

Annual Report 2019 - Senior Warden From John Putnam, CFA

2019 was indeed a very busy year! St. Paul's was active in so many ways that I believe we exceeded any year in recent memory. I have tried to capture the events, trends and accomplishments of 2019 to the best of my memory and I assure you that if I have missed any, it is not intentional.

First let me recognize our Clergy for maintaining the progress of our journey. Paul, Kathleen and David continue to sustain the focus of our faith, discipleship and generosity, the cornerstones of our new stewardship campaign. As of this morning we have received 142 pledges that total \$428,094.

I also want to convey my immense thanks to all those who have served on the Vestry with me over the past 3 years, 19 in all! Our Vestry faces untold challenges during the year which require deep honesty and immense patience on the part of all that participate. While the Vestry may meet only once a month, it requires a continuous effort during the intervening period. Service on the Vestry is not for the weak of heart.

So, what did we as a congregation achieve this past year? Lots of great things!

We had two highly successful fund-raising events: Icons in Transformation and Treasures and Trinkets. While the Icons in Transformation was financially a great success, raising \$28,231, more importantly, it drew many visitors to St. Paul's that otherwise might simply walk or drive by our church without knowing what meaningful treasures lie inside. Also, many thanks to our investment manager, Merrill Lynch, for being lead sponsor and to all our others sponsors (list).

Treasures and Trinkets, known affectionately as TNT, raised \$21,730 in its second year, led off by a gala cocktail party hosted by Jane Van Gigch and her able crew and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

We also instituted some rebuilding of our outreach ministries including reconstituting our Stephen Ministry under the direction of Ellie Holdridge and Fr. Paul, and our Endowment Fund Board, now headed by Lorraine Sciara-Kelley. We also added volunteers to our Family Promise ministry (overseen by Deborah Cartwright-Clough), which provides temporary shelter for families in transition.

We also commend the achievements of Paul's Place under the leadership of Taylor Kilpatrick, as Director and Kathy Fazio as Executive Director. All of the upper school students achieved Honor Roll status and some are college bound! Our Day School, under the direction Liz Ryan, continues to thrive as does our Sunday School under Liz's guidance as well. The Vestry also approved a new position, that of a part-time Youth Minister, whose task will be to develop a comprehensive program for our older youths.

St. Paul's responded passionately to the Bishop's Bahamas Relief Appeal by contributing \$17,343. We also continued our long-term support to our mission in Bandeau, Haiti, a major challenge given the ongoing civil unrest plaguing that country.

The Vestry also took the unprecedented initiative of addressing the Safety and Security of our worship services, as unfortunately, recent events have demonstrated that we can no longer ignore potential threats of violence on Houses of Worship. As such, the Vestry voted, as a deterrent, to hire off-duty Delray Beach Police Officers to be stationed outside the church on Swinton Ave. during the 8:00 and 10:00 am services.

Finally, I want to give you an update on the "Western Properties". The Real Estate Task Force (RETF), comprised of George Daniell, Robert Kelley, Bill Hurd, Roy Simon and myself, have worked diligently over the past four years to explore all possible uses and alternatives for the 1.33 acres that St. Paul's owns across from Paul's Place and the Day School. The RETF concluded (and the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan strongly suggests) that at this time, St. Paul's does not have an identifiable use for the property. The fact that it is a relatively small piece of property, zoned residential, significantly limits our options. We have been approached by several developers that have proposed building residential units on the property.

At the April 2019 Vestry Meeting, the Vestry voted eight to four to pursue the sale of the property. In May, George Daniell, Caren Kilpatrick, Fr. Paul Kane and I traveled to the Bishop's Office in Miami to make a presentation to the Diocesan Property and Loan Committee, requesting permission to pursue a sale of the property. We received a positive vote on our proposal.

The next step in the process was to seek approval of the Diocesan Executive Board to proceed. After a similar presentation, our proposal was rejected by a very slim vote with Bishop Peter Eaton voting against St. Paul's. What followed were a succession of requests to reappear before the Diocesan Property and Loan committee to ask for reconsideration. We have been scheduled to appear at several subsequent meetings of the committee, only to be "postponed" in our attempts to meet with the committee. As of this date, unfortunately, we are in limbo as to the matter of the disposition of the property.

Finally, let me reiterate my humble thanks for all of our members who work so incredibly hard to make St. Paul's the loving and proud parish that we are!

Blessings to you all,

John