

# ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted to the 185<sup>th</sup>

Annual Parish Meeting

January 31, 2010

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## **AGENDA**

### **185<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting**

#### **Report for the year 2008**

10:00 AM    Holy Communion  
11:30 AM    Annual Parish Meeting

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Minutes: 184<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting (02/1/2009)

Report of Nominating Committee

The Election: Wardens, Officers and Vestry

Guest Speaker, David Derby – Update on E.R.D. in Haiti

Rector's Time

Sr. Warden

Jr. Warden

Presentation of the 2010 Budget approved by Vestry 12/17/09.

Other business

Adjournment

**Minutes of the 184<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
Of the Parish of St. John's Church,  
Salisbury, Connecticut

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Rev. John Carter at 11:30 following morning worship which combined the \*8:00 A.M., Holy Eucharist 10:00 am., and the Misa (Spanish language service).

After it was determined a quorum was present, the minutes of the 2008 annual meeting were approved as written.

The vestry ballot for 2009 was presented by Outgoing Vestry Member, David Bayersdorfer.

**Vestry Officers**

Senior Warden	1 year term:	Robert Tapscott
Junior warden	1 year term	Mieke Armstrong
Treasurer	1 year term	Tom Haines
Clerk	1 year term	Marian Schwaikert

**New Vestry Members**

(2012) three year term	Hector Umaña
(2011) two year term	Trish Acree

**Continuing Members**

(2010) Joan Turnure and William Pulver

**Delegate to convention**

2 year term David Hannegan

Note: two additional vestry members may be appointed by the vestry at a later date.  
A motion was made and seconded for acceptance of the ballot. It passed unanimously.

The Treasurer, Tom Haines, explained the 2009 budget, noting that church attendance has increased, which helps to finance operations, but there is still a gap in budget funding for 2009. Investments have declined by a third, but we are hoping to increase plate offerings to \$7000 as well as hoping to receive \$3000 from 2008 pledges. Investment funds have to be used to take up the shortfall. Tom also noted that the rector's salary, which is a fixed expense, is set by the Diocese, and secretarial and sexton salaries are set by the market. Our pledge to the Diocese is lower than it should be, but we are raising it each year.

There was some discussion of ways to save on expenses, mainly the amount of paper used to prepare the weekly bulletin. There were strong arguments for continuing the use of the bulletin which gives the complete order of the service in several pages. There was a suggestion of including the Prayer Book pages in the bulletin so that those wishing to use the Book of Common Prayer could do so. One new member expressed appreciation for the full-service bulletin because it has made a significant positive difference to her.

*Minutes of the 184<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting continued...*

The Rector, Fr. John Carter, in reviewing the year 2008, thanked the hospitality committee, the drummers group, misa leaders, and the Rev. Lance Beizer, and gave recognition to all present who have been members of this congregation for 30 years or more and those who have been members for less than two years. He also thanked his staff, who have given him excellent support and help, including Lisa, who is still recovering from heart surgery, Lynn, who has graciously returned to fill in for Lisa, and Lillie, who has helped Lynn.

Father John would like to see more lay pastoral care, such as visiting the sick and the grieving. He would also like to see an even more welcoming effort extended to visitors with follow-up letters from parishioners. Rev. Carter also thanked Gloria Mitten for taking Communion to parishioners unable to come to services. More volunteers are needed for this important service.

A presentation of the website by Susan and Alan DiStasio followed. They opened the windows that exist, with more to follow when ready. All present were impressed with the beauty and professionalism and the possibilities which the website affords. All expressed gratitude to the DiStasios and the website committee, which includes Laura Wertz, Gaile Binzen, and Karen Byers. A future window, hopefully, will include the stained glass windows as well as the history of St. John's.

The DiStasios concluded their presentation with an amusing pictorial British Isles weather report.

Meeting adjourned before one o'clock.

***Respectfully Prepared by Marian Schwaikert, Clerk***

**SUMMARY OF PAROCHIAL REPORT PREPARED FOR DIOCESE**

**PARISH REGISTER, CALENDAR YEAR 2009**

<b><u>Baptisms:</u></b>	3	
<b><u>Confirmations:</u></b>	0	
<b><u>Marriages:</u></b>	0	
<b><u>Burials:</u></b>	7	Robert Gordon Collier Gertrude Pulver Malasky John J. Tigue, Jr. Clayton Terry McFadjen VonJaeger M. Sheila Burton June G. Parsons Zolton "Zip" Zantay

	<b><u>2006</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>2009</u></b>
Baptisms:	2	3	0	3
Confirmations:	0	0	0	0
Marriages:	1	3	0	0
Received by Bishop:	0	0	0	0
Members lost by death:	11	3	5	4

**WORSHIP SCHEDULES AND ATTENDANCE**

<b><u>SUNDAYS: Average Attendance</u></b>			<b>Total</b>
<b><u>8:00 AM</u></b>	<b><u>10:00 AM</u></b>	<b><u>12:00 Misa</u></b>	<b><u>Average Attendance</u></b>
2006 15	2006 39	2006 7	2006 61
2007 13	2007 38	2007 15	2007 66
2008 12	2008 46	2008 15	2008 73
<b>2009 12</b>	<b>2009 41</b>	<b>2009 7</b>	<b>2009 60</b>

<b><u>First Sunday of Advent</u></b>		<b><u>Ash Wednesday</u></b>	
2006 (12/03)	44	2006 (3/01)	35
2007 (12/02)	63	2007 (2/21)	46
2008 (11/30)	64	2008 (2/6)	36
<b>2009 (11/29)</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>2009 (2/25)</b>	<b>33</b>

**First Sunday in Lent**

2006 (3/05) 35  
 2007 (2/25) 52  
 2008 (2/10) 36  
**2009 (3/1) 44**

**Palm Sunday**

2006 (4/09) 72  
 2007 (4/3) 60  
 2008 (3/16) 88  
**2009 (4/5) 95**

**Maundy Thursday**

2006 (4/13) 34  
 2007 (4/5) 18  
 2008 (3/20) 17  
**2009 (4/10) 24**

**Good Friday**

2006 (4/14) 32  
 2007 (4/6) 48  
 2008 (3/21) 22  
**2009 (3/10) 26**

**FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION****Easter Day – 8:00 AM**

2006 31  
 2007 33  
 2008 22  
**2009 25**

**Easter Day – 10:00 AM**

2006 117  
 2007 97  
 2008 73  
**2009 78**

**Misa – 12:00**

2007 35  
 2008 30  
**2009 20**

**Total Easter Attendance**

(Includes Easter Vigil and Private Communions)

2006 (4/16) 148  
 2007 (4/8) 165  
 2008 (3/23) 125  
**2009 (4/12) 123**

**Feast of Pentecost**

2006 (6/04) 41  
 2007 (5/27) 71  
 2008 (5/11) 71  
**2009 (5/31) 202**

**All Saints' Sunday**

2006 (11/05) 44  
 2007 (11/04) 71  
 2008 (11/02) 69  
**2009 (11/1) 69**

**FEAST OF THE NATIVITY****Christmas Eve (5:00 PM)**

2006 116  
 2007 161  
 2008 280  
**2009 160**

**Christmas Eve (10:00 PM)**

2006 48  
 2007 47  
 2008 No service  
**2009 No Service**

**Christmas Day (11:00 AM)**

2006 9  
 2007 17  
 2008 39  
**2009 26**

**Total Christmas Attendance**

2006 173  
 2007 225  
 2008 319  
**2009 186**

**Total Attendance**

2006	5,148
2007	5,140
2008	5,190
<b>2009</b>	<b>4,221</b>

**Total Communion**

2006	3,252
2007	3,707
2008	3,729
<b>2009</b>	<b>3,448</b>

**Private Communion**

2006	35
2007	48
2008	58
<b>2009</b>	<b>37</b>

**Baptized Persons**

2006	165
2007	152
2008	183
<b>2009</b>	<b>182</b>

**Families + Individuals = Households**

2006:	56 + 51 = 107
2007:	60 + 107 = 167
2008:	54 + 59 = 113
<b>2009:</b>	<b>57 + 56 = 113</b>

**Communicants in Good Standing**

2006	179
2007	167
2008	191
<b>2009</b>	<b>196</b>

## **RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009**

I have the privilege and delight of working with two great teams: the Vestry and the Staff of St. John's. Special thanks to Sr. Warden, Bob Tapscott; Jr. Warden, Mieke Armstrong; Treasurer, Thomas Haines and Clerk, Marian Schwaikert. Many thanks to outgoing Vestry members Bill Pulver and Joan Turnure, and of course to continuing members, Hector Umana, Leslie Allyn, Trish Acree. A deep thank you also to David Hannegan, who, as Delegate to Convention, attends Vestry Meetings and provides a wealth of wisdom and know-how for our Annual Appeal.

We are *all* blessed with an amazing staff: Lisa Richards, Administrative Assistant; Lillie Mikesell, Music Director; Lance Beizer, Associate, Jorge (assisted by Fani) Alvarez; Maintenance and Chantel Richards, Church School Teacher. "Cheerful, dedicated, competent, professional, caring" ...are a few of the ways to describe these faithful ministers of St. John's.

In addition to these two great teams is the larger community of faithful participants in the life of the parish, YOU! You enthusiastically and generously take part in many diverse ways in our life together. Time and again, I hear from both visitors and members what a warm and beautiful place St. John's is. A genuine spirit of welcome, hospitality and outreach are key ingredients to who we are and what we do. You are ready to respond to individuals in crisis, to the needs of our local community and to those of the world.

Radical hospitality is key to many aspects of our life together. In 2009, St. John's hosted nine musical performances; seven by The Northwest Music Association, including back-to-back full houses of *Peter and the Wolf*, an outreach concert for Bolivia and a Renaissance music performance by Simon's Rock College, also an outreach effort. At these events and on many other in-house occasions, there was delicious food prepared and presented with warmth, loveliness and finesse. Thank you Doris Reeves and the Hospitality Committee for all you do behind the scenes and up front to feed body and spirit.

Our vibrant and diverse music on Sundays and at other worship services brings joy and vitality to our gatherings. Thank you Lillie and Choristers! "How can we keep from singing?" Thank you also to the Altar Guild led by Leslie Allyn and to the Flower Guild led by Annie Milliken Harris. The beauty of the altar gives ardent praise to God and raises our spirits!

### *Some highlights of the year...*

- *A Mutual Ministry Review* led by The Rev. Eileen Epperson.
- *A Professional Development Leave* with Fr. Walt Zelley once again ably taking the reins in my absence.
- Fr. Lance Beizer assisting in many ways, including preaching once a month and also when I am away.
- A Post-sabbatical potluck and presentation by Fr. John on his experiences on the Santiago de Compostela.
- Web Site up and running thanks to Susan Distasio and the Web Site Committee. Thanks to Susan and to Cristian Umana who is our new Webmaster. Have you checked it out? *Stjohnssalisbury.org*.
- Visiting Preacher from *Food for the Poor*, The Rev. Tom Chesterton.

## **Rector's Report Continued..**

- Canon Charles LaFond leading a workshop for Vestry representatives from Litchfield Deanery parishes. This occasion exemplified the excellent collaboration among the parishes of the NW corner; (*Christ Church Canaan, Trinity Lime Rock and Christ Church Sharon, and St. John's*).
- The new landmark sign in front of St. John's and the new sign on Route 41.
- "Sisters" Bible study led by Alexis Dorf.
- St. John's Spiritual Book Group at Noble Horizons.
- A new "Sock" Ministry for AT Hikers ("Something for the soles").
- The formation of St. John's *Slavery Research Group*.
- A cooperative Confirmation Class anticipating a joyful Confirmation ceremony in May of 2010.
- *Blessings Sunday*, a kick off event for the Annual Appeal, followed by personal and inspiring testimonials during the month of October.
- A fabulous *Fall Festival*.
- Chantel Richards coming on board as our new Church School Teacher.
- Continued growth of *the Drumming Circle* led by John Marshall. Average attendance is 25 and the Salisbury Drummers play a number of "gigs" in the area.
- A continuing amazing *Parish Newsletter* with Editors Gaile Binzen and Karen Byers.
- Continuing classes in Spanish and English.
- A number of physical improvements (*See Jr. Warden's Report*).
- New, comfortable chairs for Choir and Upper Parish Hall meetings.
- A presentation on *Safe Passage* (Camino Seguro) by Jacob Carter.

Sadly, Padre Lora and his wife, Nildya, were no longer able to continue to lead the Misa due to health reasons. We miss them.

Through the "bumps," we were able to keep the Misa going during the transition. Currently, we are blessed to have The Rev. Rosalie Richards, Vicar of Christ Church Canaan, as our Hispanic Missioner.

Our finances held steady in the midst of turbulent markets, thanks to the Vestry's dedicated stewardship and to your generosity. (*See Treasurer's Report*).

## **Rector's Report Continued..**

New things are under way at St. John's! For example, our Slavery Research Group has organized a presentation by Gene Dattel on his eye-opening book, *Cotton and Race In America: The Human Cost of Economic Power*, scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup>. They have also scheduled a viewing of *Traces of the Trade* in February. We will have a special concert and potluck (*Mardi Gras Festival*) on Shrove Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. At 6:30 a performance by the Salisbury Drummers and other regional musicians, and at 7:15 a fabulous potluck.

Looking ahead to this coming year, we can look to the fulfillment of goals set several years ago for "*Doing Church Differently*": further progress in the Garden, including a fountain; an ambry in the sanctuary for the Reserved Sacrament, improvements in the sound system in the Lower Parish Hall, improved lighting in the Church and installation of a video camera to record services and concerts.

We look forward to The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens coming on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> for an Episcopal Visitation. We offer a warm welcome to our new Diocesan Bishop, Ian Douglas. His Consecration will take place at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.

What else? What are your ideas for new ways to augment the hospitality, generosity, spiritual education, outreach and faith of our parish family? Please let the Vestry and me know what your dreams, needs and desires are for this coming year.

Thank you for the joy and privilege of seeking together to understand and follow Jesus even as we celebrate with gratitude the mystery of faith with the abundant gifts we have received.

In Christ's Love,

## **RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND ANALYSIS FOR 2009**

*Deposits:* \$9,159.40

*Funding Sources:* gifts from parishioners, St. John's RDF Line Item, Reimbursements, Emergency grants from Berkshire Taconic Foundation

*Disbursements:* \$9,944.46

*Kinds of activity:* Emergency assistance to local needy persons and travelers; with rent, car repairs, transitional funds between jobs, holiday relief, medical bills, burial arrangements, severance, support of local and overseas non-profit missions, occasional parish needs

### Audits

*Audit for 2008* completed by George Sinnamon, Certified Public Accountant  
Statements for the 2008 were submitted in January of 2009

## **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT 2009**

What a roller coaster year! A severe dislocation of our invested assets lead to partial recovery, which is not continued, will face us with need to start a Capital Recovery drive to prevent eventual breakdown of our investments.

Our Treasurer Tom skillfully kept our operating funds away from the bone yard. We established a brokerage account at Ingalls and Snyder to facilitate conversion of gifts of equity to cash.

A big item was the Stewardship Workshop in June and its follow-up in September.

Several concerts by the Northwest Music Association entertained us.

Father John's sabbatical in May included planned and unplanned episodes in Spain of which digital visual recounting has proven illusive.

Our Junior Warden, Mieke, assiduously kept after various maintenance needs in addition to planning for a Memorial Garden.

Signage was improved – including a new one down on RT 41.

Your Vestry's regular attendance attests to their involvement in many parish needs.

Finally, it has been a pleasure, as usual, to serve you for one more year.

Cheers!

*Robert L. Tapscott, Senior Warden*

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT 2009**

Our church building and garden have has as much TLC as possible this past year, notwithstanding the difficult economic times.

Our faithful Lisa, bless her, referred to us a woman from Waterbury who needed to perform 100 hours of community work. We put Jennifer to work in the kitchen, handed her all the necessary cleaning aids, rags and paper towels; she spent several days scrubbing cabinets and covering mice holes; she also made the windows glisten. It was a joy to have her here. In the spring she helped with pruning the shrubbery outside; she was a quick learner. We were eager to help her get on top of her life again.

During Father Johns' sabbatical, Doug replaced several light bulbs in the sanctuary. At the same time he cleaned the inside of the lantern. When we noticed a huge difference. We asked him to clean all the church's lanterns; the new bulbs are all low wattage.

### **Junior Warden's Report Continued...**

On Saturday before Easter Jorge Alvarez helped in sprucing up the outside of the church building. With the help of Kurt Stampfle, and his children Shane and Brooke, we planted 7 flats of beautiful fat pansies, in both the front and the rear. The little trees in the parking area were repotted or transplanted to the north side of the church. All shrubs were fertilized.

In late summer, Trish Acree and I pruned the shrubbery on the side; I tried to shape them in their natural form, (they had been chopped for years). Now, it looks much more pleasant. We also, in October, began reshaping the large Taxus shrub next to the front door.

Two new metal railings were installed outside the door of the lower parish hall. This is an emergency exit. The metal railing at the street entrance of the Parish House has badly deteriorated. The estimate to restore it to its original luster has been submitted by John Graney, metal designing, in Sheffield. The estimate is more than \$6,000. As the brick base of the stoop is not in the best of shape, we decided to table this project and search for a more feasible solution.

The beautiful church sign was placed in front in December, including the lighting. It is a most welcome addition.

Throughout the summer, Jorge faithfully watered the garden; the place has looked well tended to. A kind word goes a long way! A kind word on the coffee – goodies sign-up sheet has encouraged more people to come forward and volunteer.

*Mieke Armstrong, Junior Warden*

## **COMMITTEES OF THE PARISH**

### **ALTAR GUILD 2009**

The Altar Guild is responsible for preparing the church for the celebrations of the Eucharist. This involves changing the altar hangings, dressing the chalice, and setting up and cleaning up before and after every service. Teams of three generally serve one weekend a month. Many thanks to all the members for their dedication, commitment and loving care of the altar. The Altar Guild operates under the direction of Leslie Allyn. Members of the guild are Nancy Bayersdorfer, Louise Carter, Barbara Hesse, Nancy Howard, Patricia Prem, Doris Walker, Annette Cloney, Stephany Haines and Ann Beizer.

*Leslie Allyn, Chair*

### **BREAKFAST CLUB 2009**

We had a very good year in the Breakfast club this past year, although summer attendance was not that great due to vacations. This coming year we are eliminating Breakfast for June, July and August.

The average contribution has been between \$40 and \$60, minus money to buy the essentials like milk, eggs, bacon, bagels and sausages. We are still having the Huevos Rancheros, which were a hit with everyone. The staff has been great. Thanks to David Bayersdorfer, Bill Zekas, Kurt Stampfle and David Hannegan. Also I would like to thank our Sexton Jorge Alvarez and our Secretary Lisa, who have been very helpful all Year.

*Respectfully submitted, Rafael A. Porro*



### **CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT 2009**

Church school has met on every Sunday this fall. Chantel Richards led the classes beginning on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Prior to this Deborah Carter taught the students.

Attendance has been varied over the course of the fall session. Each week on average there are 2-3 students. Each Sunday we are involved in different Biblical stories from the Old Testament beginning with the story of Abraham and Sarah and leading up to the story of Joseph, the son of Jacob. These stories are always followed by discussion and crafts relating to the story and prayers. Advent was also discussed in class, specifically the significance of the advent wreath. On December 20<sup>th</sup>, students hosted the coffee hour. Students made Christmas flyers to hand out to parishioners, as well as making sugar cookies and peanut butter cookies. On December 13<sup>th</sup> Trish Acree substituted.

Over all, we all have enjoyed our time spent together. Our time has provided us with the tools to strengthen our spirituality, as well as our social consciousness. Our main themes for the fall of 2009 have been faith, forgiveness, hope and treating others with fairness. Usually students rejoined the service before Communion.

In the year to come, the Church School looks forward to hosting coffee hour on more occasions and fun activities involving Mother's Day and Father's Day.

*Respectfully submitted, Chantel Richards*

### **FLOWER GUILD 2009**

The Flower Guild had another good year. Many thanks to the following loyal and talented members of the flower guild: Stephany Haines, Annette Cloney, Deborah Carter, Nancy Rathbun, Doris Reeves, Pat Maggio and Chair Annie Milliken.



**FALL FESTIVAL 2009**

**Income:**

Pancakes	829.00
Books	1,580.20
Attic Treas.	1,657.55
Combo Events	1,121.26
Jewelry	1,011.75
Clothing	323.50
All Saints	<u>200.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,723.26</b>

**Expenses:**

Food & Decorations	578
Advertising	475 – estimate still waiting for bill
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,053</b>

**Final Net: \$5,670.26**

*Respectfully submitted, John Neufeld*

**GARDEN COMMITTEE**

The make up of the **Garden Committee** did not change this past year. I designed a floor plan for the garden, which was received favorably by the committee on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Father John, upon his return, urged us to focus on one item of the design for implementation. We chose the waterfall, rock formation and a small pond. Because this project forms part of the “bones” of the garden, Trish Acree set out to contact Tom Scott, who is experienced in installing waterfalls. Tom, Trish and I met at the site in November; he made an estimate before the end of the year for a total of \$4,299.10. This does not include plant material. We are looking into one more estimate for comparison. When we execute this project we also need to include drainage and grading.

*Respectfully submitted, Mieke Armstrong*

## **PUENTES**

Puentes means “bridges,” but in the way that this program takes shape here at St. John's it could also mean “respect.” To listen attentively to a speaker of another language, and then to respond however haltingly in that language is to manifest respect.

In the Spanish-learning component of the Puentes program, we English speakers are reading and writing in Spanish, but our principal focus is speaking, preceded, of course, by listening. The motives of the students in our current class are varied, although all are here to learn or perfect their Spanish-speaking abilities. All students subscribe to the idea that learning a language is a brain-enhancing measure to combat or delay intellectual withering.

Currently, the class meets at 5:30 PM on Thursdays for two hours. There is a fee payable to St. John's. Yes, there is homework, but there's also lots of fun!

*Respectfully submitted, Barbara Pogue*

## **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)**

Classes are currently being taught by Jean Wardell. They take place on Wednesday evening at 7:00. Generally, there are 2-4 students in attendance.

## **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE 2009**

The committee is still working diligently on hospitality for St. John's Church. Examples are:

**Annual Meeting Luncheon**

**Food for the Poor**

**Potluck Dinner for the Sabbatical Presentation**

**Safe Passage**

**Robert Collier Memorial Service**

**M. Sheila Burton Memorial Service**

**Zip Zantay Memorial Service**

The Hospitality Committee welcomes your support:

Trish Acree, Leslie Allyn, Mieke Armstrong, Anne Bates, Ann Beizer, Amy Beir, Gaile Binzen, Peggy Bolmer, Deborah Carter, Stephany Haines, Weezie Hannegan, Nancy Howard, Susan & Ned Lambrecht, Nan Longley, Patsy Maggio, Barbara Nicholls, Michele O'Brien, Patricia Prem, Nancy Rathbun, Polly Rodie, Marian Schwaikert, Brenda Slater, Leslie Tapscott, Barbara Turnure, Barbara & Robert Woodward, Laura Werntz and Jorge Alvarez

*Doris Reeves, Annette Cloney, Joan Turnure – Co-Chairs*

## **MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S**

The Adult Choir at St. John's just completed a very busy holiday season working with special guests and guest artists to provide a wonderful Advent program, culminating with our special Christmas Eve service of carols and anthems. Our current cast of regulars includes: Paul Bacon, Patricia "Dolly" Baird, Gaile Binzen, Peggy Bolmer, Karen Byers, Louise Carter, Wendy Forsyth, Weezie Hannegan, Patsy Maggio, John Neufeld, Rafael Porro, and Bob Tapscott.

Each week the choir meets to prepare sung Psalms, Offertory Anthems and act as song leaders for the congregation every Sunday with a brief break in July and August. In addition, they prepare music for special services throughout the liturgical year, and gather for rehearsals on Friday afternoons from 4 to 5 pm from September through mid-June. The faithfulness of this group of people is a gift to our worship services each Sunday.

We gained several new members this year—Wendy Forsyth, Rafael Porro—and lost one of our longtime regular members: Bob Gunther "retired" from the St. John's choir this fall—ending a number of years' faithful service to our group. His beautiful sonorous bass voice is sorely missed, but we wish him the very best!

On a number of special occasions we were able to count on Joanna Seaton's lovely soprano voice to make our choir anthems extra special for those days. We also welcomed guest sopranos Lucille Mikesell (my mother!), Mimi Estes, and tenor Dary Dunham for the Advent and Christmas holidays. And we had a little help from some of our African Drummers during the year, especially Cristian and Maria Umana, Deb Carter, and Alan and Susan Distasio. It is so lovely to have people join us when they can. It makes it quite a crowd in the choir loft, and we can do different kinds of music when we have larger vocal sections and adventurous instrumentalists. Thank you! And come back soon!

We will continue to look for opportunities to welcome musical guests into our services and look forward to more joyous occasions in 2010 as we practice our brand of hospitality and welcome.

*Respectfully submitted, Lillie Mikesell, Music Director*

## **OUTREACH 2009**

Outreach efforts this year were richly varied. \$4000.00 of proceeds from the Fall Festival were donated to The Northwest Connecticut Food Bank, The Episcopal Relief Development Fund, Salisbury Family Services, Salisbury VNA/Hospice, Women's Support Services, St. Thomas Episcopal Church/Food Pantry and to the Misa. Thanks go to many Fall Festival volunteers whose hard work made these grants possible.

In addition to regular food contributions to Owl's Kitchen, significant funds were also generated by the Crop Walk for Hunger, Bishop's Fund for Children, The Northwest Connecticut Food Bank, Salisbury Fuel Fund, The Bishop's 5K, The Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, relief work in Bolivia and The Little Guild of St. Francis.

## **PARISH NEWSLETTER 2009**

In 2009 St. John's published seven issues of The Parish Newsletter, with five editions running 12 pages, one 16 pages and one, 8.

We published articles by Ellen McDonald, Mieke Armstrong, John Carter, Paul Bacon, Ann Beizer, Lance Beizer, Trish Acree, the Rev. Walton Zelle and Gaile Binzen. Herb Prem gave us a short story, and John Carter, Katrina Cameron and Robert Zantay gave us poems to publish. Cartoons and sketches were contributed by Paul Bacon and Bill Binzen.

Ellen McDonald gave us five of her excellent profiles titled *People Who Make a Difference*. In 2009 she interviewed Serena and Samantha Granbery, Peggy and Steve Bolmer, Donald Hart, John Neufeld and George (Jorge) Alvarez. Ellen spends many hours crafting these profiles, and we can't thank her enough for bringing so many interesting lives to our attention.

In 2009 we tried to curb our enthusiasm for words, words, words and cut back to twelve pages as often as possible, to save paper and postage. However, at the end of the year we found it impossible to resist using the church's new color printer, so in the November issue we printed two pages in color – the church on front and back – and in December we went all out with color on nine of twelve pages. Those reds! How could we resist! We want especially to thank Deborah Carter for her wonderful decorative Christmas photographs and designs in that issue.

Karen Byers gave us the benefit of her fine eye for design on every page of the 2009 Newsletters, and gently kept the editor from rambling on into insolvency. And Susan DiStasio and Christian Umaña have given us the immense benefit of their technological skills in putting the Newsletter on St. John's website every month. All these good people deserve our heartiest thanks.

*Respectfully submitted, Gaile Binzen, Editor.*

## **USHERS**

Many thanks, not only to those of you who signed up to usher in 2009 but also, to the many people who accepted this ministry when called upon to do so. Anyone wanting to usher who presently does not, please contact Lisa in the church office. You will be welcomed and appreciated.

## WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Gaile Binzen, Karen Byers, Alan Distasio, Lisa Richards, Laura Wertz,  
Rev. John Carter  
**Chairperson: Susan DiStasio**

2009 was a productive year for the Website committee:

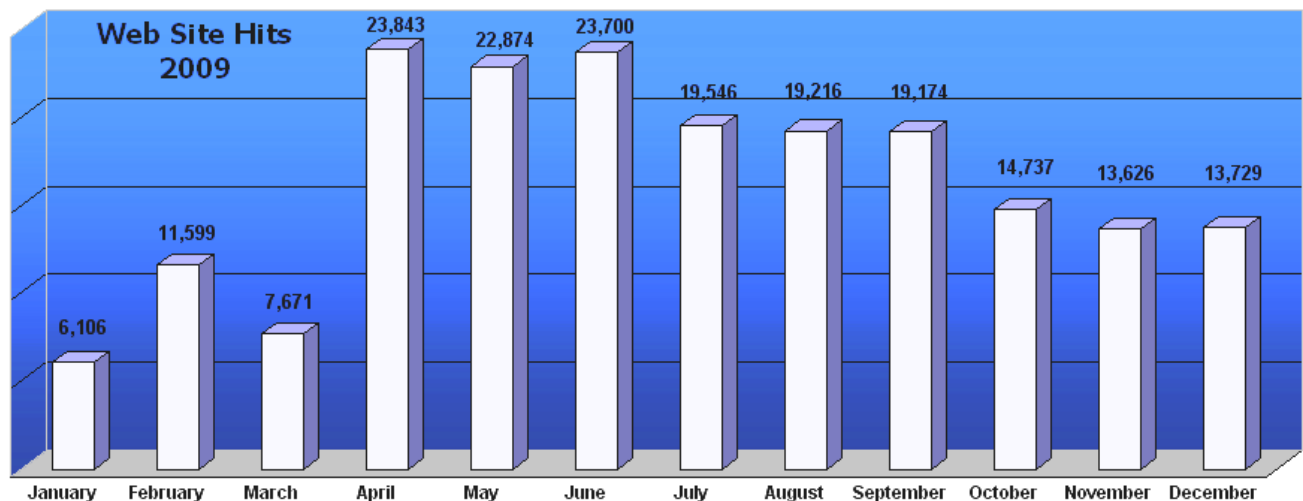
1. Alan and Susan DiStasio made a multimedia presentation at the 2009 Annual Meeting about the website.
2. The website ([www.stjohnssalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnssalisbury.org)) continued to be refined and updated:

New pages include:

- Lay Ministers' Calendar (lector, intercessor, chalice bearers, usher, and flower guild schedules)
- Hispanic Ministry
- Sermons
- Statistics
- Rector's Sabbatical (allowed parishioners to follow Rev. Carter through his sabbatical with both pictures and narratives)
- Upcoming events

3. A new format for pictures was developed that allows easier viewing and better organization.
4. Statistics for website usage are being tracked. In 2009, there were 26,218 visits (average 2,185 per month) to our website.
5. In October, 2009, Susan DiStasio resigned as chairperson and webmaster. Cristian Umana accepted the role as webmaster.

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



Here are your Hits statistics for the 2009 year.

## **Terms Used:**

**Hits** - A hit represents a request to your web site for a file such as an image, a web page, or a CGI script. One web page may contain several related resources, and as a result, a visitor viewing one web page may trigger several hits. Hits generated as a result of an error (either a 400 or 500 level error) are not counted as actual hits to your site, and are kept separate from successful hits.

**Page Views** - A page view is a successful request for a file on your web site that is considered to be a page. These usually mean files with extensions such as .txt, .asp, .aspx, .php, etc. Views generated as a result of an error are not counted as actual views for your site, and are kept separate from successful views.

**Visits** - Visits represent the total number of times people have visited your web site. A visit is counted whenever a web site user requests one or more files from the web server. If the user becomes idle for more than a certain amount of time (usually 20 minutes), a new visit is generated when they come back.

**Bandwidth** - Bandwidth represents the total number of kilobytes that were sent to people visiting your site. Bandwidth includes all resources requested by the users.

*Respectfully submitted, Susan A. DiStasio*

## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE 2009**

The Worship Committee members are The Rector, Leslie Allyn, The Rev. Lance Beizer, Gaile Binzen, Karen Byers, David Hannegan, Barbara Hesse and Lillie Mikesell. We are responsible for planning special services, times of services, service music and liturgy, bulletins, ushers' duties, lector training and other aspects of worship activities.

The Worship Committee met four times in 2009 to plan the seasonal changes in the liturgy. We decided to keep the 8.00 a.m. Eucharist as a permanent fixture every Sunday, with "one service for all" being held only on special occasions, such as the day of the Annual Meeting, and on Christmas Eve.

At the 10.00 o'clock service on Pentecost we combined with the *Misa* congregation and held a bilingual service, with Padre Lora and the Rector con-celebrating in a form of worship that warmed everybody's hearts. Soon after that, Padre Lora retired from St. John's; he had been driving up from Danbury every Sunday to officiate at the *Misa*, and The Rev. Rosalie Richards of Christ Church, Canaan, took over his responsibilities.

Committee member Lance Beizer suggested that we should consider acquiring an aumbry, which is a small cabinet that holds the consecrated bread not used in the Sunday services, until it is taken as "the pre-sanctified host" to sick or housebound parishioners. The aumbry would be designed to blend with the paneling in the chancel, and would perhaps be given as a memorial gift to the church. Plans were made to discuss design and costs with local cabinetmakers early in 2010.

*Worship Committee Report Continued...*

Committee members Gaile Binzen, Karen Byers and Lillie Mikesell were prompted by the words sometimes used in Holy Eucharist Rite II – “Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and our Mothers, Sara, Rachel and Rebecca . . .” to plan a series of Bible-reading discussions on women of the Bible. These were held for five weeks in July and August, titled “How is She my Sister?” and were open to all and very well attended. They segued into a St. John’s Spiritual Book Club, which meets once a month at Noble Horizons and has also created a great deal of interest as it concentrates on the newest ways of understanding Christian spirituality. Members of several local churches, as well as unaffiliated readers, attend these informal evening gatherings. For the second year in a row, St. John’s offered a “Holiday Healing Service” for the community. Attendance doubled from the previous year.

A parishioner of St. John’s was interested in holding a Morning or Evening Prayer service in the church once a week, and we did some research on the possibility (it is a service that can be conducted by lay members) but found that there was not enough support to sustain such a service for a protracted period of time. However, church members are encouraged to speak to Worship Committee members about this idea, if they would like to participate in future plans.

*Respectfully submitted, Gaile Binzen, Committee Convener.*



***WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE***

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2009

**2009** was a mixed year financially for St. John's. While our Investment Fund recovered from the market decline of 2008, our Pledge Income was \$12,670 short of our estimated pledge income goal of \$165,000, which we had set in December 2008.

When all the pledges were counted in early 2009, the total amount pledged was \$152,591 and we collected \$152,330 during 2009, which was essentially on target. Unlike previous years, happily we did not have to draw down any emergency funds from our Investments, and were able to finish the year on an even keel.

Seventy-four percent of our total expenses are represented by our Personnel Expenses. In 2009, total Personnel Expenses were approximately \$9,000 over budget, due primarily to the need to invite back to St. John's our retired assistant, Lyn Patrick, who kindly filled in for Lisa Richards while Lisa was on medical leave.

Our Utility Expenses were also over budget as we had underestimated our fuel costs for the year. Estimating oil prices for a year ahead is a tricky business! And as we moved to producing our expanded Service Bulletin, we used more paper than estimated. However, we hope that the bulletin makes it easier for new worshipers to follow the service.

Finally, the last major discrepancy between our budgeted items and our actual expenses relates to the cost of Father John's Sabbatical. We budget \$1200 a year for this expense, which then is deposited in a designated fund each year until it is needed. So you will see an **income** item *Sabbatical* of \$4,808 on the Operations Report, which represents monies that had been escrowed in previous years to hire a replacement when Father John goes on his sabbatical.

In 2010 we must continue to attract new parishioner to St. John's in order to increase our pledge donations.

*Respectfully Submitted, Thomas D. Haines, Treasurer*

*Treasurer's report continued...*

**ST. JOHN'S INVESTMENT FUNDS REPORT 2009**  
**Reports from, 12/31/2006 to 12/31/2009**

**2006 INVESTMENTS**

	<b>12/31/06</b>
Investment Fund	\$1,084,204.00
Slayman Speakers Fund	\$16,136.00
Preservation Fund	\$18,568.00
Blackwell Music Fund	\$179,787.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,298,695.00</b>

**2007 INVESTMENTS**

	<b>03/30/07</b>	<b>06/30/07</b>	<b>09/30/07</b>	<b>12/31/07</b>
Investment Fund	\$1,075,664.00	\$1,100,890.00	\$1,078,250.00	\$1,049,823.00
Slayman Speakers Fund	\$16,397.00	\$16,866.00	\$17,286.00	\$17,187.00
Preservation Fund	\$18,868.00	\$894.00	\$890.00	\$912.00
Blackwell Music Fund	\$180,192.00	\$179,005.00	\$178,043.00	\$180,172.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,291,121.00</b>	<b>\$1,297,655.00</b>	<b>\$1,274,469.00</b>	<b>\$1,248,094.00</b>

**2008 INVESTMENTS**

	<b>03/31/08</b>	<b>06/30/08</b>	<b>09/30/08</b>	<b>12/31/08</b>
Investment Fund	\$971,230.00	\$930,712.00	\$797,700.00	\$677,181.00
Slayman Speakers Fund	\$15,522.00	\$15,186.00	\$13,926.00	\$11,717.00
Preservation Fund	\$3,193.00	\$1,994.00	\$1,820.00	\$1,623.00
Blackwell Music Fund	\$173,813.00	\$168,070.00	\$156,876.00	\$147,122.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,163,758.00</b>	<b>\$1,115,962.00</b>	<b>\$970,322.00</b>	<b>\$837,643.00</b>

**2009 INVESTMENTS**

	<b>3/31/09</b>	<b>6/30/09</b>	<b>9/30/09</b>	<b>12/31/09</b>
Investment Fund	619,791.00	677,147.00	737,696.00	731,630.00
Slayman Speakers Fund	10,327.00	11,578.00	12,942.00	13,207.00
Preservation Fund	767.00	871.00	974.00	994.00
Blackwell Music Fund	142,684.00	151,898.00	162,217.00	162,034.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>773,569.00</b>	<b>841,494.00</b>	<b>913,829.00</b>	<b>907,865.00</b>

**ANNUAL APPEAL** As of 1/21/2010 we have received 73 pledges totaling \$135,228. This is 82% of our goal of \$165,000. Last year, at a similar time, we had received pledges of \$147,00 for fiscal 2009.

**OPERATIONS REPORT FOR 2009 AND BUDGET FOR 2010**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Budget</b>	<b>2010 Budget</b>
Plate Offerings	6,695.24	7,000	<b>7,000</b>
Pledges 2008	4,230.00	3,000	
Pledges 2009	152,330.45	165,000	<b>4,000</b>
Pledges 2010			<b>165,000</b>
Undesignated Gifts	21,080.51	7,500	<b>9,000</b>
Investment Income	87,165.96	87,166	<b>87,166</b>
Borrowed from DF	1,000.00		
Bank Income	20.02	50	<b>50</b>
Facility Use	2,824.03	2,500	<b>2,000</b>
Fall Festival	6,000.00	5,000	<b>6,000</b>
Blackwell Music	10,266.70	10,350	<b>10,350</b>
Slayman	523.95	900	<b>900</b>
Gibson Trust	936.63		<b>900</b>
Sabbatical	4,808.50		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>296,945.36</b>	<b>288,466</b>	<b>292,366</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>2009 Actual</b>	<b>2009 Budget</b>	<b>2010 Budget</b>
Utilities	13,845.10	11,970	<b>12,500</b>
Office	9,179.68	7,400	<b>7,500</b>
Personnel	228,602.41	219,958	<b>229,436</b>
Property	21,720.99	21,300	<b>21,850</b>
Program Costs	17,124.53	9,300	<b>11,300</b>
Other Expenses	4,058.80	5,150	<b>16,150</b>
Diocesan Pledge	12,998.00	13,000	<b>14,000</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>307,529.51</b>	<b>288,078</b>	<b>313,986</b>
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>-10,584.15</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>-11,620</b>

**DESIGNATED FUNDS (DF) REPORT**  
**1/01/09 – 12/31/09**

<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Amount</b></u>	<u><b>Comment</b></u>
Breakfast Club	198.56	
Book Club	110.00	
Drumming Circle	760.72	
Doing Church Differently	1,459.55	
Equipment	1,440.00	
Fall Festival	545.43	
Flowers	606.22	
Christmas	563.66	
Haller Trust	679.43	
Hispanic Worship	493.75	
Liturgical Enhance.	1,276.30	
Memorials	1,431.20	
NWMA	5.46	
Outreach	0.00	
Puentes	2,880.20	
Sabbatical Escrow	2,307.24	
Bank Interest	5.76	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,763.48</b>	

**St. John's Episcopal Church  
Salisbury, Connecticut 06068**

**Annual Meeting – January 31, 2010**

**BALLOT**

**Vote by Acclamation**

**VESTRY OFFICERS**

Senior Warden    1-year term:    Robert Tapscott  
Junior Warden    1-year term:    Mieke Armstrong  
Treasurer        1-year term:    Tom Haines  
Clerk              1-year term:    Marian Schwaikert

**CONTINUING MEMBERS**

(2012) Hector Umaña ~ Leslie Allyn ~ Trish Acree

**NEW VESTRY MEMBERS**

(2013) Three Year Term ~ Tom Evans  
(2011) One Year Term ~ Karen Byers  
(2011) One Year Term ~ William Pulver

**CONTINUING DELEGATION TO CONVENTION**

Second Year of Two Year Term ~ David Hannegan

## **DEDICATION IN LOVING MEMORY**

**This Annual Report is dedicated to the saints “brave and true”  
Who were members of St. John’s parish family  
Who have departed this earthly life  
During the year 2009**

**Robert Gordon Collier  
Gertrude Pulver Malasky  
John J. Tigue, Jr.  
Clayton Terry McFadjen VonJaeger  
M. Sheila Burton  
June G. Parsons  
Zolton “Zip” Zantay**

*May the souls of the faithful departed rest in God’s love and eternal peace.*



# ANNUAL REPORT For 2009

Annual Meeting – January 31, 2010



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
12 Main Street  
Salisbury

Diocese of Connecticut \* Established 1824  
[www.stjohnsalisbury.org](http://www.stjohnsalisbury.org)