



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist  
2019 Annual Meeting Agenda and Reports

November 3, 2019

## ***Agenda for the Annual Meeting:***

### **1. Opening Prayer:**

Gracious God be present with those who take counsel for this parish family. Inspire us to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us courage to pursue and accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **2. A Prayer for the Departed of the Congregation since our last Annual Meeting:**

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brothers and sisters who have died in the last year:

Don Weinkauff (3/8/19)  
Patricia Evenson (3/21/19)  
Tatiana Ewenko (4/16/19)  
Evelyn Tornow (8/31/19)  
Betty Nielsen (10/3/19)

We thank you for giving them to us, their family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console those who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **3. Elections & Recognition of those Vestry Members Rotating Off This Year:**

- Senior and Junior Warden: Vickie Richmond Hawkins & Steve Miller (both eligible for reelection)
- Vestry Members: Pamela Glennon & Dixie Terrell Wilhite (both eligible for reelection)

*Needed to be elected:*

- Senior Warden to a one-year term: Vickie Richmond Hawkins
- Junior Warden to a one-year term: Steve Miller

- Three vestry members to three-year terms:
  - Nominated: Pamela Glennon, Marsha Meurette, Dixie Terrell Wilhite
- Three delegates to Annual Council to 2020
  - Nominated: Shelley Miller, Andrew Pizzello, Dixie Terrell Wilhite (all names were submitted by a nominating committee)

## 5. Reports

### a. Senior Warden

We did it! As the body of Christ belonging to the Church of St. John the Baptist we persisted and thrived as we searched and secured our new rector. The New Testament reading from the celebration of new ministry for Father Copeland Johnston was from Paul's letter to the Romans 12:1 -18. *For as in one body we have many members, and not all members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: ...* You used your God-given talents this past year whether it was in a leadership role on the Vestry or ECW, a discernment role on the Search Committee, a teaching role with the Sunday School or Bible study classes, a worship role in serving at the altar, delivering communion, ushering or singing, or a giving role in supporting the operations of the church and its missions.

We still need to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. But now we have a rector in place to accompany us on this spiritual quest, and we have the challenge from our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry to practice the *Way of Love* in a Jesus-centered life. We also have a beautiful new roof over our heads!

I thank all of you for your support of this parish and look forward to the year ahead.

– Vickie Richmond Hawkins

### b. Junior Warden

- Contract with Prompt Action Pest Control for mice is secured for two checks per year
- Create building use policy. Completed on 1.16.2019
- Ring doorbells and cameras ordered
- Per Mar installed cold sensor in sacristy. Project completed per Lynn at Per Mar, 1.11.19
- Art's Electric installed GFI outlets in kitchen and first-floor bathrooms. 1.3.2019

- Art's Electric installed low-voltage wiring and transformer at back door
- Art's Electric installed two Ring doorbells and two Ring cameras.(Camera locations mutually agreed upon at the January 16, 2019 meeting of the vestry.)
- Contact City of Wausau Forestry Dept. for tree trimming on east side of building prior to roofing. Met with Blaine Peterson on 2.14.19. Trimming will be completed within the month. We will 'lose" the ash tree due to disease. Work done on March 19, 2019
- Ice removal by dun-rite on 2.16.19 and 3.14.19
- "Kim's room" sexton area renovation completed after 2.1.2019 pipe break
- Insurance claim for pipe-break submitted and bills are paid
- Roofing project will begin on Monday, March 25, 2019
- Called Prompt Action for squirrel removal on 3.18, 3.19, 3.20.19 (damage to windowsills and woodwork.)
- Art's Electric will change light switching at back door and in sacristy hallway completed
- Deep cleaning of entire facility prior to visits from rector candidates
- Organ blower will be checked by Hoppe and Associates. "Making noise" on 3.16 and 3.17.19 (Rob Hoppe to resolve the issue)
- Sidewalk replaced on south side of property June 2019
- Roof project completed on 6.20.19
- Carpet runner in church, back stairs, and carpet areas near bathrooms and in Memorial Hall cleaned on 6.17.19
- RING doorbell system is complete with "alerts" placed in kitchen, choir room, and lower hallway
- Small load of roof metal recycled on 6.19.19 Copper, galvanized steel, and steel. \$179.00
- Able Concrete returned and leveled sidewalk in courtyard
- Ongoing conversations with pest removal personnel...Prompt Action Pest Control
- Chapel opening, closing, security. Chapel will remained closed. 7.16.19
- Payment for roof project received by Krause Konstruction.
- Organ repair for winter water damage. Insurance claim submitted. \$12,500 damage estimate (In process as of 7.15.19)
- Boy Scouts cleaned out their storage area in the basement
- Second load of copper recycled
- Malbrit will conduct HVAC audit and provide results of their opinions. Ongoing as of 5.7.19, 6.20.19, 7.16.19.
- Complete renovation of heating plant will take place in late 2019 by Malbrit Heating Company

- Organ restoration from winter water damage completed prior to Father Copeland's installation on 10.17.19
- Replacement lighting for south stained-glass windows completed
- Final bat/squirrel inspection following roof project completed by Prompt Action Pest Control

**To Be Completed:**

- +Remove/replace/repair top of stone retaining wall near columbarium.
- +Weather stripping for exterior doors
- +Move cold sensor in sacristy from under counter to bathroom interior wall
- +Oak transition strips for both fireplaces 7.14.19...Pieces are done. Need to be stained, sealed, installed.
- +Connect ductwork in basement in the area that served as "nursery."
- +Address needs in attic area above sacristy hallway
- +Repair/repaint sacristy hallway ceiling
- +Renovate courtyard lawn

What a year we have had with major attention to so many projects related to buildings and grounds. As can be noted, we have been fortunate to have the opportunity to keep our physical plant in the best condition possible based on current finances. Again, thank you to everyone for supporting our work!

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Miller, Junior Warden

**c. Annual Report of the Rector to the Congregation of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, November 3, 2019**

I arrived in Wausau on June 9th of this year. Since starting my duty as your new rector, it has been a great pleasure to get acquainted with most of you and apprise myself of the ongoing mission of our parish. Andrew and I extend a sincere "thank you" to you all for your hospitality and acceptance into your parish family. The welcome dinners have been particularly helpful to us as we learn more about each other and grow in the bonds of Christian affection. The countless gifts, cards, email, and texts have touched us in ways that make us profoundly grateful for this call to labor with you all for the sake of Christ. We are happy to call Wausau home.

At the conclusion of this year as a parish we have much for which to be thankful. We have a beautiful new roof, a grand organ, a growing Sunday School, fortified relationships with outreach partners, a talented pool of musicians, and faithful church guilds. I wish I could take credit for these happenings, but none of it is a result of my leadership. We are the beneficiaries of these things because of the diligent efforts of you, the laity. I commend you for your commitment to St. John's, your mutual affinity for one another and for stepping-up in a time of need.

I am very grateful for the tireless work of our parish administrator, Theresa Ambord. Theresa is scheduled to work 19 hours a week, but she miraculously does the work of a fulltime employee. I cannot fully express my appreciation for our Junior and Senior Wardens. While I continually praise our wardens for their hard work, they, in return, continually remind me that any success in the interim period is a result of a collective effort by our parishioners. We are also well-served by our treasurer and bookkeeper, Bev Royer. Bev is a true professional who provides us with a strong foundation in our temporal mission. Parish finances can be a crazy quilt at times, but Bev brings order to the chaos and joy to the office every Wednesday. Another temporal ministry is the nitty gritty of maintaining the vast physical plant of St. John's. I am so pleased to have our sexton, Kim Schoenberger, with us twice a week for a few hours. Kim is a team player and uniquely resourceful when called upon to repair some challenging things in our historic church.

To those of you who were able to join us for our celebration of a new ministry, I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I did. It was an elegant, spirited and moving event. Our Bishop, Matthew Gunter, was equally lifted by our celebration. I was very proud to have our parish on full display that night for God's people to see. People came from different parts of the nation to attend the service. On more than one occasion someone said to me, "you outdid yourselves." I took the comment as a compliment, but I don't believe we "outdid ourselves," we were merely being ourselves...on full display!

Our celebration of new ministry is a starting point to forge ahead with new excitement and enthusiasm. Our parish in Wausau is called to be a witness of Jesus Christ, the One who made all things new. As inheritors of the apostolic faith, and with the confirmation of the Holy Spirit, we have every reason to be excited and spirited going forward. All our enthusiasm, joy and hope starts within our transcendent liturgical worship which carries us week by week into the

community to do good works as servants of our risen Lord. The success of our worship life depends on the contributions of you, the people God called to St. John's.

Moving ahead, I hope you maintain your spirit of volunteerism. I invite you to continue to provide prayerful service to God and each other in the Church as you did in the interim period. I want to labor with you all to increase our profile in the community as a refuge for those in search of truth and peace, and to stand as a bulwark of justice and goodwill. Let us run with the zeal we felt on the night of our celebration of new ministry to support our ministry of hospitality and artistic expression, which elevates the heart, mind and senses toward God in communion with all the saints through worship.

I am excited about the years to come and I can attribute that excitement to the fact that St. John's is one of the most loving parishes I have ever had the pleasure of serving. It is my sincere honor to be your rector and servant as we mature in the love of the One who loves us all, Jesus Christ.

Fr. Copeland

#### **d. Financial Report**

<b>Accounts</b>	<b>2018 (through 9-30)</b>	<b>2019 (through 9-30)</b>
Checking Account	\$ 54,546.41	\$ 53,062.21
Discretionary Fund	\$ 446.10	\$ 1,015.68
Youth Fund	\$ 3,788.04	\$ 3,919.51
Scholarship Fund	\$ 935.47	\$ 435.70
Memorial Fund	\$ 12,877.91	\$ 15,590.15
Endowment Fund	\$ 1,300,380.38	\$ 1,356,536.49

<b>Pledged Income</b>	<b>2018 (through 9-30)</b>	<b>% of Budget for Year</b>	<b>2019 (through 9-30)</b>	<b>% of Budget for Year</b>
	\$		\$	
Pledge Income	113,567.30	* 70.00%	105,720.53	** 70.20%
Non Pledged Income	\$ 12,932.00	51.70%	\$ 12,585.26	78.70%
	\$		\$	
Total Income	126,499.30	68.00%	118,305.79	78%

\*\$27,500 Pre-paid pledge in 2017

\*\*\$10,400 Pre-paid pledge in 2018

<b>Category</b>	<b>2018 (through 9/30)</b>	<b>% of annual Budget</b>	<b>2019 (through 9/30)</b>	<b>% of annual Budget</b>
	\$		\$	
Administration	3,570.38	70.70%	4,224.57	
	\$		\$	
Facility Operations	27,205.95	84%	33,545.87	113.10%
	\$		\$	
Personnel: Salary & Benefits	56,936.91	45.90%	67,368.40	64.90%
	\$		\$	
Programs	16,774.46	67.40%	18,640.41	74.70%
	\$		\$	
Search Committee	665.40		19,467.54	
	\$		\$	
Total Expenses	105,153.10		143,246.79	

### **e. Pledges for 2020 due by November 17**

### **f. Endowment Fund Report**

## **Endowment Fund**

\$1,082,854 was transferred to management by Wood Trust on 3/31/2016. Despite withdrawals for the organ renovation, the roof replacement, and our search for a Rector, the closing balance on 9/30/2019 was \$1,359,536.49. Up to \$60,000 has been authorized for withdrawal for repair and replacement of the Church heating and cooling systems.

The Committee meets quarterly to review investment performance, diversity of investments, and any upcoming distribution needs. At the last meeting Jim LaPointe left the Committee and Andrew Pizzello joined Doug Ramsey, Jim Hawkins, and Dixie Terrell Wilhite on the Committee. In February, 2020, representatives of Wood Trust will present a recap of the Fund's 2019 performance to the Vestry.  
Dixie Terrell Wilhite

### **g. Altar Guild**

On behalf of St. John's Altar Guild and the parish, I would like to thank Ruth Schuette for her many years of service as a member and directress. Rudie truly has a compassion for the church and her dedication to keep all the duties of the Altar Guild in check for our clergy, both past and present. She is an inspiration for all of us and holds a wealth of knowledge. As she steps down as directress and spends more time at the lake, she will continue to be a valued member of the Altar Guild.

After much discussion this year, it was decided that our silver vessels were in need of attention. On August 12, 2019, I took 28 pieces of silver to A. Werner Silversmiths in Milwaukee to have dents and stains removed. They also polished each piece and the results were absolutely amazing. Mike, the silversmith, was very accommodating and offered a great deal of information to care for our lovely polished vessels. He knew we were having a very special Celebration of New Ministry for Father Copeland in October and restored all our vessels by September 18<sup>th</sup>. New embroidered treated silver bags were handmade for each vessel.

Altar Guild is a group of women or men who are called to serve God by preparing and tending the places where Episcopalians worship. It is a ministry of love undertaken in the name of Christ. If you are interested in serving on Altar

Guild, please talk to Father Copeland or me. The Altar Guild members work on a monthly schedule, as a team or individually.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley Miller, directress

## **h. Building Usage**

We have several different groups using our building on a regular basis. These groups include The Boy Scouts, a SMART Recovery and Addiction Group, three community choirs and a NAOMI group. We have also had parish members request the use of Memorial Hall for family get-togethers/parties or musical recitals.

## **i. Courtyard and Gardens**

Annuals were again planted in boxes and pots. We did it on a Saturday morning this year and were assisted by three youth who did a wonderful job. Volunteers signed up for watering and weeding throughout the growing season. Calla lilies and perennial succulents were added to the center garden plot. The calla bulbs were pulled this fall and tulips were planted.

The grass took a beating from the roof construction and will need to be repaired next spring. But again volunteers took turns mowing and trimming.

Water and dog biscuits were again provided for visitors to the courtyard – both two-legged and four-legged. Brat fries were held on Tuesdays in August. The proceeds were given to the discretionary fund except for the first one which was given to the Monk Botanical Gardens to help replace educational items lost to vandalism.

Vickie Richmond Hawkins

## **j. Cursillo**

Unfortunately, we were not able to have a diocesan Cursillo this year, but one is planned for 2020, April 30-May 3 at our usual place, Spencer Lake Christian Center near Waupaca. The Cursillo community was able to gather regularly at various congregations in the diocese for Ultreyas. For the July Ultreya at St. Marks in Waupaca, Cathy Veldhuizen, Monarch #73 gave the witness (main talk) which was very uplifting! Ask her about her Cursillo experience. You can also learn about our Cursillo at [www.monarchcursillo.org](http://www.monarchcursillo.org). Also, Claire Aziz and I

group most Wednesday mornings at 9:00 and all are invited; another great place to learn about Cursillo. Submitted by Ron Alexander

### **k. ECW Report**

St. John the Baptist's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) includes all women of our church and Episcopal churches everywhere. The purpose of ECW is to provide fellowship, work, prayer, and service throughout the year.

Highlights of February 13, 2019 Board Meeting:

- Review of our \$3,000.00 budget to be presented at the to the full ECW at the spring 2019 meeting.
- We clarified that the parish will now pay for disposable kitchen supplies.
- ECW will pay for long term items and/or appliance repairs.
- Our newly formed treat sale in December of 2018 generated \$2,307.00. As a transition from the 75-year traditional cookie sale, the group felt it was a success.

Highlights of the May 1, 2019 Meeting:

- Our guest speaker was Lisa Grill Dodson, Dean of the Medical College of Wisconsin-Central Wisconsin. She spoke about the medical school program and introduced three current students, who spoke and answered questions.
- Review and discussion of the 2019 budget was passed with changes in funding various missions.
- A reception was held for Bishop Matt Gunter's visit on Sunday, March 24, 2019.
- Our Lenten Quiet Day was led by The Rev. Canon Ezgi Saribay Perkins on Monday, April 15, 2019.
- UTO collected \$485.44 for the fall 2018 ingathering.
- ECW along with the Search Committee will host a celebratory coffee hour welcoming Father Copeland and Andrew on Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> after the 9:00 a.m. service.
- A motion was approved for ECW to purchase a travel kit that Father Copeland can keep in his car when he makes pastoral care visits.
- ECW will provide a reception after the 9:00 a.m. service June 2, 2019, for the representatives from Masvingo.

## Highlights of the September 11, 2019 Board Meeting:

- Review of our budget. A motion was made and passed that ECW would give \$500.00 to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's in Fond du Lac toward upkeep of the building.
- ECW will continue to do a collection of needed items for the Boys and Girls Club in December.
- Bell ringing for the Salvation Army will continue in December.
- A reception for Father Copeland in Celebration of his New Ministry will be held Thursday, October 17, 2019.
- UTO collected \$450.80 for the spring 2019 ingathering. The next ingathering will be November 2019.
- The ECW fall dinner will be held Wednesday, November 13, 2019 in Memorial Hall. Our speaker will be The Rev. Copeland Johnston followed by our regular ECW meeting.
- A motion was made and seconded to post the slate of officers running for 2020 in the Sunday bulletins prior to our fall election. If any ECW member is interested in running for office and would like to be included on the ballot along with our current officers, please contact Shelley Miller or Marsha Meurette.
- Any ECW member interested in hosting a Spiritual Growth and Prayer group should contact Shelley Miller.
- The second annual Holiday Treat Sale will take place Sunday, December 15, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley Miller ECW President

### **I. Community Meal**

The last Saturday of the month, St. John's opens its doors to anyone in the community to enjoy a warm meal and fellowship. On average, St. John's serves 40 community members per month. Over the past year the organizing committee has decided to stop giving monthly gifts to each of our guests and instead give them an inspirational Bible verse card to take home. We have also focused more on prayer and prayer requests; our guests have been very receptive to these changes. The Holy Spirit can be felt, seen and heard at all our Community Meals. Please come and experience it! Gina Crispell

### **m. Adult Study**

There are currently two opportunities for adult education here at St. John's.

The Wednesday book study meets at 10:00 a.m. We are a co-ed group studying books of interest to the group. We began this fall reading "The Prodigal Prophet." This was a book about Jonah and the mystery of God's Mercy. We currently are reading/studying "Twelve Parables of Jesus" by Maxie Dunnam.

The Sunday group has had a slow start as our focus was on preparing for the Presiding Bishop's visit. We will get back to finishing our "Know Your Bible" book in November.

Both adult study groups are flexible, so please join us and see if you might enjoy being a part of either group.

We are a lively group open to energetic discussion! Submitted by Cindy Strampe

### **n. Church School**

#### **October 2019**

Over the summer, families with children in elementary school were contacted via email about how we should proceed with faith formation for this demographic; the consensus was to maintain church school during the 10 AM service, except on Sundays that would be deemed part of "school holidays." Other options were to move Church School to 9 AM or to transition to a "faith at home" model. "Faith at home" was suggested because of the perennial challenge that a volunteer prepares a lesson and then arrives at church to find that only his/her own children are present. To address this problem, families were asked to indicate Sundays during the fall months that they already knew they would be absent due to travel, activities, etc. Obviously, some absences (like those due to illness) cannot be predicted, but we reasoned that if we knew no children were available on a particular date, we could eliminate that date from our plans.

The church school year began on September 22 and so far a total of seven unique children have attended at least one session, with an average weekly attendance of 3.75 (15 in attendance / 4 sessions).

Each family was asked to volunteer to teach twice between September 15 and December 22; so far, Gina Crispell (2), Heather Dusselman (1) and Margy Stahr (1) have taught with additional parents signed up for November and December dates. Thanks to all who give their time to teach our fantastic children.

We are using a “one room school” curriculum - Spark: Activate Faith – by Sparkhouse publishing. This curriculum is divided into 8 quarters (a two-year sequence) and churches can choose which quarters to order to suit their needs. Currently our children are working through Old Testament lessons that are part of the salvation arc. The curriculum utilizes two versions of their Bibles: the Spark Story Bible for emerging readers and the Spark NRSV Bible for more proficient readers.

We are not currently offering educational programs for middle school or high school youth.

In September, we resumed the monthly Fellowship Dinners on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. In September, children and youth prepared a simple supper (pasta, salad, bread) for those gathered, and Fr. Copeland led us in Supper Church. In October, we had our annual Pizza and Pumpkin Carving Dinner. Thanks to Laura Ramsey for leading the October dinner. Both of these events were well attended with more than 25 people at each. On November 10, we will have a Friendsgiving Fellowship Dinner. Fellowship Dinners are meant to be intergenerational; if you have ideas for themes, programs, etc. please contact me.

Plans for the Christmas pageant are in the early stages. In the new year, we plan to again decorate the church with “Alleluias” that the children will lock away for Lent and open on Easter. This tradition is becoming a meaningful one to St. John’s children.

Respectfully submitted, Margy Stahr

## **o. NAOMI**

NAOMI (North Central Area Congregations Organized to Make an Impact) Our parent organization WISDOM was able to help us hire an Organizer, Tee Vang, for the second half of the year to assist in our projects. Some of you have had the opportunity to meet him and to welcome him. Thank You! We are appreciative to the congregation for the continuing use of an office; receipt of our mail; and use of the church for meetings! We continue to address justice issues in our community and state by advocating for criminal justice reform, immigration

reform, public transit expansion, poverty awareness and reduction, and racial equity. We were part of a coalition that held this year's Martin Luther King Day celebration and sponsored a bus to bring community members to Madison in April for WISDOM'S biannual Madison Action Day to lobby our legislators on justice issues. We facilitated a Transit Forum in August to bring awareness to limitations of our public transit system and to seek solutions.

Submitted by Ron Alexander

## **5. Other Business**

- **UTO**

Ingathering in the amount of \$458.80 sent June 2019

- **Annual Convention Report**

A verbal report will be given by Dixie Terrell Wilhite

- **Christmas 2019**

Sunday, December 22: Church Decoration following the 10 am Eucharist.

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Family Eucharist at 4 pm

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist at 10:30 pm

Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day at 9am

## **6. Blessing and Adjourn**

### **A Prayer for Mission**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.