

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## The Epistle

February 2021

*Love God. Love others. Help others love God.*

**We welcome you to join us on our journey as we strive to share the love of Jesus through worship, Christian education, fellowship and service to each other and the community beyond our walls.**

### *From the Desk of Father John*

In the blog titled "Father Tim" written by Jay Sidebotham he writes about Malcolm Muggeridge, a British journalist, who spent time in Calcutta with Mother Teresa, reporting on her work. After wrapping his mind about what the work entailed, he wondered how she could continue. The depth of poverty in Calcutta was overwhelming. Her efforts, noble as they were, seemed insignificant. Muggeridge asked: How do you keep going? How could one make holy sense out of what she was doing? Mother Teresa answered: God calls me to be faithful, not necessarily successful.

How do we measure the success of our numerous church activities? For some it is by how many people are participating. The higher the numbers the greater the success. Each year we have to file a Parochial Report; these numbers are available in the Annual Meeting Report. The Parochial Report in the past was all about numbers. This year they have changed the report to include narrative about the various activities and ministries we are involved in. Statistics, in my mind, are not where it is at. We need the number to predict the future and to look at trends and rate the increase or decrease in population as we have in the census. Some would say that if we don't have "the numbers" we were not successful. I don't agree.

One of the things the Learning Communities Initiative has taught us is that we have to "give it the old college try". Even if we fall flat on our faces we have succeeded because we have looked at what caused our failure and we have learned a lesson and that is the most valuable piece of information we can have. Failure really isn't failure but a beautiful lesson in making ourselves better in a variety of ways.

I hope I have encouraged you to be able to experiment with the gifts and talents God has graced us with. I hope that no matter we have tried we have always looked at the impact, whether it is apparent to us or not. It is like being a teacher, do you ever know the impact you have made on a student at the time? Sometimes, many years later teachers hear back from students and learn the touching story of how they changed a life. It is so with us. Do we ever really know the impact we have on another individual? We know the gift we have received from them immediately. We receive blessings with every encounter we have. Never underestimate the good we have accomplished.

What have we learned since March 15<sup>th</sup> when COVID-19 changed our life? How do we move forward with our newfound lesson(s)? Some see this time as the worst year of their lives but there is a lesson in there to be found. God is found in the dark with light; He is found in places where we least expect. He is found in our mistakes and shows us mercy in our sinfulness.

I am hoping that these questions will guide us as we move forward in our life together. More to come.

Fr. John+



# Worship at St. Paul's!

With the suspension of in-person worship we will continue to hold all Sunday services, Daily prayers, Bible studies, book groups and meetings on ZOOM until further notice. If you have email, a link is sent out for each event that is held. You can connect by computer, iPad, smart phone, smart TV, flip phone or even your landline house phone. I send the link out using my St. Paul's email distribution list. If you are not receiving them or do not have email, please let me know.

Fr. John+



## Sunday Zoom Service Connections for February

You are invited to join us for our Sunday service. This link will still be sent out weekly to the email group for each Sunday as the readings are included in the email.

**St. Paul's Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: Sundays in February**

**Time: 9:00 AM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88214272841?pwd=ZCtPYTZsMW0zdXFBaHk1UmJyeXptdz09>

Meeting ID: 882 1427 2841

Passcode: zs5b1w

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,88214272841#,,,,\*760750# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 882 1427 2841

Passcode: 760750



## COVID-19 Update

At this point in time there is no plan to resume in person worship. I am planning that through Easter we will be using Zoom. The Bishop continues to be in dialogue with the Clergy in the Diocese and I will keep you informed of any changes and further developments.





# Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>



Ash Wednesday is February 17<sup>th</sup>, the beginning of Lent. Our services will be on Zoom at 9:30 AM and 5:30 PM. There are two separate links - one for each service.

**Topic: Ash Wednesday**  
**Time: Feb 17, 2021 09:30 AM**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89722988283?pwd=dINnN01PbEs1aXZMUkZY3V4anJvUT09>

Meeting ID: 897 2298 8283  
Passcode: WRC9n4  
One tap mobile  
+16465588656,,89722988283#,,,,\*518760# US (New York)

Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 897 2298 8283  
Passcode: 518760

**Topic: Ash Wednesday 5:30 PM**  
**Time: Feb 17, 2021 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85100476151?pwd=dDRhWGxZZ0o5Y2hVMUtmb0h0SUxUQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 0047 6151  
Passcode: wRech9  
One tap mobile  
+16465588656,,85100476151#,,,,\*554939# US (New York)

Dial by your location  
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 851 0047 6151  
Passcode: 554939





## Lenten Program

This year's Lenten Program will be held on Wednesday's during Lent on Zoom. February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. The series will be held on Wednesdays during Lent and begins on February 24<sup>th</sup>. We will begin at 6:15 PM with a prayer service and then have a program. Plans are still in process. The Zoom link will be sent out on Tuesday of each week.



## Stewardship!

***Love God. Love others. Help others love God.***



On Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at the Annual Meeting we will be electing the men and women who will serve as members of our church's vestry to lead our parish. We are thankful for those members of our parish who, as a witness to their stewardship, have consented to stand for election. We here at St. Paul's appreciate the hard, faithful work of our vestry. They practice their stewardship with their time as they are in church every Sunday; their abilities as they serve the parish is many ways; and their money as everyone pledges and supports God's work through St. Paul's Church.

Fr. John+



Thank you to **Will and Mary VanOsten** for offering to come into church on the second and fourth Sundays to resume their ministry of counting our weekly collection.



Thank you to those who delivered the beautiful poinsettia plants to our homebound parishioners after the Christmas Eve services: **Will and Mary VanOsten, Barb and Bruce Dailey, Sue and Carl Kinne, Linda Littell, Sue Jones, Lorraine Jones and Mary Gilfoyle.**



In honor of Presidents' Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.





## Prayers for Our Ministries



Each week a different ministry area of St. Paul's is featured in the bulletin to highlight, encourage involvement and give thanks for the people who make it happen. During the month of February we pray for the following ministries:

### FEBRUARY

2/7 Boy Scouts

2/21 Movin' On Group

2/14 Memorial Fund

2/28 Search for a new Music Director



## Rector's Forum

Rector's Forum will continue in February and will meet on Mondays after the 9:30 AM Prayer Service. Everyone is invited.



## All Things Spiritual on Zoom!

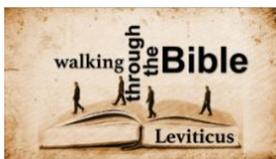


We gather for prayer and discussion about a chapter in the book during each meeting. We will be discussing *Chapter 22 – Walk in Love*. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, after the 9:30 AM prayer service.**

Fr. John+



## A Letter of the Bible – I John on Zoom!



Our study of the Bible will continue with the First Letter of John. This is different from the Thursday morning Bible Study which uses the Sunday Lectionary as its basis. Our next meeting will be **on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, after the 9:30 AM prayer service.** *We will be discussing the First Letter of John. We will focus on the New Testament letters.*

Fr. John+



## All Things Theological on Zoom!

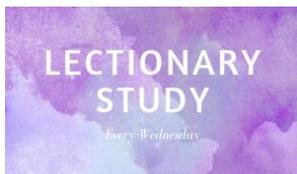
We will continue discussing the book by Leonardo Boff Come Holy Spirit: Inner fire, Giver of Life, and Comforter of the Poor. We will be reading Chapter 10. The next meeting will be held **on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, after the 9:30 AM prayer service.**



Fr. John+



## Lectionary Study on Zoom!



Lectionary Study is held on Thursday mornings following the 9:30 AM Prayer Service. This is an informal way of studying the Scripture readings for each upcoming Sunday. Brew a second cup of coffee and lend your thoughts as to what you feel God is saying to you. A short prayer service will precede the study.





### FEBRUARY

- |      |                 |      |                  |
|------|-----------------|------|------------------|
| 2/1  | Nancy Ng        | 2/12 | Tori Jo Kakusian |
| 2/4  | Vince Fabiano   | 2/14 | Georgia Wilber   |
| 2/8  | Dick Schwab     | 2/15 | Jordan Jones     |
| 2/10 | Amelia Swavola  | 2/18 | Aiden Browning   |
| 2/10 | Madelyn Swavola | 2/20 | Ingrid Elliott   |
| 2/12 | Sylvia Fulk     | 2/26 | Don Williams     |
| 2/12 | Sue Mahon       | 2/27 | Bill Freeman     |
| 2/12 | Mary Cermak     |      |                  |



### FEBRUARY

- |      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 2/7  | Tony and Jean Farrand  |
| 2/10 | Ken and Verona Kidder  |
| 2/14 | Will and Mary VanOsten |



Are you a **February** birthday or anniversary but don't see your name here? Please let the office know so we can update our records! We don't want to miss anyone!





## Getting To Know You!

### Saleeby Family



Lauren and Mike Saleeby started attending St. Paul's in 2016. At that time they were expecting their daughter Kate. Lauren and Mike found the people at St. Paul's to be very welcoming and they felt very much at home from the beginning. Soon Kate joined the family and also became a regular at our church. Today, due to the pandemic, church is attended via Zoom and they look forward to our Sunday Zoom services.

Lauren, an attorney, is a partner at Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP, where she chairs the Medical Malpractice and General Insurance Defense Practice Groups. Lauren also serves on the Board of Directors for the Broome County Bar Association, having served as President last year. She is also on the Board of Directors for the UHS Foundation and previously served as a Director on the Boards for the YWCA, the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and the Art Mission. Lauren has also agreed to be nominated for Vestry at our Annual Meeting this month. Mike is employed at the Greater Binghamton Health Center and the Children's Home of Wyoming Conference as a Clinical Psychologist. Kate is now a student in the Cherub Class at church, which she attends on Zoom. She looks forward to receiving her packet from church each week and creating the awesome craft projects sent to her. She is also very busy taking gymnastic and swimming classes, which also keeps her chauffeurs (Mike and Lauren) very busy too.

During free time, Lauren enjoys playing tennis, dancing, working out, singing and expanding her artistic skills creating lots of projects with and for Kate. Mike enjoys the NBA and working around the house. Since 2018 Mike has been very busy using his free time to renovate their entire house – a job that is now complete. As a family, they enjoy going on hikes at local parks and weekend get-a-ways to different locations throughout New York State, with the Adirondacks being a favorite spot.

Lauren and Mike, like so many others, feel St. Paul's has provided the social connection and support we all need to get us through this difficult time we all face during this pandemic.



## Diana Krska



Diana Krska, who lives in Endwell, can probably tell us many stories about St. Paul's and its history. She has been a member of St. Paul's her entire life and has accumulated so many wonderful memories. She was involved in the Youth Choir, Youth Group, was an angel in the Christmas pageant, and assisted her mom on Altar Guild and helped teach Vacation Bible School one summer.

Diana worked at IBM in Endicott as a buyer in Procurement prior to her retirement, a job she retired from after 28 years with the company. Diana enjoys reading and shopping and enjoyed boating and swimming when she was able, with fond memories of summers spent at the family cottage on Owasco Lake. Diana is fascinated by owls and for over 50 years she has collected them – note the Christmas owls on her sweater in the photo. Many of Diana's plans for the future were put on hold due to the health issues of both of her parents, whom she moved into her home and lovingly cared for. After her mother's passing Diana's father continued to live with her until his Parkinson's reached a level requiring full time nursing care. Diana recalls how her Dad thoroughly enjoyed his visits from Fr. John and Luther Chergosky while in the nursing home before he too passed. Today Diana faces her own health challenges as she learns to manage circulation problems and arthritis, limiting many of the activities she would like to do. Diana is a regular smiling face on St. Paul's daily Zoom services where we often admire her beautiful holiday sweaters and sweatshirts and we look forward to seeing her once again in one of the front pews when the worst of the pandemic is behind us and we are able to gather to worship in person once again.



### Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>



The Annual Meeting is quickly upon us. The meeting will take place on ZOOM on **Sunday, February 9 following the 9:00 AM Zoom service**. Vestry elections will also take place at this time. Please plan on attending. (Note: There will be no Sunday school classes that day.)

The slate of candidates is as follows:

- Warden (two year term) – Dick Schwab
- Vestry (three year term) – Michelle Wolf
- Lauren Saleeby
- Nancy Elwood





## A Note from Our Parish Nurse



February is heart month. For those of you with high blood pressure it is a good idea to have a device at home to check your blood pressure. You should use the same time of day either morning, afternoon, or evening. You should also be sitting down with your arm resting on a table or chair arm and not right after drinking coffee or high amounts of caffeine. Don't let uncontrolled heart blood pressure lead to heart failure.

We know some of you had or are scheduled for a Covid Vaccine. Please remember having Covid virus does not make you immune from getting it again. Science right now suggests you may be immune for about 90 days at most. Your vaccine does not protect you 100% and you can still carry the virus to others and be asymptomatic. You must still wear a mask, frequent hand washing or sanitizing, and maintain social distancing as best practice. If you get symptoms or are worried about having Covid please call 211, contact your doctor, or if in New York go online to [coronavirus.health.ny.gov](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov). If in PA please contact your primary provider, contact your county health department or look up your state website. Vaccines are currently being scheduled out to late March and into April at the Binghamton site. If you are unsure if you are eligible to receive the vaccine, go to the website and it will ask you questions to see if you are eligible. If you are it will have you proceed to locations to schedule. Please don't worry. More vaccines are being made and other companies will be releasing theirs within the next couple of months pending FDA approval. More sites will be coming to vaccinate including local pharmacies. Please ask your primary care provider for any questions or your local county health departments. I follow the CDC and NY websites daily. Jackie and I will try to assist for guidance for any questions and get you to the right place for information, if needed.

Jackie Fabiano RN, BSN, Lead Parish Nurse



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

## Boy Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 7th

We will be celebrating Boy Scout Sunday on February 7<sup>th</sup>. If you are involved in Boy Scouts, be sure to wear your uniform that day.



## Racial Justice and Reconciliation Group

The monthly meeting of St. Paul's Racial Justice and Reconciliation Discussion Group will be held on **Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Monday Prayer Service. Everyone is welcome! If you would like further information, please contact **Nancy Elwood** at 607-239-0404 or email her at: [nelwood1961@gmail.com](mailto:nelwood1961@gmail.com).



## Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM





## Grounds to Grow On

### Recycle your K-Cups



We are still collecting used K-cups for recycling. Instead of being in the cloak room, the bin is now in the main office. Feel free to save up a bunch then drop them off at church. You don't even need to come during office hours! Feel free to leave a bag outside the door if no one is in the building. Once the bin is full, it is shipped by UPS to g2 Revolution, an innovative recycling company. 75% of the cups by weight is converted to compost. 25% of the cups by weight is converted into recycled products.



## Women of the Church News and Happenings

Sandy Schwab, Chair

### Gifts for Our Neighbors

Christmas may be over but our gift giving to our neighbors is not. Our tree is still being replenished with warm hats, scarves and gloves and the line of masks continues. The tree still requires weekly replenishing and is now being augmented with our St. Paul's tote bags. The Christmas masks have been replaced with designs suitable for any season, and are being replenished as needed. Fr. John recently shared a story of a man out walking his dog on a very cold day with no hat or gloves. He stopped at our tree and picked out a hat and gloves, which he immediately put on before continuing on his walk – presumably a lot warmer. This tree and line of masks represents far more than our giving something away. It says to our neighbors that we care about them; our doors may be closed but we are still here and we still care. It also tells them a great deal about what our Christian faith means to us – sometimes actions speak as loudly as words. Thank you to all who contributed to this effort and thank you to Dick Schwab who came to the rescue when the winter winds took a toll on our tree. It now stands straight and tall and sturdy – just like St. Paul's.



## National Wear **RED** Day

Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

### Why Go Red?

Heart disease and stroke cause 1 in 3 deaths among women each year, killing approximately one woman every 80 seconds. Fortunately, we can change that because 80 percent of cardiac and stroke events may be prevented with education and action. That's why this year we are asking that you wear red on **National Wear Red Day**, Friday, February 5, 2021, and encourage others to do the same. Also, make time to Know Your Numbers. Five numbers that all women should know to take control of their heart health are: Total Cholesterol, HDL (good) Cholesterol, Blood Pressure, Blood Sugar and Body Mass Index (BMI). Knowing these numbers can help women and their healthcare providers determine their risk for developing cardiovascular diseases.





## Protect Yourself from Scammers

While pondering a topic for a WoC article for the February Epistle, I became aware that a member of our parish had been hacked and her credit card number and email address stolen. In discussing this issue, I remembered that in 2019 the WoC invited Michael Danaher, Assistant Attorney General in the Binghamton Regional AG Office, to speak to the parish about protecting themselves from scammers, identity theft and fraud. Here are some of the highlights of Michael Danaher’s presentation which may help us all:



- Don’t ever give your personal information or passwords to someone who contacts you unsolicited, no matter who they say they are.
- Regularly review your bank and credit card statements and check your credit reports. The only source you should use to get a free credit report and be assured you are not pulling up a bogus site designed to steal your information is: [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or (1-877-322-8228). This site is administered by the three agencies offering free credit reports (Experian, TransUnion and Equifax – each offering 1 free credit report a year). Order 1 report from one of the 3 agencies. Four months later order a report from the next agency, and 4 months after that from the 3<sup>rd</sup> agency. This enables you to keep a frequent eye on what is going on at no cost throughout the year.
- Be careful about emails or calls using tactics to frighten you about a hacked account. They may well be “phishing” for information. Banks and legitimate businesses will be calm and discuss the matter with you. They won’t ask for your account number – they already have it. They will never ask for your password – they don’t need it to access your account. If you are ever in doubt as to the legitimacy of the call or email, phone the number on the back of your credit card or on your bank statement to find out if it is a legitimate issue. The same is true for other businesses - call the company with numbers you know are valid.
- Avoid opening emails that appear to be spam or from people you don’t know. Do not click on a link in an email from someone you don’t know, no matter who they claim to be. This may direct you to a bogus “look-alike” website that spoofs the real company.
- Change all passwords frequently using strong passwords that are easy for you to remember but hard for others to guess. Never use your bank account password for any other account, or on multiple bank accounts.
- Telemarketers target people who are at home during the day and in the habit of answering their phone. For this reason, seniors have been key victims; however, COVID has put many more people in the situation of being home during the day thereby increasing telemarketers’ audience and the frequency of calls. Don’t rely on caller ID – scammers can manipulate it to appear to be a local call, a familiar company or charity, or an “official” looking location such as Washington D.C. or a government entity. Some of these calls are annoying, others are well planned scams to get information from you. The solution to this is the one that created the most discomfort for attendees at our meeting – DON’T answer the phone if you don’t recognize the number. Screen calls through your answering device – you can always call back if in fact it is a legitimate call. Remember – they can’t trick you if you don’t answer.

The Office of the NYS Attorney General has an excellent publication entitled “Smart Seniors” offering valuable tips for people of all ages. To obtain a copy go to [www.ag.ny.gov](http://www.ag.ny.gov) and do a search for Smart Seniors. Click on “Smart Seniors March 16 2018” and then “Smart\_Seniors.pdf”. If you feel you have been victimized call them (607 251-2770). They are there to answer questions and to investigate potential fraud, neglect, abuse and health care system problems. The Binghamton Regional Office is located at the State Office Building, 44 Hawley St., Binghamton NY.



## February Participants’ Schedule

<b>February 7 – Boy Scout Sunday</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Congregational Responses	Steve Koerts	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Bruce Dailey	Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm	Jackie Fabiano	Psalm 147-BCP p. 804
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Tommy Vallone	1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Prayers of the People	Lauren Saleeby	Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

<b>February 14 – Annual Meeting</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Congregational Responses	Sandy Schwab	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Nancy Elwood	2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm	Donna Williams	Psalm 50-BCP p. 654
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Jackie Reece	2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Prayers of the People	Eileen Slofkosky	Gospel- Mark 9:2-9

<b>February 17– Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Congregational Responses	Jennifer Westermann	Jim Garceau	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Ruthie Koerts	Garvin Alexander	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm	Linda Littell	Jack Westermann	Psalm 103-BCP p. 733
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Barb Dailey	Sandy Schwab	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Prayers of the People	Not needed	Not needed	Gospel- Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

<b>February 21</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Congregational Responses	Sue Mahon	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Dolly Chergosky	Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm	Jack Wolf	Psalm 25 – BCP pg. 614
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Sue Jones	1 Peter 3:18-22
Prayers of the People	Not needed	Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

<b>February 28</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Congregational Responses	Ruthie Koerts	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Zach Manchester	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm	Alaina Browning	Psalm 22:22-30– BCP pg. 611
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Mark Browning	Romans 4:13-25
Prayers of the People	Kelly Browning	Gospel: Mark 8:31-38



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Minutes – January 12, 2021  
To love God, Love others, Help others love God.

**Rector:** Fr. John Martinichio

**Wardens:** Dick Schwab, Sue Mahon

**Treasurer:** Jack Westermann

**Vestry:**

Stephanie Elder-Alexander

Linda Littell

Jennifer S. Westermann

Jim Garceau

Cassie Manchester

Deborah Wirag

Ruthie Koerts

Eileen Slofkosky

Ted Wolf

Fr. John opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m. with a Christmas prayer written by Robert Louis Stevenson.

**December 8 Minutes:** *Motion* made by Ruthie Koerts with second from Stephanie Elder-Alexander to ratify the December minutes regarding the unanimous acceptance online. Motion carried unanimously.

**Repair of window lighting behind altar:** *Motion* made by Jim Garceau with second from Ruthie Koerts to ratify the vote (ten yes votes and one abstention by Stephanie Elder-Alexander) to have the lights repaired on the back of the church at a cost of \$985. Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** Jack Westermann

- Gould fund:

<u>January 1, 2020</u>	<u>November 30, 2020</u>	<u>December 31, 2020</u>	<u>Monthly Change</u>
\$4,973,462	\$4,937,494	5,101,706	+\$164,212

- Income/Expenses: We are currently over annual pledge projection by about \$2,000.
- Treasurer's Report: Financial reports submitted from the following accounts: Checking Account - \$88,996 of which the following have earmarked funds: Flowers and Candles - \$4,436; CHOW - \$14,620; CHAP \$976; Memorial Fund - \$2,055; Women of the Church - \$2,757; Youth - \$813, Capital Campaign - \$32,331. \$30,595 is available for operational expenses.
- Rector's Discretionary Fund: Fr. John submitted his report on the Rector's Discretionary Fund activity for the period covering September 1 through December 31, 2020.

*Motion* made by Ruthie Koerts with second from Deb Wirag to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Stewardship Status:** Pledges: Of the 117 families that pledged last year, 86 have pledged support for 2021 for a total of \$161,078.

**Website Update:** Michelle Miller, our webmaster has strongly recommended that we update the security of the website. At our request, she can change update the site to use Divi, part of the current WordPress platform we are using. This will make editing much easier for the web site administrators as it is a visual editor. *Motion* made by Jim Garceau with second from Sue Mahon to authorize \$600 to make these two changes to the website. Motion carried unanimously.

**NYS Sick Leave Policy:** Question was raised about whether hours would carry over to the next year if not used. Fr. John will check on that. Motion made by Jim Garceau with second from Ruthie Koerts to approve the sick leave policy when amended to include the carryover. Motion carried unanimously.

**Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting of 2021 will be held via Zoom. Motion made by Linda Littell with second from Dick Schwab to accept the resolution (attached) provided by the diocese for allowance of the annual meeting to be held via Zoom.

**COVID-19:** The bishop has told the clergy to plan on Easter being a virtual service. Fr. John shared with the vestry guidelines issued by the diocese for Ash Wednesday. (Note: The Book of Common Prayer does not require the physical distribution of ashes at an Ash Wednesday service.) Looking to the future, Fr. John is looking at logistics of continuing to offer Zoom and/or Facebook services once the church reopens for in-person worship.

**Director of Music:** Still no candidates for this position.

**Cleaning Service:** Bill Jones Cleaning Service severed ties with the church at the end of December. A search will be underway for a new cleaner.

**New Office Computers:** Jack has researched various options and prefers Dell desktops at a cost of about \$1,400 for two computers: one each for the church office and the rector's office.

**Warden's Report:** Sue Mahon shared thank you notes from the Children's Home for the parish donations to its Family Activity Bag project and from our secretary, Diane Sica, for the gift card given to her for Christmas and the birthday flowers given from the vestry.

**Committee Reports:**

Property Committee - Dick Schwab reported that the roof project has been completed and totally paid for. Moving forward, Dick wants to send a camera down the drain pipes to the cisterns to see if there are any blockages. Next project the committee will look at is the electrical upgrade needed for the church in order to accommodate a new elevator.

**Nominating Committee** – Fr. John thanked Dick Schwab, Deb Wirag and Marilyn Karlson for their work in successfully producing a slate of candidates for the Annual Meeting election.

**Next Meeting:** February 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Fr. John ended the meeting at 7:34 p.m. by offering a blessing to the vestry.

Minutes submitted by Jennifer S. Westermann, Vestry Clerk

