

Annual Meeting January 2022  
Senior Warden Report

Covid seems to have changed our lives. As I look back on the events of 2021, I ask myself, have I learned how to cope in a healthy way, am I still hopeful, do I still have joy? I am very grateful for St John's congregation and all the support and friendship folks have given to me. I don't think I could've made it without you.

As I thought further about this report, I discovered that I wanted to convey a message of hope through writing about the gifts that St. John's has given to me. There are many but two stand out above the rest. One is the praying of the Daily Office of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer each weekday and the other, the Columbarium Garden. Here's why I see them as gifts.

Fr. Michael got us started shortly after he arrived by suggesting that we begin a prayer group. That sounded pretty good, so I suggested we think up a name to call the group. We had been joking around a bit, in a playful way. David-Luke called himself a prayer warrior. So of course, I suggested we call ourselves the Playful Prayer Warriors or PPW for short! It stuck! And we were off, with the Daily Office.

One of the highlights of this journey was the joyful discovery of Fr. Michael's gift of being able to read scripture, "process" it at that moment and to create a deeply moving reflection, 3 times a day, 5 days a week.

As time has passed, the PPWs have changed a bit. Our Thursday Evening Prayer service now comes from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*. As a part of that service each of us reads the meditation and questions for reflection, and then we take a turn offering a reflection of our own. We share from our hearts, and in that process, we learn about each other and we learn to love each other's many gifts. Recently we added singing of the portion of the service called Praise. Each of us takes a turn to sing a verse acapella. We seem to keep surprising ourselves with just how much courage the Holy Spirit keeps giving to us.

We welcome all the many prayer requests the members of St. John's give to us. You show that you believe in the importance of prayer, and we gladly join you. We have a purpose. We help each other through the difficult Covid days. There is comfort in knowing our prayer group exists for the benefit of our community.

The second gift is the Columbarium Garden. This place, through the loving and attentive care of John Shipe and Tim Schultz, has become a place of peaceful

reflection and rest. A lot of work has happened there this last year. You may want to look at it more closely the next time you have a chance. One event stands out in my mind especially. As you know one of our members passed away last year and we had his funeral right after the Columbarium had some important repair work done. After the funeral service, we processed out of the church and right around the corner to the Columbarium where his remains were interred. I was struck by the significance of that moment. In my mind, we really did not leave St. John's, we were still very much connected to the church. I had a strong sense that the spirit of our beloved and faithful member Lloyd would be a part of us always.

*May God keep on helping us realize His many gifts. Amen*

Faithfully,  
Nancy Gregory  
Senior Warden