

The Annual Meeting  
*of*  
Saint Bernard's  
Episcopal Church



BERNARDSVILLE, NEW JERSEY

Sunday, January 28, 2018

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## Today's Agenda

Opening Hymn 791 *Peace before us* (See Hymn Sheet)

Call to Order

Last year's Annual Meeting Minutes for Approval (see p. 4)

Vote to allow additional one-year term Wardens

Opening of Polls

Nominations

- a. Wardens and Vestry
- b. Deputies to 2018 Diocesan Convention
- c. Delegates to 2018 Watchung Convocation

Ballot

Reports

- a. Priest-in-charge Report (*The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino*)
- b. Wardens' Report (*Mary Jane Canose and Julia Somers*)
- c. Finance Committee Presentation (*Mike Bickford*)
- d. Spotlight: SHOA/YMCA Homework Help and Academic Support Program

Declaration of Election

Introductions

- a. Vestry (*continuing*)
- b. New Vestry members

New Business

Benediction (*The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino*)

## **✦St. Bernard's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting Minutes, January 29, 2017**

The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino called the meeting to order and led the congregation in Opening Prayer.

Minutes were approved from the January 31, 2016 Annual Meeting.

Election Ballots were distributed. There were no nominations from the floor.

### Wardens & Vestry

- Warden – Julia Somers (1 year term)
- Vestry – Tom Brooks and Michael Myers (3 year term)

### Office of Deputy to convention

- Deputies: Sue Smith, John Smith and Mary Jane Canose
- Alternate: Daniel Somers

### Office of Delegate to the Watchung Convocation

- Gregory Canose & Mary Jane Canose

### Reports

- Priest in Charge Report –The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino
  - Special thanks given to staff members Allison Davidson & David Dockery as well as John Smith, Steve Galpin, Mike Bickford & The Blue Sky Committee
  - Update on Parish House Project
- Warden's Reports – Mary Jane Canose & Julia Somers
- Finance Committee Presentation– Mike Bickford
- Cemetery Status Update – John Smith

Declaration of Election – All nominees were elected unanimously

Introduction of All continuing Vestry members – Jack Fritts, Jeri Minter, Carol Anne Pagana, Libby Galpin, Valerie McEntee, Carmen Paul, Mindy Kirby, Mike Bickford, Leslie Curialle and Denise Thomas.

Introduction of New Vestry Members – Tom Brooks and Michael Myers

Benediction – The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeri Minter, Clerk



## Saint Bernard's Church

### Annual Report

#### ✦ Annual Report of the Priest-in-Charge *The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino*

Each Advent, we began a new church year. At the end of 2017, we entered into Year B, a year where most of our Gospel readings come from the Gospel of Mark. While in seminary at Drew Theological School, during a course on the Gospel of Mark, I remember being struck by a particular detail, seemingly for the first time. It was in the directions given by the divine messenger to Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, and Salome at Jesus' empty tomb. The women hear that Jesus is not in the tomb, Jesus has been raised. Then the women are instructed to tell their companion disciples "that [Jesus] is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you" (16:7). A light bulb went on in my head. As Mark tells it, after the violence of the crucifixion and the mystery of God's resurrection of Jesus, the disciples and Jesus had a meeting place. Not just any meeting place, but Galilee, that backwater region where God's love broke into the world in the form of Jesus and his ministry. Jesus who gathered up ordinary people into a movement of welcome, love, humble service, and restoration of relationships. Jesus meets his disciples back in Galilee to encourage them to continue God's mission to spread and share God's love. Jesus does not want them to give up or accept the status quo of oppression and violence. Death is not the end, and rebirth – resurrection – calls us forward again and again.

The people of St. Bernard's embody our risen Jesus Christ's perseverance and hope that generations of Christians will keep sharing God's love and building up communities in love. All of us, who together make up St. Bernard's, have individual gifts and talents. And yet, it is the very act of coming together – for worship, service for others, and fellowship – that often inspires us to live out God's love in the world beyond our walls, as a parish and individually.

Your capacity for creative thinking and vision has allowed us to engage in the Parish House Condo Project with Nat Conti and NGC Development. Your presence at the thirteen Board of Adjustment meetings last year was a visible display of support for this parish and its future. Pending any appeal, we hope to be in a new Parish House by the fall of 2018, which will better support our outreach and fellowship. I'd like to extend deep thanks to Lorraine Hunt Kopacz for all her efforts on this project, Jack Fritts for his legal wisdom and leadership, and the Blue Sky Committee and its chair, Mike Bickford, whose work in 2014 and 2015 prepared us to trust and dream in new directions.

Your continued engagement and enthusiasm for the many ways in which we serve others, here in Bernardsville and beyond, lives into Jesus' hope that God's love will continue to blossom. As you read the reports, you'll learn more about the wonderful ways in which we give back to God and to our neighbors. Thank you for all of the volunteer time and talent which has nurtured children, vegetables, and more this past year.

I am deeply grateful to have the honor and privilege of serving alongside such dedicated and generous lay leaders, parishioners, and staff, as are found at St. Bernard's. Many thanks to our Wardens, Mary Jane Canose and Julia Somers, our outgoing Treasurer, Mike Bickford, and the rest of our Vestry: Jeri Minter (Clerk), Thomas Brooks, Leslie Curialle, Jack Fritts, Libby Galpin, Mindy Kirby, Valerie McEntee, Michael Myers, Carol Anne Pagana, Carmen Paul, and Denise Thomas. We are pleased that Mindy Kirby has agreed to become our next Treasurer. In November, the Vestry voted to call me as rector, a move that provides tenure in contrast to my current three-year contract. We await our opportunity to meet with the bishop to see if this is possible. My current contract ends in November, but whether I am approved as rector or remain as priest-in-charge, I am very much committed to serve St. Bernard's beyond 2018.

We all extend our thanks to John Smith for his hard work as our volunteer Cemetery manager and to Steve Galpin for his willingness to be our volunteer handyman and building manager. Many thanks to our Parish Administrator, Alison Davidson, who persevered despite breaking her leg over the summer, managing to work from home while recovering and learning to walk again. Deep thanks to David Dockery, our music director and organist, for his beautiful organ music and his work with our amazing Choir. Thank you to our Choir for the gift of their musical leadership. For so many in the parish, our Anglican music roots us in God, nourishes our souls, and binds us as a community. Our Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Chalicists, Lectors, Ushers, and Acolytes are central to helping us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Thank you!

Here we are in Galilee, working alongside Jesus Christ and living as his hands, feet, and heart in the world. We have the blessing of being God's co-workers, shaping the world into God's vision of a community in which all are loved. Thank you for who you are and all you give.



The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino,  
Priest-in-Charge

## ***Church Operations***

### **★ Wardens' Report**     *Mary Jane Canose, Julia Somers*

For St. Bernard's Church, 2017 was an exciting and challenging year. At the forefront was the creative and generous proposal by Nat Conti to subdivide the church property, renovate the Parish House into luxury condominiums and construct a new parish house for the congregation. The plans were submitted to the Bernardsville Board of Adjustment in January and hearings began in March. We are grateful to Pastor Beth and all of you who contributed your time to maintain our positive presence at these meetings. It was a stressful and long process, but we endured and finally received approval on December 20. If there are no appeals filed by February 5, construction should begin in the Spring. Please continue to pray!

Fellowship this year flourished with a Dusk in the Narthex and a Family Game Night in February. Maundy Thursday we came together after the service with an Agape Supper. In May, we celebrated the Blessing of God's Giving Garden with a joint coffee hour at Ross Farm and in June we participated in the parade to recognize the Basking Ridge Presbyterian Church's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In November we enjoyed a Storytelling/Dusk in the Narthex and a festive Christmas Dusk in the Narthex brought us together again in December (thanks to Denise and Chris Thomas for organizing). We were once again blessed to have Jim Hicks, a talented musician with many gifted friends, perform at several Celtic Worship services and present concerts to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Outreach continued to be a top priority for our parishioners who gave so much of their time and talent to serving the needs of our community. With Cathy Ferrara's enthusiasm and guidance, God's Giving Garden's bountiful harvest produced 2,000 pounds of food for the county food bank and local food pantry. St. Bernard's parishioners collected food and clothing and served lunch once a month at Grace's Kitchen in Plainfield. The tutoring lab continues to grow, providing educational opportunities for at-risk students, the Prayer Shawl Ministry continues its good work, and we support the Somerset County Food Bank Feeding America Backpack program and semi-annual ham and turkey collection. Please take the time to read each outreach group's report to see how much good is being done and if you don't already participate, we hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to be of service.

While we are still struggling with a financial deficit, we are making progress in a positive direction. The negotiations to sell the cemetery have stalled, but over the past two years, the cemetery has been profitable so the need to

sell has lessened. And when the Conti project gets underway, we will be relieved of the high costs of repairing and maintaining the Parish House. Many thanks to our retiring Treasurer, Mike Bickford, for his tireless commitment to the church's finances.

We are grateful to our committed and talented staff members, David Dockery and Alison Davidson, and to all the devoted people at St. Bernard's who continue to support and bless this wonderful parish community. Once again, we are extremely grateful to John Smith, who has been acting as our Cemetery Manager, and Steve Galpin, who has taken a hands-on approach to maintaining our buildings and grounds.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your wardens in 2017. It is our hope and prayer that the New Year will continue to bring blessings and opportunities for all of you and the communities you serve.

### ✦ **Music Ministry** *Dave Dockery*

The Music Program at St. Bernard's has enjoyed a successful year. The choir's annual fundraising campaign will take place in February 2018. Any shortfall will come from the general fund. Donations are always welcome and in expectation of the 2018-2019 season.

I would like to thank this year's choir members for their dedication and hard work: Leslie Curialle, Ben Ferrara, Jim Ferrara, Samantha Ferrara, Brett Gray, Pam Hull, Taylor Hwong, Julia Kornick, Debi Kurisko, John Lucado, Valerie McEntee, Michael Myers, John Smith, and Julia Somers.

Our music program -- with its high-quality vested choir -- is one of the most important assets that distinguishes St. Bernard's from other churches in the surrounding community. Our choir greatly enhances our worship and helps to attract new members. Music also refreshes our souls and inspires us to carry out the church's mission.

Thank you to everyone for your support in this important ministry!

### ✦ **Children's Choir** *The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino*

This past year, the parish held one six-week session of a Children's Choir led by Samantha Ferrara. At the end of the session the Children's Choir sang the Anthem during our worship service. Many thanks to Samantha for sharing her knowledge and love of church music with our young singers. We look forward to having more opportunities for the Children's Choir in 2018.

### ✦ **Celtic Worship** *The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino*

St. Bernard's Church began offering Celtic Worship, an evening Christian service of Celtic theology and music, in Oct. 2016. We are grateful for the musical generosity and leadership of Jim Hicks and his talented musician friends, particularly Deborah Fallon and Scott Gothe. In 2017, we continued offering this opportunity to connect with the holiness of God in January, March, May, and June, for parishioners and the broader community. In order to reach a wider breadth of people interested in Celtic Worship, St. Bernard's partnered in the 2017-2018 program year with two neighboring Episcopal churches, All Saints', Millington, and St. Mark's, Mendham. St. Bernard's hosted A Celtic Christmas Concert in December, a part of Jim Hicks' fundraising campaign for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The following day, All Saints', Millington, hosted the evening Celtic Worship. We hope you will join us for 5 pm Celtic Worship on Sunday, March 18, at St. Mark's, Mendham, and on Sunday, May 20, at St. Bernard's. Come rest and be renewed in the beauty of holiness, reminded by God's presence within all creation. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you.

## ✦ **Saint Bernard's Cemetery** *John Smith*

For 2017 the cemetery had 4 lot sales, 6 burials and 7 foundation installations.

## ✦ **Saint Bernard's Cemetery - Sale** *John Smith*

Based on the New Jersey State Cemetery Board regulations, one cemetery is not allowed to "purchase" another cemetery. They are required to "merge". Under those terms, Evergreen Cemetery is no longer interested in pursuing the matter with St. Bernard's. Throughout 2017 there were ongoing negotiations with representatives of Cemetery Development Company, regarding a possible deal involving loans and operating agreements. Unfortunately, the year saw them continually reduce their proposed financial offer to St. Bernard's. Their last offer was ultimately rejected by the Wardens and Vestry of St. Bernard's. At this time, it appears as if negotiations have terminated.

## ✦ **Buildings & Grounds** *Steve Galpin Jr.*

Virtually all the projects and expenditures for our buildings in 2017 involved repairs and maintenance as we continued to manage 100-plus-year-old structures with constrained finances.

It's been about 10 years since our Church was rebuilt following the 2004 fire, and things have started to need fixing. An inverter battery system, which powers emergency lighting and some outside lighting, failed in 2016 due to worn-out batteries, which were replaced in early 2017. We entered into a maintenance agreement with the firm A.J. Celiano for the Church's heating and cooling systems. In February 2017, they replaced one of the two boiler pumps for the heating system and in June replaced an outside air conditioning unit. When water began seeping into the choir room in June, a plumber was called in to replace a non-functioning sump pump.

The Parish House, destined to be restored once the Conti condo project can begin work, continued to reflect its age and need for major repairs. In December, a deteriorating pipe gave way in the boiler room and released about an inch or so of water, which was pumped out and the pipe repaired.

For our rental units, the only significant project involving the Rectory, other than replacing broken faucets in a bathroom, was the removal in December of an enormous oak tree whose root system had been compromised by fungus. The Township's annual inspection of the cemetery cottage flagged a number of issues, with the result that John Smith and Steve Galpin spent some time replacing faucets and a broken window and doing some painting.

While lawn mowing and snow removal at the Church and cemetery grounds are contracted out, we benefit greatly from volunteers who periodically spruce up the grounds and donate and plant attractive bushes and flowers. More volunteers and contributions are always welcome!

## ✦ **Ordination Process** *The Rev. Dan Somers, Deacon*

Since our 2017 annual meeting, much has changed regarding my discernment process. I have now been ordained as a transitional deacon with a view to ordination as a priest within the Church this spring. Pastor Beth has been instrumental, as was Rev. Pamela Bakal at Grace Church in Nutley, in seeing me through the process. I graduated from Drew in May and after taking a course at General Theological Seminary in New York on liturgics, my formal academic preparation has concluded. Until I am called to minister to a parish, I am serving as supply clergy within the Diocese.

As part of my ongoing ministries, I am conducting bible study with inmates at Northern State Prison in Newark. I continue to visit with immigrant detainees at the Elizabeth Detention Center and serve on both the Newark and New Jersey Dioceses' prison ministry committees, as well as a statewide joint Lutheran and Episcopal social justice advocacy group created by Bishop Stokes, Bishop Beckwith of the Newark Diocese, and the Bishop of the New Jersey Lutheran Synod. We're holding workshops on various social justice issues next month and in March that I encourage you to attend.



I would like to take this opportunity again to thank the parish for its support in this endeavor and for its generous contributions to First Friends’ “Stamp Out Despair” campaign for immigrant detainees and to diocesan programs to provide school supplies and Christmas presents for the children of parents incarcerated in the Essex and Hudson County jails.

## ✦ **Stewardship** *Julia Somers*

Stewardship begins with our joyfully returning a portion of our blessings for the benefit of God’s work in this world. It’s how we support His church and help our neighbors in need. Thank you so much to the congregants who shared their stories with the everyone in October and November about what St. Bernard’ s Church means to them and why they support it.

The trends below illustrate the financial challenges facing our Wardens and Vestry.

	2008	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
# of Pledges	80	52	47	43	42	42	40
Amt. Pledged	168,688	133,476	144,296	125,748	116,834	111,000	109,942
Total Pledge/plate	205,157	182,089	162,800	138,960	133,582	126,000	137,767

If you haven’t yet pledged for 2018, please join us as we strive to serve God and our neighbors in the Somerset Hills. Please reach to help us meet our goals and aspirations.

## **Christian Formation**

### ✦ **Adult Education** *The Rev. Beth Rauén Sciaino*

In winter and spring 2017, our St. Benedict’s Toolbox small group continued to learn and practice Benedictine spirituality, using the Rev. Jane Tomaine’s book, *St. Benedict’s Toolbox: the Nuts and Bolts of Everyday Benedictine Living*.

In Lent 2017, we held an adult education series on the History of the Episcopal Church in America. Topics covered included the Church of England in the colonies, the development of the Episcopal Church after the American Revolution, a range of 19<sup>th</sup> century movements within the Episcopal Church, and 20<sup>th</sup> century developments, including women’s ordination.

In the spring, Pastor Beth held two classes on the history and content of our stained glass windows, using information from our wonderful archives along with our beautiful windows.

In September, Pastor Beth began sharing the Gospel during worship from memory as a way of inviting all of us to hear sacred scripture anew.

In October, we welcomed guest preacher and celebrant, the Rev. Sara Lilja, executive director of Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry. Learn more about the wonderful work on this joint initiative of New Jersey Lutherans and Episcopalians online at [www.learnj.org](http://www.learnj.org). Sign up for the LEAM Weekly Witness email at [www.learnj.org/weekly-witness](http://www.learnj.org/weekly-witness).

The parish also has a subscription to Church Next, which provides online classes which can be taken individually or as a group. One of the classes has been used as a component of baptism preparation. Classes are open to any interested parishioner. You can look at offerings online at [www.churchnext.tv](http://www.churchnext.tv). Please speak with Pastor Beth if you are interested in taking individual classes, so she can sign you up through St. Bernard's Online School. We hope that going forward we can purchase equipment to allow us to hold group classes (with brief videos and our own group discussion).

In the fall of 2017, Pastor Beth began holding Confirmation Class with six 8<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> graders to prepare them for Confirmation. In addition to classes, youth are assisting with worship in roles such as usher, acolyte, and lector. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Chip Stokes in April for this celebratory rite of passage into adulthood in the life of the Church.

Looking ahead in 2018, parishioners and visitors have the opportunity for a discussion class on Being Episcopalian in 21<sup>st</sup> Century on Feb. 4, 18; and March 4, 18, to be held in church from 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. This discussion class welcomes longtime Episcopalians to newcomers. If you are interested in being Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church this class will provide preparation for that event in April, or at a future date.

### ✦ **Bible Storytime** *The Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino*

Our Bible Storytime offering for children continued in winter and spring 2017. Children had the opportunity to hear and engage with a Bible story in the comfort of the Narthex during the sermon until the Peace. Responses to the Bible story include activities such as drawing pictures, learning sign language, or playing with Legos (donated and purchased by generous parishioners).

During Advent 2017, we provided a table in the children's area by the Baptistry so that kids could color beautiful Advent posters from Illustrated Children's Ministries, which captured the Biblical themes and texts of the season. These posters were displayed in church, and now in the Narthex. We have ordered the Lenten set of posters for 2018, which are on the Psalms. Adults and youth are welcome to help our children color in the messages of these holy seasons.

## **Outreach Reports**

### ✦ **Education & Outreach Committee** *Sue Smith*

The Education and Outreach Committee is concerned with adult education and outreach opportunities to serve the parish and people in our larger community. There is also a consortium of parishioners from the Conover Churches, who are engaged in servicing the larger Bernardsville Community. They had another successful year working a community garden. The ton of produce from the gardens was dispersed to God's Co-op Pantry for people living in our community and Somerset County Food Bank. The Church will continue to be open during office hours, Tuesday through Thursday, for private prayer.

The 2017 Outreach conducted by St. Bernard's, in addition to other programs described in the report, included collecting food for the Somerset County Back Pack program led by Mike Bickford, the coat collection for Grace's Kitchen, the collection of Thanksgiving and Easter Turkeys and Hams by Mindy Kirby for the Somerset Community Food Bank, Cindy McWilliams's Ministry to Guatemala, and the collection of stamps, telephone cards and stationary for prisoners and immigrants held in detention led by Dan Somers.

Members of the committee were the Rev. Beth Rauen Sciaino, Jane Brooks, Elisabeth Fraser, Pam Hull, Mindy Kirby, Cindy McWilliams, Sandy McWilliams, Carol Anne Pagano, Sue Smith and John Smith. If you have any interest in joining the committee or helping on projects, please contact Sue Smith at 908-953-0301 and stay tune for more exciting, fun programs during the year.

## ✦ **Grace's Kitchen** *John Smith*

St. Bernard's Church participates in the operation of a soup kitchen in Plainfield, known as Grace's Kitchen. The soup kitchen is open the last five days of every month, except Sundays, to provide a noon meal to the homeless and poor. Our day of service is always on a Saturday. We arrive at Grace Church, 600 Cleveland Avenue, at 10 AM. We begin by preparing salads, vegetables, fruit, bread, deserts and drinks. The staff at the soup kitchen normally cooks a hot meal, including entrees of beef, turkey, etc. Our volunteers serve the meal from 11:30 AM to 1 PM and then clean up the kitchen. We are normally finished by 2 PM.

During 2017 volunteers from St. Bernard's served more than 1,000 meals. Surveys have shown that approximately 30% of the patrons who come to Grace's Kitchen are truly homeless, living on the streets of Plainfield. Four hours of helping at the soup kitchen is a very rewarding way to spend a part of your Saturday. It's a great educational experience for our children and an opportunity to achieve Community Service goals. Please join your fellow St. Bernard's parishioners in this outreach effort. Contact John Smith at 908.953.0301 or email him at [jpsmith100@verizon.net](mailto:jpsmith100@verizon.net) and follow Christ's call to feed the hungry.

## ✦ **Food Drive for Grace's Kitchen** *Greg Canose*

On Dec. 9, 2017, 15 brave souls from St. Bernard's stood in the snow and cold air and collected over one ton of non-perishable food from generous donors at ShopRite of Bernardsville. On Dec. 28, members of the church sorted and packed 190 tote bags to be distributed to our needy friends. On Dec. 30, the bags were distributed to the lunch guests at Grace's Kitchen in Plainfield and several hundred pounds of food were donated to the kitchen for future meal preparation.

We are happy to say that approximately 25 tons of food have been collected and distributed by St. Bernard's parishioners in the past 17 years.

## ✦ **Somerset County Food Bank** *John Smith*

The Somerset County Food Bank is a collection and distribution point for canned food and staples. It provides assistance to the needy. You are encouraged to buy an extra can of vegetables, box of cereal, can of tuna, box of pasta, etc. (no glass jars or peanut butter) and drop them off in the Narthex or outside the parish office .

## ✦ **God's Giving Garden** *Cathy Ferrara*

2017 was an extremely productive year for God's Giving Garden! We met our goal of a 'ton' as our final number was 2112 pounds of fresh vegetables delivered to the Somerset County Food Bank and God's Co-op Pantry in Bernardsville. The people of St. Bernard's, St. Mark's, and St. John on the Mountain as well as the Boudinot Southard Ross Foundation and Community volunteers worked very hard to reach this goal.

This year saw the drainage and watering systems installed last fall pay off. No more flooded beds full of weeds and muck. All of our raised beds were productive, and we did a total of 3 different plantings to utilize the long growing season here in New Jersey. We are now planning for next year to maximize the vegetables that are most requested at the food banks.

Our focus is not on expansion at the moment but improving utilization of the beds that we currently have. The current Butterfly garden plants will be moved to the perimeter to allow that bed to be used for additional vegetable production. A set of composting bins and an updated shed were added to the grounds thanks to local Eagle Scouts, and much needed equipment was donated and purchased. Back to Nature continues to support our efforts by allowing us to fundraise at their location in the spring and we are grateful for their support.

St. Bernard's will continue to be responsible for the gardens on a rotational basis beginning in June. There will be a need for volunteers at the Ross Farm property from March through October. Thank you to all who continue to support this important ministry of St. Bernard's. I look forward to working with you all again in the spring!

## ✦ **8th Annual Clothing Drive** *The Rev. Beth Rauen Scaiano*

In October and November, parishioners of all ages reached out to friends and neighbors to encourage donations of winter coats and clothing to keep our friends at Grace's Kitchen in Plainfield warm this winter. Particular thanks go to our Confirmation Class for their collections and to our parishioners who set up the winter clothes and helped people find what they needed to keep themselves and their families warm. Many thanks to the McWilliams family, who began and shepherded this outreach effort for 6 years. Over 60 bags of winter coats and clothing for men, women, and children were brought to Grace's Kitchen on the last Saturday in November.

## ✦ **The Community Fund** *Sue Smith*

The Community Fund of St. Bernard's Church was active in the community again this year. The mission of the Community Fund is simply to provide emergency financial assistance to residents of the greater Somerset Hills area. The grants—up to \$3,000—are given on a one-time basis for a specific need. The Community Fund receives grant requests from credible sponsors such as clergy, schools, social workers, and police on behalf of an individual or family. All of the grant applications are confidential. The Fund expects its grants to be a component of a larger partnership of assistance.

If you can help with this outreach program to our neighbors in need, please send contributions made out to the Community Fund of St. Bernard's Church to the office, at 88 Claremont Road, Bernardsville, NJ, 07924.

As the Fund continues its work in the community, we look forward to receiving more grant applications and donations. If any parishioners know of situations where the Community Fund could help or if you have questions about the Community Fund of St. Bernard's Church, please contact the Fund Administrator, Sue Smith, at 908-953-0301, Treasurer, Mindy Kirby at 908-766-0084, or the Rev. Beth Rauen Scaiano at 908-766-0602.

## ✦ **Prayer Shawl Ministry** *Jeri Minter*

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has continued to concentrate on its central mission of making prayer shawls for church members to distribute to family members and friends. We expanded the prayer shawl project this year to make traditional shawls in addition to the blankets. These have been welcomed by those who just want a warm covering without being too large. Other projects include our "Pocket Prayer Shawls" which are small knitted pieces with a cross knitted into the pocket prayer shawl. These can be distributed to those parishioners who had any stress, loss, illness or other event in their lives when they would welcome prayerful thoughts from St. Bernards. And of course, we continue to knit fun and colorful hats for Faith in Practice for Cindy McWilliam's annual visit to Guatemala in February.

The group meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in Miss Polly's room, except in November and August. Our November/December meeting is usually held during the first week of December.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us in this ministry. We provide instructions, yarn and patterns and a nurturing environment to learn a new skill.

## ✦ **Homework Help and Academic Support** *Elisabeth Fraser*

During 2017 this endeavor continued in two parts.

We were again successful in engaging Bernardsville Middle School to provide students and space for tutoring. Every Monday after school, Elisabeth Fraser, Cindy and Sandy McWilliams, John and Sue Smith, and Jeannette Place helped 6-12 students complete homework assignments and study for upcoming tests and quizzes. They also provided in-depth academic support to one high school student and were successful in helping him pass his grade 11 math and English courses.

We continued to partner with the Somerset County YMCA to provide homework help and academic support to area students in grades K-8. This assistance was provided by adult and high-school volunteers from St Bernard's and

local high schools. The program is open to all area students who are welcome to come for homework help or to access a computer and the Internet.

Over the course of the year, in the two programs combined, 50 students were helped by 22 high school students and 15 adults. On a regular basis we currently help 15 children in grades 1-4 who are all from local Latino families. The extra help that we provide with homework and especially with reading is crucial to their academic development and is much appreciated by the children's families and teachers.

Because we try to work with the children 1:1 we are constantly seeking additional volunteers. Any adult or high school student who is interested in participating only needs to be a 'Y' volunteer. For additional information on how to become a 'Y' volunteer, please contact Jessica Bruno at 908.766.7898. Visitors are welcome to stop by the lab on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon from 3 pm to 5:30 pm to observe what we do and to talk with the volunteers.

### ✦ **Inreach**

Please see the second paragraph of the Wardens' Report for a summary of 2017 fellowship events. We look forward to more opportunities in 2018. If you have an idea, please feel free to share it with parish leadership so it can become a reality!

## **Guilds**

### ✦ **Altar Guild** *Sue Smith*

The Altar Guild at St. Bernard's is responsible for preparing the altar for services every Sunday and for all ceremonies performed in the church. The members are also responsible for the care and cleaning of the sacred articles used during the services. We are actively seeking additional members, planning to join the diocesan Altar Guild and to develop a five year budget to maintain and add to the churches' linens and sacred articles. We will celebrate with all members of the Guild at a luncheon in the spring.

Members of the guild meet two or three times during the year. We invite all parishioners to consider assisting once a month in this vital service to the Parish. Membership is open to all, male, female, old and young. The guild members are Mary Kempen, Betsy Klausing, Valerie McEntee, Jeri Minter, Carmen Paul, and Sue Smith. If interested, call Mary Kempen at 908.766.3632 or Sue Smith at 908.953.0301 for additional information.

### ✦ **Flower Guild** *Sue Smith*

The Flower Guild at St. Bernard's arranges flowers on the altar at Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Flowers are purchased for the altar from September through June and greens adorn the altar during Lent and the summer months. If a parishioner wishes to donate flowers in honor of their family or friends or in memory of a deceased loved one, they can sign up in the back of church or can call the Parish Administrator at 908.766.0602. The suggested donation for flowers is \$75. Please sign up and donate so we can keep beautiful fresh flowers on the altar every week.

The guild members are: Anne Fritts, Jack Fritts, Pam Hull, Mary Kempen, Betsy Klausing, Valerie McEntee, Carol Anne Pagano, Sue Smith, John Smith and Julia Somers. If interested in helping, call Sue Smith at 908.953.0301 for additional information.

### ✦ **Chalichist Guild** *Mary A. Kempen*

The Chalichist Guild consists of six women and one man – Mary Kempen, Sue Smith, Leslie Curialle, Mary Jane Canose, Jeri Minter, Denise Thomas and Dan Somers.

In addition to the Chalichist duties of giving out the wine at Communion and assisting the priest at the Eucharist, the Chalichist in our church also serves as an Acolyte. The duties of the Acolyte include lighting the candles on the altar before church services, carrying the cross into the church at the beginning of the service, carrying the gospel book down

the center aisle for the priest to read from at the Gospel, and at the end of the service extinguishing the candles that had been lit earlier.

Chalicer can serve at Baptisms, Weddings, Memorial Services and Funerals.

We welcome men and women to be chalice. If you are interested please feel free to see me either after church service or you may call my home at 908.766.3632.

## From The 2017 Parish Register

The Parish Register of St. Bernard's Church indicates 82 active households, as compared with 79 in the previous year. If you became a member of St. Bernard's Church and have not requested a letter of transfer from your previous congregation, please speak to our Parish Administrator, Alison Davidson, who can assist in officially transferring your membership to St. Bernard's.

### ✦Official Acts

Baptisms	6
Marriages	3
Funerals/Memorial Services	3

### ✦Services

Total Number of Services	73
Eucharistic Services	60
Morning/Evening Prayer	2
Private/Home Communion	6
Other	6

## Church Budget 2018

**Budget Worksheet - St. Bernard's Episcopal Church**  
**2018 Annual Operating Plan - Summary**

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Preliminary
<b>REVENUE</b>							
PLEDGES/PLATE OFF.	\$182,089	\$164,467	\$138,961	\$143,707	\$132,227	\$137,767	\$123,000
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$3,084	\$2,507	\$1,854	\$1,580	\$1,256	\$910	\$1,000
GIFTS AND DONATIONS	\$66,500	\$14,363	\$800	\$0	\$3,440	\$14,928	\$3,500
OTHER INCOME	\$47,323	\$51,284	\$71,563	\$70,661	\$59,999	\$58,035	\$32,000
<b>Total Income from Operations</b>	<b>\$298,996</b>	<b>\$232,621</b>	<b>\$213,177</b>	<b>\$215,948</b>	<b>\$196,922</b>	<b>\$211,640</b>	<b>\$159,500</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							
CLERGY	\$67,090	\$30,640	\$43,934	\$50,828	\$80,628	\$81,064	\$84,266
INSURANCE	\$42,106	\$40,810	\$40,564	\$44,356	\$33,349	\$31,791	\$26,175
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$4,482	\$1,394	\$4,659	\$151	\$1,437	\$578	\$2,000
MUSIC	\$40,535	\$23,584	\$37,898	\$37,991	\$38,523	\$38,741	\$38,657
Less: Choir Exp Pd w/Restricted Gift	(\$17,060)	\$0	(\$9,169)	(\$9,534)	(\$10,225)	(\$10,930)	(\$10,500)
<b>NET COST TO SBC FOR MUSIC</b>	<b>\$23,475</b>	<b>\$23,584</b>	<b>\$28,729</b>	<b>\$28,457</b>	<b>\$28,298</b>	<b>\$27,811</b>	<b>\$28,157</b>
ALTAR SUPPLIES	\$323	\$297	\$209	\$3,038	\$2,942	\$1,707	\$3,100
P.	\$985	\$557	\$409	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
MISSION	\$12,069	\$11,502	\$11,167	\$10,600	\$13,397	\$12,728	\$18,400
ADMINISTRATION	\$69,331	\$73,693	\$66,339	\$81,749	\$45,207	\$35,639	\$49,631
PROPERTY UPKEEP	\$83,401	\$83,016	\$114,977	\$91,080	\$63,786	\$69,756	\$58,790
<b>Total Church Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$303,263</b>	<b>\$265,492</b>	<b>\$310,988</b>	<b>\$310,259</b>	<b>\$269,044</b>	<b>\$261,073</b>	<b>\$270,519</b>
<b>Investment Return to Operating</b>							<b>\$25,275</b>
<b>NET INCOME-(LOSS) Church</b>	<b>(\$4,267)</b>	<b>(\$32,871)</b>	<b>(\$97,810)</b>	<b>(\$94,311)</b>	<b>(\$72,122)</b>	<b>(\$49,434)</b>	<b>(\$85,744)</b>

## Cemetery Budget 2018

**Budget Worksheet - St. Bernard's Episcopal Cemetery**  
**2018 Annual Operating Plan - Summary**

ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Preliminary Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>							
INVESTMENT INCOME	\$39,015	\$30,522	\$13,234	\$1,608	\$0	\$0	\$0
RENTAL INCOME	\$18,300	\$18,300	\$18,350	\$18,300	\$18,300	\$16,775	\$17,050
MISC INCOME	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$292	\$300	\$0
CEMETERY SERVICE INCOME	\$41,188	\$28,070	\$13,672	\$25,976	\$40,222	\$36,070	\$18,200
<b>Total Income from Operations</b>	<b>\$98,603</b>	<b>\$76,892</b>	<b>\$45,256</b>	<b>\$45,884</b>	<b>\$58,814</b>	<b>\$53,145</b>	<b>\$35,250</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>							
MAINTENANCE & PRESERVATION	\$7,343	\$2,645	\$1,152	\$1,800	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000
ADMINISTRATION	\$53,289	\$50,059	\$51,819	\$54,550	\$8,189	\$173	\$100
PROPERTY UPKEEP	\$42,138	\$32,768	\$36,823	\$33,537	\$24,421	\$29,802	\$28,650
CEMETERY SALE EXPENSES	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,850	\$0	\$0	\$0
CEMETERY SERVICES EXPENSE	\$6,139	\$5,700	\$4,725	\$4,397	\$15,259	\$3,351	\$10,500
<b>Total Cemetery Operating Exp</b>	<b>\$108,909</b>	<b>\$91,172</b>	<b>\$94,519</b>	<b>\$108,134</b>	<b>\$47,869</b>	<b>\$45,326</b>	<b>\$51,250</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INC/LOSS</b>	<b>(\$10,306)</b>	<b>(\$14,280)</b>	<b>(\$49,263)</b>	<b>(\$62,250)</b>	<b>\$10,945</b>	<b>\$7,819</b>	<b>(\$16,000)</b>