

2015-16 Annual Report

St. Brendan the Navigator Episcopal Church



July 31, 2016

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**St. Brendan the Navigator
Annual Meeting – July 31, 2016**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting and the Special Meeting of July 26, 2015
3. Consideration of Amendment to the By-Laws
4. Report of the Nominating Committee and
Election of Vestry and Convention delegates
5. Report of the Finance Committee/Treasurer
6. Committee Reports
7. Junior Warden's Report
8. Senior Warden's Report
9. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
ST. BRENDAN-THE-NAVIGATOR EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DEER ISLE, ME. 04627
SUNDAY, January 25, 2015

Call to order: The annual meeting was called to order by the Rev. Ginny Peacock, Priest-in-Charge, at 11:45 AM. Ginny offered prayers for the meeting. Members present included Jo Jacob, Luke Williams, Richard Paget, Diane Greenlaw, Skip Greenlaw, Ruth Robinson, Barbara M. Sorlien, Nancy Greene, Jackie Wilson, Sydney Wood, Scott Wood, Mickey Jacoba, Connie Mayo, Margaret C. Kingsley, Martha Dane, Pete Dane, Elisbeth Ingoldsby, Elizabeth Estey, Camilla Cochrane, and Carolyn Mor. 21 members were present which met the quorum requirements. Present but not voting were the Rev. Lawrence Estey, the Rev Robert Tobin, and Roger Greene.

Motion to adjourn the meeting to a date specified or at the call of the vestry. Luke Williams moved to adjourn the annual meeting until Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 11:30 AM. The motion was seconded. Luke read an email from Woody Osborne, candidate for senior warden, in which he advocated postponing the meeting in order to "continue a formal process of mediation". Skip Greenlaw spoke for the vestry that they supported the motion to adjourn the meeting until February 22, 2015. Skip then read a letter which had been sent to Bishop Steve Lane, signed by 10 members of the congregation asking for his assistance in "having a discussion with our priest-in-charge as soon as possible to discuss the date of her retirement". A copy of that letter is attached to these minutes. Maurine Tobin read a letter that 13 members of the congregation signed and sent to Bishop Lane in support of the priest-in-charge. A copy of that letter is also attached to these minutes. Several members expressed their own views. Ginny indicated that she intended to talk about her retirement plans with the newly elected vestry. Mickey Jacoba asked that the debate cease. A written ballot was used to tabulate the vote. Tellers were appointed to count the vote. The vote was 8 in favor of the motion; 11 were opposed. The motion failed.

Approval of minutes of 2014 annual meeting: Ruth Robinson moved that the minutes of January 19, 2014 be approved and Barbara Sorlien seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Report of the nominating committee: Ginny called everyone's attention to the report of the nominating committee in the annual report. The nominating committee recommended the following slate for various positions as well as delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Convention.

Officers:

Senior Warden: Woody Osborne

Junior Warden: Skip Greenlaw

Treasurer: Richard Paget

Clerk: Pete Dane

Members-At Large:

1 three year term: Judy Miller

1 three year term: Josephine Jacob

1 one year term: (fulfilling last year of Richard Paget's 3 year term) Andrea Wallsten

1 one year term: (fulfilling last year of Pete Dane's 2 year term) Camilla Cochrane

Continuing Member-At-Large: 2 year term remaining: Barbara Sorlien

N.B. Candidates Woody Osborne, Pete Dane, and Judy Miller had withdrawn their nominations. Barbara Sorlien resigned as a member of the vestry.

Since there had been several withdrawals from the list of nominations, Ginny suggested that the officers and member-at-large be elected individually.

Senior Warden: Woody Osborne was nominated elected. (Ruth Robinson requested that Woody's e-mail, previously read by Luke Williams, be included in the minutes.)

Junior Warden: Skip Greenlaw was elected

Treasurer: Richard Paget was elected.

Clerk: Maurine Tobin was nominated. Pete Dane was nominated. Tellers were appointed to count the written ballots. Pete Dane was elected.

Three year term: Judy Miller was nominated. Lynn Kneedler was nominated. Judy Miller was elected.

Three year term: Josephine Jacob was elected.

One year term: Andrea Wallsten was elected.

One year term: Camilla Cochrane was elected.

Two year term: Barbara Sorlien was nominated. Lynn Kneedler was nominated. Barbara Sorlien was elected.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention:

Delegates: Maurine Tobin and Skip Greenlaw

Alternates: Phylis Greenfield and Woody Osborne.

The nominees for delegates and alternates were elected by acclamation.

Committee Reports: Committee reports are contained in the 2014 annual report. Some additional comments to the reports were made.

Finance Committee: Luke Williams announced that there was an operating surplus in excess of \$10,000., which the Finance Committee had recommended to the vestry that it be used for capital improvements. Margaret Kingsley inquired how did we justify not including a computer in the budget for the rector's office.

Outreach Team: Skip Greenlaw reported that the Outreach Team had a very exciting year

ST. BRENDAN THE NAVIGATOR

Minutes of a Special Meeting Held

July 26, 2015

A Special Meeting of the Congregation was held on July 26, 2015, at 11:30 at St. Brendan the Navigator. The Rev. Virginia Peacock presided. Approximately 47 members attended.

1. After discussion the Bylaws were amended to state that beginning in 2016 the annual meeting would be held in July rather than in January of each year. The vote to amend was approved by a vote approximating 35 in the affirmative and 5 in the negative.
2. Peter Talton was elected to serve a one year term on the Vestry defeating Alan Greenfield by a vote of 27 to 17.
3. Anne Cushman was elected to serve a two year term on the Vestry defeating Maureen Tobin by a vote of 26 to 19.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Nathan Dane III, Clerk

Report of the Senior Warden

I have served as Senior Warden since the annual meeting of January 2015. At that point our year-round members were sharply divided between those who wished our priest in charge, Ginny Peacock, to retire reasonably soon and those who did not. As a consequence, the annual meeting was a difficult one for many. Four Vestry members, including the Senior Warden, had resigned in December over a dispute concerning the nominating process, a dispute which brought long-simmering tensions to a head. At the Annual Meeting three of the resignees were reelected in contested elections. Both before and after the meeting conflicting views regarding Ginny's tenure were expressed in multiple letters to the Bishop, letters which, as they became known, served to exacerbate the tensions. As a priest in charge, Ginny's contract, though renewable, expired at the end of April. On February 12, 2015, Ginny and the Bishop notified us of their agreement that she would retire at the end of the year. Despite this agreement, divisions over Ginny's tenure continued to fester throughout the year. At year end a number of our friends and fellow parishioners, feeling hurt or bereft or both, left us and have yet to return.

Many have said that the divisions that beset us in 2015 were more complex than a simple disagreement over the merits of our clergy. That is very likely true. During the six or seven years prior to the 2015 annual meeting St. Brendan's had morphed from a somewhat nomadic congregation, renting our Sunday space, to the owners of the lovely old church building where we now worship. Like most such changes, the transition left a number of us unsettled, and some parishioners drifted away. Then, right on the heels of this change, we launched the construction of this new parish hall, a venture that was plagued with more than the usual delays and cost overruns, and that ran against the grain of a number of parishioners who believed we didn't need so large a space. Again, a number of valued parishioners left us.

We are a congregation populated with intelligent, opinionated and strong-willed folks. This can result in vibrant and engaging interactions. It can also lead to what can feel like the ascendancy of some over the sublimation of others, producing underlying tensions and divisions that sometimes remain submerged and are difficult to resolve when they surface. Certainly such tensions and divisions marked the beginning of 2015. And if they are not so apparent today, we must nonetheless remain mindful of their possible reemergence.

Which brings me to the beginning of this year. The departure of a relatively long term Rector is never without its consequences and dislocations. Our experience provides no exception to this tendency. In addition to the divisions and hurt I have limned above, we were without a regular newsletter, without a website, and without sufficient funds or emotional wherewithal to hire a new priest. The stewardship campaign of 2014 yielded 59 pledges totaling \$166,194; our efforts in the fall of 2015 produced 49 pledges totaling just 84,715. I should here note though that, while our budget certainly remains down when compared with the previous year, with the elimination of the cost of a three-quarter time priest, we are moving along quite comfortably. And as the year goes on, it is clear that we are not without financial support. Plate offerings thus far are substantially above budget, and as you all presumably know, anonymous donors have committed to pay off our mortgage by June of 2017, relieving us of some \$90,000 in debt and nearly \$10,000 in annual debt service.

In any event, for whatever combination of reasons, we have moved forward quite purposefully and steadily since the first of the year. Early on we had engaging post-service discussions focused on outreach, pastoral care and worship, discussions which, I think, have energized our efforts in those areas. We hope to continue these discussions, at least intermittently, as we move on. Our recently begun sessions on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* seem to be a promising way for us to continue looking at our own Christian community. (Those sessions will continue on August 14th and September 4th.)

As you can see from the committee reports, our long tradition of outreach continues apace. In addition, our efforts in pastoral care and worship planning have been stepped up under newly active committees led by Anne Burton and Pete Dane respectively. In addition to our efforts in outreach, pastoral care and worship planning, we have managed to produce an expanded weekly newsletter, the Navigator, thanks to Miriam Antich and Lis Ingoldsby, and we have an engaging new website, thanks again to Miriam and her daughter, Janet. Our intrepid organist and now choirmaster, Connie Mayo, has organized a choir, which periodically enriches our services. And we have a rich mix of supply clergy who lead our services from week to week and are becoming familiar with our community and known to us, and who engage us all in a variety of ways.

Many others have contributed. For nearly three years Luke Williams and Ruth Robinson have served us well on the all important Finance Committee. Carolyn Mor continues to provide us with complete and up to date monthly reports on our financial status—a simply invaluable service. Skip Greenlaw, among his many contributions, organized a highly successful building clean up day. Ann Otteson and Jo Jacob, with help as necessary from Ruth, make sure our altar is ready each week. Miriam Antich, Curtis Flowers, Ruth Robinson, Julie Wang, Jo Jacob and Pete and Martha Dane handled this past year's stewardship efforts, which were above and beyond the normal in that the committee reached out in depth to our parishioners for discussions that went well beyond the question of financial support. Miriam has also revived a weekly meditation service. Julie Wang is making sure we take proper care of our grounds. And our office secretary, Liz Alley, continues to ensure the stability of our office, handling, among other things, the weekly bulletin and the scheduling of the hall. And finally, I need to thank my fellow Vestry members, without whom none of this would be possible: Skip Greenlaw, Pete Dane, Peter Tarlton, Judy Miller, Jo Jacob, and Rich Paget.

So, in many ways, we are in a relatively good place. That said, we face important questions as a church community. Perhaps most important, I think we simply need to increase our self awareness. Our experience over the course of the past year and a half has driven home a basic need and perennial challenge for any church community: We need to learn to listen to each other and to absorb the fact that meaningful and honest dialogue about matters of importance necessarily spawns disagreements and all too often misunderstandings and hurt feelings. In this regard, we need first to be mindful of the *need* to discuss important issues. If we don't, we will drift into an insipid and lackadaisical and unengaged state. So we need to be able to have civil conversations about the important issues that arise in our community, recognizing that disagreements will certainly sometimes ensue. And in addition to improving our listening skills, we need also to develop the ability to forgive and be forgiven.

I think it is also important that we recognize and appreciate our "diversity"—not diversity in the usual sense, but diversity in the variations in our connections with the parish and with each other. Most obvious, of course, is the distinction between those of us who are here year round and those of us who spend just part of the year here. It is a wonderful feeling each year as our congregation expands with the return of so many devoted seasonal parishioners. Our worship and activities are immensely enriched. But in a year like the one just past, and generally, we need to find better and more consistent ways to communicate to our returning friends what has happened in their absence. At a parish meeting last July we decided to change the date of our annual meeting from January to July so as to ensure the participation of all of us in this important aspect of our governance. But there may well be other steps we should consider.

We need also to consider and examine what we have to offer as a church community. We might ask ourselves: "If someone were to walk in off the street on Sunday morning at 10:00, what, if anything, would draw her in; what would prompt him to stay; what would prompt her to participate in our life together; and what would prompt him to contribute financially?" These are not easy questions, but I think they are critical to address if we are to survive as a vibrant church community.

On a practical level, we need to recognize the reality of our budget and its history. Over the course of the past ten years or so, we became known as the “church with the money.” We raised well over a million dollars to acquire a church and build our hall—in the process, spending way too much and losing a number of parishioners. Moreover, our operating budget was such that a single parishioner might contribute ten *per cent* or more of the total, which bespeaks an alarming fragility, where the loss of one parishioner can have a dramatic and potentially debilitating effect.

Another critical question for us all to consider in the months ahead is the desired relationship at St. Brendan’s between the laity and the clergy. The canons of the Episcopal Church repose substantial authority and responsibility in the clergy—especially in the areas of worship and building use. But this structure leaves a great deal of room for various leadership styles, ranging from one in which the clergy basically do everything, and the parishioners just show up on Sunday morning, to more collaborative arrangements in which the clergy consult or work with the laity on a wide range of matters. At bottom, the differences which surfaced among us last year centered in large measure around this issue. So it is important that we discuss and come to some understanding regarding our preferences in this area. This discussion will lead us into our thought and planning for our upcoming transitions—from rotating supply clergy to an interim—part or full time; to a regular priest.

So in conclusion, despite feeling it necessary to outline some of the serious difficulties that have characterized our recent past, I come away from my term of office feeling great optimism for the future of our community and gratitude for all the wonderful gifts and contributions we have received.

July 14, 2016

Woodley Osborne
Senior Warden

The report of the Junior Warden deals with the maintenance and upkeep of the buildings and grounds,

We want to express our appreciation for the great effort, which Connie Mayo, makes week in and week out to keep our church and parish hall clean and shining. Connie, you do a wonderful job, and I am sure that we do not say thank you enough. SO THANK YOU, CONNIE, FOR ALL THAT YOU DO FOR US AND FOR KEEPING THE CHURCH AND PARISH HALL SPARKLY CLEAN.

When Phylis Greenfield was Junior Warden, she established an on-call roster upon completion of the parish hall to respond to calls from Seacoast Security in the event that there was loss of power or other problems. Phylis continued to develop the on-call roster for two years after she completed her term as Junior Warden. Last December, we decided that it was no longer necessary to continue the roster because the system had been perfected and calls were almost non-existent. Thank you, Phylis, to your willingness to develop an on-call roster for the past two years. It was a big help to me. Thank you to all members who served on that roster.

Members of the congregation have been very supportive in working in and around the church and parish hall on clean-up days in May and October,

We purchased two small pieces of equipment in 2015- a new vacuum cleaner and a lawn mower. We also purchased the propane tank for about \$1600. Owning the tank allowed to bid out the cost of propane, which resulted in a \$1600 reduction in the propane budget for 2016. So we recouped the purchase price of the propane tank in one year.

One other purchase contributed to the reduction in the consumption of propane. In December 2015, we installed "inside storm windows" which we purchased from Windowdressers. These 18 inserts cost \$527. It is amazing how much cold air they prohibited from entering the church and likewise how much warm air they prevented from escaping. From an energy savings point of view, we may not have to replace the windows in the church, which is a huge savings of perhaps as much as \$32,000.

The other major expenditure for 2015 was the installation of 21 acoustical tiles which have reduced the reverberations (or echo) in the parish hall. The painting and installation cost \$2200. Luke Williams contacted a sound engineer who visited the parish hall in May 2016 and confirmed that we had reduced the reverberations significantly by installation of the sound absorption tiles. However, we can continue to reduce the reverberations further and are continuing to explore that possibility.

Normal inspection of the fire suppression system of the stove, inspecting the fire extinguishers, pest control, water quality testing, replacement of the air quality filters all took place during 2015 and 2016. This spring we replaced the batteries in the six thermostats which control heat in the church and parish hall. Turns out that they have about a three year life expectancy. The propane furnace is scheduled to be cleaned before the fall. Propane heating systems needed to be cleaned every three years also.

There are two major projects on which the Building Committee is currently focusing their attention- reinforcement of the balcony and continuing to improve the acoustics in the parish hall. We hope to be able to complete these projects in 2016.

Julie Wang has assumed responsibility for improvements to the grounds around the church and parish hall to include the parking lot. Thank you, Julie, for taking on this responsibility.

During 2015 and six months in 2016, the following members have been involved in planning and consultation about building projects and maintenance matters. Thank you Richard Paget, Lynn Verhey, Bob Tobin, Connie Mayo, The Rev. Ginny Peacock, Peter Tarleton, Julie Pierson, Stewart Pierson, Julie Wang, and Luke Williams. I appreciate very much your time, wisdom, and advice to maintain and improve the church and parish hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Skip Greenlaw
Junior Warden

1. To amend Article III, Section 1 to state as follows:

Section 1. There shall be a vestry elected by members of the parish consisting of a Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk, Treasurer, and three (3) members at large. The officers of the parish and the members of the vestry shall be elected by the eligible voters of the parish from among their number.

This amendment is effective at the Annual Meeting held in 2017.

Until the Annual Meeting held in 2017 there shall be four members at large.

2. To delete the final sentence of Article III, Section 2 and replace it with the following
Five members shall constitute a quorum at meetings of the vestry.

Explanation: The effect of this amendment is to reduce the size of the vestry from nine to seven members, a number that existed until an amendment adopted in January, 2011, increased the size to nine. The size of the Vestry in relation to the size of the membership of the Congregation is large, especially when the work of the parish is being more and more delegated to the committees and the energy of the membership should be directed accordingly. A quorum of five, however, will remain necessary for the vestry to conduct business.

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following slate for the 2016-2017 St. Brendan's Vestry and Diocesan Convention:

Senior Warden- Woodley Osborne

Junior Warden- Skip Greenlaw

Clerk- Judy Miller

Treasurer- Pete Dane

Members at Large- Peter Tarlton (three-year term)

Barbara Kourajian (two-year term)

Josephine Jacob (second year of a three-year term)

Richard Paget (one-year term)

Delegates to diocesan convention – Woodley Osborne and Lis Ingoldsby

Alternates to diocesan convention - Ann Ottesen and Skip Greenlaw

Respectfully submitted:

Miriam Antich

Anne Burton

Mickey Jacoba

7/13/2016

We have performed a financial records Audit of St. Brendan-the-Navigator Episcopal Church, Deer Isle, ME, for the year 2015. 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 2015 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 March 2016. With only a minor number of additional items for the year, this finished the Audit for the year 2015.

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: Martha Dane

AUDIT TEAM MEMBER: Kathy Burton

Pastoral Care Committee Annual Report, 2016

The Pastoral Care Committee is in the process of reformation. I have called two meetings of the advisory board and contacted several others about consulting with them in areas of their experience on previous committee.

It is our considered belief and experience that in a congregation the size of St. Brendan's that all members offer care for one another's pastoral needs. It is our calling as Christians to do so. However it is necessary that there be a center where members can access that help and assure that individual needs are met with care and non-intrusiveness. At the vestry's request I have agreed, with the help of others to fill that need.

The committee is working with the Parish Office (through Liz Alley) to keep the Weekly Prayer List up to date and all requests are coordinated through the office and reported to the committee.

A process for arranging the availability of a priest in the case of emergencies is underway.

Sole Deo Gloria

Anne L. Burton, Chair

REPORT OF THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Beginning in January the Worship Committee re-emerged and began tackling the issues that are its responsibility. In the spirit that now has become St. Brendan's its first action was to hold Congregational meetings after the Sunday Eucharist to begin congregational wide conversation regarding our worship. If one recalls the suggestions made at the very first Congregational meeting in January it is plain to see that the Worship Committee has embraced those suggestions, and many have been already implemented, as you will see below.

We invite and encourage any member of the congregation to participate not only in the Committee but we especially encourage volunteers to do some of the "liturgical" tasks at the Sunday worship (lector, greeter, chalice bearer, leader of the prayers of the people. If you are willing to perform any of these tasks and are not currently in the rotation, please sign up at the Annual Meeting or let Pete Dane know of your interest.

We need a few more volunteers to take rotation in performing the altar guild responsibilities. Please contact Anne Otteson if you are willing to be in the rotation. Her email is anningrid1231@gmail.com.

There has also been a group of people who have assumed responsibility for the sanctuary decorations, namely the flowers, both weekly and on Christmas and Easter. Traditionally this has been done in a somewhat scattershot manner and deserves just a bit more organization. Please let Julie Wang know if you are willing to participate in this activity.

The committee decided to surrender all matters involving the training and deployment of Lay Eucharistic ministers to the Pastoral Care Committee.

Last month the committee presented to the congregation the issue of holding an early morning service (non Eucharistic). Out of the discussions has emerged the scheduling of a weekly Meditation Service (currently Mondays at 4:30).

In the congregational discussion on the above topic Elizabeth Compton indicated that she was willing to spearhead the preparation of a Taize-like service in August. There was general enthusiasm for that initiative.

Finally, and the Worship Committee gets no credit for this, there is a choir that is rehearsing weekly and singing occasionally on Sundays when it is ready. Thank you, Connie, for making this happen. Please come to the rehearsals when you can. (Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.)

For 2016 the Committee has decided to opt for the status quo for the Sunday service, and not utilize the so-called "Rite III" option that the General Convention authorized (as long as the Bishop approves). Beginning in the Fall the Committee will look into liturgical experiments for the Advent season that may be offered at a time other than the 10:00 a. m. Sunday service. If anyone is interested in exploring options and ideas, please either join this Committee or at least let a member of the Committee know of your interest.

Committee Members:

Anne Burton

Mickey Jacoba

Josephine Jacob

Ann Otteson

Miriam Antich

Richard Paget

Connie Mayo

Nathan Dane

The outreach budget for 2016 is \$9000.00, which is less than ½ of our budget from last year. This is a reflection of the fact that our total income for 2016 is less than ½ of our total income for 2015.

We have been very prudent in expending outreach funds at the beginning of the year to ensure that the pledge income materialized. We did not allocate any funds for heating assistance this year because the price of heating oil was much lower, the winter was relatively mild, and existing agencies which we have supported in the past were able to fund the demand for heating assistance.

In March, we allocated \$250 to support the Hancock County Food Drive. St. Brendan's was also a collection site for donated food. Funds collected during the drive are distributed to meal sites in Hancock County, and food is distributed to food pantries in Hancock County. Dinner Is Served received a check for \$1067.

In April, we contributed \$500 to help with the construction costs of the new septic system at Camp Bishopswood. We contributed \$250 to HOME in Orland to support their programs of feeding people and providing employment. We also donated \$250 to Emmaus House, which is a homeless shelter in Ellsworth.

In June, we contributed \$1250 to Camp Kooky for scholarships for island children and \$1000 to the Guatemalan Housing Alliance to provide housing for people in Guatemala.

We have spent \$3500 of our \$9000 allocation to date. We have also earmarked \$2000 to help pay for "inside storm windows" from Windowdressers for people who cannot afford to pay for these inserts. Anne Cushman would describe this effort as "upstream outreach" because it mitigates the need for continuing payment of heating oil costs, otherwise known as "downstream outreach".

We are trying to focus our attention not only on allocating our outreach funds, but also doing projects in the community which benefit people. In August, we are making meals for 65 people in Sedgwick. In October, many members will be involved in assembling the Windowdressers inserts. We encourage everyone to participate in this community endeavor. Please contact Mickey Jacoba who is the volunteer coordinator if you are interested in assisting.

We thank you all for your continuing support of this ministry. We welcome Elizabeth Compton as a member of our team.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Jacoba, Martha Dane, Anne Williams, Jackie Wilson, Julie Pierson, Elizabeth Compton, Richard Paget, and Skip Greenlaw

REPORT OF ST. BRENDAN'S OUTREACH TEAM JANUARY 1, 2015 to DECEMBER 31, 2015

The following is the 2015 annual report from St. Brendan's Outreach Team.

We had access to three sources of funds:

Primary outreach from St. Brendan's budget:	\$19,000.00	
Balance of funds carried over from 2014 fair:	3,009.88	Bequest
from Fran Greenlaw's estate:	<u>3,000.00</u>	TOTAL
\$25,009.88		

In February, we sent \$2000 each to Island Heating Assistance Program and Washington Hancock Community Agency and \$500 to the Town of Stonington to assist those people who were not able to pay their heating bills. (\$4500.00)

In April, we contributed \$250.00 to the Emmaus House annual fund raiser. Emmaus House is the shelter for the homeless in Ellsworth. (\$250.00)

In June, we paid \$68.84 to the island Pantry to pay for the shipping cost of some furniture they purchased. (\$68.84)

In July, we send \$400.00 to Mike Guare for a young girl in Guatemala who needed life-saving medication. We have worked with Mike for over 25 years to help him support political refugees and other people in need of humanitarian assistance. (\$400.00)

Also in July, we sent \$1000 to camp Bishopswood (our Diocesan youth camp in Hope, Me.) for scholarships and/or capital improvements, \$1000 to Camp Kooky for scholarships for young people from the island to attend summer camp, and \$1000 to the Ali Ahli Hospital in Gaza in appreciation of Maurine and Bob Tobin for all that they have shared with us about the issues in Palestine. (\$3000.00)

In September, several members of the congregation made sandwiches for our neighbors in Sedgwick. The cost of the food was \$132.98. (\$132.98)

Also in September, we contributed \$1000 to the Island Nursing Home for the "Music and Me" program for the residents and \$750.00 to the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC in support of the families of the 9mpersons who were murdered in their church in June. (\$1750.00)

In October, we donated \$1000 to Dinner Is served towards the purchase of the new commercial stove. (\$1000.00)

Also in October, we donated \$2000 towards the cost of a replacement roof for Leslie Lambert, who lives in Stonington. (\$2000.00)

In November, we reimbursed John Dieffnbacher-Krail \$75.00 for mileage expense driving from Old Town to Deer Isle to talk with us about the state of affairs between Native Americans, who live in Maine and our state government. (\$75.00)

In December, we paid \$9025 to have the roof on the home of William and Ruth Rice in Sunshine replaced. This gift made it possible for Ruth to live in their home last winter.

(\$9025.00)

(\$9025.00)

Also in December, we sent \$500 to Alfred's Christmas Fund to purchase Christmas presents for children on the island and \$500 to Volunteers for Hancock Jail Residents in appreciation for the work which Carolyn Mor does with jail residents. (\$1000.00)

TOTAL EXPENDED IN 2015 FROM ALL SOURCES:

\$23,201.82

AMOUNT NOT EXPENDED:

\$1808.06

In November 2015, the Finance Committee recommended to the Vestry that expenditures be reduced to the extent possible in the event that anticipated pledge revenue did not materialize. Outreach was requested not to expend \$1800.00. The vestry adopted the recommendation from the Finance Committee, and Outreach honored that request.

A contribution of \$1500 to the Episcopal Relief and development Fund, which is a separate budget item, was made to assist the survivors of the Nepal earthquake.

The members of the Outreach Team thank the members of the congregation for their continued support as we try to make a difference in some peoples' lives both near and far.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickey Jacoba, Jackie Wilson, Martha Dane, Julie Pierson, the Rev Ginny Peacock, Anne Williams, Richard Paget and Skip Greenlaw

Stewardship Committee Report July 2016

St Brendan's Stewardship Committee 2016 began work in October 2015, organizing a campaign to solicit support for the work of the parish in 2016. A letter was sent to all parish members asking for pledges of time, talent and money. Parishioners who were not heard from immediately were contacted personally by a committee member. Some committee members also used the contact opportunity for an additional request. In view of parish issues of 2016, a number of people were asked if they would comment for the record to the Stewardship Committee and the Vestry on anything they wished to say about St. Brendan's and their relation to the parish at this time. A number of very thoughtful and conscientious responses were offered and received in kind by Stewardship and Vestry. The information gathered from them is being used to inform parish communications and planning for early summer parish meetings.

At the end of the stewardship campaign regular monetary pledges stood at **\$84,715** with **49** units pledging. This was below the projected actual need. At the same time many year-round and seasonal Brendanites were found to be redoubling their own offerings in time and effort particularly toward better interpersonal regard and understanding.

Two spring joint meetings of the Committee and Vestry produced some immediate determinations.

The Stewardship Committee will continue to function through the end of the year.

In May the Vestry will apprise the parish membership of our financial standing and decide whether to ask the Stewardship Committee to contact members and ask them to revisit their own pledges and increase them as they are able, or to make a one or several time monetary gift to the parish as they are able.

The Stewardship Committee when asked will consult with the Vestry regarding additional fundraising efforts.

After the financial report was given to the congregation in May, the decision was made at the May Vestry meeting to limit our fundraising to the Church fair on August 6th.

Members of the Stewardship Committee are Miriam Antich, Martha Dane, Pete Dane, Curtis Flowers, Josephine Jacob, Ruth Robinson and Julie Wang.

MUSIC and ALTAR CARE

Annual Report on MUSIC

Music was provided throughout the year at the 10:00 am Sunday services and special services by Connie Mayo, on the organ and piano. During Advent and Lent, when special services were held, musical selections were also offered on keyboard. On Christmas Eve, musicians Jim and Esther Adams played bass and violin with Connie as carols were sung before the service, and Esther sang a solo during the service, accompanied by Connie at the organ. Alan Flowers substituted as organist several times on Sundays between July and October. Alan also led a Community Sing-a-long at the church in July.

Services conducted by St. Brendan's at the Island Nursing Home consisted largely of hymn singing, accompanied by Connie at the piano.

Altar Care

The Altar Guild prepares the altar before the services to facilitate the worship experience of priest and parishioners. This is a behind the scenes ministry performed by Ann Ottesen, Julie Pierson, Ruth Robinson, and Jo Jacobson who also bakes the altar bread.

Report on the Construction of the New Website

In early January it became clear that St. Brendan's needed a new website. There were multiple sites up on the web for St Brendans but all had information that was not current or were incomplete and not fully edited.

The Senior Warden, Woody Osborne, asked that I to undertake the construction of a new site. My daughter, Janet Pickens kindly volunteered to help with the artistic aspects of the design and recommended a good platform, Squarespace.

All of the old sites were reviewed and content that seemed good and relevant was incorporated with new material. Curtis Flowers assisted with editing the content and several others contributed content. A study was made of many other church websites for Episcopal Churches in Maine and beyond to see what type of information was being made available.

The site needed to serve two purposes: one was to provide information that would allow newcomers to visit the church easily by providing all the information they might need quickly, and the second was to serve as a resource for those already attending St. Brendans. A meeting was held after church one Sunday in late April by Janet to get input from the congregation.

Once all of the pages had been developed and the navigation between pages set up, Janet add pictures she had taken and used her design skills to make it all more attractive and readable. The site went live the end of May at: **stbrendans-me.org**

There have been over 350 visitors to the site in the past five weeks. Some time has been spent trying to take down old sites and correct the incorrect information on the Google search page for St. Brendans.

Miriam Antich

Janet Antich

July 9, 2016