



2020  
ANNUAL REPORT

52 GOULD ROAD  
PO BOX 294

NEW LONDON, NH

603-526-6344

[office@standrewsnl.org](mailto:office@standrewsnl.org)

[www.standrewsnl.org](http://www.standrewsnl.org)

## **Report from the Rector & Missioner**

Submitted by Jay MacLeod and Aaron Jenkyn

As the year 2020 began, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church was cruising along with its liturgical, pastoral, educational and outreach ministries. We had begun to better engage children and families, and we were searching for a new Music Director. The coronavirus pandemic, of course, threw everything into disarray. Thanks to the efforts of the search committee and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Jack Barben arrived from San Diego, California on Monday, 23 March 2020. Public worship had been suspended the day before, but as we scrambled to provide online worship, Jack's skills and gifts were immediately evident.

We are hugely grateful to the army of volunteers who have contributed to our varied menu of worship in 2020. When Suza Lambert Bowser put her film-making skills at the disposal of St. Andrew's, we opted for pre-recorded Sunday services because it would (we hoped) provide a rich worship experience. Although we lost the immediacy of being gathered together in real time, many people expressed gratitude for the way the music and videography helps connect them to God. Having people contribute readings and prayers from their homes and yards proved compelling, and many viewers appreciated being able to participate more fully in the liturgy than they expected. Parishioners also shared the YouTube link with friends and family, so viewership of our pre-recorded Sunday worship ranged between 163 (18th Sunday after Pentecost) and 677 (Easter Sunday). Midday Prayer via Zoom on weekdays has created a wonderful community of 6-10 faithful worshipers throughout the pandemic. Admittedly, no matter how well done, online worship can be a struggle for many people. Thanks to Shelly and many volunteers, we overcame logistical challenges to offer in-person, outdoor Eucharists from July through November and then created a Nativity Story Walk so that people could safely experience the wonder of Christmas outdoors. In addition, Aaron hosted Sunday evening worship on Zoom during Advent that was especially helpful for families. Liturgy demanded a huge chunk of staff time in 2020, especially after we added our monthly InSpirit service in October. But having lost so much human connection during the pandemic, we need God more than ever, and we trust that our online worship is helping people to hold fast to Christ. We are hugely grateful to everyone who is contributing to our liturgies, and the choir deserves special mention for its ministry.

In terms of Christian education and formation, Faith & Issues made a quick transition to Zoom under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Katrina Wagner, and Novel & Reel Theology continued to meet monthly to discuss books and films. Many church members heard the Rev. Dr. Kathleen Rusnak lecture on the "kingdom of heaven" in the Gospel of Matthew. Denied the Eucharist on most Sundays by COVID-19, people learned to worship at home and to discover God anew in scripture and prayer.

The Thrift Shop adapted to the pandemic with its curbside drop-offs and outdoor sales and managed to reopen in the Fall before the winter spike in COVID cases prompted its closure. The Outreach Commission raised nearly \$60,000 from our Last Sunday Offerings for Navajoland, El Hogar in Honduras, earthquake relief in Puerto Rico, an Episcopal hospital in Gaza, Dismas Home in Manchester, Clinique St. Esprit in Haiti, the revolving Immigrant Bail fund, and the community ministry of Epiphany, Newport — all thanks to the generosity of our congregation, including those who contributed to the matching fund. Another \$13,400 went from our core budget to the likes of KREM, KLS Food Pantry, the Friendly Kitchen, the Episcopal Chaplaincy at DHMC, the United Thank Offering, hurricane relief in Honduras, and summer camps (Coniston, Wilmot and Barbara C. Harris). Instead of a full-fledged stewardship campaign, we

opted for a simple letter from the rector, and then held our breath. We need not have worried — we exceeded our \$400,000 target!

Our Christian stewardship was also evident in our building — we replaced our oil furnace with condenser propane boilers that are kinder to the environment (and our fuel budget), and then parishioners responded generously at year's end to help Epiphany fully insulate its building. Our church buildings and grounds receive wonderful care from a cadre of volunteers, as does our online “shop window” through our website and Facebook page. And thanks to the newly-established Art Committee, our inner decor is also receiving loving (and sometimes much-debated!) attention.

After two terms as church warden, Bruce Avery retires from the Vestry. The last eighteen months have been a huge challenge for Bruce and Shirley after doctors found a large cancerous tumor between his hip and pelvis that has proved difficult to eradicate completely. Through all the chemotherapy, Bruce has continued to lead in his wise, quiet, and extremely competent and committed ways, often joining meetings from the hospital via his iPad. We have so valued Bruce's steady hand and shrewd counsel, and we know that everyone at St. Andrew's joins us in thanking him for his service to St. Andrew's as church warden.

When COVID-19 hit, pastoral care became difficult. Unable to visit people at home or in hospitals or care facilities, we struggled as pastors. There were driveway visits and outdoor conversations as well as telephone calls, texts and email conversations, but there is no question that pastoral care has suffered in 2020. Administering last rites over the telephone is a poor substitute for tracing the sign of the cross on a dying person's forehead while pronouncing God's forgiveness of their sin, sharing Holy Communion for the last time, and anointing them with oil of healing while praying that God will release them from suffering, deliver them from every evil, preserve them in all goodness, and bring them to everlasting life. When Jay ministered to our beloved Marjorie Forbes at the end of her life, little did we suspect how difficult it would be for those we would lose in the remaining eleven months of 2020 and for their families and friends: Priscilla Ohler, Karin Nelson, Bill Whitehouse, Amy Bailey, Rob Freitas, Hank Otto, Sheila Mitchell, Karla Sanders, Walter Wojtczak, Taffy Beckman and Deborah Lambert.

Inspiration in 2020 often came from our young people. It was such a joy to see St. Andrew's transformed when more than fifty people gathered together to play, create and worship at our first Messy Church in February. By hosting a vigil a few days after the murder of George Floyd, our high school youth group enabled us to safely protest and pray together. Our online liturgies have been enriched by young contributors: high schoolers helped lead the imaginative online liturgy in August and younger children worked with Nicole Densmore to fashion a lovely Gospel Alleluia for Advent. In deciding to create an individual prayer flag for every Granite Stater who has died from COVID, our high schoolers are helping us to grieve while we prayerfully decorate the flags. As we gaze at the white fabric and ponder what to write or draw, as we consider which snippet of scripture might be best, we understand anew what 2020 has taught us: that in days of calamity there can be calm; in times of perplexity, peace; in sickness, solace; in sorrow, song; in bereavement, blessing.

## **The Wardens' Report**

Submitted by Marni Eaton & Bruce Avery

Each year seems to have a theme and this year it was *Safer at Home*. We started the year by hiring a new director of music, Jack Barben. Almost as soon as Jack arrived, we all were advised to stay at home! It was certainly not the welcome we had planned.

How blessed we are to have the creative leadership of Jay, Jack and Aaron who have put together amazing worship services available to us and others. Aaron has found new ways to connect with families and has kept Messy Church alive in Newport. Aaron's Christmas walk at both churches was wonderful and a community event offered to all.

ZOOM has allowed us to connect in a different way with friends and family and it also has allowed our regular daily, weekly and monthly activities and meetings to proceed, as you can see by the other annual reports. The Green Committee continued to work on updating our facilities and the newly formed Art Committee, chaired by Katrina Wagner, is looking at our building from an aesthetic viewpoint.

St. Andrew's is alive and well. Our Outreach efforts have continued and you have been most generous. Our Stewardship campaign was different and again, you answered the call. Please continue to follow the vestry's work by reading the minutes of our meetings that are posted on our website, and they will be on the bulletin board in the parish hall when we are all back together again. Our website contains so much wonderful information. If you haven't visited it lately, please do. Mary Eysenbach has done a wonderful job with it.

Thank you for joining us as we continue to "follow Jesus in the way of love".

## **Music at St. Andrew's**

Submitted by Jack Barben, Music Director

I started my tenure here at St. Andrew's right as the lockdown began. Immediately, we needed to find a way to make music and worship together and we decided together to do pre-recorded services, in order to allow us to incorporate a virtual choir and as many parishioners as possible for readings, prayers, etc. Since April, we've recorded over 20 services, having an average of 4 choir songs per service. Nicole Densmore has led a number of virtual choir projects with the children at St Andrew's, adding much to our services. The choir has met online each Thursday evening. In addition, with a grant from the diocese, we began to film InSpirit services in the Fall. These incorporated a wide variety of different styles of music, filmed live. These services have been well received with a large viewership. In spite of the challenges posed by the year, we have been able to make much beautiful music, reaching out beyond our own walls, incorporating musicians from around the country and new musicians in our community. This has not only nourished our community, but has been shared and enjoyed by friends and family around the world.

## Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Michael Quinn

As with everything else, the year 2020 and its pandemic presented some substantial challenges for the church's finances. However, overall, St. Andrew's came through the year well. Although the congregation met its \$400K pledge budget, many other revenue categories were not able to meet plan. As a result, total operating revenue was \$74K below budget.

On the expense side, we were able to come close to matching the operating revenue shortfall. This was due, in part, to the unfortunate fact that we were unable to be together in person through much of the year. Also, we spent a few months between David Almond's departure and Jack Barben's arrival. Combined, these resulted in personnel expense savings of \$6K, operating expense reductions of \$54K and program expense savings of \$11K.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledges (prior & current)	\$401,771	\$400,000
Other Operating Revenue	40,878	116,500
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>442,649</b>	<b>516,500</b>
Personnel Expense	\$289,329	\$295,553
Administration/Finance	124,629	146,800
Buildings & Grounds	20,812	47,997
Utilities	16,221	20,660
Program Expense	32,382	43,500
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$483,374</b>	<b>\$554,490</b>
Investment Income	36,225	37,990
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$4,500)</b>	<b>0</b>

With the benefit of our income stream from investments, we finished the year with a small deficit.

In the spring, we used the Payroll Protection Program to borrow \$50,300. So long as we met certain criteria during the measurement period, we would be eligible for forgiveness of some portion of the loan. We accomplished that and at the end of the year; the entire loan was forgiven. With the conversion of the PPP loan to a grant, our liabilities were limited to accounts payable of less than \$5K and obligations under restricted grants and donations of slightly less than \$88K.

We finished the year with \$185K in cash, \$781K in investments and \$367K in fixed assets (equipment, buildings and land). As a result, St. Andrew's Total Assets at 12/31/20 were \$1,432K versus \$1,406K at the end of last year. After the effect of the PPP conversion, we ended the year with a fund balance (net worth) of approximately \$1,350K.

## **Youth Music at St. Andrew's**

Submitted by Nicole Densmore

“Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul.” – Plato

Music benefits so much more than the mind. One can't help but notice when children listen to a piece of music, their bodies begin to move. Whether they tap their foot, sway to the beat, or close their eyes to take in the sounds, music helps kids feel emotions they may have never tapped into before. Listen closely, and you might even catch them humming a song they learned throughout the day. Just imagine how much more wonderful it would be if it was a song about God's love for them.+

The Upbeat Choir continues to be a place where children can develop strong social emotional skills as they continue to grow and feed their spirit. These skills become the touchstones they can return to over and over again as they move towards a bright future with the help of these opportunities at St. Andrew's. Together, the children and I have learned that these lessons can take place in a myriad of ways.

Our rehearsals looked a little different this year as we made the pivot to working collaboratively in a virtual setting last spring. What had initially presented itself as a challenge, in turn became a blessing. The virtual format allowed me to spend more one-on-one time with families as we prepared pieces for on-line worship services. This new format also allowed me to teach parts independently of each other. When the two lines were melded together, they created a beautiful harmony. So much so, a congregant remarked at one of the Zoom coffee hours, “The Upbeat kids have never sounded better!” My continued hope is the children will experience the joy of sharing their musical talent and have success in performing, as well as encounter the love of God in this welcoming community.

The Upbeat Choir opportunities play a vital role in bringing new families to St. Andrew's. To have a program such as ours, which allows families to come together as their children participate in making music during worship services, is special indeed. This experience enriches not just the lives of the children as they come together in a well- rounded, faith based experience, but our congregation as a whole.

It has been an honor and a delight to guide the children through their exploration of music and more importantly, as they come to see how music not only connects them to the world around them, but brings them closer to God. I look forward to shepherding them through this journey for a long time to come.

## **Buildings and Grounds**

Submitted by Chris Heyl

Building and grounds has had a busy year:

1. 2 new propane heating units installed
2. new roof on the storage shed as well as a fresh coat of paint
3. First floor bathrooms repainted
4. Removal of the old inadequate inside storm panels and new energy efficient reflective film installed in our sanctuary and parish hall
5. Repair and new installation of signage around the church

We are currently working with the Green Committee on programmable thermostats to conserve energy effectively. We will continue forward with new gutters and adequate drainage and continued painting of the church exterior and interior.

Thanks to the Art Committee for all of the suggestions and work to enhance and update our worship areas. 2020 Has been a trying time for all of us, maintaining our faith and assisting those in need.

## **Landscape & Garden Committee**

Submitted by Mary Eysenbach

Wonderful volunteers, led by Judy Brown carried on without me while I nursed my broken bones. It was really nice to know that I am expendable! Thanks to all who watered, and weeded and watered and weeded and . . . throughout our summer drought.

With the dying apple trees removed the backside of the Inn became all too prominent. We plan an informal row of arborvitae and eastern red cedars to break up the view. Hoping for a better year in 2021 in so many ways!

## **Altar Guild**

Submitted by Judy Ackroyd

The Altar Guild is a service group that prepares our sanctuary for services and cleans up after. When we resume regular services the Altar Guild will reconvene and continue our service to Saint Andrew's.

Current members include:

Shirley Avery	Rosie Best	Judy Brown
Diane Caldwell	Leni Gillespie	Yvonne Kun
Chris Major	Pam Morland	Lin and Emmy Potter
Claire Pace	Marilyn Paradis	Alice Perry
Noni Reynders	Becky Rylander	Joanne Schuyler
Barbara Smith	JoAnn Hicks	Judy Ackroyd

## **Eucharistic Service Ministers Lectors, Intercessors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, and Acolytes**

Submitted by Anne Hall, Verger

Eucharistic Service Ministers serve at each service on Sundays and special services on Holy Days or at a celebration of life.

The Lectors read the lesson appointed for the Sunday at both services and lead the psalm at the 8 am service. Intercessors lead the prayers each Sunday.

The Eucharistic Ministers are licensed by the Bishop after their application has been approved by the Vestry. After receiving training from the rector and verger, they assist clergy with the administration of the sacrament.

Acolytes serve as crucifer or torch bearer during the procession and recession of the services. They also assist the clergy in the Gospel procession, the preparation of the Eucharist, receiving the collection, and the ablution.

Ushers are responsible for keeping the service running smoothly, maintaining quiet in the sanctuary prior to the service, seating late comers at the appropriate times, collecting and presenting the offering, assisting with the traffic flow to and from communion and cleaning up with the Altar Guild after the service.

My thanks to all who served during the first few months of this year. I pray that it is not too long before we all can serve in church once again.

## **Craft Group (aka Crafty Critters)**

Submitted by Rosie Best & Barbara Smith

This year has been a very different year for the craft group as it has for everyone. In the warmer weather we were able to gather on the church grounds with our masks, bringing our own chairs and sitting in a large circle. This did give us a chance to check on each other, see how everyone was doing and catch up all while socially distancing. Now, thanks to Becky, we are able to stay in touch via zoom each Tuesday morning. Various crafts are being made by our members and we will be ready for the 'fair to come'.

Members include: Judy Ackroyd, Mary Bayerl, Clare Bennett, Rosie Best, Judy Brown, Peg Daly, Leni Gillespie, Gail Goddard, Janet Heyl, JoAnn Lyon, Pam Morland, Alice Perry, Gwen Place, Nina Rogers, Becky Rylander, Joanne Schuyler, Wendy Sloan, Barbara Smith, Jackie Thompson, Alison Vernon

## **Coffee Hour and Funeral Reception Hosts**

Submitted by Shelly Boucher

Due to the year of the pandemic with all in-person services suspended there were no funeral receptions at St. Andrew's. Coffee hour has creatively continued via Zoom with small groups broken out for ease of conversation. The rental coffee maker and water cooler have been removed with the purchase of a coffee maker in the future.



## St. Andrew's High School Youth Group

Submitted by Lisa Kelly

Despite the challenges of navigating the pandemic, our HS students found creative ways to stay connected to their church family, the wider community, and one another.

Many thanks to St. Andrew's for beautifully honoring our graduating seniors this past Spring - Shane, Kate, Patrick & Peter. Though we weren't able to go on our Spring Break service trip to Navajoland, we look forward to the opportunity to continue building that partnership in 2021.

Over the summer, we organized a memorial vigil for George Floyd to help draw attention to systemic racism and injustice. This well attended event served as the impetus for other youth in the community to follow up with a Black Lives Matter March a few days later.

With lots of help from Padre Jay, we also participated in the Great EpisGOPal Race. In addition to enjoying the fellowship of being together safely outside during our walk around Kezar Lake, we were also able to raise \$561 for United Thank Offering ministries responding to COVID-19.

This past Fall, we continued to find ways to stay connected in service and fellowship. In November, we gathered to make posters to inspire hope and Christian Unity during the fraught election season, and to provide cards and inspirational notes to accompany the gift cards sent to families in need as part of the annual Thanksgiving Basket Project.

In December, we attended the Memorial Vigil for the Homeless in Newport and began working on a Covid-19 Prayer Flag which will be shared with the wider community in the coming months in memory of those who have lost their lives to the pandemic and in honor of the health care workers who continue to put their lives on the line to protect us.

St. Andrew's is most definitely blessed with a group of inspiring and deeply compassionate young folks who consistently seek to promote justice and serve others. The youth group is open to any and all HS students in grades 9-12. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more, please contact Lisa Kelly @ [lisankelly@att.net](mailto:lisankelly@att.net)

## OUTREACH

Submitted by Elizabeth Lowell

Due to the exigencies of the pandemic and the fact that we do not seek funds in the month of December, St. Andrew's had eight, rather than twelve, months of recipients for our *Last Sunday Outreach Offering* in 2020. And, yet, with our anonymous donors' matching support, we gave away a record-breaking \$59,683! The emergency offering April for Navajoland saw our \$10,861 donation doubled to \$21,722 - or enough to provide food and water for 300 families. In addition to Navajoland, we also supported:

- Epiphany Church in Newport
- Puerto Rican Earthquake Relief
- New Hampshire Immigrant Bail Fund
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)
- El Hogar
- Dismas Home in Manchester, NH
- Clinique Saint Esprit in Croix des Bouquets, Haiti

The role of this Commission is to receive, research, and write up potential *Last Sunday* recipients. We meet regularly to discuss domestic and international candidates; and we are delighted with everyone's response to this ministry. Committee: Janet Heyl, Christine Kellett, Elizabeth Lowell, Becky Rylander, Greg Vogt, Karen Zurheide

## THRIFT SHOP

Submitted by Jackie Thompson, Manager

The year 2020 will go down in the annals of time as one of the most unusual years in recent history. St. Andrew's Thrift Shop was no exception. We were open for three months and then forced to close because of the Corona virus. We were allowed to open during the summer months with very successful outside clothing sales in our parking lot two days a week. This was most gratifying to see so many people so excited to find clothing that they desperately needed. We just asked for voluntary donations, and did quite well with this policy. We also accepted donations of children's and men's clothing in addition to those of the ladies. Consequently, even now we have a room full of children's items and a room for the men.

We opened in October with the blessing of the vestry and were open two days a week for two hours each day. This was a very exciting time as we were able to move Christmas clothing and items from storage into the shop for sale.

JoAnn Lyon has become my right hand assistant and has been there during all of these uncertain months, as have the many volunteers who continued their service to the shop and the church being available whenever needed. We send out a huge sincere thank you to everyone who helped at our outdoor and indoor sales. We couldn't have done it without them.

Sadly, we were asked to close again just before Christmas because of Covid-19, and we remain closed even to this day, with the hopes that we can reopen in the near future, if only one day a week and following strict pandemic guidelines.

As an added bonus, we offered all college students a 20% discount to encourage student shopping. We posted notices in school buildings at Colby Sawyer, and encouraged students to pass the word to their friends.

In addition to St. Andrew's, we chose to make cash donations to the School Nurses' Health Emergency Fund in area schools.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH	\$ 4,000.
OUTREACH DONATIONS	1,200.
Health Emergency Fund for Six School Nurses	
TOTAL FOR 2020:	\$5,200.

## Network Newsletter

Submitted by Alice Perry, Editor

In this year of pandemic and physical distancing, I am happy to say that one aspect of church life unaffected by the virus has been St. Andrew's newsletter, *The Network*. Published bi-monthly, it regularly includes Messages from the Rector, Wardens and the Director of Music, parish updates such as marriage, memorial service and baptism, and birthdays. Committee updates from all of the groups represented in this annual report, highlights and photos of recent activities plus announcement of future events, an occasional "lay contemplation" piece, items of community interest and suggestions for community service and outreach are all featured as well.

Each issue is posted on our website at [www.standrewsni.org](http://www.standrewsni.org) under the Inform tab in advance of the first day of the odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September and November) with email notification sent via Constant Contact as well. (Please be sure the office

has your current email address.) A limited number of printed hard copies is available on the narthex shelf. Please check it out if you haven't already.

The newsletter welcomes your submissions. In order to ensure timeliness, the deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of every even-numbered month (February, April, June, August, October and December) – but don't wait! As soon as you have something of interest to share with our parish community, please do so. You can send text (Word format) and/or photos (jpg) electronically to the editor at [perry46@tds.net](mailto:perry46@tds.net). Please continue to send ideas or items that keep the church community informed of our mission, our programs, our people, our service: all that constitutes the life of the church. – *Alice Perry, Editor*

## **St. Andrew's Art Committee**

Submitted by Katrina Wagner

In May, the formation of a new Art Committee was approved by Jay and Vestry. Members are Shelly Boucher, Suza Lambert- Bowser, Marni Eaton, Mary Eysenbach, Alice Perry, Alison Vernon, Greg Vogt and Katrina Wagner.

Beginning in June, we met each month and view this ministry as an extension of our mission statement: "With St. Andrew and all our companions in faith, we are learning to walk with Jesus in the way of love."

Our purpose is to evaluate the overall current aesthetic appeal of the church's art and architecture and to identify specific areas that might be made more attractive and serviceable. Our hope is that through improvements such as removing clutter, having walls painted, and moving, repairing, or refreshing an area with new art will enhance both our worship and fellowship experiences.

Some of the first steps included straightening the narthex desk, moving the Vestry's bulletin board between the name tags, purchasing new coat hangers and sprucing up the two upstairs bathrooms. In the Parish Hall when most of the bulletin boards were removed it opened valuable space allowing us begin work on a process for holding- as a first step- Revolving Art Shows, perhaps with seasonal themes.

The Sanctuary of course will be the biggest challenge. We are very aware of the deep bonds many of us have with this sacred space, and also the great variety of tastes and preferences that exist within the parish. Your input is welcome at any time!

Be assured, any changes made here will be made extremely carefully and with Jay's and the Vestry's approval.

## **Faith and Issues**

Submitted by Katrina Wagner

2020 marked the fourth year that Faith and Issues met on Saturday mornings from 9:00 -10:30 to discuss insights from eleven Faith based and Issue based books. Each book held implications for enduring and moving forward during this very challenging year. Political upheaval, environmental catastrophes, Covid 19, and severe social- particularly racial- unrest were among the issues that prompted us to try to gain further understanding about how and why many areas of life were unraveling, what could be done, and also how we might deepen our faith.

Among the books were *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman, *Tightrope-Americans Reaching for Hope* by Nicholas D Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn, *The Righteous Mind-Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haight, *Caste -The Origins of Our*

Discontent by Isabel Wilkerson, and two by Marcus J Borg and John Dominic Crossan: The Last Week and The First Paul.

Presently, there are eleven active members and a handful of others who receive the emails and are able to join us for a specific topic or simply want to know what we're reading. Newcomers are welcome! Please contact Katrina Wagner: krbyers@tds.net if you are interested in joining or would just like to join for a particular book. We will have the same format in 2021.

## **Music and Memory**

Submitted by Sally Asher and Jennifer Giles

Two of Music and Memory's longtime regular singers, dear Nan and sweet Annie, moved away this year to be closer to their families and are so very much missed. We also lost Fuad who joined us regularly with his wife Ruth. Fuad passed away in the fall. Fuad and Ruth brought much laughter and entertaining stories to our group for many years.

Though our group was shrinking in numbers, new faces were beginning to appear with a couple from New London and two family members who came up to join us from Concord. However, sadly COVID put a stop to it all in early March. We have so missed our Wednesday morning singing and our occasional outings to sing at Woodcrest and at the State Veterans Home in Tilton.

We look forward to a time when we can meet to sing again. In the words of Vera Lynn, words which we sang at the close of each session since we first began to meet in 2014:

*"We'll meet again - don't know where, don't know when -  
But I know we'll meet again some sunny day.  
Keep smiling through just like you always do  
Till the blue skies drive the dark clouds far away."*

## **Thursday Tots**

Submitted by Sally Asher

Entering its seventh year in the fall of 2019, Thursday Tots continued to be popular with local moms, caregivers, toddlers and babies. We welcomed three newborns into the group. We also donated to the El Hogar program in Honduras and to WishList NH. Sadly, as COVID struck, we could no longer gather safely. Our Thursday morning sessions at St Andrew's are greatly missed. We look forward to a time when we can safely gather again to play, sing, to make connections and support one another. In the meantime we are grateful for all the connections we made during our Thursday sessions which help to sustain us during these challenging times for all.

**Green Committee**  
Submitted by Ed Hoyt, Chair

The energy audit of the St. Andrew's building was completed in June 2019. That fall, we began implementing the report's recommendations with substantial air sealing and insulation work. This portion of insulation work was completed in early 2020.

The next major recommendation was to replace our two aging oil-fired boilers with two condensing propane boilers. The new boilers were installed last summer and will significantly reduce our carbon footprint, in part because propane is less carbon-intensive than oil. In addition, the particular boiler model we chose is capable of burning fuel at ten different levels of intensity, depending on demand, which means we won't waste fuel by creating excessive heat that doesn't get used.

Another Energy Audit recommendation that was implemented in 2020 was the installation of a heat-reducing film on the windows in the parish hall and the glass above the altar in the sanctuary. The purpose of this film is to save energy by retaining heat in the winter, and in the summer keep these spaces cooler by rejecting outside heat, especially from afternoon sunlight.

One other way we saved fuel in 2020 is, fortunately, temporary. Due to the pandemic, most rooms in the church are currently not being used. So, with the exception of the offices, we have lowered both daytime and nighttime temperatures throughout the building.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**  
**2 February 2020**

With about 50 parishioners present and representing a quorum, Jay opened the meeting with words of welcome and a prayer.

***Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to accept the Annual Report of 2019 as written and received.*

***Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2019 as written and received.*

Clerk Alice Perry presented the slate of vestry, warden, treasurer and Western Convocation nominees as follows:

Vestry for three years: Joe Daly, Chris Heyl, Greg Vogt -- Term Expires January 2023

Warden for two years: Marni Eaton -- Term Expires January 2022

Treasurer for three years: Mike Quinn, Term Expires January 2023

Western Convocation Delegate for three years: Pat Goodwin -- Term Expires January 2023

There being no nominations from the floor, ***Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to approve the slate.*

Jay thanked outgoing vestry member Harvey Best for all the hours he devoted to vestry business in addition to the work he and Rosie do for the church. Applause followed.

In introducing the 2020 budget approved by the Vestry at its December 2019 meeting, Jay introduced Treasurer Mike Quinn. Jay also noted that Mike's wife Froncie serves on the KREM

board, along with Jen Giles and Connie Appel.

***Motion*** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to receive the proposed budget for 2020.

A slide show prepared by Suza Lambert Bowers offered “the year in review” in pictures.

Opening the meeting to questions and comments, John Jevne asked about the possible detrimental effects from the eternal candle above the ambry on the woodwork above. Jay assured him that the altar guild will ensure safety.

Nancy Rollins offered kudos for all that is happening between St. Andrew’s and Epiphany and wondered if there was a capital reserve in place for what she called the “two aging structures.” Jay noted we will continue to explore what the partnership between the two congregations implies. He added that our Vestry has been looking at Old St. Andrew’s in terms of upkeep and has been putting \$10,000 aside each year for all major capital projects. We must be prudent how we use the existing endowment and have been fortunate to be able to continue growing our investment fund with the Diocese, Jay said.

Caroline Lockhart asked about the Diocesan fair share. Under Bishop Rob the percentage has been going down, now at 15%. Jay was pleased to highlight two recent grants from the diocese: \$25,000 towards Green Committee projects and \$20,000 from the Mission Resources Committee for Church and Children Together. Missioner Aaron Jenkyn noted that 2019 was the first year in a long time that Epiphany was able to meet their fair share – and that St. Andrew’s support was helpful in that regard. Jay concluded with a reminder of the upcoming Messy Church services, at Epiphany on 8 February and at St. Andrew’s on 16 February, and invited volunteers to help with those activities.

Jerry Coogan asked how Jay feels about attendance/growth at 10 AM. Jay responded by noting it will take time and we must be patient and persevere. He looks forward to developing after-school programs, possibly dodge ball, in order to build a relationship with families – and then invite them to church. Aaron noted that the 2020 Lenten series “Signs of Life” will help us in answering why church matters and help in the effort to grow the church.

Katrina Wagner asked about the vacant apartment at Epiphany. Jay responded that it is being held empty because our search for a music director for St. Andrew’s includes the possibility of someone also accepting the Upbeat role in Newport, in which case the apartment might be important for that person. Should that not develop, Aaron foresees using the space to help with housing needs in Newport.

Leslie Smith commented that some 30 years ago a speaker had stated that the last remaining institution in North America that is truly intergenerational is the church: women, men and children of all ages in the same building at the same time . . . St. Andrew’s is right to pursue the goal of families together.

Jay invited parishioners to visit Hugo Anderson’s gallery and an upcoming exhibition at Bar Harbor Bank entitled “Growing Up with the Atomic Bomb.”

There being no other business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM with a silent prayer and our mutual blessing.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk