

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 2007
to the congregation of

ST JOHNS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Naples, Florida
In Congregational Meeting January 28, 2008

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DIOCESE OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

St Johns Parish is one of the congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, which in its turn is part of the Episcopal Church of the US.

The Diocesan **Cathedral**, St Peter's, is located in downtown St Petersburg on the southwest corner of 4th Street at 2nd Avenue North.

The **Diocesan offices** are in Sarasota close to I-75. Turn east at Exit 213 (University Blvd) and go about one half mile past the third traffic light to Business Boulevard. Turn right, then left at the first street, Merchant Court. Turn left again at the first entrance into Garden Office Park. Diocesan House is the first building on the right and is marked by street number and the Diocesan name.

The mailing address of Diocesan House and Bishop Dabney Smith's office is:

7313 Merchant Court
Sarasota, FL 34240

Phone: 800/992-7699
FAX: 941/566-0321

Website: www.episcopalswfl.org

The Diocesan **Conference Center**, *DaySpring*, is located a mile east of I-75 on US 301, 10 minutes north of Diocesan House. Turn east at I-75 Exit 224 (US301) immediately north of the Manatee River. Go one mile on US301 East (past three traffic lights) and turn right where marked by a *DaySpring* roadside directional sign. Go 3/10ths of a mile to the first intersecting street. You will see a *DaySpring* sign on your left front. Follow the curving entrance road to the Center office for check-in or further directions.

ST JOHNS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida
The Rt Rev. Dabney Smith, Bishop

500 Park Shore Drive + Naples, Florida 34103
(239) 261-2355 + Fax: (239) 261-2591
Website: stjohnsnaples.org

CLERGY AND STAFF

Interim Rector: **The Rev. John Corbiere**
Parish Secretary & Clerk of Vestry: **Julia DuRoss**
Accountant: **Barbara Prewitt**
Sexton: **Steve Fetsch**
Music Director: **Glenn Saffran**

2008 VESTRY

Jim Buehner
Jack Cooper
Chris Davies
Peter Gradwell
Kay Geroy
Charles Horton *
Michael Johnson
George Mimmagh
John O'Fallon *
Lois Reiger *
Phil Schlichting *
Barbara Smith
Carolyn Souers *

2007 VESTRY

Jim Buehner
Jack Cooper
Chris Davies
Betsy Eschholz
Peter Gradwell
Kay Geroy
Michael Johnson
Pat Mills
George Mimmagh
Connie Pinckney
Sandra St John
Barbara Smith
John Soggs

* Election 2008

AGENDA

St Johns Episcopal Church
Naples, Florida

Annual Parish Meeting **Sugden Hall**

January 28, 2008
7:00PM

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Determination of a Quorum
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Appointments for 2008 Meeting
6. Reports:
 - Interim Rector
 - Senior Warden
 - Treasurer
 - Report of Vestry Nominating Committee
 - Election for 2008 Vestry
 - Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members
 - New Rector Selection Committee
7. Announcement of Thrift Shoppe Officers
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. From the Floor
11. Closing Prayer
12. Adjournment

Immediately following the Congregational Meeting:
Special Organizational Meeting of 2008 Vestry in Sugden Hall

St. Johns Episcopal Church
Naples, Florida

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 29, 2007
7:00 PM Sugden Hall

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Johns Episcopal Church was called to order at 7:00PM. Approximately 80 parishioners were present. Kay Geroy called the meeting to order. The Rev. John Corbiere, Interim Rector, opened the meeting with prayer.

Kay Geroy declared that a quorum was present.

The minutes of the 2006 annual meeting were approved as written.

Charley Horton was appointed parliamentarian. Norm Williamson, Ruth Randazzo and Tom Bailey were appointed as the Challenge Committee.

Dave & Daphne Pfaff and Julie DuRoss were thanked for the preparation of the 2006 annual report.

Dave Pfaff, Chairman of the Property and Finance Committee presented a financial overview.

The Rev. and Mrs. John Martiner were introduced. Fr. Martiner will be assisting with preaching and teaching during January, February and March.

The 2006 Vestry was introduced and the retiring Vestry members, Donald Campbell, Bonnie Schlichting, Barbara Williamson and George Baitis, were recognized for their service with a gift of appreciation.

Carolyn Baitis, Chairman of the Thrift Shop Board presented the officers of the Board. The following persons will serve on the Board: Pat Mills, Secretary; Bob Geroy, Treasurer; Wanda Robes, George Baitis, and Jane Edwards. Mrs. Baitis reported that the total outreach from the Thrift Shop for 2006 was \$85,084.92.

Audrey Wheatley, treasurer of the ECW, spoke about the monthly meetings held from October through May to which all women of the parish are invited. The total of the ECW outreach for the previous year was \$15,376. The source of these funds is the Art in the Afternoon and the Wednesday afternoon bridge group.

Barbara Smith, chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced the nominees for the Vestry term of three years, January 2007 to January 2010. They are: Jack Cooper, Jim Buehner, Betsy Eschholz and George Mimnagh. Chris Davies has been nominated to fill the unexpired term of Nevin Souers, 2007 to 2008.

Phil Schlichting made a motion seconded by Carolyn Baitis to close the nominations to unanimously elect the slate of Vestry nominees. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Paul Johnson reported that Habitat for Humanity will have Pancake Breakfasts on February 18 and March 18 at the Community Center. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held on February 20 in Sugden Hall.

The Vestry and parishioners are thankful for all the work of George Baitis as Treasurer for the past nine months. Grateful acknowledgement was made of all the work of the late Bob Hampel as Treasurer.

Peter Gradwell and the music team were thanked for preparing for the annual meeting potluck.

New Business:

Fr. Corbiere presented a sample parish questionnaire for review. The process for the search for the new rector was outlined and will begin soon.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm with closing prayer by Fr. Corbiere.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia DuRoss, Clerk

INTERIM RECTOR

This past year has seemingly gone by very fast. Can you remember what we were talking about and doing at the beginning of 2007? Can you remember the state of the parish at that time? With the Lord's blessing we bonded together as the family of St. Johns and did His work with vigor, enthusiasm and commitment.

So much has been accomplished and there are many people who contributed to the successes that we experienced in the year past; from Barbara Smith and the Altar Guild to Glenn and the choir; our Vestry led by Kay Geroy and George Mimmagh; the volunteers in the thrift shop to the Eucharistic ministers who took communion to our shut-ins; the acolytes and the ushers and all those individual who worked on our various educational offerings. The list goes on and on. There have been so many individuals who worked for the glory of God in 2007 and contributed to the success of the past year.

During an interim period there are a number of goals to be accomplished. One of the primary goals is to foster increased participation in the different areas of parish life and bring forth new leaders in all categories of ministry. We have certainly taken ground in these categories. There are many people who have seen the possibility of service and stepped forward to declare themselves as servants and ministers of Christ.

I have been blessed through you and ministered to in many ways throughout the past year. I know that your blessings and the work we have done together is creating the way for a wonderful priest to be called as rector and join the partnership of St. Johns to do the Lord's work with vitality and joy.

I know the Lord is thankful for each and everyone of you and the gifts you bring to St. John's.

Peace,

Fr. John

SENIOR WARDEN

Life at St. John's has been anything but dull this past year! There have been many major accomplishments, all of which required equally major efforts from a great number of people. How blessed, and I do mean *blessed*, our parish has been to have so many willing workers with so many talents.

The progress made is the result of *your* support physically, spiritually, mentally and financially. Our little, but strong, community of faith has worked together well and unceasingly to step forward and not backward and to remain focused on our Lord and our mission to share His word and love with others, in accordance with the Scriptures.

There were many opportunities for people of all ages and interests to continue to grow spiritually through various teachings throughout the year. There was a very successful six-week evening special, Purpose Driven video study called S.H.A.P.E. Over fifty people attended each session, all of which began with a dinner and ended with small group discussions. Men's Bible Study, Women's Bible Study, the Intercessory Prayer Chain, Stephen Ministry, Order of St. Luke and Covenant Groups continue to meet and, in addition, there is a weekly book study, as well as a Centering Prayer group led by our interim rector, Fr. John Corbiere.

Adult Sunday School was held year-round for a change and was well attended. During season, there was an informal discussion of the day's Gospel between services and a special Lenten Series on *Anglican Origins*, led by Fr. John Martinier. During summer, the discussions continued, but around the breakfast table in a casual format called "Bible and Breakfast." Everyone shared food for the soul (Bible) and food for the body (breakfast) before the service.

Also available during season, and introduced for the first time, was a new "Inter-generational Sunday School." This unique study of Bible stories appropriate to the church seasons is for all ages, including adults. There are enactments, readings, crafts and teachings with all members, young and old, participating in the sharing of the Good News. We are deeply indebted to those who have dedicated themselves to the preparation and leading of this creative program. It is wonderful to see the children actually excited about going to Sunday School!

Thanks to the hard work and diligence of the Treasurer, the Finance and Property Committee, an astute accountant and careful oversight and stewardship of the Vestry, the parish remains in good financial status, which is often difficult to accomplish in times of transition. Greater attention was put on Outreach this year as well. The hurricane plans were updated and an inventory documented; the insurance has been reviewed and facilities inspected and approved by the diocesan representative of our insurer.

A new program is underway to support the parish pastoral care needs. The newly formed St. Barnabas' Guild offers short-term assistance for those needing a little extra care after hospital stays, etc. Now, in addition to having a Stephen Minister or a visit

from an Order of St. Luke member, you can arrange for a meal, an errand to be run or a ride to your doctor's appointment. Of course, as always, our Lay Eucharistic Ministers will bring you Holy Communion.

St. John's website is finally up and running, although much remains to be added and it will take some time. It has been a huge undertaking but, hopefully, it will be completed soon. In that same vein, the telephone system (which has several faulty lines, not to mention other antiquated equipment) will be replaced shortly with a more efficient system utilizing call-forwarding, voice mail capabilities, etc. We are also arranging for our church's computing system (ACS) to be updated and for our Administrative Assistant and our Accountant to have a joint session of specialized tutoring by the program's system representative. This should allow the parish to get the maximum benefits of the program and improve the efficiency in keeping track of the stewardship and membership records each year.

Evangelism lived up to its promise to provide at least one family fellowship opportunity each month. The "Green Flash Bash" aboard the "Sweet Liberty" sailing vessel was repeated, but this time with live Bluegrass band aboard. There was a Vestry-hosted barbecue; a riotous Bingo and potluck evening; an Oktoberfest complete with live oompah music; a bus trip to a Christmas Pageant in Ft. Lauderdale and other potlucks. The children have been great helpers at the potlucks!

We enjoyed year-round music from our choir, musicians and music director and there was a wonderful memorial concert by the Cahlua and Cream duo one Sunday afternoon. There were also a couple of other "firsts" or "near-firsts:" a Blessing of the Animals service and a lovely Greening of the Church followed by a Christmas potluck. Weren't the altar and sanctuary exquisitely decorated this year?

The steeple has been repaired and is now structurally safe. Sugden Hall boasts its new décor, along with a big new TV and lighter round tables replacing the old, heavy, hard-to-move rectangular ones. The sanctuary and choir pews, meanwhile, have been beautifully gifted with new reversible cushions — a subtle touch of classic elegance.

The Episcopal Church Women held their successful *Art in the Afternoon and English Tea* fundraiser in the spring and are readying for this year's to be held next month. The Thrift Shoppe reorganized during the summer and is now in the throes of some freshening up, making it a more pleasurable destination for both our volunteer workers and our loyal shoppers.

In addition, the Vestry was also working all year long on the basic requirements of the Rector Search process, which is now in full swing. Following the Kick-Off potluck supper and parish meeting the end of March, the parish survey was completed and results compiled; a Compensation Plan approved; a two-day Vestry Retreat was held with the Canon to the Ordinary and the parish profile and Church Deployment Office documents prepared. The Search Committee and its chairman have been selected and a Power Point recruiting presentation is ready for their use as they go forth to identify the priest

God has selected for St. John's. Please keep them, the Vestry and the whole parish in your prayers during this crucial time of discernment.

I am simply overwhelmed when I think of all you have given of yourselves to St. John's this past year and your loyalty and faithfulness through these stressful times. Where there was a need, you were there. When extra hands were a must, you were there. I am seeing a parish of great commitment, hope and unity. It is a beautiful sight!

"Sorrow looks back. Worry looks around. Faith looks up!" Let us continue to "look up" and move forward in His love to whatever it is He has in store for us, not only to receive but to give.

Kay Geroy, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN

Under the supervision of the Vestry, the Junior Warden maintains, improves and repairs the physical assets of the church and grounds by determining projects that need to be done, making sure all bidders and contractors are qualified, getting quotations and overseeing the work to satisfactory completion.

St. Johns Church continues to benefit from the service of Steve Fitch as our full-time Sexton with Walter Roxey assisting on a part-time basis.

2007 projects included:

- 1) planting of grass and flowers along the southern part of the campus
- 2) implementation of maintenance programs for air conditioning, cleaning of carpets, and cleaning and polishing of tile floors
- 3) renovation of Sugden Hall with new paint, carpet and drapes
- 4) refurbishing the bell tower
- 5) contracts have been issued for a new telephone system along with improved lines into the church property (lines are at no cost)

Projects planned for 2008 include pressure washing the church and walkways and repair and/or replacement of walkway lights. Once the new rector is in place, I'm sure he will have suggestions to keep us busy!

George Mimmagh, Junior Warden

MUSIC MINISTRY

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Director of Music for this past year. It has been a year of both challenges and opportunities as we continue to grow the music program.

After an excellent “season” with new quality repertoire for the choir and growth in the contemporary service, we began a summer of traditional worship with the contemporary service once a month. This was a wonderful opportunity for our first choristers, Ian and Mia Sanders, to participate in the main weekend liturgy. In the past few months, we have had many new children join the contemporary choir. This will be an experience they will always remember as they continue to grow in their faith.

Christmas was especially beautiful this year with the addition of the church greening service and the children’s pageant. We were again fortunate to have the assistance of Naples Philharmonic musicians Susanne Kirton and Tom May for the Christmas Eve services. A special word of thanks to Noel Davies for his excellent piano accompaniment.

We find ourselves again poised for season, with the addition of new singers and new repertoire. We anticipate a service of choral evensong in the coming months, and welcome any new people who are interested in this gem of Anglican liturgy. We are especially grateful for the robust year round congregation singing which is the heart and soul of St John’s music. Thank you and God Bless.

Glenn Saffran, Director of Music

TREASURER

The 2006 Audit Report was completed on June 30, 2007 by FranklinPrice, Certified Public Accountants. It concluded that the financial records of 2006 fairly represented the parish's financial position in all material respects.

Some highlights of interest for 2006 include:

Offerings and contributions	\$548,379
Church operating expenses	508,128
Diocesan assessment and support	80,140
Outreach (Approx. 90% from Thrift Shop)	80,869
Change in net assets (increase)	85,180

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Net assets at the beginning of 2006	\$1,848,900	\$2,714,689
Net assets at the end of 2006	\$1,867,093	\$2,729,398

Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of 2006 were \$105,153 increasing to \$183,333 at the end of 2006.

Readers can see that St. Johns experienced a positive financial growth during 2006.

It is also noteworthy that in 2007 the Vestry adopted the accrual method of accounting in accordance with U. S. generally accepted accounting principles, and the auditors applied this method of accounting in its 2006 year end audit. This change, while not required, brought St. John's into full conformity with accounting guidelines set forth by the Diocese. The complete audit is available for review by contacting the church office.

Comments pertaining to 2007

At the time of this report the financial records were not yet complete for 2007 and were not yet audited.

The operating budget Vestry approved for 2007 was essentially a balanced budget. It included funding the music director's compensation from restricted funds (1st of 3 years). All other expenses were planned from offerings, contributions and other income. Overall, the objective of the Vestry to operate within a balanced budget was met. Some things worth noting include: The music director compensation was fully expensed without requiring use of restricted funds; unrestricted memorial funds were approved for the Sugden Hall carpeting, painting, window treatments and tables; restricted/designated funds for Outreach were utilized in addition to profits from the Thrift Shop.

It is anticipated that the financial activity of 2007 will result in an increase in cash and cash equivalents. This will include results from the investment of Endowment and other designated/restricted and temporarily restricted funds that at the end of November 2007 stood at a balance of \$1,840,000 compared to \$1,700,000 at the end of 2006. Of this

current balance more than \$1,200,000 is comprised of earnings and unrestricted principals available for use.

A positive contribution to cash is expected from parish operations as well. The staff, clergy, Vestry, Finance Committee, and ministry commissions have demonstrated faithful stewardship with the resources that have been entrusted to the parish as evidenced by the actual expending of approximately 10% less than budgeted. Offerings and contributions were less than budgeted by approximately 7%. Outreach gifts totaled \$112,000.

Taken as a whole, St. Johns Episcopal Church is financially very solid. This is due to the grace of God, the generous giving of parishioners over many years, and the continuing generosity of parishioners this past year. As we enter 2008, please know that your offerings and contributions are vital to the ministry of St. Johns that God calls us to faithfully and joyfully bring forth for each other and the people St. Johns serves. Bring your friends to church and celebrate!

Mike Johnson, Treasurer

St Johns Episcopal Church
Restricted/Designated Funds
 UN-AUDITED BALANCE ESTIMATES AS OF
NOVEMBER 30, 2007

The Parish has a number of restricted or designated Funds whose permitted uses are listed below. Balances shown include both principal amounts and accumulated earnings. Only earnings may be used from some of the funds.

Fund Name	Restricted/Designated Use	Balance
St Johns Parish Endowment Fund	Earnings restricted to: Episcopal Church extension in Collier County; Capital seed money for Outreach agencies; Seed money for improvements or extension of St John's programs, but not for regular operation.	\$470,325
Vestry Designated Endowment Fund	Improvements, expansion or extension -- but not operation -- of certain types of ministries/programs.	\$213,608
Capital Reserve	Additions (not replacement) to property and equipment; Capitalized improvements; Major repairs extending life of the property.	\$202,192
Operating Reserve	For Vestry identified general purposes.	\$142,659
Pfanschmidt Jubilation Concert Fund	Earnings to provide music concerts for members and friends of the Parish and the general public.	\$48,410
Parsons Fund	Earnings used for St John clergy sabbaticals and support of candidates for Holy orders from the Diocese of Southwest Florida.	\$51,262
Dysart Benevolence Fund	Earnings to be used in Collier County for hunger, family assistance and Educational/Health programs for single mothers & children.	\$125,939
Smith Fund	Earnings shared between Parish Maintenance Reserve and Community Outreach.	\$81,447
Maintenance Reserve	For major maintenance projects.	\$147,998
Insurance Deductible Reserve	To pay deductible amounts on Parish insurance claims.	\$28,762
Columbarium Fund	For perpetual maintenance and operation of St John's Columbarium	\$46,913

Memorial Fund	Gifts used principally for worship items and supplies.	\$37,612
Sugden Hall Fund	For refurbishing and updating Sugden Hall.	\$30,000
Nursery Building Fund	For future nursery project.	\$40,570
Building Reserve	For future building projects.	\$79,788
Reserve for New Rector Search	Funds set aside for new Rector Search expenses.	\$10,572

PARISH STATISTICS

Service Statistics

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Baptisms	7	6	2
Confirmations	0	1	1
Marriages	5	0	1
Burials	23	8	10
 Holy Eucharist:			
Weekends	181	181	193
Weekdays	159	112	50
Private	128	69	47
 Daily Office:			
Weekdays	7	0	0
Sundays	0	0	0
 Attendance:			
Christmas	558	457	460
Easter	999	754	710
1 st Sun Lent	445	424	363
1 st Sun Advent	310	224	262
Pentecost	305	182	185
Avg Weekend	335	275	237

Membership Statistics

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
 Increases:			
Baptisms (+16)	0	0	1
Baptisms (-16)	4	1	2
Transfers In	16	21	17
 Reductions:			
Deaths	19	9	11
Transfers Out	14	40	11
Removed	47	0	0

ALTAR GUILD

We are a dedicated group of women working under the direction of the Rector preparing and maintaining Altar and Eucharistic vessels as well as the Altar and Sanctuary for all services including worship, weddings, memorials, ordinations and funerals. The beautiful flowers and decorations at Christmas, Easter, special occasions, and regularly scheduled services are our responsibility.

The Altar Guild is also responsible for the Altar flowers and calendar. Persons wanting to sponsor flowers and/or the Sanctuary candle will find a sign-up calendar in the Narthex. A contribution of \$45 is suggested for flowers and \$5.00 for the candle. This does not reflect actual cost of the flowers. But, those Sundays for which more than one person signs up helps support the weeks that have only a single sponsor.

This is a very caring, blessed ministry. We are always in need of new members. Anyone interested in becoming an Altar Guild member should speak to the Rector or any current Altar Guild member.

We would like to thank the ECW for its continuing generosity and support and are grateful to all those who bless this ministry.

The Altar Guild members for 2007 included: Sally Blake, Lorna O'Fallon, Beattie Rimsky, Jean Hollis, Yumi Hubbard, Barbara Smith, Midge Voss, Dorothy Karr, Ellie Leigh, Gloria Bundy, Peggy Newton, Betty Kirtley, Doris Hughes, Nancy Golwitzer, Jackie Jennings, Eileen Johnson and Beth Selby.

Beattie Rimsky, Gloria Bundy, Betty Kirtley, Barbara Smith
Co-Directoresses

COLUMBARIUM

St. Johns maintains a Columbarium for the interment or scattering of cremated remains of parishioners or their families on church grounds in the Garden of the Resurrection.

The Columbarium Committee is a standing committee of the Vestry, with George Mimmagh currently Chairman. The committee maintains permanent records of the Garden and oversees preparations for interments or scattering of ashes as well as maintenance of the Garden. During 2007 there were four interments, three lots sold, one removal, and one lot cancelled with the proceeds donated to the Columbarium.

All parishioners are invited to meet with a member of the committee to obtain information about the Garden on a pre-need basis. Space may be reserved at any time.

George Mimmagh, Chairman

COMMUNICATIONS

This year the Communications Commission has launched a brand new, redesigned Website on the Internet, accessible worldwide. This re-design provides more up-to-date information in a friendlier, easy-to-use manner. The Home Page, presenting the Service Schedule, also has "buttons" that can lead the viewer to many functions of the parish. One of the Links leads to the Book of Common Prayer in its entirety. Another provides Bible passages for many of life's challenges and experiences. This new site was accomplished by our Website Committee composed of Betsy Eschholz, Colin Edwards and Bob and Kay Geroy. They engaged a local firm, Exploritech (Steve Kubala, Director), to actually design and upload the site. Pages, graphics and photos will be added to this site throughout the church year.

This new website should be very useful as the parish begins its search for our new, permanent Rector by allowing candidates to "visit" the parish from the comfort of their homes or offices. The site address is: <http://www.stjohnsnaples.org>

In addition, the Communications Committee finds opportunities to publicize St. Johns programs and events both internally (through bulletin boards, easels and publications) and through the local media such as radio, newspapers and appropriate weekly and monthly publications. It keeps the local paper informed of the dates and times of our church services and creates name badges for members of our congregation.

Betsy Eschholz, Chairperson

CURSILLO

In 2007, the Cursillo Community at St. Johns came together for an Ultreya in the spring before the Diocesan three-day weekend at Day Spring Conference Center.

We encourage snowbird cursistas from parishes up north who are here for the season to join one of the Fourth Day groups that meet at St. John's weekly. For time & place and any other Cursillo news, contact: Ellie & Tony Leigh

Ellie and Tony Leigh, Chairpersons

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Johns holds monthly luncheon meetings with speakers on a variety of topics the second Tuesday of the month between October and May, except in February when we host our annual fundraiser, "Art in the Afternoon With English Tea." Proceeds of this event benefit St. Johns and primarily local services for women and children. As a result of the generosity and hard work of so many members of St. Johns, we were able to donate over \$11,000 from ECW activities in 2007. Thanks to a \$3,000 donation from the Bridge Group, to which ECW added \$1,000, a total donation of \$4,000 was made to St. John's for Sugden Hall improvements. The Bridge Group meets Wednesdays and generously gives some of their proceeds for ECW Outreach.

In 2007, our speakers included the following:

In January, Bonnie DeMartini, who leads an organization specializing in personal development and leadership programs, spoke to us on "Exploring Your Personal Legacy;"

In March, Elaine Silver entertained us with a song she wrote for the Red Hat Women's Group and other songs she has recorded;

In April, Bill Belaney entertained us with his popular "Remembering Radio" program of stories and sounds from favorite radio moments of the past;

In May, Betty Salt shared some of her extensive knowledge of church music and played excerpts to illustrate her points.

In November, Vickiejo Letchworth, from the Naples Shelter for Abused Women and Children, spoke on a safety plan for preventing abuse of senior citizens and provided attendees with detailed materials on preventing abuse.

In December, we joined the ECW of Trinity-by-the-Cove for their annual Christmas music program.

We have planned an active program for 2008. We invite your participation at our **12th Annual Art in the Afternoon With English Tea**, to be held in 2008 on **February 16-17**, featuring over 60 prominent artists, three sittings of English tea on Saturday, the sale of jellies, jams and other delectable on Sunday, our popular boutique and attic treasures sales, as well as a raffle of gift certificates and merchandise from local merchants.

We thank all of you for making this event a success in the past, and invite your participation this year as a Patron, for donations to the Attic Treasures, volunteering to be a Hostess for the art sale, assisting with English Tea and sales, running the sale of Attic Treasures, and working on the raffle and boutique sales. Please call Emilie Heller, '07-'08 President, at 239-593-5645 to volunteer.

Please call the church if you have items to donate to the Attic Treasures sale. If you have not already received our mailing on ECW activities for 2008, including an envelope to return a Patron donation, you will shortly receive it. Please respond if you have not already done so. Retain the flyer on ECW luncheon meetings as a reminder—we look forward to attendance by women of the church and their friends.

Our Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of the month and luncheons are held on the second Tuesday, except for February. All women of the church are members of the ECW and you and your friends are welcome. The purpose of ECW is to accomplish more than each of us might singly attempt and to enjoy fellowship. Please call the church office by 4 p.m. on the Friday before the luncheon program to sign up. The cost is \$8. Programs begin at 10 a.m. with Holy Eucharist in the church, and the speaker begins at 11. Lunch is served by ladies of the church at 12 noon.

In 2008, monthly luncheon speakers are as follows:

--On January 8, Deb Stump-Burger, one of only 2,000 certified teachers worldwide, will discuss the benefits of Tai Chi Chih and demonstrate some of the 19 movements.

--On March 11, Tamar George, an accomplished painter and workshop leader, will discuss the healing aspects of color and individual recipes for color to assist you in selecting your wardrobe and decorating your home.

--On April 8, Janet Kunz, RN, Geriatric Care Manager, will discuss retirement choices, homes and costs, and the advantages of various local retirement facilities.

--On May 13, Raven Lamoreaux Dodd will discuss communication for peace, happiness and success, emphasizing skills to address situations that are counter-productive and drain energy.

Emilie Heller, President

EVANGELISM

2007 was another busy year for the Evangelism Commission. Here's a brief recap of our activities:

- **SHAPE** -- This six-week Rick Warren program presented on Thursday evenings in February through March was attended by over 60 participants. The program followed our tried-and-true formula ... dinner and fellowship followed by video presentation and table discussion. A new twist ... each table had an opportunity to prepare and serve dinner ... it was a wonderful idea (and so much variety). Many thanks to those who served as table discussion leaders and kitchen helpers.
- **WHY JESUS?** – These pamphlets continued to be distributed through the Thrift Shop, Art In the Afternoon, as well as wall racks placed in rooms used weekly by outside groups.
- **BIBLE AND BREAKFAST** – This popular program continued during the summer months and featured a breakfast and bible study between Sunday services.
- **FELLOWSHIP** – Several events were held during 2007. A “Rector Search” Pot Luck supper and “Kahlua & Cream” concert were held in March; a Vestry Cookout in May; an Oktoberfest feast with OOMPA band “Sounds of Yesteryear”; Ft. Lauderdale Christmas Pageant and church “Greening” potluck were held in December. All events were very well attended and provided good food and fellowship for all. Thanks to everyone who helped with set-up, cooking, serving or cleanup. We couldn't do it without you.

A very special thanks goes to Walter Roxey, who unselfishly helped out from set-up to clean up for each and every event.

The Evangelism Commission functions as an ad hoc committee. Members meet periodically to discuss recent projects and plan/organize new events. Anyone interested in joining as a committee member is welcome.

Peter Gradwell & Connie Pinckney, Chairpersons

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

While the St Johns Treasurer is the parish's Chief Financial officer and responsible for all accounting and management of receipts and expenditures, Vestry has created a Finance and Property Committee to advise it on financial policies and practices. It has also been designated as the Audit committee, coordinates annual budget preparation and oversees the Investment Management Account. Similarly, while the Junior Warden is responsible for maintenance and proper operation of all property and equipment of the Parish, this committee coordinates insurance coverage including such things as inventory records.

Activities during 2007 included:

- + Identification of a Certified Public Accounting firm to conduct our outside audit, oversight of that process and review of the report for Vestry.
- + Review of all current Parish financial policies with recommendations of changes forwarded to Vestry.
- + Review of Stewardship and other revenue prospects for the 2008 Operating Budget.
- + Development and management of a 2008 Budget preparation timetable.
- + Monitoring and oversight of the Parish Investment Management Account including two performance reviews of the professional fund managers with recommendation of an investment strategy and plan to Vestry.
- + Development of a program to estimate current balances of the various Funds within the co-mingled Investment Management Account recognizing current income, expenses, receipts, disbursements and market valuation.
- + Oversaw a review of current insurance coverages of all Parish properties including recommendations of adjustments; and a safety review of the buildings.
- + Oversaw preparation of a photographic inventory of all major Parish property.
- + Assisted the Thrift Shop and ECW in coordinating their financial reporting with that of the overall Parish.
- + Cooperated with the Treasurer in converting the Parish accounting system from a "modified cash basis" to "full accrual" bringing our records into conformity with the Generally Accepted Accounting Standards used for financial reporting.
- + The committee served as a "Clergy Compensation and Housing Committee" recommending a compensation package for use in the new Rector search.

The committee is made up of leadership of the Vestry representing Parish "management" plus members from the congregation. In 2007 this group was made up of: Johan Domenie, Kay Geroy, Mike Johnson, George Mimmagh, Dave Pfaff, Phil Schlichting and Harry VanBenschoten. George Baitis and Bob Mayer each served during part of the year. Fr John Corbiere also meets with the committee.

Dave Pfaff, Chairman

GREETERS

The Greeter program consists of twenty-eight parishioners of St. Johns who agree to reach out and demonstrate Christ's Love to the people attending services. The Greeters arrive at least fifteen minutes early to fulfill their duties. They are there to answer questions, deliver the elements to the acolytes and assist the ushers in collecting the Offering. They help any newcomers to St. John's that their visit may be a positive experience. (One Sunday morning that meant helping a parishioner lock her new car when it was not cooperating!)

The Greeters were ranked very high on the church survey that was recently completed. In the survey the Greeters received 98.8% (extremely satisfied or satisfied) which was the highest percentage of any characteristic. They are a wonderful and dedicated group of people who share Christ's Love.

Barbara J. Buzzanca, Chairperson

LIBRARY

Hopefully by the time this article is read, we'll have two new bookcases! They're on the way! Changes have had to be made because of the fire inspector's recommendations, so items must be moved, but once everything is squared away, we can charge ahead, adding new material and bringing old things out of storage!

One major change will be to include our children's material in the Library in Brewster Hall as the office in Sugden, which has housed it, is now needed for other things. The collection is small so I'll try to see that what we have can be on a display cart in Sugden during Sunday School time and more can be added if the response is good. Young Adult material is already in Brewster.

I wish the Library could be open even when no one is using the meeting room so everyone could browse and choose at his or her own convenience. If Brewster is locked, you can always get in if you will ask in the Parish Office. And if you need something ... leave a message and ask! I will see if we have it and let you know. If we don't, maybe we can get it. We do have a card catalog in drawers so you can check for items in which you are interested. We're just not "on line"!

We are removing old, battered, out-of-date material so we have plenty of room for new items and contributions are always welcome. Some of you still have items borrowed way back in the 20th Century!! We'd love to have that material back. No overdue fines!

Beverly Hall, Librarian

NEW RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

This committee was appointed by Vestry in November and commissioned to conduct the search for a new rector in mid-December by Canon Michael Durning, the Diocesan Clergy Deployment Officer.

The committee began meeting in December to organize itself and elect officers, has learned that there are already candidates who have made themselves known and is targeting identification of a new Rector by April-May. This will be possible with hard work and concentration on the part of the committee and because of the exceptional preparations completed by Vestry. These have included distributing, compiling and analyzing a Parish Survey and Evaluation; creation of a Parish profile for distribution by the Diocese to candidates; a description of the position and of the qualifications and characteristics being sought in a new rector; development and profiling of parish goals and a Rector Compensation Plan; and selection and recruitment of the Search Committee members.

Those members are: Jim Buehner, Chris Davies, Paul Eschholz, Helen Fox, Peter Gradwell, Michael Johnson, Jane McDermott, Pat Mills, George Mimmagh, Dave Pfaff, Martin Pinckney and Phil Schlichting.

Priests interested in being considered can obtain all the needed information from the Diocesan Office which will confirm their qualification and availability. Parishioners wishing to recommend a candidate should advise that person to contact the Diocesan Office, not the Parish Office or committee.

All work of the committee will be conducted in strictest confidence in the interests of the candidates as well as the Parish. Candidates whose applications have been received and are being considered will not be disclosed.

The committee will review, investigate and evaluate profiles and references – perhaps visit and “audit” candidates -- until it arrives at a final three who will be submitted to Vestry for its selection.

Your prayers are solicited for the guidance of the committee in its deliberations.

Dave Pfaff, Chairman

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Our office receptionists deserve our grateful thanks for all their faithful service. This group of dedicated people has a variety of duties but most importantly they greet and welcome all visitors and parishioners when they come to the main office each weekday. The assistance to the church office that the receptionists provide is invaluable.

This volunteer office support staff is made up of the following persons: Dorothy Holborn, Midge Voss, Yvonne Lynch, Barbara Smith, Marie Collignon and Audrey Wheatley.

Julie DuRoss, Parish Secretary

ORDER OF ST. LUKE

The St. John's Order of St. Luke (OSL) had another busy year in 2007.

We continue to have an active healing ministry with prayer teams at the 9:00am and 11:00am services. We meet each Wednesday after the 10:00am Healing Eucharist for sharing, study and prayers. All are welcome to join us.

We had a healing mission jointly with St. Mary's Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, led by the Rev. Al Durrouce, in March.

Tom Bailey, Convener

OUTREACH

What is Outreach? As the name implies, it is our effort to "reach-out" to others in our community. By our sharing with others, we hope to make their lives better and through our actions help spread the Good News Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The Outreach Commission makes recommendations to the Vestry for outreach grants to those charities and organizations whose primary thrust is to:

- +work with the poor and needy, most often women and children
- +help people become self-sufficient
- +support and teach Christian principles

The members of the Outreach Commission research the charities and other organizations, gather background data, get financial statements and request a formal application for assistance from each. Personal visits are made to each of the agencies being considered.

For 2007, Total Outreach contributions from all sources at St. John's amounted to \$127,970 in cash and goods.

Contributions came from:

1. Thrift Shoppe earnings	\$79,000
2. Church operating budget	\$33,000
3. E.C.W. gifts	\$ 7,470
4. Gifts in kind:	
"Feed the 5,000" bags and cash:	\$ 7,000
Thrift Shoppe surplus goods given to Appalachia, Haiti, etc.:	\$ <u>1,500</u>
Total	\$127,970

In all, 18 charities received grants in 2007 from St. Johns Church Outreach efforts. Those receiving \$10,000 or more included St. Matthews House, Habitat for Humanity, Immokalee Friendship House, Guadalupe Center-Immokalee and Fun Time Nursery.

Jack Cooper, Chairman

PARISHLIFE NEWSLETTER

2008 <i>Parishlife</i> Deadlines	
Month of Publication	Deadline: Noon, Friday
February	January 25
March	February 22
April	March 21
May	April 25
June	May 23
July	NO ISSUE
August	July 25
September	August 22
October	September 19
November	October 24
Dec./Jan. (Combined)	November 21

Parishlife, the newsletter of St. Johns Episcopal Church has been bringing information on activities and concerns of the parish to its members and friends for twenty-two years now.

It is published ten times a year and printed in-house. The December and January issues are combined into one, and there is no issue published in July.

Special thanks to the dedicated volunteers who collate, fold and prepare the publication for mailing and to St. Johns invaluable Administrative Assistant Julie DuRoss, who oversees the process.

There are plans for the newsletter to also become available on St. Johns new website later on this year.

Deadlines are always by noon on a designated Friday and the next deadline is always noted on the last page of each *Parishlife*, as well as being posted on the patio Bulletin Board and listed in this article. Please mark your calendars now as no reminders are sent.

Articles may be left in the *Parishlife* mailbox in the church office or e-mailed to: kay-geroy@mindspring.com.

Please limit articles to no more than 300 words in length, if possible.

Kay Geroy, Editor

PASTORAL CARE

When Jim Buehner and I were asked by the Vestry to co-chair the Pastoral Care Ministry last January, we found the responsibilities were many and varied. We also found that we have many leaders at St. John's, people who take on leadership responsibilities and people who volunteer their time and talents throughout the year as the need arises. Why do we? We love our church, its mission, its accomplishments and the fellowship we enjoy. But the real underlying reason is that we love the Lord and St. John's helps us to know Him better, love Him more, and serve Him in new ways as we go about our daily lives.

Following are the ministries under Pastoral Care and the people who make them work:

- The Prayer chain – Peggy Shaw
- The Stephen Ministry – George Baitis
- The Order of St. Luke – Tom Bailey
- Lay Eucharistic Ministry – Fr. John Corbiere
- Yellow card follow-up – Barbara Williamson
- Coffee Hour Volunteer Hosts -- Pat Mills
- St. Barnabas Guild – Peggy Shaw

The St. Barnabas Guild was newly organized over the past summer with the mission of helping members of the Parish who are going through a difficult time and in need of some short-term caring support such as providing a ride to the doctor, picking up prescriptions, grocery shopping, delivering simple meals etc. We found many of our other ministries: the Prayer Chain, Stephen Ministry, Order of St. Luke, Lay Eucharistic Ministry all work hand in hand with the Guild providing spiritual comfort.

In June we received a request to donate bed sheets for a Kamp for Kids sponsored by the Diocese of Southwest Florida to be held at Day Spring. The Kamp was specifically for children ages 5-12 whose parents were in prison. The people of St. John's responded generously outfitting 33 beds.

While the Bentley Village Ministry isn't an "official" ministry, residents Jack & Jeanne Cooper see to the needs of our parishioners and others there, some of whom are no longer able to come to church. Fr. John conducts a Eucharist there once a month which the Coopers facilitate. They, along with Ted and Audrey Craver who are fellow residents and parishioners, also serve as Lay Eucharistic Visitors and because of their efforts, St. John's continues to have an on-going and loving presence at the Village.

Jim and I thank all those who have served and continue to serve in Pastoral Care. In a wider sense, every member of St. John's has a pastoral mission. God has given us all talent, time and often the means to serve Him. We need only to supply the willingness.

Pat Mills and Jim Buehner
Co-Chairmen of Pastoral Care

THRIFT SHOPPE

The year 2007 was pivotal for St. Johns Thrift Shoppe ... a New Beginning.

Focus was on a transition from a paid manager to a volunteer manager. Much was accomplished in improving the facilities ... repairs, re-arranging displays and making it a more customer-friendly place to shop.

In April, the Shoppe celebrated its 25th anniversary and this year's profit of over \$73,000 was added to the total exceeding \$1.8 million transferred to the Parish during these 25 years. Every dollar of earnings goes to "Outreach" ... charities in Southwest Florida ... researched and allocated by the Parish's Outreach Commission.

Although the soft economy had a negative impact on sales ... down 13% ... reductions in expenses of 22% achieved a healthy profit.

Dozens of volunteers work at the Shoppe, receiving, sorting donations, repairing, cleaning items, pricing and displaying merchandise and cashiering. These men and women are from many church congregations and denominations, working together as a happy, enthusiastic team.

We're grateful for the generosity of the donors who have given furniture, small appliances, clothing, electronics and other salable items to the Shoppe.

Our customers, from all levels of income, receive quality (frequently valuable) merchandise at very low cost. The Shoppe provides an important service to low-income, minority customers, many of whom visit the Shoppe daily.

The Shoppe always invites persons to become volunteers, working only three or four hours each week. Donations, especially furniture in good condition, are always welcome. Free pick-up of large items may be provided.

Of course, all our St. Johns people are invited to come and shop at this unique facility, located on 110th Avenue N., just west of the Tamiami Trail, a block south of Immokalee Road.

Board of Directors:

Bob Geroy	Chairperson & Treasurer
Wanda Robes	Vice-Chairperson
Pat Mills	Secretary
Jane Edwards	Member & Voluntary Manager
Barbara Buzzanca	Member
Beverly Herr	Member
Barbara Nielsen	Member

Bob Geroy, Chairperson

WORSHIP MINISTRY

The Worship Ministry arm of the Vestry primarily oversees worship missions within the church. Groups that come under our accountability include Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, Readers for Lessons and Prayers of the People, Altar Guild and the Music Ministry. These missions are manned by volunteers from the congregation. St Johns is blessed to have dedicated members who quietly go about doing God's work. Their time and talent are very much appreciated.

We welcomed Fr John Martiner on December 23, 2007 and he will be assisting our Interim Rector for a three month period until Easter 2008.

Our Music Director, Glenn Saffran, continues to produce beautiful sights and sounds with our choir and special performances and performers on special occasions. The Easter and Christmas programs were especially beautiful. Only those who participate know all the time and hard work that is involved.

Many thanks and Blessings to all!

Barbara G. Smith, Chairperson