in our coverage on Tuesday that faithful volunteers at St. John's and our wider network have had to step up to fill. Thank you to Hannah, Michael, Stephen, Debbie, Debbie, Ron, and our other new volunteers. Bill, Kathy, Hannah, Nancy and I plan to meet regularly to assess the need to change the schedule as we move through 2024. Thank you to Bill and Kathy Ann Henchar for continuing to facilitate this ministry through changes and challenges. Your faithfulness is an inspiration to us all.

Our Day school has continued to thrive under the leadership of Kami Allen, as we retain talented and capable teachers who care for children in this city on our behalf. While enrollment is down as a result of increased fees, she has continued to administer the school, provide relevant and timely trainings for our staff, and coordinate the impossible schedule of the Day School using the resources available to her. I am grateful for her leadership.

Part of doing that work is providing a safe physical space in which those ministries can happen, and I would like to thank Nancy for overseeing the lion's share of the sizable and essential work on the roof over our kitchen. I would also like to thank Steve, Tim, Susan, Bill, and many others for all of the ways in which you have helped us take care of our space in 2023.

I am also thoroughly grateful for the work of Hannah Draper Burnett, who provided a consistent musical presence in the life of the day school while also working with Gabe Mauger and many volunteers inside and outside of our community to provide music for our worship on Sundays and Feast days. I am grateful for her support as we transition her into a new position as parish administrator.

I would also like to thank Nikki and Steve Van Vliet, who have faithfully worked on behalf of the altar guild through changes in purchasing and vendors. And Steve Van Vliet, Joyce Summers, Geoff Leking, Tony Burnett, and Nancy, our Vestry. As well as Nancy, Tony, Susan, Kathy Ann, and Louise Elliott, who prepared the 2022 Audit. And Bill Henchar, who throughout all of this, managed to do a beautiful job of refinishing the bench in the front of the church.

As the financial report will indicate, we have some challenging decisions to make together in 2024. The presentation of the budget to you today is the second step in a process after the Vestry meeting this past Tuesday. The diocese is aware of the difficulty and they do have a process for this type of challenging conversation. We are all discovering together what that process looks like, and the Vestry and I will communicate with you along every step of the way. For now our work is to recognize the issue so that we can grieve. After we do some of that grief, we will be more clear on what our priorities are moving forward.

This is the beginning of a conversation, not the end, I have been and continue to be proud to be your rector, and I look forward to how we move into the future together, called by the Spirit to do amazing things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Senior Warden's report

Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

A few really big events happened at St. John's in 2023 and I was in the thick of them! Some of these doings were new learning events for me. There is excitement when you face something new, you find yourself praying a lot, and reaching out to others who might lend a hand. Time goes by very, very, quickly! Here's a summary.

---Bishop Hunn made his regular visitation to St. John's in January. He was trying out a new method of traveling to several churches in one geographic area by pulling a travel trailer. We had an Evensong service with him on a Friday and then a meeting with the Vestry on Saturday. He was off to visit another church by Saturday afternoon!

---On Jan 31 I met with the attorney handling Lloyd Fink's estate. I was asked to be the personal representative, also called the executor, to help get the estate settled. St. John's was the beneficiary. I really didn't know what I was saying yes to! I quickly found out. Thanks to an awful lot of help from the Schultze's, we got through it. The final paperwork was filed with the Probate Court on November 20. It had taken nearly the entire year! Along the way Susan, Tim and I experienced many wonderful moments of reliving stories from people who knew Lloyd. Yes, it was work, but we remember it all with gratitude. And St. John's now has a foundation that should help us see to the future. Thank you Lloyd! Thank you God!

---In July the roof repair project began. It quickly morphed into a multi-contractor project, requiring new electrical wiring and conduit, repairs to several HVAC units, a crane operator, and a resizing of the roof job. Through one of the hottest summers we'd ever had, we made it with good cheer, sometimes worshipping in the parish hall!

---Our Community Kitchen schedule expanded back to its historical and traditional 2 nights a week of serving meals. I am very grateful that St. John's pursues this ministry as it is obviously needed in our community. The bonus part for me is the fellowship that our guests can enjoy, relaxing inside among many others, enjoying conversation and a hearty, nutritious meal. We have also continued and expanded an important feature of our meals, by making enough to share with various community groups.

---I was fortunate to have an opportunity to participate in the DRG Vocations Class. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I am so grateful that this diocese offers it. If you feel a call to serve God, I commend this class to you. I'd be happy to share thoughts anytime!

ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023

This year has brought many trials and tribulations with health issues amongst our Altar Guild members or their family. I am extremely grateful that everyone has worked together to make sure every service has been given our full attention. So thank you Louise Elliott, Kathy Ann and Bill Henchar, Michael Potvin-Frost and my husband Steve Van Vliet. We all feel very fortunate in being able to transform our beautiful space at each season of the church year. Thanks also to all those who helped us at particularly busy times. If anyone, male or female, feels that they would like to join the Altar Guild we would love to have you, just contact Father Michael or myself. Full training will be given.

Keep an eye on the vessels and candlesticks we will be using this year as some older ones have been unearthed and some restored, to include candlesticks from 1946. Luckily the oil filled candles will fit into the old candlesticks. Some new linens will be ordered this year as many are looking a little sad. They can be mended only so many times.

In His Service

Nikki Van Vliet

Prayer Shawl Ministry Report

The Prayer Shawl Ministry had a slow year. There are still only two members, Joyce Summers & Yvonne Perkins. Joyce did not knit in 2023 due to health problems. Yvonne knitted or crocheted 3 shawls over the year. They were blessed & placed in the sacristy, ready to be given out whenever needed. An invitation to knit or crochet shawls is in St John's monthly newsletter. No additional plans have been made for 2024.

St John's Community Kitchen Report for 2023

I would like to thank all organizations and individuals who have helped this ministry to feed those in need. As before, there continues to be challenges in ensuring that we have volunteer groups available to serve. We welcomed a new group, Sam's Crew, in April. They have graciously, with the help of St John's, volunteered to serve every Thursday. We are truly grateful. As we have lost two of our long-standing organizations, St Joseph's Mission and First Presbyterian Church, who have served the community for many years, we will continue to pursue organizations in order to ensure that the Community Kitchen continues to operate and serve those in need.

For 2023 we cheerfully and humbly served 7,975 meals, 5,735 more than 2022. The following is a monthly breakdown:

January	286	July	340
February	269	August	958
March	246	September	1012
April	584	October	908
May	713	November	909
June	814	December	936
TOTAL		7,975	

Unfortunately, due to roof work on the church in July, we were unable to serve meals on three serving days. However, we continue to serve as many meals as possible to ensure that we meet the needs of our community. Additionally, any extra meals are being donated to COPE and delivered to families in the community. By doing so, St John's Community Kitchen continues to help displaced families.

Some highlights for St John's Community Kitchen include:

- Sleeping bags and blankets, blankets, clothes and personal items were donated to those in need.
- Thanks to Sharon and Debbie, Blessing Bags were given out with items donated by the St John's congregation.

- Numerous monetary and food donations from organizations as well as individuals have been received for which we are truly grateful.
- Continued periodic in person visits with volunteer groups on serving days.
- To the credit of many volunteers, there were times that the various organizations stepped in to assist on serving days.
- Information concerning the New Mexico Crisis Line cards were provided to those interested or in need.
- Sam's Crew has graciously donated a new faucet for the kitchen.
- We continue to provide a monthly meal count report to 100% Otero. This office tracks the approximate amount of food distributed by food pantries and soup kitchens in the county.
- We are looking to purchase a new commercial refrigerator as one of the kitchen's refrigerators is not able to be repaired.

For 2024, we will continue on- site training as well as a distributing an updated Community Kitchen pamphlet.

We will continue our attempt to recruit groups in the coming year. We will need at least 2 new groups in order to fill days left vacant by St Joseph's and 1st Presbyterian. Our goal for 2024 is to perhaps double the number of meals served.

The best part of serving with the soup kitchen is not only the camaraderie within the groups, but above all, our patrons. They have become like family. We get to know them on a personal level. We share in their joys and well as mourn with them in their losses. We are there to listen, to lend an ear, and help however we can.

Bill Henchar

Community Kitchen Manager