



# ST. JOHN'S HONEOYE FALLS 2021 ANNUAL REPORT & NEWS

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE

## WELCOME 2021!

Welcome to 2021, and this combined newsletter and annual report. 2020 was a year like no other. We wanted to find a different way of reporting all that has happened and pointing us with hope towards all that will happen. God is with us, transforming us as Christians and as community. Thanks be to God for what we have gained, may God comfort us in what we grieve, may we be forgiven for the things we did (and did not do) that separated us from God or each other, and may God sustain us and nurture us for the year to come.

## THE ANNUAL REPORT

When 2020 dawned last January, we already knew it would be a year of horizons. A major focus from 2019, selling our rectory and another small parcel of land by the garage, carried over into the new year. We still had work to do to complete a comprehensive survey of our property boundaries in order to update the municipal records, and we faced a long line of approvals still in process. Little did we know that COVID would completely overshadow anything related to those property sales.

It may seem that selling property and redefining our campus have nothing to do with COVID. In fact, I think the two are integrally linked. Between 1840 and the 1950's, St. John's grew its campus.  
*(continued)*

## Join us!

Sunday service, 10 am

Tuesday Bible Study, 11 am

Wednesday Evening  
Prayer, 6 pm

All events are on Zoom:  
Meeting ID  
532-398-8617

## ANNUAL MEETING

The 181st meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church will occur on January 31, 2021, after our Virtual Worship service. All active, financially contributing members of the parish over the age of 18 are eligible to vote. We will not use paper ballots. Instead we will ask people to indicate their votes by raising their hand (if on Zoom), or by voice if they are on the phone.

Inside is important information about the 2021 nominees, the 2021 budget and review of 2020.

The parish built the Church, the Carriage House, and the Parish House. We received parcels of land that now make up the parking lot and Episcopal Avenue, as well as the greenspaces by the church and the area where the garage stood. Since the 1950's, much of the parish's ministry and our outlook revolved around the use and maintenance of those buildings.

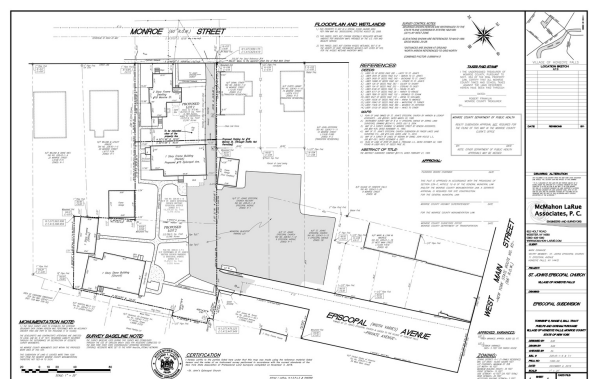
For years, the parish wondered what to do with the rectory (Rand House). Deeded to the parish in the 1870's, the building was known as much for housing clergy as for housing the St. John's Nursery School. How many people know St. John's because they or their children went to that nursery school? The rectory also provided rental income for a number of years. However, more than a decade ago, Vestry began looking at selling the property. Selling would not be easy; the building needed updating, and utility lines connecting the rectory to the Parish House would need separating. The property needed to be subdivided. But, perhaps more than that, we faced a restriction in the deed which said that any change in the property would automatically revert the ownership to the heirs of the woman who deeded it to us: Sarah Rand. Finding those heirs seemed a near impossible task more than 150 years after the fact. In some ways, it felt like too much of an uphill climb to sell the rectory. So we continued with maintaining it as best we could, and renting it as a residential property. Various maintenance issues arose, including lead paint remediation and plumbing. A vast amount of volunteer hours and Vestry time went into maintaining Rand House.

Then, at the Annual Meeting in 2019, we brought discussion on the matter to the parish. The answer was clear: pursue selling. At about the same time, we

received an offer to buy a small parcel of land abutting a neighbor on Monroe Street. We decided to pursue both transactions, and thus 2019 became a year of research, contractors, and slow movement towards rightsizing our property. One additional building issue came into focus: the garage.

We received the garage as part of a property gift in the early part of the 20th century. Originally a house stood in front of the garage, which was torn down to make the parking lot. The garage remained, and over the years it became increasingly unstable. An engineer's report in late 2019 said the garage was too unstable to occupy. It would need to come down. We began pursuing options for removal of the garage and installation of a small shed as replacement. Thus dawned 2020, along with the final stages of selling and reconfiguring our property. We were tired from the process, but we could see the finish line. We could also see that the cash from the sale and the freedom from having to constantly care for the house would give us opportunities to focus elsewhere.

In late January, we held Celebration Sunday; a time to name and commemorate all that we had done in the parish, and to focus ourselves on stewardship of our future. With large sheets of butcher paper on the walls, we *(continued)*



noted everything from Silver Spoons luncheons to new electrical and gas lines to the Parish House. We took the time to mark and name all that made St. John's special. We thanked God, and we rolled out the areas for ministry emphasis in 2020, including a renewed focus on community outreach.

**Less than 6 weeks later it all shifted, almost overnight. On March 8, we held our last in-person service during the first lockdown, due to the growing threat of the Corona virus.**

To move from worship and parish life within our buildings to a life of community via telephone and online meeting took momentous effort. Many of us had never heard of platforms like Zoom before. We needed to figure out how to connect, and how to keep those connections going. The technology was one thing. It took real emotional work and dedication to learn a new approach during that time of great fear and uncertainty. We had no idea how long it would last, or how much it would require of us. We had to rethink all of what we did, what it meant to worship while not being in the building and how we do music. We had to think about what is heard, and seen, and who says it, and how to ensure it all worked. We also had to consider life without the Eucharist, which is so fundamental to our life in Christ.

Though we did not know it at the time (how could we?), the discernment and work required to get ourselves together as a virtual worshipping community changed us fundamentally. We were, in a sense, reborn. The buildings, which had been our focus for so very long, became much less important. We were told not to gather, not to be in the space. God (and we) had left the building.

St. John's was incorporated as a parish in 1840. We built our first building in 1842.

St. John's as a community was reborn, and rededicated in 2020. That may sound like hyperbole, but it's not. We are fundamentally different now. Consider the following:

- People who were separated from us due to health concerns now join us from the comfort of their homes.
- People who were apart geographically now participate from anywhere.
- We now have a different window into each other's lives, seeing one another at home.
- We also see each other's families and pets.
- We see each other's names on the screen, and we learn those names.
- New voices are reading, and singing, and playing instruments.
- New pieces of music are part of our liturgy.
- We are rethinking our prayers and our prayer life and incorporating new prayer resources.
- We are connecting through the Coffee Hour, learning more, and laughing more.

To that last point, one of the key developments in 2020 was our new Care Team, who provided greeting cards, muffins, phone calls, Christmas cards, birthday greetings and other moments of support throughout the parish. Perhaps the best thing about the Care Team is that it is entirely driven by lay people. So often in a parish our size, all activities are driven from the Rector's desk. That the Care Team started, gained momentum and has done such amazing ministry is a testament to this parish's ability to innovate, experiment and "go big." What an amazing blessing! *(continued)*





Another key point from the above list is our music ministry. Again, entirely lay-driven, our music ministry has morphed from a choir that practiced on Sundays before the service to a wide array of musicians and musical talents playing live and recorded music. None of this could occur without the amazing talent and dedication of John Richards. His leadership through a maze of recording impediments, copyright compliance issues, musical selection, and the hundreds of hours of recording, editing, and mixing gave us some of the most gorgeous, complex music our parish has ever known. Further, we are blessed to have musicians such as Peter Baillargeon, Allan Shafer, Jan Metcalf, Pat Culver, Ray and Eileen Locke, and Gloria Loomis playing live for us on occasion. All of these efforts helped to elevate the quality and sacredness of our communal worship and common prayer.

Speaking of common prayer, I must mention Holy Week and Easter. We prepared packages for each household. We thought carefully about how to reflect and relay the solemnity of those seven days through online worship. We also gave special attention to Easter and the idea of resurrection when the virus was sweeping through us in our first big wave. And then it happened...I came down with COVID and could not lead worship. Our wardens, Allene and John, stepped up to lead, and Bishop Prince Singh provided a pre-recorded sermon. The people came together, and it was an amazing celebration of new life in the risen Christ.



So too, with Christmas. How would we celebrate Christmas if we couldn't see each other, smell the greens, or sit shoulder to shoulder with our candles during "Silent Night?" We focused instead on the relationships. We gave nativity sets to the children in the parish. We wove videos of Brandon Shafer, Mary Lamphier, Josie Meza and Shelly Shellman, Lucas Smith, MacKenna Sequeira, John Roberts, and the family of Bran Knowles together to show near and far, younger and older, all beloved voices of our community. We told the story of Christ's incarnation by seeing each other and praying together. And we capped it off with a 21-track version of Night of Silence and Silent Night, using candles that we delivered to every member's home in the Rochester area. We are community. We are Christ's own.



St. John's is no longer a church exclusively anchored to buildings behind the Honeoye Falls Post Office. Neither are we defined by those who have gathered in person with us over so many years. Now that we stream our services on Facebook, people who have never set foot on our campus hear us and worship with us, and find God speaking through our message. That is truly sharing the Good News with the world!

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## St. John's Engaged the Community in 2020

Last year we grew in our commitment to, and engagement with the community. Among other things:

- We gave financial assistance to families struggling with rent, utilities, food and gas money.
- We provided funding and furniture to families that lost their housing when the Four Seasons Chinese restaurant burned.
- We made masks and distributed them to the parish and the local Honeoye Falls pandemic group.
- We donated food and money to the FISH Food Cupboard.
- We donated food and warm clothing to the Veteran's Outreach Center.
- We provided discounted haircuts in partnership with Lupinetti's Hair Styling.
- We provided a parade to the quarantined residents of Pinehurst, cheering them on and sharing love.
- We held an election night Spaghetti Supper, giving meals away to anyone who voted.
- We provided technical support for online worship to several parishes around the Diocese.
- We gave over 100 bars of soap to A Meal and More soup kitchen in Rochester.
- We caroled at Pinehurst and around Honeoye Falls.

2020 was not just the year of the pandemic. We also faced significant unrest and concern about race matters, and increasing political tensions related to the presidential campaign. The events of 2020 put stress on communities, households, and individual relationships. Members of St. John's participated in demonstrations, in education, in conversations, and in prayer. We read books to help us understand both the history of discrimination and our own role in it. We looked for ways to understand ourselves and each other. We asked God for presence among us. We prayed for peace.



In the summer, the pandemic slowed enough to allow us back into the buildings. It was not just a matter of turning the key and flipping on the lights. We gave serious consideration to being together while keeping everyone safe. Hand sanitizer, masks, contact tracing, camera placement, and the process for distributing Communion all rose up as key considerations. For about 12 weeks, we worshipped together in a hybrid fashion, with some at home and some in the church. During each of those weeks, we celebrated Holy Eucharist, and I consecrated wine, but we did not consume it. We reserved that wine in the aumbry, adding a little more to the flagon of reserved sacrament each week. Ultimately, though, we needed to go back to only online worship. I want you to remember that the wine remains in the aumbry. Some day—and I hope it is not too far off—we will return to in-person (hybrid) worship, and the Blood of Christ will be there to welcome us home.

Despite all the tumult and change, 2020 had significant moments of joy too. Four families had weddings: Emily Hurley and Robin Shook, Erin and Elliott Goodness, Kaelin Richards and Phil Allmendinger, and Sarah Shafer and Mike Wert. We baptized Hadley and Madison Schafer. We welcomed new members, and we saw some people return. Some of us got new pets. Some welcomed new grandchildren. We continued (virtual) involvement with the College for Congregational Development. We tended the gardens at St. Johns and cared for the local cats. We even held our first Fall Flea and Fun, the Election Night Spaghetti Supper, and a successful plant sale. And through it all, we thanked God.

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The Vestry: Andy Smith, Mary Jo Smith, Mark Donahoe, Gina Hurley, Michelle Laraby, and Glora Ulrop were attentive, engaged, and brought incredible transparency and thoughtfulness to leading our parish. So many thanks!

To our Treasurer—Will Ingle, ably assisted (and guided) by Jane Jobe. Thank you so much for your attention to detail and keeping us financially on track.

Locke, Brandon Shafer, Allan Shafer, Pat Culver, Jan Metcalf, Gaie Goodness, Cyndy Lamphier, Mary Lamphier, Neil Houghton, Gina Hurley, Lucas Smith, Kaelin Richards, John Richards, Allene Baillargeon, Peter Baillargeon, Valerie Schillinger, Judy Haravitch, Maggie Gibbons, and John Rutkowski. Special thanks go out to our beloved guest artist, Tara Switzer.

To Ray Locke, for arranging the flower ministry and making Christmas so beautiful and Bev Smith for keeping the Altar Guild and sacristy organized.

To our gardeners: Valerie Schillinger and Pat Culver (who also feeds the cats). To Mark Donahoe, Will Ingle, Don Terry, Pat Donahoe, Deb Donahoe and Irene Terry for tending our property and getting that new shed in place.

To those who spearhead our ministry in the community: Our mask makers Ray Locke and Deb Donahoe. Veterans Outreach Liaison, John Rutkowski. And Spaghetti chefs Audet Price and Allan Shafer.

To our Audit Team: Allan Shafer and Andy Smith. To our Convention Delegates: Gaie Goodness and Allene Baillargeon.

And to everyone who prayed, who participated, who donated, who brought a friend, who asked a question, who welcomed another. **THANK YOU.**

May God bless you, and bless all of us.  
Virginia+

# JILL LLOYD NAMED CLERK OF VESTRY



At the January Vestry meeting, we elected Jill Lloyd as the new clerk. Jill has been with St. John's as Parish Administrator since August 2018. As clerk, she will have formal responsibility for vestry minutes, all vestry records, and all parish records. The Clerk is a vital part of the parish, and we are grateful to have Jill take on these additional responsibilities. Jill is excited to be expanding her role at St. John's.

## ALTAR GUILD CHANGES GUARD

Altar Guild is one of those vital ministries that looks seamless, and takes a tremendous amount of work. It requires planning for the holidays, ensuring the linens are clean and ready, making sure silver is polished and supplies are ordered, etc. Many thanks to our Altar Guild, including Judy Haravitch, Anne Struele, Allene Baillargeon, Debbie Donahoe, Gloria Ulrop, Maggie Gibbons, and Bev Smith. After many, many years leading our Altar Guild, Bev Smith is retiring from the role. Thank you, Bev!

We are pleased to announce that Ray Locke has volunteered to lead the Altar Guild, in addition to coordination the Flower Ministry. Ray has a great professional background in the floral industry, and will be able to weave that experience into the set up of our liturgies once we are back to in-person worship. Thank you, Ray!

### *The Slate*

#### **Nominees for Vestry:**

John Richards - Warden

Allan Shafer - Warden

Jan Metcalf - Vestry

Shelly Shellman - Vestry

2 Individuals to be Nominated

#### **Nominees for Convention Delegates:**

Gaie Goodness

Mark Donahoe

Alternate to be Nominated

#### **Nominees for Audit Committee:**

Allan Shafer

Andy Smith

Robb Young

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### JOHN RICHARDS-CANDIDATE FOR WARDEN

John joined St. John's about 8 years ago after returning from Scotland (where he was Music Director at St. Margaret's in Dundee). He says "I was hoping to find a church that was warm and inclusive, spiritually rich, and blessed with a vibrant music program. I found all that here." In addition to volunteering as Music Director and "Tech Team", John served as a Warden in 2019 and (after being granted a "bonus year") 2020. He looks forward to a year without property transfers, and at least a partial regathering in our beloved church where hybrid in-person, Zoom, and Facebook worship can resume.



# MEET THE CANDIDATES CONTINUED

## **ALLAN SHAFER- CANDIDATE FOR WARDEN**

Allan and his family joined St John's 14 years ago after returning to the area from Syracuse. He has served on Vestry, as warden, and lead the search and audit committees during that time. Aside from singing in the choir and playing trumpet during special services, you can find him helping in other parts of the services and typically in the kitchen during our dinner fundraising events. Allan and his wife, Deborah, have 22 year old triplets and live in the town of Mendon. He works at Carestream, a global manufacturer of medical imaging equipment headquartered in Rochester.



## **JAN METCALF-CANDIDATE FOR VESTRY**

Jan, and her partner Pat, moved to Honeoye Falls in 2018. They had been members of St. Luke's in Fairport, where Jan sang in the choir, was a reader and lay eucharistic visitor, and organized money counting. Before that they attended St. Mark's and St. John's in Rochester, where Jan sang in the choir, was a lay eucharistic minister, and served one term on Vestry during a rather difficult time at that church. Jan was raised in Connecticut in the New England Congregationalist tradition but was confirmed in the Episcopal Church by Bishop McKelvey while at St. Mark's and St. John's. Jan considers St. John's Honeoye Falls to be her church family and is hoping for the opportunity to participate on Vestry at St. John's.



## **MARY ANN (SHELLY) SHELLMAN - CANDIDATE FOR VESTRY**

Shelly was raised locally and graduated from Honeoye Falls High school in 1960. After a stint in the Army, she moved to Columbus where she was a pioneer in computer operations. From there she moved to LA, and then on to her present home in Tucson. Shelly had an active career in residential real estate before retiring in 2009. She and her partner, Josie Meza, split their time between Tucson and their summer home in West Bloomfield. Shelly was a very active volunteer in her former church, and she is active with us for online worship and in-person activities when in town. She has a wide array of family, all of whom live in the Honeoye Falls area.





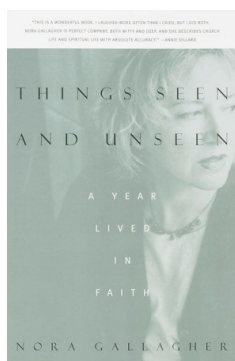
## JANUARY & FEBRUARY READERS

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	New Testament	Prayers
1/3	Mary Jo Smith	Gina Hurley	Valerie Schillinger	John Rutkowski
1/10	Eileen Locke	Jan Metcalf	Allan Shafer	Kaelin Richards
1/17	Catherine Faurot	Judy Haravitch	Valerie Schillinger	Jan Metcalf
1/24	Jan Metcalf	Gina Hurley	Eileen Locke	Kaelin Richards
1/31	Allan Shafer	Allene Baillargeon	Mary Jo Smith	Ray Locke
2/7	Mary Jo Smith	Gina Hurley	Valerie Schillinger	John Rutkowski
2/14	Eileen Locke	Jan Metcalf	Allan Shafer	Kaelin Richards
2/21	Catherine Faurot	Judy Haravitch	Valerie Schillinger	Jan Metcalf
2/28	Jan Metcalf	Gina Hurley	Eileen Locke	Kaelin Richards

**KEEP OUR  
VETERANS  
WARM!**

We continue to gather gently-used coats and warm clothing for male and female clients of the Veteran's Outreach Center. Please call the office at 624-4074 to arrange a drop off, or to have us come pick up from you!

**HAVE YOU  
CHECKED IN  
WITH YOUR  
EpiscoPal?**  
PRAY FOR THEM  
SEND A CARD



## ST. JOHN'S READS

Nora Gallagher's book *Things Seen and Unseen* braids together the symbols of the Christian calendar, the events of a year in one church, and her own spiritual journey, each strand combed out with harrowing intimacy. Thought provoking and profoundly perceptive, *Things Seen and Unseen* is a remarkable demonstration that "the road to the sacred is paved with the ordinary." Join us for the discussion on Sunday, January 24, after the virtual Coffee Hour.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

*Health and well-being:*

Theresa, Turi, John, Keith, Renee, Elaine, Sarah, Roger, Josie, Paul, Julie, George, Nick, Becky, Anthony, Maria, Chris, Chelsea Patricia, and Stephen, Tom, Rich and David

*For those who have died:*

Hazel, Allen, Theresa, Ronnie and David

# JANUARY

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



3 2 Christmas	4	5 11 am Bible Study	6 6 pm Evening Prayer	7	8	9
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10 Epiphany 1	11	12 11 am Bible Study  7 pm Vestry	13 6 pm Evening Prayer	14	15	16
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17 Epiphany 2	18	19 11 am Bible Study	20 6 pm Evening Prayer	21	22	23
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24 Epiphany 3  Book Group Discussion	25	26 11 am Bible Study	27 6 pm Evening Prayer	28	29	30
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31 Epiphany 4  <b>Annual Meeting</b>	<div><b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b> 1: Madelein Smith 8: Danielle Young &amp; Deborah Shafer 15: Eileen Locke 17: Peter O'Brien 19: Patrick Donahoe 26: Mary Jo Smith</div> <div><b>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</b> 1: Robb &amp; Anna Young 14: Tim Pullis &amp; Julie Walker</div>				
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# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <b>11 am</b> Bible Study	3 <b>6 pm</b> Evening Prayer	4	5	6
7 Epiphany 5	8	9 <b>11 am</b> Bible Study	10 <b>6 pm</b> Evening Prayer	11	12	13
14 Epiphany 6 	15	16 <b>Mardi Gras</b> <b>11 am</b> Bible Study 	17 Ash <b>Wednesday</b> <b>6 pm</b> Evening Prayer	18	19	20
21 Lent 1	22	23 <b>11 am</b> Bible Study	24 <b>6 pm</b> Evening Prayer	25	26	27
28 Lent 2	<b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b> 3: Tim Pullis 4: Will Conwell 10: Joseph Lochner 14: Lizzie Goodness, Bill Hurley & Anne Streule 20: Elliott Goodness 21: Yeates Conwell 22: Barb O'Brien 23: Gaie Goodness & Robb Young 26: Mark Stiegler 27: Deb Donahoe 28: Cyndy Lamphier					

# THANK YOU TO RETIRING WARDEN, VESTRY, AND CLERK

Many thanks and blessings to the following  
people, whose terms of service are ending:

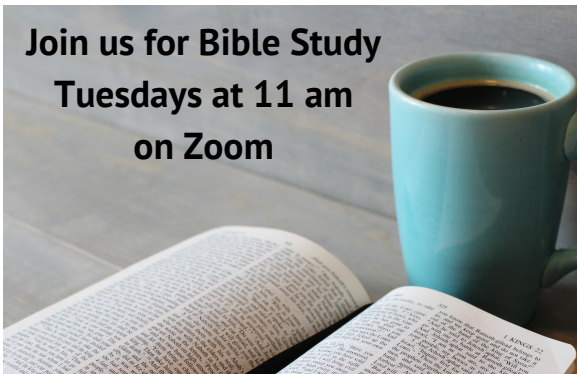
Allene Baillargeon, warden  
Andy Smith, Vestry at large  
Gina Hurley, Vestry at large  
Gloria Ulrop, Vestry at large  
Jane Ingle, Clerk

*For your time, your  
patience, your wisdom and  
your dedication. Thank you!*



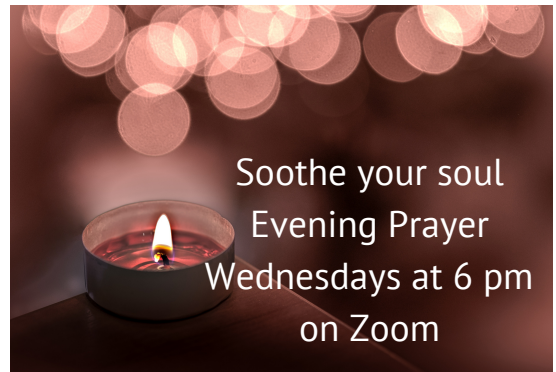
## *What do the Sunday Readings Mean?*

**Join us for Bible Study  
Tuesdays at 11 am  
on Zoom**



## *Midweek Connection*

**Soothe your soul  
Evening Prayer  
Wednesdays at 6 pm  
on Zoom**



## ST. JOHN'S HONEOYE FALLS NEWS

The Right Rev. Prince G. Singh, Bishop

The Very Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith, Rector  
11 Episcopal Avenue  
Honeoye Falls, NY 14472  
[www.stjohnshoneoyefalls.org](http://www.stjohnshoneoyefalls.org)  
[Info@stjohnshoneoyefalls.org](mailto:Info@stjohnshoneoyefalls.org)  
585-624-4074



The 2020 Annual Meeting  
Minutes, the Financial  
Statements and the Proposed  
Budget will be posted to the  
St. John's website a week  
before the Annual Meeting.

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