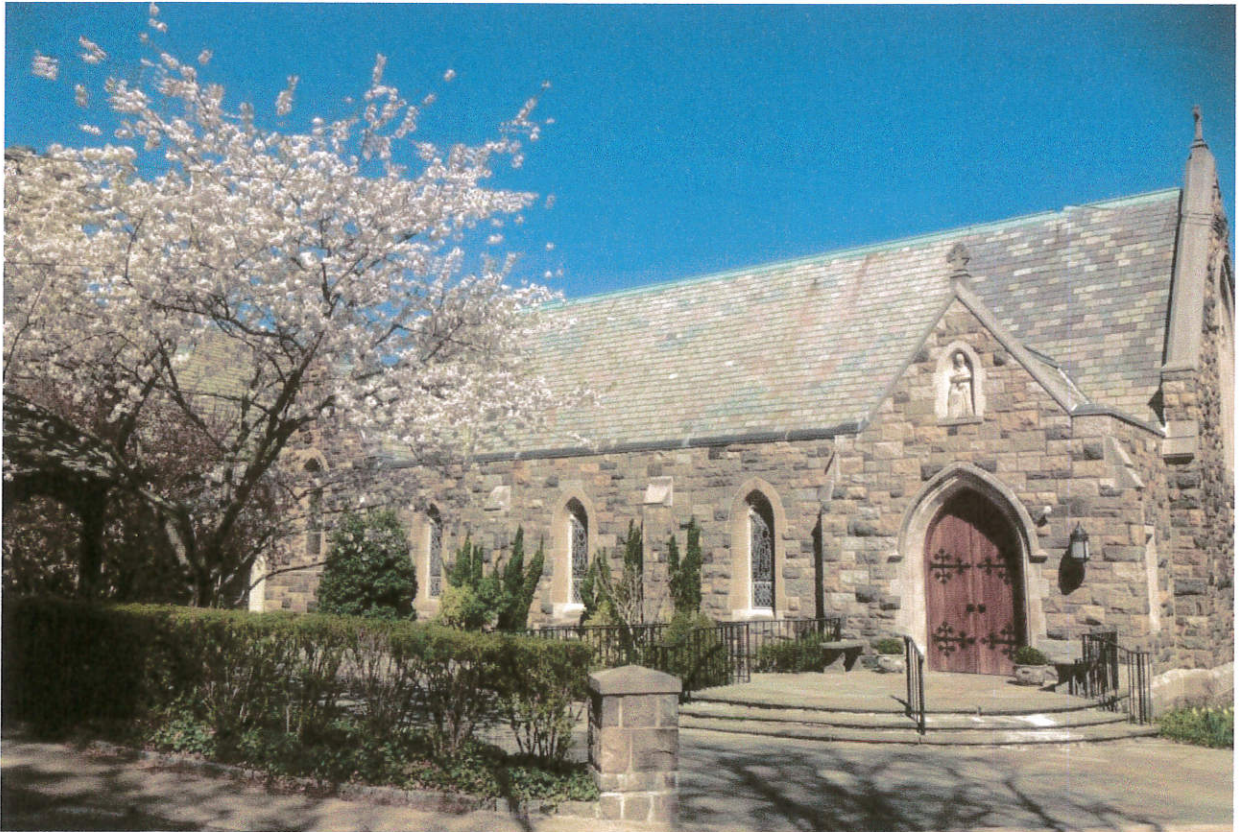


# St. John's of Lattingtown

A window into the life of our parish...



## ANNUAL REPORT

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*August 23, 2020*

# RECTOR'S LETTER

We have certainly faced challenges during this deadly COVID-19 virus, but even so, many inspiring ministries here at St. John's of Lattingtown continue to grow and provide healing and care to countless individuals and families across the North Shore of Nassau County.

As we prepare for the future, let us move forward from these difficult days with a strong dose of humility. There is much that is impossible to predict, but as the prophet Jeremiah says, "God has plans for you, plans to prosper you and give you hope." Part of what the Bible teaches us about God is that the future is inextricably linked to the past. Jesus, the Messiah, did not arrive out of nowhere. The coming Savior had been prophesied for centuries and was the culmination of the law and the prophets.

And so, the future that God intends for us at St. John's will be new, but it will also grow out of what has been. It will build on a foundation that has been laid by us, by God's grace, and by those who came before us. With every new ministry we have considered since I began in May 2015, I have asked this simple question: "is this just something I want to do, or is it consistent with who St. John's is, and has been?" My prayer is that what we have done together will continue to be aligned with our mission, with our history, and with God's call, and therefore will be a solid foundation for what is to come as we learn and grow from this difficult period.

So, let's take a honest look at some of our challenges. I begin with this fact: there is a religious drought in our wider culture. All mainline Christian denominations are in the midst of major decline. Each new generation is becoming less religious than the one before it, with the "spiritual but not religious" category the fastest growing. Like a drought in the natural world, this religious drought is taking hold gradually and is sometimes hard to perceive. St. John's, like most churches, has fewer people attending Sunday worship (though a lot are engaged in ministry during the week); patterns of attendance are changing (among our hectic family lives, attendance once a month or even less frequently is common). How will we pass on the faith to the next generation, when many are less present, and less likely to be open to the gospel message in an increasingly secular culture?

Related to the religious drought, there are fewer people making pledges of financial support. With fewer people attending worship, and with the newer generations being less likely to pledge, we are relying on fewer people for financial support. Fortunately, the dollar amounts pledged have been fairly consistent over recent years. But this may not last.

What are the possible strategies to meet these challenges? Continue to strengthen what God is showing us is working. For example, our choral scholar program will continue to reach children, youth and college age students who might never enter our doors. With continued financial support from Opera Night and other means, our talented Director of Music Ministry Chris Brayne will help lead us to become an even more transformative parish, and a serious diocesan leader. I imagine St. John's of Lattingtown one day being mentioned in the same breath as the chorister programs at The Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, and St. Thomas', New York. Our acolyte program must be stronger. Our Sunday school program is innovative but needs volunteers. Mother Catherine and Courtney Callahan will continue to expand outreach ministries. NOSH has taken us to another level and out into our changing neighborhoods. We ask - who are our neighbors? And what might they need that we can offer? Strengthening discipleship focuses not so much on numbers, as on the holy habits that change lives.

It took only 12 people around Jesus to change the world. When we make committed disciples of Jesus, they make a difference everywhere they go and attract others through Evangelism. That was Jesus' strategy, and it turned out pretty well. Encourage all members to help grow our endowment. A top priority this year will be to grow the St. John's endowment to withstand the cultural changes all around us. This comes largely through bequests from our faithful members. We need every pledging member to prayerfully consider an increase. Let us celebrate the things which have made St. John's who we are for decades: our marvelous nursery school, our incredible traditional music program, our "big tent" that welcomes all, and so on. Double down on what makes us unique, instead of imitating what other churches do. Invest in small groups. More than almost anything, being in a small group with "soul friends" has the potential to change our life. This can be a hard sell for Episcopalians, but the mega churches are right that a small group is essential to growing in faith, in addition to Sunday worship.

This is how we can combat the loneliness epidemic, through connection. Very soon, it will be time to launch a capital campaign to refresh the church in critical areas and double our endowment.

I've gone on far too long, and if you are still reading this, you deserve a prize! Nevertheless, I look forward to attacking these challenges with you in the year ahead with a lot of prayer and patience. Let me close by saying thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve as your Rector. Thank you to my family, the Bishop, our Curate and lay staff, to our Vestry, committees and volunteers, and especially to our tremendous Wardens and Treasurer for your leadership.

*The Rev'd Mark L. Fitzhugh, Rector*

## WARDENS' REPORT

This has been an extraordinary year in the life of St. Johns - a year filled with new and unimagined challenges. When the Coronavirus hit the US in March, life as we knew it came to a screeching halt: businesses stopped operating, stores and restaurants shut down, and for the first time in modern history, houses of worship closed their doors. Churches everywhere struggled with the daunting task of how to remain relevant and continue sharing the light and love of Christ during months of isolation and uncertainty. How blessed we have been at St. Johns to have such devoted clergy and talented staff to help navigate these unprecedented times. Our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Mark, Fr. Stephen and Chris Brayne, who worked tirelessly to ensure our church family and friends were provided ongoing opportunities to worship virtually and enjoy beautiful music from the comfort of their own homes. Today we are grateful our doors are open once again. As we move forward and strive to provide spiritual nourishment to as many as possible, the plan is to continue our online worship offerings - which are easily accessed on our website or social media.

Never missing an opportunity to reach out to others in love, Courtney Callahan - aka Miss Courtney - our beloved Director of Children's Ministry & Outreach - continues to inspire us with her indomitable spirit! Because of the pandemic, many here on Long Island found themselves with insufficient food. In response to this overwhelming need, Courtney, along with other church and community leaders, worked to create Nosh. Nosh has since become a program of The North Shore Soup Kitchen, and together these organizations - with the help of many St. Johns and community volunteers of all ages - provide weekly meals to literally hundreds in our community. Thank you Miss Courtney and to all who assist in this effort! In addition to Outreach, Courtney continues to engage and inspire our children with creative, fun crafts and opportunities to serve.

Recently we have said goodbye to two beloved staff members - our Curate Stephen Tamke who is currently serving as Priest-in-Charge at Christ Church Manhasset, and our Sexton, Kate Scefonas, who has taken over her family florist shop in Locust Valley. Needless to say their departure left us with some big shoes to fill, however Frank Powers, a current parishioner with wonderful experience has graciously volunteered to be our new Sexton. On August 15th, we welcomed Rev. Catherine Wiczorek and her family to the Gatehouse. Blessings abound, even in the midst of a worldwide pandemic! This is an exciting time in the life of our Parish and I look forward to the year ahead, as we grow in strength and numbers to expand our ministries.

Without the ongoing support of our faithful and generous parishioners, none of this would be possible. By the grace of God, and the generosity of our church family and friends, St. Johns is not only alive and well - we are thriving! This is also due in large part to the incredible Vestry, Ministry leaders and staff with whom I have had the privilege to work with in the past several years. Special thanks to Fr. Mark, our Rector and leader, George Stimola, Treasurer, Mary Savin, Parish Administrator, Mary Syracuse, Financial Administrator, Harold Bollaci, head of Buildings & Grounds, and Jay Aston, Warden - many hands make light work, as they say, and you all do more than a lions share!

An additional heartfelt thank you to our outgoing Vestry members: Carlyle Dunaway, George Stimola and Clerk, Mike Powers. A special note of deep appreciation to retiring Warden, Vicki Fox. It is the tireless service and dedication of this committed group of parishioners that is the lifeblood of St. John's Church.

*Vicki & Jay, Wardens*

## 2019 - 2020 MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS – St. John’s of Lattingtown

**The Music Program**- we continued with our popular Choral Scholar program, (for high school and college students) Evensong events, and Opera Night, as well as *Coffee, Tea and Tunes* Sunday Series. This year, the Junior Choral Scholar Program (ages 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up) began with the children and youth at Glen Gardens Housing Project. We also hosted a weekend with internationally acclaimed composer Bob Chilcott for the St John’s Choral Scholars, The Cathedral Choir, and the choirs of Herricks and Greenvale Schools, that concluded with a Gala Concert at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City. In conjunction with The New Member Committee and Little Learner’s Nursery School the first “Singing Squad” music program for toddlers also began in 2019.

**Little Learner’s Nursery School**- continues to grow and adjust to the ever changing needs of our community, including summer and after-school programs as well as online offerings.

**Outreach Ministries**- *Thistle and Spoon and Friends of St John’s* served our friends and neighbors at the Men’s Shelter and beyond. Our “Pies and Fries”, Backpack Giveaway, Movie Night and Old Fashioned Christmas with our friends at Glen Gardens are tremendously popular events. This year, Courtney Callahan established a new thriving program called NOSH, a community organization of many volunteers formed during the COVID-19 Pandemic to serve the food insecure on the North Shore of LI. This organization expanded into a youth internship program and NOSHKids as well as other initiatives to support our neighbors.

**St John’s 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Fair** Our annual event continues to support community awareness and raise funds for many parish and local programs. In 2019, we added many new vendors and a co-sponsored Saturday event with the Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club families.

**Third Annual Opera Night in memory of Brian Kenneth Tully**- a wonderful night of great music and fellowship helped raised funds for the mission and ministries of St. John’s, held December 6, 2019.

**New Spiritual Enrichment opportunities** -After the pandemic, we adapted to include online Sunday Services (until July 5th), Morning Prayer, Wednesday Prayers and Meditations, Zoom Coffee Hour and an online book club collaborating with several Episcopal churches both locally and beyond to discuss current racial developments and issues.

**Sunday School** – we continued with our traditional Sunday mornings and Sunday Night Lights Sunday School for all ages and transitioned to online crafts, hymns and offerings during the COVID crisis.

## BUILDINGS AND GROUND IMPROVEMENTS

**Church**– beautiful new green altar frontal and pulpit falls ( donated by the Staniford Family in memory of Noni Staniford) as well as traditional oil candles (donated by Donna & John George) now adorn our church altar.

**Memorial Garden**- final landscaping and planting was completed to our beloved place of rest and reflection to include the spectacular Davison Fountain as a focal point.

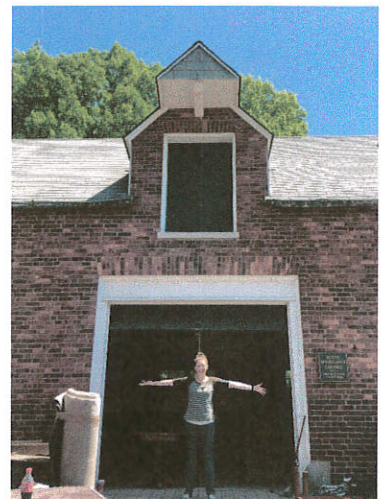
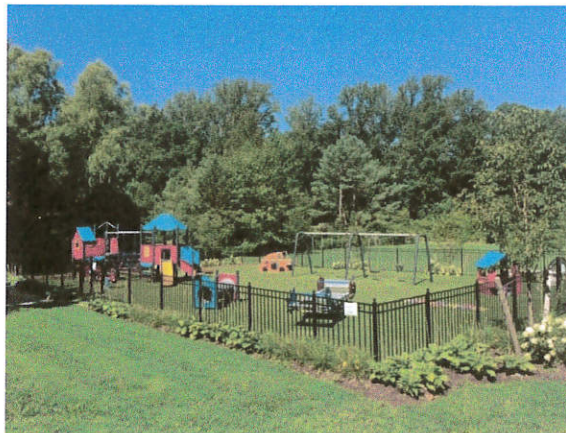
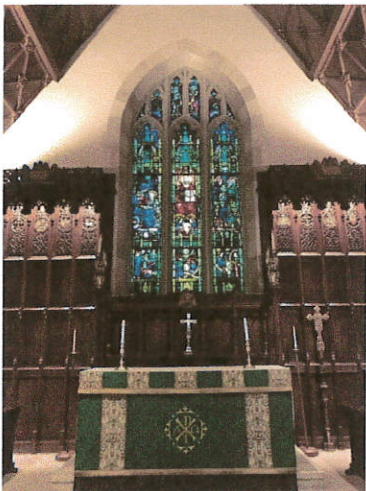
**Playground** – The Brian K. Tully Memorial Playground- a completely new state of the art playground installed and beautifully landscaped for the children of our nursery school and community.

**The Barn**- a trendy and highly successful thrift and consignment store developed by Kate Scefonas. She renovated what was once a dusty 100-year-old storage area into a charming thrift store that continues to be a tremendous asset for our congregation.

**Brick Wall Renovation**- after an accident left our Lattingtown Rd wall in shambles, a full renovation project to open up the space and restore what was salvageable from the original brick work with the addition of black fencing.

**Floor Restoration**- the floors in the Parish Hall, Guild Room and adjoining hallway were stripped, sanded, stained and resealed.

**Technology**– New state of the art website was developed and implemented. New camera and speaker systems have been added to enhance the online recordings and the outdoor in-person services. Coming in a few weeks– new Lives-stream capabilities for all services!



# OUR OUTREACH

Our Parish cordially invites you, your family, and friends to the

Rain or Shine

WELCOME

## ST. JOHN'S FAIR

**September 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am-4pm**  
**Saturday Family Day!**  
Adults \$10, Children \$5  
\$20 maximum per family  
9AM Saturday Preview \$25

**September 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am-2pm**  
**Sunday Bargain Day!**  
\$10 Tote Bags, additional Bags \$5  
10:30am Mass on the Grass

A large portion of the proceeds go directly to community outreach.  
Fair Lawn \* 325 Lattingtown Road \* Locust Valley, NY  
Corner of Old Tappan and Overlook Roads \* www.stjlat.org



Once again, another highly successful St John's Country Fair was a parish and community favorite- held Sept.2019



Serving our friends at  
The Glen Cove Housing Authority

Back to School Event!  
Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 6 pm  
Ice cream social,  
Backpack giveaway,  
and more!



Mason Drive Playground  
140 Glen Cove Avenue, Glen Cove

Ages K-12<sup>th</sup> gr. and college!

*Sponsors*

*St. John's of LaSingstown Episcopal Church,  
The Glen Cove Economic Opportunity Council,  
Glen Cove Housing Authority, Glen Cove Unleash, Inc.,  
Glen Gardens Choir, Junior Choral Scholars Program,  
Rising Tide Natural Market*

For more information: [courtneyCallahan@yahoo.com](mailto:courtneyCallahan@yahoo.com)



We continue our relationship with our friends at Glen Gardens. This year, we hosted a Back to School event, Ice Cream Social, Valentine Cookie Decorating Party, and our beloved Old Fashioned Christmas Party



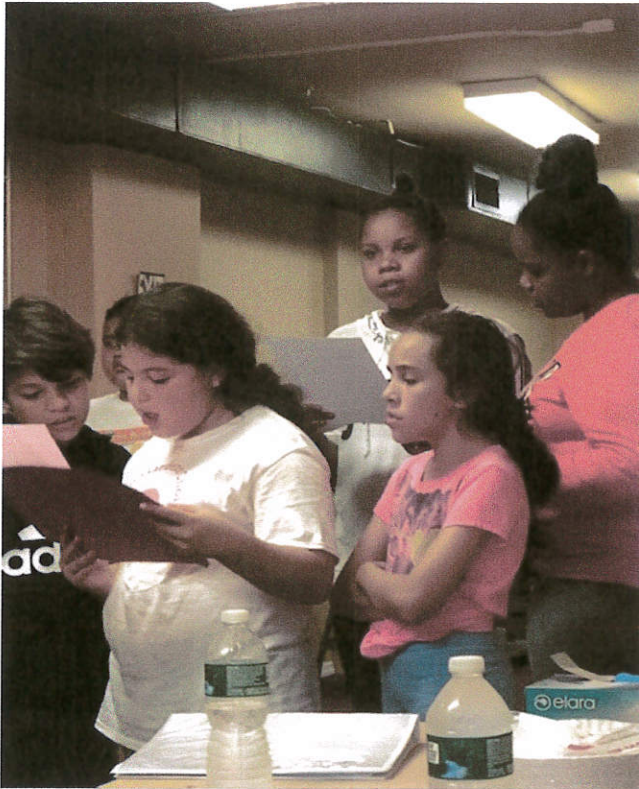
We shared dinner and companionship with our friends at the Glen Cove Men's Shelter

In March 2020, Courtney Callahan began a new community ministry NOSH- feeding over 500 families in response to the COVID crisis





## OUR MUSIC



Our own Chris Brayne, working with Courtney Callahan, began the Glen Gardens Jr. Choral Scholars Program in September 2019. They had their first performance in January 2020 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Glen Cove. Chris also developed the “Singing Squad” music program for nursery school aged children in November.




TEA, COFFEE AND TUNES  
 Sunday September 15, 2019  
 3:00 pm | Parish Hall  
 Music of Frank Sinatra

featuring  
 Lou Caputo, Saxophone  
 Joe Carbone, Guitar  
 Yas Takeda, Bass  
 Stu Water, Piano



**M**USIC AT SAINT JOHN'S  
 FALL 2019

All Singers, Choirs, Choral Directors  
 Come and sing for a day  
 with  
**BOB CHILCOTT**



Internationally acclaimed Composer/Conductor  
 Saturday October 12, 2019  
 10 am - 4 pm  
 St. John's of Lattingtown Episcopal Church  
 325 Lattingtown Road, Locust Valley  
 Registration required - [www.stjlat.org](http://www.stjlat.org)  
 Students: \$25 includes lunch  
 General Admission: \$50 includes lunch  
 Contact: Chris Brayne, Director of Music Ministry  
 516.671.3226

St John's of Lattingtown Episcopal Church | 325 Lattingtown Rd Locust Valley NY  
 1510671.3226 | [www.stjlat.org](http://www.stjlat.org)


Other music offerings in 2019 included *Tea, Coffee and Tunes* series (above), a workshop with famed composer/director Bob Chilcott that culminated with a joint concert with the choirs of the Cathedral of the Incarnation (middle) and our Third Annual Opera Night (below)

*St. John's of Lattingtown  
 Third Annual Opera Night*



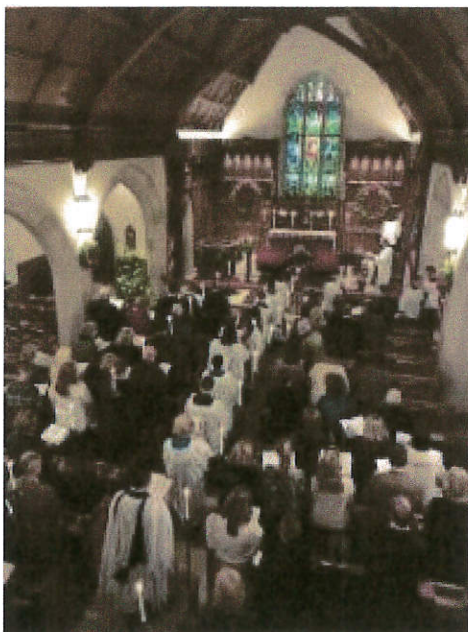
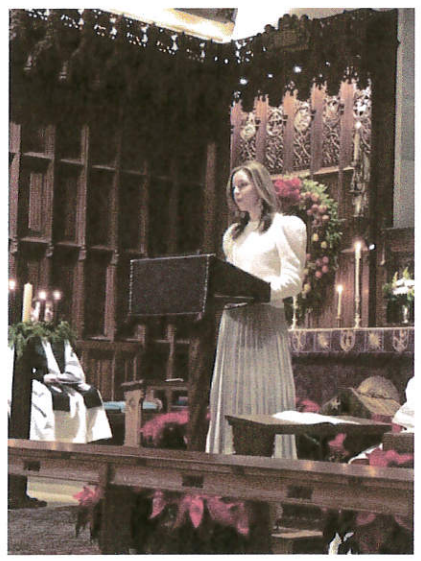
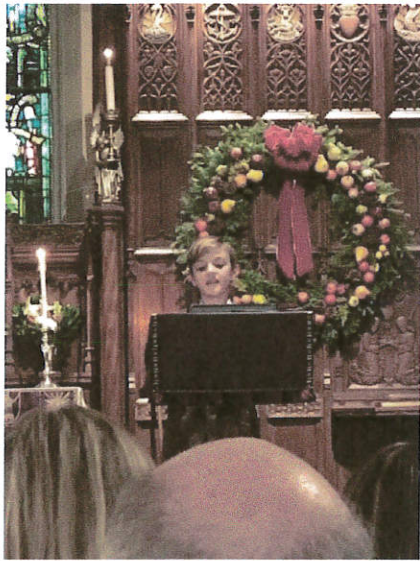
Choral Evensong and a Service of Lessons and Carols

SAINT JOHN'S OF LATTINGTOWN  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

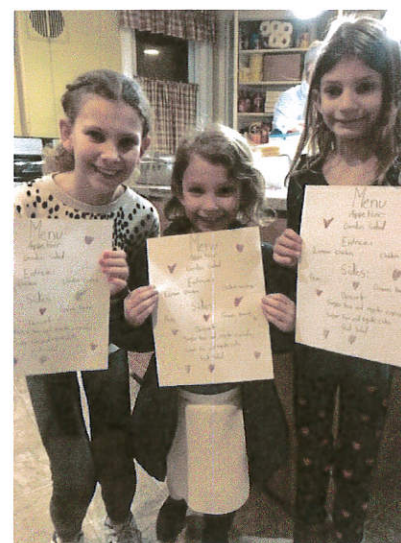


A FESTIVAL OF  
LESSONS & CAROLS

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 4:00 P.M.  
The Fourth Sunday of Advent



# OUR CHILDREN and FAMILIES

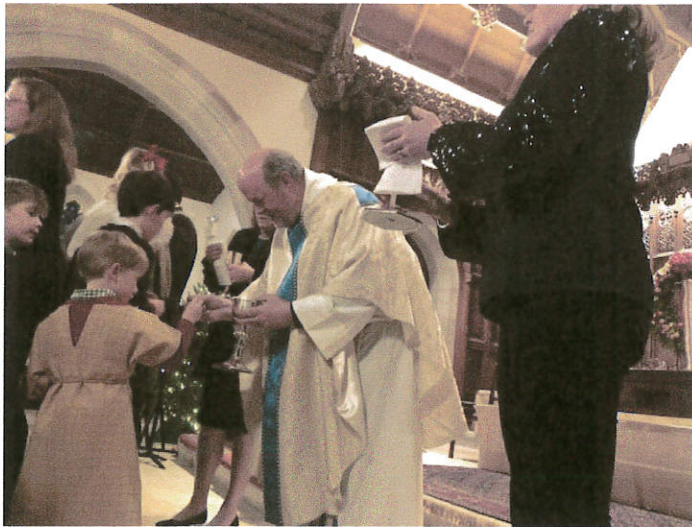


Our Sunday School had a very successful year, with the children serving as Junior Acolytes, sharing their Apple Ministry, and serving with their parents at the Men's Shelter. *St John's for Kids*, our Sunday Family service continues to grow and thrive.

# Christingle Pageant & Holy Eucharist

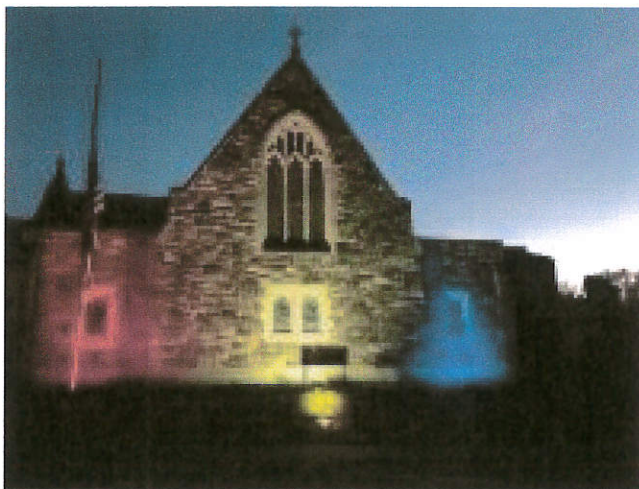
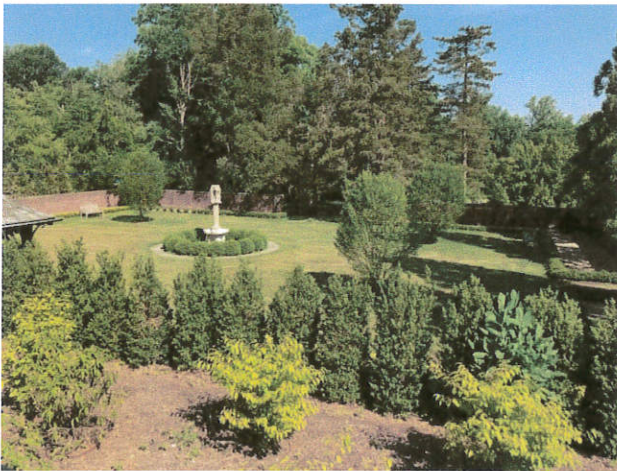
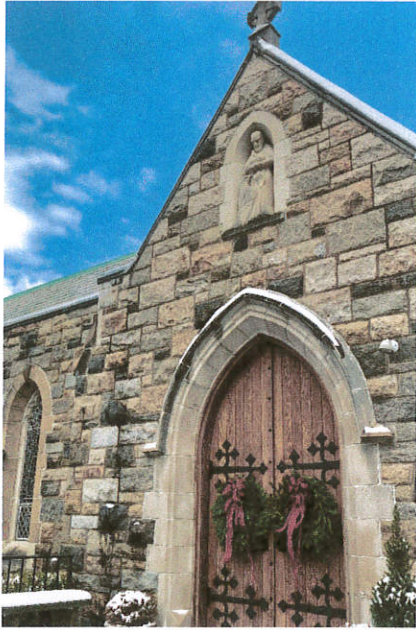


St. John's of Lattingtown Episcopal Church  
Christmas Eve 2019 4:00 p.m.

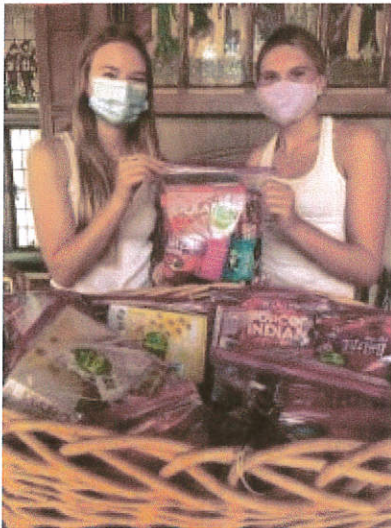
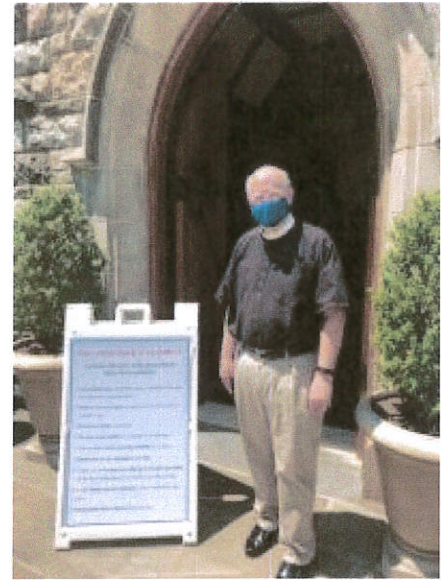


Christmas Eve is always a special time for the children and families of St John's— with our beloved Christingle Pageant and Holy Eucharist service on Christmas Eve.

# OUR CHURCH



# OUR NEW WORLD



**ST. JOHN'S**

**FRONT STEP FAMILY PHOTOS**

Please join St. John's of Lattingtown in supporting our neighbors in need by making a donation and having your photo taken with your family on your front steps.

Talented professional photographer, **Tab Hauser**, will run a 5-10 minute photo shoot on your front steps into memorable photos of togetherness & love. **Christmas card done!** Tab will come to your home, knock on your door, and remain socially-distanced while wearing a mask. Digital photos to be sent to your email.

**Suggested donation: \$100**  
**Minimum donation: \$50**

To make your donation, please visit [www.stjlat.org/support/family-photos](http://www.stjlat.org/support/family-photos). We will contact you to schedule a time for Tab to stop by.

Help support the mission and ministries of St. John's of Lattingtown  
**ST. JOHN'S OF LATTINGTOWN • STJLAT.ORG**



Healthy protocols, outdoor services, online offerings and creative fundraising are all part of St John's in 2020

# PAROCHIAL REPORT 2019

St Johns Church of Lattintown

Locust Valley

Long Island

Congregation

City

Diocese

Page 2

## Membership, Attendance and Services of the Reporting Congregation

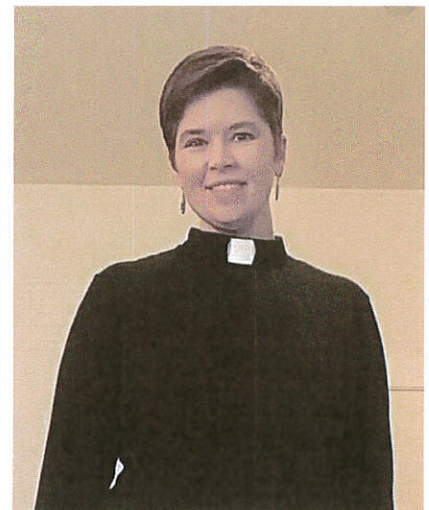
<b>Using Last Year's Report:</b>		Using the 2018 Parochial Report, record the Number of Baptized Members Reported as of December 31, 2018. (See your 2018 Parochial Report, Box M18)	
Active Baptized Members of the Reporting Congregation Reported Last Year	Members Reported Last Year = M18.		532
<b>Using the Register of Church Membership and Rites:</b>			
During the Report Year	1. Increases during year: All members added to the baptized members section of your congregation's Membership Register during 2019 by: baptism, confirmation/reception, or transfer; and those persons restored from inactive status, or not counted in last year's membership count.		Total Increases = 1. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">36</span>
Increases in Membership			
	2. Decreases during year: All baptized members lost by death, transferred to another congregation, removed to inactive status in the Register of Church Membership and Rites, removed for other reasons, or not removed from last year's membership count.		Total Decreases = 2. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6</span>
Decreases in Membership			
	M19: Add the increases entered in Box 1 to Box M18. Then subtract the decreases entered in Box 2 for the total active membership as of December 31, 2019		Total Active Baptized Members (end of report year) = M19. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">562</span>
Active Baptized Members of the Reporting Congregation At Year-End			
Communicants in Good Standing of the Reporting Congregation	Communicants in good standing: All baptized members of the reporting congregation, who "have received Holy Communion at least three times during the preceding year" and are faithful "in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented," and "in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God."		
Adults	3. Adult communicants in good standing (age 16 and over) =	3.	455
Youth	4. Youth communicants in good standing (under age 16) =	4.	98
	5. Total communicants in good standing (3 + 4) =	5.	553
Others Active	6. Others who are active whose baptisms are not recorded in the Parish Register, or in another Episcopal congregation.	Others = 6.	9
<b>Using the Service Register:</b>			
Average Sunday Attendance for 2019	7. Sunday (& Saturday Evening) Attendance: Divide total attendance by the total number of Sundays when services were held.		Average Sunday Attendance = 7. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">110</span>
	8. Average Principal Worship Service Attendance on a Weekday (in congregations without Sunday or Saturday evening services)	= 8.	0
Easter Attendance in 2019	9. Easter Sunday Attendance	(9)	386
<b>Sacraments &amp; Services:</b>			
Number of Holy Eucharists Celebrated During 2019	10. Total Sunday & Saturday Evening Eucharists	(10)	121
	11. Total Weekday Eucharists	(11)	50
	12. Total Private Eucharists	(12)	10
Daily Offices and Other Services Held During 2019	13. Daily Offices Held on Sunday	(13)	7
	14. Daily Offices Held on Weekdays	(14)	192
	15. Marriages conducted in 2019	(15)	1
	16. Burials conducted in 2019	(16)	11
<b>Using the Register of Church Membership and Rites:</b>			
Baptisms in 2019	17. Baptisms 16 years and older	(17)	1
	18. Baptisms under 16 years of age	(18)	11
Confirmations in 2019	19. Confirmations 16 years and older	(19)	0
	20. Confirmations under 16 years of age	(20)	12
Received in 2019	21. Received by a bishop	(21)	0
<b>Education:</b>			
Children and Youth	22. Total Church School Students Enrolled	(22)	48
Adult Education	23. Regular Sunday or weekday adult education programs held?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
	24. Number of adults engaged in religious education or spiritual formation		12
<b>Languages in which Worship is conducted:</b>			
	25. English <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
	26. Other (please list) _____		



# IMPORTANT DATES

August–December, 2020

September 20th	Vestry Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Online
September 26th	Ordination of The Rev'd Catherine L. Wieczorek
October 4th	Stewardship Sunday
October 4th	Blessing of the Animals, Fair Lawn, 4:00 p.m.
October 18th	Vestry Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Online
November 1st	All Saints Sunday, Daylight Saving begins
November 14th	Diocesan Convention, 9:00 a.m., Online
November 17th	Vestry Meeting, 11:30 a.m. Online
November 29th	First Sunday of Advent
December 20th	Advent Lessons & Carols, 4:00 p.m.
December 24th	Christingle & Holy Eucharist, 4:00 p.m. Online Christmas Eve Services, 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. (t/b/d)
December 25th	Christmas Service, 10:30 a.m. (t/b/d)



# MINISTRY CONTACTS

MINISTRY:	CONTACT:
Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors.....	Donna George, Mary Savin
Altar Guild .....	Hannah Burns, Lel Gimbel
Building and Grounds.....	Harold Bollaci
Eucharistic Visitors.....	Nancy Roenfeldt
St. John's Country Fair.....	Courtney Callahan
Finance.....	George Stimola, Mary Syracuse
HR Committee.....	Evan Bollaci
Investment Committee.....	Michael Powers
Memorial Garden.....	Nicole Stiegelbauer, Mary Syracuse
Music.....	Christopher Brayne
New Member Committee.....	Alexis McAndrew
Nurture Group.....	Lel Gimbel
Outreach.....	Courtney Callahan
Parish Library.....	Donna & John George
Sunday School.....	Courtney Callahan
Stewardship.....	Tom Gimbel, Jackie Powers, Kearney Staniford
Ushers & Greeters.....	Peter Marshall
Vestry.....	Jay Aston
Wardens.....	Victoria Fox, Jay Aston

# MISSION STATEMENT

As the Episcopal Parish of St. John's of Lattintown, we are called to the Body of Christ in our time and place by sharing with others the Gospel of Christ and by giving expression to God's love in the world through our giving and caring. Therefore, we seek:

- \* To offer our lives to God's service through regular worship,*
- \* To deepen our relationship with God and nurture our fellowship through openness to God's word as revealed in studying Holy Scripture,*
- \* To reach out to the needs of all people, and*
- \* To be faithful stewards of all we have received.*

We believe that the beautiful church in which we worship is symbolic of the advantages we have inherited which must be used to further the work of Christ throughout the world.



# ST. JOHN'S OF LATTINGTOWN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

325 Lattingtown Road Locust Valley, New York 11560 \* 516.671.3226

Office email: [marysavin@stjlat.org](mailto:marysavin@stjlat.org) | Rector email: [frmark@stjlat.org](mailto:frmark@stjlat.org)

Website: [www.stjlat.org](http://www.stjlat.org)

The Rev'd Mark L. Fitzhugh, *Rector*

The Rev'd Catherine L. Wieczorek, *Curate* (October, 2020)

Christopher Brayne, *Director of Music Ministry*

Courtney Callahan, *Director of Outreach & Children's Ministry*

Frank Powers, *Sexton*

Mary Savin, *Parish Administrator*

Kate Scefonas, *General Manager @The Barn*

Mary Syracuse, *Finance Administrator*

## YOUR ST. JOHN'S VESTRY

Victoria Fox (2020), *Warden*,

Jay Aston (2021) *Warden*,

Michael Powers *Clerk*,

George Stimola (2020), *Treasurer*;

Harold Bollaci (2021),

Sarah Blundin (2021),

Wayne Chambless (2021),

Stephanie Clark (2021),

Robert Copp (2022),

Henry Davison (2022),

Carolyn Dilgard-Clark (2020),

Carlyle Dunaway (2020),

Ian Gumprecht (2022),

John Sheldon (2022),

Kearney Staniford (2022)