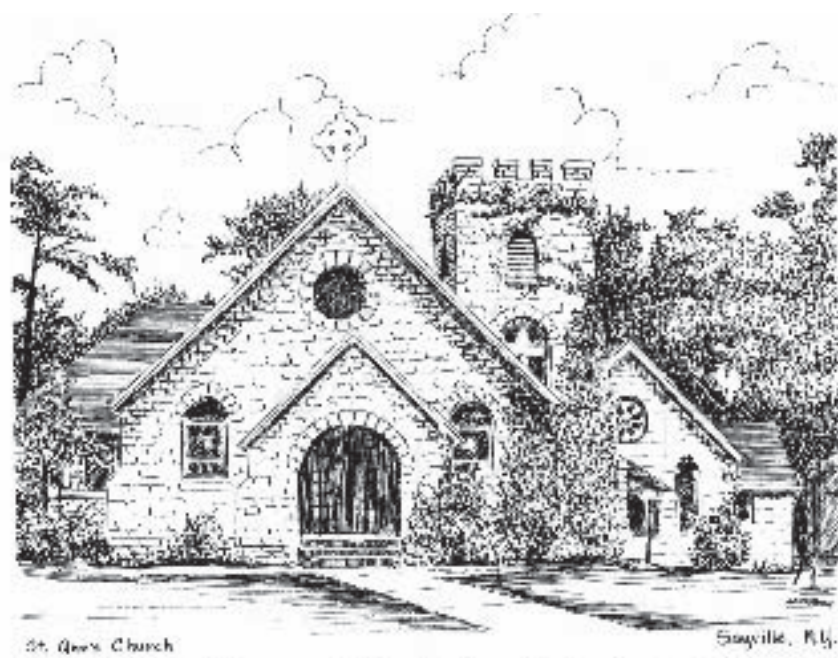


The 159th Annual Meeting

19 January 2025



ST. ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

257 Middle Road, Sayville, NY | (631) 589-6522 | Text line (631) 212-2320

www.saint-anns.org

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Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in this place for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. *Amen*

Agenda

- The Appointments of the Clerk and Parliamentarian
- Election of Vestry Members
- Approval of the Annual Meeting Minutes from the 158th Annual Meeting
- The Annual Report
- The Treasurer's Report
- Rector Report
- The Declaration of Election for Vestry Members and the Installation
- The Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Appointment of Clerk & Parliamentarian

Clerk - Linda Maddox

Parliamentarian - Tom Munkelwitz

Election to the Vestry of St Ann's

The Vestry comprises the rector, two wardens, and nine vestry members. Vestry members are elected to three-year terms, and wardens are elected to two-year terms, which means that in a typical year, the church elects one warden and three vestrypersons.

Vestry Makeup

Rector: Rev. Jeff Stevenson, HoSM (Rector [Priest in Charge] and Chair of Vestry)

Wardens: One Wardens is standing for election to a regular two-year term.

- Randy Schultz (Standing for election - Term ending in 2027)

Vestry Persons: There are nine vestry positions: two standing for re-election and one for election.

- Ray Busch (Standing for re-election - term ending in 2028)
- Roma Busch (Standing for re-election - term ending in 2028)
- Laurin O'Hare (standing for election - term ending in 2028)

Those Standing for Election/Re-election to Vestry - Biographies:

Randy Schultz - Standing for re-election as Warden to an unexpired term ending in 2027

My wife Sue and I reside in Blue Point and have been members of St. Ann's since shortly after our marriage in 1987. With God's help and the support of many along the way, we raised three children, now in their thirties. I have extensive experience in business and finance, with a Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell and a Master in Business Administration from Hofstra University. After having successfully managed my company specializing in the application and sales of natural gas infra-red heating and gas absorption air conditioning equipment for commercial and industrial facilities in the NY metropolitan area, I recently retired after 45 years, with the pandemic forcing the closure of traditional opportunities to conduct business.

I have previous Vestry experience, with three years as Stewardship Chair and six years as Cemetery Manager prior to my first stint as Warden from 1998 to 2008. I offer liturgical experience as a crucifer/acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Minister (serving the chalice and sharing God's Word through readings of the Old and New Testament), and an usher. For more than 30 years, I have worked with Joe Garofolo in support of St. Ann's Men's Group, which meets for fellowship every Tuesday morning at 8 AM in the Parish Hall 50 plus times a year. I have led the annual Wednesday Lenten Soup Supper program since its inception over 20 years ago and have been a voice for the Stewardship program this past year. I hope that a year-round stewardship program can be offered starting in 2024 to conveniently provide people with opportunities to leverage their income and estates for charitable giving advantages.

"I believe we are all called by God to be the very best we can be as His disciples. Having witnessed firsthand the unselfish dedication of so many people in our Food Pantry, Thrift Shop, and Outreach ministries that help our neighbors in need, I believe we can continue to be a beacon of the Light of Christ to the community. I am attuned to opportunities to use our southside property better to serve the community and potentially support our ministry-driven budget." "Our liturgy and style of worship is uniquely spiritual and moving. While we are blessed to have a lively congregation for the post-pandemic era, I would be pleased to encourage more people to "Come and See", to let Christ into their hearts, and to change lives for the better." Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the past, and I look forward to a better tomorrow for all of us!

Ray Busch - Standing for election to an unexpired term ending in 2028

Our home for the past 32 years has been Blue Point. Together with my wife, I have raised three children who are between 25 and 30 now, all college graduates working in their respective fields. One of whom lives in our zip code, which we feel very blessed about. I'm an engineer working for a private engineering construction management consulting firm, and a few of my most recent projects have been managing large-scale transportation projects. In my leisure time, I enjoy boating, fishing, skiing, and the great outdoors with family and friends, as well as long walks with my wife and our two dogs.

Although our family has bought our Christmas trees from St. Ann's for years, I am fairly new to worship at the parish. I have found St. Ann's to be refreshing in my faith, welcoming as a parish, and an establishment I look forward to being a part of. I find the history of St Annes quite remarkable, and it is one of the many places that make the South Shore community so special. With that in mind, I am excited to have the opportunity to represent the parish on the vestry.

Roma Busch - Standing for election to an unexpired term ending in 2028

I've lived in Blue Point for the past 32 years, where I've raised three children who are between 25 and 30 now. One of which lives in our zip code, which I'm quite excited about. I am employed at St. Joseph's University as an administrator in the Math & Computer Science Department. I am new to worship at the parish and have found St. Ann's to be not only very welcoming but also inspiring in my daily life. With that in mind, I am very excited to have the opportunity to represent the parish on the vestry.

Laurin O'Hare - Standing for election to an unexpired term ending in 2028

Laurin, a Sayville native, graduated from Sayville High School and has maintained a strong connection to the community throughout her life. Currently residing in Central Islip, she actively contributed to the village of Sayville by serving as a member of the Community Ambulance Company for a decade. She co-owned the American Cheese Shop with her sister for ten years, also located in Sayville.

Her ties to St. Ann's Church are significant; in an addition to being married at St. Ann's Laurin taught Sunday school for two years in the early 2000s. She is also a proud participant in Father Jeff's Lay Preacher program, which has provided her with a profoundly rewarding experience. Laurin's unwavering commitment to community service positions her as a compelling candidate for the vestry, where she seeks to further contribute to the growth and well-being of the congregation.

Ministry Reports

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

This past year has been a year of ups and downs, struggles and celebrations, a year when we have looked to our past as a road map to our futures. Though COVID will be with us for the foreseeable future, it feels like we have begun to see a resurgence of hope. The Ministries of St. Ann's bring so much to the people of St Ann's and the community; we all must give them thanks. As you read the

reports, I am going to challenge each of you... find those who wrote these reports, and thank them for their leadership.

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild of St. Ann's serves the parish and God in liturgy and worship. We prepare the altar of St. Ann's for scheduled Saturday and Sunday services, as well as baptisms, weddings, funerals, holy days, and special services.

At present, the following serve on the Altar Guild: Cindy MacDonell, Linda Maddox, Diane Miller-Magnani, Linda Munkelwitz, John O'Neil, Pat Osarchuk, Barbara Stahlberg, and Susan Verneer.

Doris Ostrander and Linda Maddox faithfully polish the brass. Twice a year, Doris Ostrander organizes the polishing of the silver, with the help of Altar Guild members. Marge Rogers takes care of the vestments. Each week, Sally Stoll-DePompeo, Linda Munkelwitz or Barbara Stahlberg delivers the altar flowers to cheer members of St. Ann's and others in the community.

The Altar Guild members work harmoniously together. They are a dedicated group who are generous and flexible with their time. Serving on the Altar Guild is a humble and rewarding experience. The Altar Guild needs additional members. If you (male or female) would like to join our ranks, please call either Barbara or Linda.

Respectively submitted,
Linda Munkelwitz and Barbara Stahlberg
Altar Guild Coordinators

Building & Grounds

Buildings & Grounds

We have had a very busy year with many projects going on around campus. Here are some of the projects we completed in 2024:

Rectory

New iron handrails at front entrance and new garage door opener.

Thrift Shop

Remove old carpeting and install new vinyl flooring in men's department, new boiler, and removal of asbestos in small area of basement.

Pine Street

New heating oil tank and repaired boiler.

Campus

New fencing along exit driveway west side of rectory, new drainage installed in area in cemetery, new sidewalk, walkway, and signage in church parking lot.

Respectfully submitted,
George Koinoglou
Buildings & Grounds Chairman

Grounds Report 2024

Thankfully, a number of the gardens around our church are tended by volunteers. These include Tim Laffin, Chris Mulroy and Sue Knoepffler, Marie and Jim Wipper, and our newest volunteers Ray and Roma Busch.

With help, I oversee the plantings closest to the church. This year we added a number of new, colorful plants on the east side of the church. One difference regarding plants and flowers this year was that our volunteers are no longer taking care of the planter in front of the church doors. Stang Landscape Company is now in charge of the planter.

In 2024, the most obvious and necessary work which changed our grounds was the creation of a safe pathway from the back parking lot to the front of the church. This necessitated the removal of a section of the former 'stop sign' garden. Fortunately this work was planned to have minimal impact on our Linden tree and to insure that its roots will still get adequate moisture. In 2025 we'll continue to add to our gardens and to welcome all volunteers who'd like to help!

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Osarchuk, Grounds Chairperson

Cemetery Report

After seventeen (17) years at the "helm", Janet Croce retired as St. Ann's Cemetery Manager. Her knowledge and expertise are still sought after by Tim Laffin, the new cemetery manager. He can't thank her enough for always being there to help him out when he needs answers. Janet is a very tough act to follow, but Tim is doing the best he can. Each day is a learning experience.

Last year, a computer company named CIMS was hired to create an online database and map of the cemetery. Janet, Nancy K., Carolann, and many others were tasked with the job of educating the staff at CIMS in order for them to create the program. Tim Laffin was added to the group when he became cemetery manager in February of 2024. The project was completed and handed over to St. Ann's in early October 2024. Tim is using the new system, while also "testing" it to make sure it is working correctly. The program comes with a component that allows anyone to search the cemetery for burials and available spots. Once Tim is comfortable with the program, he'll publish the link for everyone to use.

There were forty-eight (48) burials in 2024. They consisted of in-ground burials of caskets and cremains, and some niche and crypt burials as well. It was a very busy year to say the least! There were twelve (12) new plots, four (4) ash plots, and two (2) niches sold in 2024 (as of 12/18/24).

During the summer, Stang Landscaping installed a “dry well” near the mausoleum due to continued flooding of the plots. It is the lowest part of the cemetery, and the water runs down the main paved road into the plots. We’ve had some very bad rain storms since, and from the looks of it, it is working wonderfully.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Laffin

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas fair went extremely well and was a great success. The fair was held on December 7, 2024. This annual fundraiser not only raises money for our church, but it is also a day of fellowship with church members and the community. This year, we will once again donate our proceeds from the 50/50 raffle to The Neighborhood House. We did this last year and decided to donate to this wonderful group again. This organization was created by community members concerned about the epidemic of people dying by suicide or drug overdose and the absence of hope permeating our society.

Our Christmas fair takes a lot of organizing and an abundance of help from many volunteers, including the thrift shop volunteers and our parish family. We could not have our fair without all their help. Everyone involved worked extremely hard to make this event so successful.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Koinoglou
Christmas Fair Chair

Christmas Tree Committee

This was my first year running the Christmas Tree lot and I am pleased to report that it was another successful year. 700 trees were delivered on Saturday, November 30th with 570 trees sold by the end of the day Saturday and an additional 100 trees sold on Sunday. The lot opened again the following Saturday and 26 of the remaining 30 trees were sold, with the remaining donated. We made a profit of about \$30,000 in those three days.

I made a few changes this year, such as only letting in 20 people at a time during the morning rush which made it less crowded in the lot and added an additional tree baler which significantly reduced customer time spent on line waiting to have their tree baled and leave. We also accepted credit cards this year for the first time which was a great success. As a way to increase revenue, I tried selling

wreaths which did not move as quickly as anticipated, so next year those will be a pre-order item with less to be sold on-site. I will continue to look for items to add to the tree lot to increase revenue each year.

It took an average of 23 volunteers for each three hour shift on Saturday to keep the tree lot running smoothly and I am so grateful for everyone who came down and helped in every capacity. A special thank you to John Smith for all his help and his patience with my many questions as I tackled the tree lot for the first time.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine & Michael Cesarino, Christmas Tree Lot Chairs

Communications Report

We are pleased and thankful that Eileen Moran has taken over the responsibility of Editor of The Correspondent. Over the last year, her personal touch and ownership of this valuable communication medium have been fantastic! Please send photos and story information for future issues to Eileen at correspondent@saint-anns.org.

My personal Facebook account has been hacked and I no longer have access to the social media. It is my hope that a fellow Parishioner with access to Facebook could assist in keeping the Facebook page current. The power of the social media reach to our community, continues to amaze me and it is my hope that you would prayerfully consider assuming this Ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
John K. Smith

The Correspondent

The Correspondent is Saint Ann's newsletter. Articles from the Rector, assisting clergy, the Vestry and parishioners are published monthly, except for the month of August. It is our newsletter and contributions by parishioners of photos, poems, and other articles are highly encouraged. Our stories may inspire others. We also print announcements of parish events, and ministries, as well as the birthdays and anniversaries of our parishioners. The deadline for submissions is the 3rd Friday each month for publication the following month.

The Correspondent is posted at the beginning of each month on Saint Ann's Website (www.saint-anns.org). Printed copies are available in the Parish Hall for those who do not have computer access. People living out of town and who still wish to receive The Correspondent in the mail can arrange with the church office to have this done for a small contribution.

Please submit articles in a timely manner via email using correspondent@saint-anns.org

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Moran
Editor, The Correspondent

The Orders of the Daughters of the King - St. John the Apostle Chapter

Chapter members continue to uplift their vows of prayer and service to do evangelism for Christ. We continue our knitting, crocheting, and quilting to make items for people in need of warm items. This work gives us a purpose to create items at home during the cold and hot seasons. We are delighted to partner with The Lighthouse Mission in Bellport to make hats, sweaters, and quilts for families and children. We delivered a carload of items in the fall. Hats and scarves were sent to the Seamen's Institute in the Port of New Jersey. The Evangelism Board in the Narthex has provided the parish with easy tools to make the world a more friendly place. Daughters attended the Diocesan Assemblies hosted by St. Ann's chapter. Our annual Stations of the Cross walk on Good Friday was well attended. Please consider praying with us for our country and world.

Respectfully submitted,
Marjorie Rogers, Chapter President

Fire Island Ministry

St Ann's summer ministry to Fire Island this year went well. The services alternated between Fire Island Pines community house and Cherry Grove's community house from Memorial Day through this Sunday after Labor Day. While attendance at the Pines was light, at the Grove was usually 20+ people.

This year we were fortunate to have not only our own Bishop Provenzano, but the Bishop of New York to celebrate. After the service we had a reception for each bishop on the roof of the Cherry Grove community house, which has a lovely view of both the Bay and the ice palace. Many thanks to the members of the Summer congregation and those who came from the mainland to help with these receptions. We continue to hope that more members of St. Ann's main congregation will come and sample (taste and sea) enjoy a church service and a day at the beach, perhaps a walk to Sailors Haven and a tour of the sunken forest.

Our services are held at 11 o'clock on alternate Sundays throughout the summer season. (Which coordinates well with the morning ferry schedule.) I hope to see you there.

Respectful submitted,
Don Hester, St. Ann's Vestry Class of 2027

Food Pantry Annual Report

St. Ann's food pantry continues to be supported by the generosity of our parish family along with periodic, community donations. We were the recipient of a food drive by Good Samaritan Nursing Home, birthday party bundles and Stop & Shop gift cards donated by the Pilot Club of Sayville, bakery items shared by Fritzsche's bakery and occasional food donations from Party in Motion. We were also the recipient of the Stop & Shop Bloomin 4Good campaign in both June and November. Thank you to the guests of the Senior Luncheon who brought food donations for the pantry.

We are thankful for the donations from our steadfast contributors of our parish family and for our thirteen volunteers who serve, set up or shop for the pantry. We are open on Mondays, with Thursday being by appointment only. We have seen steady numbers this year with both old and many new guests.

This year we spent \$5117.73 as of December 22nd, to stock the pantry. Easter and Thanksgiving combined we spent \$79.02 to complete our food baskets.

In February, we participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. We collected 80 cans of soup, and 7 boxes of crackers. We continue to supply frozen vegetables, fresh produce, and a small amount of meat. We have increased the amount of fresh produce we purchase as it is greatly appreciated by our guests. We distributed Easter food baskets, providing Easter breakfast and dinner for 18 grateful families as well as 5 additional hams for the pantry.

Our Thanksgiving food basket ministry helped provide a special holiday meal for 20 thankful families (over 70 people) and gave our parish family an opportunity to share in the joy of giving. Most of the food was donated by parishioners. We also had Thanksgiving food donations from Good Samaritan Nursing Home.

Although it has been another difficult year, we have been committed to helping those who come to us in need. I am truly grateful for the support of our faithful volunteers. We are blessed to have the opportunity to share food and lend an ear with those in need.

The Pantry is open Monday 10:00-12:00 and Thursdays by appointment.
Respectfully submitted,
Lynette Schultz, Food Pantry Coordinator

Lenten Soup Supper Program

For the seventh consecutive year, St. Ann's offered a mid-week Lenten Program which was preceded by a Soup supper. For five Wednesdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, parish volunteers revealed in the opportunity to prepare soup for sharing with the Parish family. Ample quantities of fresh baked breads of different kinds were generously donated by Wenner Bread Bakery of Bayport.

At 6 PM, the Parish faithful would gather in the lower Parish Hall for a hearty meal of between four and six varieties of soup, bread, beverages, and desserts donated by those who were in the mood for baking. Between 25-50 people participated in the ministry, which was followed at 7 PM by a Clergy led Lenten discussion in the upper Parish Hall.

As Soup Supper Chair, I enjoyed offering the opportunity for so many to share in uplifting fellowship at a time of year when we need to get out of the house and have a good time!

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Schultz
Soup Supper Chair

Men's Group

St. Ann's Men's Group meets every Tuesday morning for coffee, bagels and fellowship at 8 AM, usually in the Parish Hall. Occasionally the members seek out a change of scenery to break up the routine and travel to California (California Diner, that is...). All men of the Parish are welcome to join us. What happens at a Men's Group gathering? As one of us put it, "we shoot the breeze". We talk about cars (old and new), local history and civic associations, and because some of our members allow medical appointments to get in the way of the sacred Men's Group Hour, we commiserate in confidence for each other's knees, hips, shoulders, backs and spines. We are a crutch for those of us who are alone or have lost loved ones, and offer hundreds of years of collective knowledge (and opinion) to advise on fixing household/car/computer/lawnmower... problems. We come without an agenda, and leave by 9:30 having solved the problems of the world...until next week.

In 2024, the Men's Group welcomed many new members. We also celebrated Chairman Joe Garofolo's 95th birthday in December (at the California) and chatted on the speakerphone with senior member Ray Graunke from Maine on his 95 th birthday in May to wish him a happy birthday.

In 2025, we look forward to living it up with more of the same-every Tuesday, rain or shine (or snow). Our goal is to enjoy each other's company, and to perhaps take away something each week from the experience. Please join us- we're saving a seat for you!

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Garofolo, Chairman

Additional Members: Ray Graunke, Fr, Jeff Stevenson, Bob Sheppard, Steve Birkland, Horst Schiesz, Pete Leis, Chris Keller, John Pekarik, John Stahlberg, Gary Schaum, Rich Maddox, Tom Munkelwitz, Tim Laffin, Ray MacLean, Joe Castelli, Greg Domoff, Randy Schultz

Music Ministry

Give thanks with a grateful heart is one of our favorite choir anthems. We sang it for Thanksgiving Morning Prayer this past November. I always tell the choir that this is a favorite hymn, or that it is a favorite anthem. They always laugh and say everything that we sing is one of my favorites! I hope

that when you come to worship and hear something it may also be a favorite of yours or perhaps bring back a special, beautiful memory for you. If you have a favorite hymn, please let me know and I will be happy to include it in our worship services.

We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful, dedicated and happy choir. I cherish every Tuesday rehearsal. Choir practice is a time of singing, fellowship, prayer and fostering friendships. We nurture each other through good and bad times. We are truly a choir family.

Perhaps you are looking for a place to share your time and talent. Have you considered joining the choir? It helps if you are able to read music but not necessary. New members are always welcome! We ask for a smile and a joyful heart! We meet on Tuesdays at 6:45pm in the church. This year we have added something new, and it is working!! On the first Tuesday of the month our rehearsal is at 1pm (not 6:45pm). Come give us a try. We would love to meet you. We also welcome instrumentalists. If you play an instrument and would like to share your talent at worship, please stop by the organ or call me at the church office and I will arrange it. The choir also hosts Shrove Pancake Supper, weather permitting, and we also host a wonderful coffee hour.

It continues to be an honor and joy to serve you at St. Ann's! To God be the glory for the great things he has done and continues to do at St. Ann's!

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Senese, Minister of Music

Annual Art Exhibition

On October 19, 2024, Saint Ann's held its second Annual Art Exhibition, featuring paintings, sketches, photography, as well as wall hanging art, quilting, needlepoint and poetry from 19 parishioners combined. Light refreshments were available for all visitors and participants, which added to this inspiring second annual art exhibition.

Chairs for this event included Kathy Senese, Noah Stetzer and Lisa Marie Scrima-Castelli. The Upper Parish Hall was once again the perfect venue location, where many visitors were able to reflect upon and discuss works with the artists present. Many inquired about the creative process, engaging in thoughtful conversation. The nineteen participants expressed their personal experiences through their various forms of art, providing a captivating experience for all.

Respectively submitted,
Lisa Marie Scrima-Castelli

St. Ann's Thrift Shop

St. Ann's Thrift Shop is thriving. What can we attribute this continuing success to?

Our managers and volunteers continue to distribute donations from the bins and then begin the process of sorting, hanging, pricing, and filling the shop's racks and shelves!

We are aware of the importance of this Ministry, and you can tell! Our outreach is visible when we open the shop door! The interaction between the volunteers and the guests is familiar and caring. From knowing first names to helping find that item they need!

This year, more than others, brought challenges. We closed for a week and had Lou, our sexton, lay new flooring in the men's area! With the help of parishioners who rolled up their sleeves and jumped right in we moved racks and bookcases, so the room was empty for Lou to do his magic. What a fantastic job he did!

We also had to close to have a new oil burner installed in the building! Did any of these projects slow us down? I would say with our yearly numbers NO! We were 10% more than last year's sales and, yes, we achieved the six-figure mark!

The shop is always looking for new volunteers, as little as 2 hours a month/ one or two 2-hour shifts a month. We still find ourselves in desperate need of anyone who has register experience!

We are looking forward to what next year brings. Thank you for all your support!

Respectfully Submitted,
Nanci Guerra, Thrift Shop Manager

Lay Preaching

The Lay Preaching Program at St. Ann's is a spiritual and academic practice based on Scripture. Through study, prayer, and practice, each individual is encouraged to develop his/her own narrative which adds to the diversity of preaching styles we enjoy at worship, adding to a more complete understanding of God's Word.

Starting in 2023, John O'Neil, Randy Schultz, and Laurin Clemens were nurtured through the processes of sermon preparation, developing "exegetical" skills in explaining Biblical texts, while preparing sermons theologically consistent with our faith. Through multiple meetings with Clergy, we learned to develop our unique preaching style and voice, incorporating our life experiences to support our analysis of Scripture. In the Fall, Father Jeff prepared a Lay Preaching Customary as a foundation for guiding those who wish to join us in this ministry.

Randy Schultz found the lay preaching process very satisfying. He appreciated the opportunity to examine the assigned Gospel passage from multiple viewpoints and enjoyed sharing its relevance through life experience. It was a faith deepening experience.

After hearing Randy and John preach, Laurin felt an undeniable calling to follow in their footsteps. Their powerful sermons, filled with passion and deep understanding of the

Scripture ignited a spark within her. Inspired by their ability to connect with the congregation and convey the profound messages of faith, Laurin was moved to share her own voice and insights. She felt a strong desire to contribute to the spiritual growth of her community, just as Randy and John had done. This newfound purpose led her to join the Lay Preacher Program, where she could develop her skills and fulfill her calling to preach.

Participating in the lay preacher program at St. Ann's Episcopal Church is a truly profound experience that deeply enriches one's spiritual journey. It provides a unique opportunity to delve into the depths of Scripture, uncovering its timeless wisdom and transformative power.

Through studying and reflecting on the Word of God, one gains a deeper understanding of their faith and its application in everyday life. The program also fosters a sense of community and shared purpose, as we connect with fellow participants who are equally passionate about exploring their spirituality. We look forward to sharing this unique spiritual ministry from the pulpit again in 2025 so that we may persist in our spiritual growth and share our insights with our beloved congregation. This journey of spiritual growth and discovery is incredibly rewarding, and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve and share the message of God's love with others. We welcome anyone interested in a more than casual exploration of Scripture to join us! Please share your interest with the Clergy or any of us!

Respectfully submitted,
John O'Neil, Laurin Clemens & Randy Schultz

Senior Luncheon

After many years of devoted service to this ministry, Linda and Karen stepped down. Realizing how vital this program is, but knowing that no one could take their place, the program has been rebranded and is run by a committee. Our hope is to hold the luncheon four times a year. The Chrysanthemum Luncheon was held on November 5th and very well attended. Volunteers contributed casseroles, salad, luncheon rolls, and a hot apple crisp for dessert. There was then a short chair yoga class. The Christmas luncheon began with Eucharist in St. Barnabas Chapel. The guests then moved into the Upper Parish Hall for a luncheon menu that offered the cold-weather favorite of grilled cheese, tomato soup, and potato chips followed by holiday cookies for dessert and a carol sing-along. Plans are already being made for a St. Patrick's Day themed luncheon. After many years of devoted service to this ministry, Linda and Karen stepped down. Realizing how vital this program is, but knowing that no one could take their place, the program has been rebranded and is run by a committee. Our hope is to hold the luncheon four times a year. The Chrysanthemum Luncheon was held on November 5th and very well attended. Volunteers contributed casseroles, salad, luncheon rolls, and a hot apple crisp for dessert. There was then a short chair yoga class. The Christmas luncheon began with Eucharist in St. Barnabas Chapel. The guests then moved into the Upper Parish Hall for a luncheon menu that offered the cold-weather favorite of grilled cheese, tomato soup, and potato chips followed by holiday cookies for dessert and a carol sing-along. Plans are already being made for a St. Patrick's Day themed luncheon.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Ellinghaus

Blood Drive

After a hiatus since 2018, St. Ann's hosted a very successful Blood Drive on December 10th in the Parish Hall. 30 pints of blood were collected, which will go a long way to helping this holiday season. Donors were from our St. Ann's family as well as a few folks who saw the signs as they drove by and stopped in. We are hoping to make this an annual tradition.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Ellinghaus

Family Film Night

This ministry is pure fun for all. The inaugural film night was held on the last Friday in August on the great lawn at sunset. Moviegoers ate popcorn and sipped ice cream sodas while watching the perennial favorite "Sandlot." Before the screening, thematic crafts were provided for the youngsters and there were plenty of photo-ops available. Some of our families brought their dinners, one brought their pup, and a wagon-load of food was collected for the St. Ann's Food Pantry. Our second night was "Hocus Pocus" just in time for Halloween and popcorn and candy bags were served. Due to the change in the weather and the high wind advisory that evening, we watched in the comfort of the Upper Parish Hall. Our last offering for the 2024 year was "Polar Express" which was selected by our young people. Dressed in pajama pants and hoodies and cuddled with their favorite blankets in front of the fireplace (electric lights- no logs were burned), moviegoers enjoyed hot cocoa with marshmallows, popcorn balls and candy canes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Ellinghaus

Stewardship Committee Annual Report

In 2024, St. Ann's Stewardship Program took a first step towards year-round stewardship planning with the intention of enlightening all of us with opportunities beyond our traditional financial vehicles to share what we have been given with those who are in need.

Monthly Correspondent articles dealt with less familiar charitable giving opportunities offering tax incentives thru trusts and estate planning, as well as summarizing available means to support St. Ann's through conventional bank account BillPay and IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions for those who are eligible. In October, members of the Stewardship Committee provided a "Ministry

Minute” during worship to share why they give generously to the Lord and St. Ann’s. Letters with pledge cards were emailed and mailed to the Parish Family, and as of December 31 2024, the Committee is heartened to report that 62 of us have pledged an average of \$1760 per pledge. Most gratifying was the deepening of our faith commitment, with 20 increases and 13 families who did not pledge in 2024 or are new to St. Ann’s.

In 2025, the Committee intends to build on the progress of the post-pandemic years with planning of estate giving seminars and gentle reminders to maintain our collective support of the Lord’s Work at St. Ann’s.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Domoff, Joe Castelli & Randy Schultz, St. Ann’s Stewardship Committee

By the Numbers

By the Numbers					
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Attendance	2,852	5,365	6,756	7,917	8,200
Communion	2,388	4,139	5,555	5,236	5,608
Pledges	61	63	79	63	64
Baptism	6	13	16	13	7
Confirmation	0	0	12	0	6
Receptions	0	0	1	0	1
Weddings	1	1	1	4	7
Funerals	6	5	24	30	16

Rector's Report

"For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"
(Jeremiah 29:11)

As I prepare to depart Saint Ann's for the Episcopal Diocese of Utah, I am glad for this moment to take stock of what we've accomplished this year. We have been so very blessed with an abundance of new faces in the pews—and on the altar! Be sure to read closely throughout this year's annual report and note the many new names and faces that are active in our church. At the outset, let me again praise those parishioners who volunteer to help make our little church run: the Altar Guild, Choir, Lectors, Acolytes, Crucifers, and Ushers all show-up week after week to contribute to liturgy, and I am so very grateful.

We have been blessed with the arrival of Susan Ellinghaus and Fr. Ben Brenkert, who both jumped in with their unique strengths. We are fortunate that they have become so deeply rooted in our community so quickly; they will both play a vital role in leading Saint Ann's in the coming months. Susan has made her mark as a pastoral care provider, and she has the ability to rally volunteers and host various opportunities for fellowship. Ben, recently ordained, has already begun serving at the altar and will be the priest-in-charge after my departure and the church begins its rector search. I know you join me in praying for both Susan and Ben as they take on more leadership roles in the year ahead.

You may recall that we entered 2024 predicting a ~\$100K shortfall. Though we are still finalizing the year, I am happy to report that we will end 2024 in the black. We attribute this to a combination of adding new church members and also firm management of expenditures. Thank you all for every dollar that you have given over this year. And thank you also for the volunteer labor and the donations of supplies; both helped to keep our costs in check. We are calculating that in 2025, with the addition of AHRC as a partner, we have prepared a budget with the operating expenses and income balanced and even in the black for the first time in decades.

The church is on the precipice of many great things we have worked towards for the past few years. I have often preached that we are all called to plant seeds for trees under which we will not sit; now, it is time for me to live those sermons. The relationship with The People's Arc of Suffolk (formally AHRC) is a key example of one of those seeds. The integration of our ministries will be magic if fostered. The ministry at the beach has been thriving and finally recognized by the diocese; Fr Ben has taken on that ministry and is prepared to run with it. The campus has seen many updates and improvements over the past four years, all showing outward signs of our growing vitality. St. Ann's is once again a joyful parish that is growing and fostering that joyful nature of this place will ensure that the church has a grand future.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year at Saint Ann's, our community is poised for a bright future. With the contributions of dedicated parishioners and the fresh energy brought by new leaders, you are well-equipped to continue the mission and cultivate a thriving environment for all. The successful financial turnout and the promising partnership with The People's Arc of Suffolk highlight our potential for growth and service. As you move forward, I encourage all to remain committed to nurturing this joyful spirit and supporting one another, ensuring that Saint Ann's remains a vibrant cornerstone of faith and fellowship for years to come.

Reflections from the Assistant Rector

Recently, I came across the text, *But As Yesterday: The Early Life and Times of St. Ann's Church (1864-1888)* published in 1966 by Major General Retired Charles G. Stevenson . In the text there is an entry from Libby Homan who wrote in her journal from December 31, 1875, "We have just returned from a midnight service at St. Ann's. It was beautiful too, about 20 of us went up after the rehearsal at Mrs. McConnell's. At Mrs. McConnell's we had coffee and cake again, so altogether we had a very pleasant evening. We rang the church bell tonight - one hundred strokes for the Centennial. "The old year out and the new year in." In a sense, that is what we are doing here today,

at the 159th Annual Parish Meeting: the old year out and the new year in. We are asking: What have we done for Christ? What are we doing for Christ? and What will we do for Christ?

Of course this year, we are also saying goodbye to Fr. Jeff and Noah whose contributions to St. Ann's Sayville these past years are significant; our farewell to them is full of mixed emotions, gratitude, sadness, anxiety, love, joy, happiness, yet spurred on by our prayer and by our strength of witness and neighborliness.

In Chapter Ten of the Gospel According to Saint Luke, Jesus sends out the Seventy-Two, they are instructed not to bring any purse or bag or sandals, they return from their mission with joy, declaring, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." For the disciples, companions, collaborators, partners in Jesus' Gospel, completing corporal and spiritual works of mercy was difficult, but the success they met by their work in Jesus' name filled them with joy. That consolation of joy is ours too!

Saint Ann's Church also bears fruit within its grounds and without its walls, carrying into Sayville the fruit of Jesus' message and the world mission of the Episcopal Church. As Saint Ann's transitions to an interim period, we can build upon the legacy established during Fr. Jeff's Rectorship. We can, this coming year: 1) worship with joy; 2) actively welcome and encourage our ministry partner the People's Arc of Suffolk County; and 3) continue to prophetically seek and to find ways to witness to the message of Jesus throughout Sayville and our Deanery, the Great South Bay Deanery.

To worship with joy means digging deeper into our roots as Christians, actively participating in mass, reading the scripture, responding to call and response, making room for the poor and the newcomer. To worship with joy means opening oneself up to letting Jesus Christ encounter them daily in prayer. Such joy adapts and changes to our life's circumstances. Jesus said to his disciples, "I have said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you, and your joy may be complete" (JN 15:11). Following a Baptism, the Bishop or Priest says, "Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen" (1979 BCP, p. 308). To worship with joy effervesces from our Baptism! In February, we will join Episcopalians from our Diocese as Bishop Lawrence Provenzano ordains candidates to the Vocational (Permanent) Diaconate: we will celebrate our own, Susan Ellinghaus.

This year, following a community discernment, Saint Ann's welcomes our new ministry partner the People's Arc of Suffolk County. As the People's Arc adapts to the signs of the times, and seeks to fulfill their purpose to "provide dynamic and innovative services where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities are thriving to their fullest potential, joined by their families, circles of support and our *person-centered* organization", they will do good work from the grounds of Saint Ann's. Already the Saint Ann's People's Arc Committee has met, building a nascent enthusiasm that bolsters a successful transition for both ministry partners. Together Saint Ann's and the People's Arc will look out into Sayville and respond to the needs of the least amongst us. Together we will "Go, Do Likewise" as Jesus says in the Parable of the Good Samaritan from Luke's Gospel.

This year Saint Ann's will continue to seek and to find ways to prophetically witness to the message of Jesus throughout Sayville and the Great South Bay Deanery. Saint Ann's has for decades responded to the pastoral needs of families through our cemetery ministry, fed families through our food pantry, and washed the feet of the marginalized through the Fire Island outreach program. Bedrocks of our programming include the tree lot sale, the Christmas Fair, blood drives, the fish fry, art show, movie nights, religious education and sacramental (faith) formation. Saint Ann's is

strongest when we look outward into the community, toward being beatitudes in a technological society that many consider to be Post-Christian. We must be Christ in Community. God loves the world, God created human beings in God's own image and likeness. We remain close to the world through intercessory prayer, corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Saint Ann's is not alone, more than ever before we are called to collaborate with our Deanery partners in Yaphank, Brookhaven, Bayport and Patchogue. We are part of something bigger than our acreage. St. Ann's can think of ourselves as part of something greater, tied to the mission of the Episcopal Church, which is local, national, and global.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams writes about being Christian in a text from 2014. In his short text, Archbishop Williams describes baptism, the bible, Eucharist and prayer as the essential elements of Christian life. As we celebrate Fr. Jeff and Noah's profound contributions to Saint Ann's and the greater Sayville community, we are charged with 1) worshiping with joy; 2) actively welcoming and encouraging our ministry partner the People's Arc of Suffolk County; and 3) continuing to prophetically seek and to find ways to witness to the message of Jesus throughout Sayville and our Deanery. In looking ahead towards the 160th Annual Parish Meeting we can ask for the grace to do this work together, never alone, our activities will tell us about the essence of our Christian life, about what kind of community we hope to steward as we complete the work of the Kingdom done. Can we do this? All with joy! As Fr. Jeff says, "Yes, with God's help. Amen." Let's let the neighbors hear us and see us. All for the greater glory of God.

With gratitude and in prayer,
Fr. Ben

Reflections from Your Seminarian

February 14, 2023, Ash Wednesday and Valentines' Day... a day that changed my life. That was the first day of my field placement here and I can honestly say that by the end of that day, I knew I had found a very special place in which to serve our Lord and His faithful congregants! The best compliment I've received is when someone says to me, "What did we do last year?" Of course, I have no idea because I wasn't here, but how wonderful that you all so lovingly accepted me as a member of the family and feel that I have been here forever.

It's been a good, rich, and very productive eleven months. Pastoral visits are scheduled weekly, and it's an honor to be able to bring the essence of St. Ann's back to our homebound members. Some I see weekly, others monthly, and some on an as-they-need-me- basis. I've had the privilege of listening to stories of days gone by, of how things were done, and how things have changed, but underlying it all is always the love. And no one ever suggests that it was done better back then, but rather there is always delight in what we are doing now. There is consistency in the familial feeling that has probably always been part of St. Ann's.

On the first Sunday of every month, after the 10:00 service during Coffee Hour, you can find our youngest congregants working diligently on projects that reflect the lessons they are learning in church...projects that reflect love of God and love for their neighbors, gratitude for what they have and who they share it with. What has been especially affirming is the number of young ones who

may be here for the first time or perhaps attending a Baptism and they want to be part of the fun. St. Ann's is fun for the kiddos...how many congregations can say that? We blessed our student athletes and adult coaches and referees last spring. Why? Because we know how important it is for children and families to know that we support them. In the fall we blessed backpacks - for students and teachers alike. Again, a way of expressing our support.

Families are the backbone of our St. Ann's family. This was evident at our Family Film Nights and by the families who took part in our Christmas Pageant. I think Jesus would have been proud of us.

Can we continue to grow in these ministries? Yes, with God's help!! Let us say it so loud the neighbors hear us!

Appendix A: Minutes of the 157th Annual Meeting

Present:

Clergy: Rev. Jeffrey Stevensen

Warden: Randy Schultz

Treasurer: Tom Munkelwitz

Vestry Clerk: Linda Maddox

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Jeff with prayer at 11:11 am. Fr. Jeff made the motion to Approve the Agenda calling all attendee's attention to the red and green cards they were given at sign-in. Green card will indicate a yea response and red will indicate a nay response when voting. Marge Rogers seconded the motion. The majority of those in attendance held up their green cards indicating no objections. Motion carried to approve the agenda.

Appointments of Clerk and Parliamentarian-

- Clerk-Linda Maddox; majority in attendance voted with green cadres. No objections noted. Motion carried.
- Parliamentarian- Tom Munkelwitz- Majority in attendance voted with green cards; no objections noted. Motion carried. Appointments confirmed.

Don Hester made the motion that both Wardens and all Vestry Members be approved lest there be no opposition, and the secretary cast one vote for all. Fr. Jeff opened the floor for discussion. Fr. Jeff addressed questions/ concerns.

As there were no concerns or issues, Marge Rogers seconded the motion. Fr. Jeff called for a vote to suspend the rules of order. Members were unanimously in favor of this suspension and raised their green cards. Tom Munkelwitz called for any other nominations from the floor. As there were none, Don Hester moved that the nominations be closed. Richard Maddox seconded the motion. No objections noted from the congregation in attendance. Motion carried. Sal Greci made the motion that the Clerk cast her ballot for this slate of Wardens and Vestry members as presented. Rich Maddox seconded the motion.

No objections noted from the congregation. Motion carried. Christine Mulroy requested that all of the members of the Vestry stand to present themselves to the congregation. Approving applause ensued.

Approval of the 157th Annual Meeting Minutes:

Fr. Jeff moved to approve the minutes of the 157th Annual Meeting Minutes. Rich Maddox seconded the motion. Fr. Jeff opened the floor to address any questions or concerns. As there were none, Fr. Jeff called for a vote; members of the congregation cast their vote in the majority. No objections noted. Motion carried.

Annual Reports: (Complete report provided in handout)

Wendy Schmittzeh reported to the attendees that Christine Cesarino will be the new Christmas Tree Leader and asks for everyone's continued participation in our church's most successful fundraiser. Wendy informed everyone that this was her last year serving on the Vesty after nine years, and many more on the Tree Lot team. She will continue to support Christine and encourage everyone to join the tree fun as well. Before stepping away, Fr. Jeff offered Wendy his grateful appreciation for her faithful dedication to the Vestry and presented her with a personal BCP with his thanks on behalf of St. Ann's.

Fr. Jeff shared with the congregation the various ministries throughout the campus, featuring the Correspondent's Editor, Eileen Moran, who invited anyone interested in becoming a Roving Reporter or author of interesting articles of any kind may contact her. Minister of Music, Kathy Senese was invited to say a few words; instead she praised Fr. Jeff for being a pleasure to work with when developing their music programs for services.

Fr. Jeff reminded everyone about the Stewardship program he co-shares with Warden Randy Schultz, but invites any church member to consider participating in this challenging but essential ministry for the benefit of the church.

Statement of Accounts:

Treasurer Tom Munkelwitz discussed the budget with the members of the congregation, but first acknowledged the members of the Counting Team: Pat, Barbara, Tim and Noah. The Faithful Four work every Tuesday counting all of the money collected from the church services, and take it to the bank. Their determined work is greatly appreciated; particularly during the tree sale weekend and Holiday Fair day.

Tom Munkelwitz reviewed several sections of the budget, including Statement of Accounts, and briefly explained some of the details to the parish members (all members received hand-outs detailing these). He continued to describe additional accounts listed as "Restricted Accounts", and "Legacy Accounts. At the conclusion of the discussion of the Budget, Tom Munkelwitz offered to answer questions at the close of the meeting. Fr. Jeff informed the members that this upcoming year would be the last year Tom Munkelwitz would serve as Treasurer. Fr. Jeff appealed to the congregation should anyone have the inclination to consider taking on this particular role in the Vestry in the Church.

Rector's Report:

Fr. Jeff opened his conversation admitting that the deficit of \$100,000.00 is serious, but not impossible to meet the challenge. Our first goal is to look for increased opportunities to add funds to the church. Secondly, we should want to strengthen our Stewardship program, and finally, we have an abundance of usable property- 14 acres combined both north and south of Middle Rd.

Fortunately, the Thrift Shop is doing very well financially! But, how can we use the other building's spaces, such as the second floor of the Burgess Building and Littlejohn Building? The basement of the Littlejohn Building is also underutilized. What ideas can we consider for these spaces?

Fr. Jeff continued to discuss this upcoming year's essential issues:

- Lay Leadership- everyone can be part of this. Eucharistic Visitors, Pastoral Care, Worship Leaders- all of which have begun.
- Focus on Youth- Sunday School has changed and will not come back as it once was. It has a New Concept: “Gathering”
- Stewardship; Not Just About Money!

Fr. Jeff opened the floor for discussion.

Swearing in: Commission of Vestry Persons St. Ann’s Episcopal Church Sayville, NY
 In the absence of Warden Nancy Koinoglou, Don Hester said, I present to you these persons to be admitted to the Vestry of the Parish. Fr. Jeff affirmed these members to be commissioned to Christian service as Vestry Persons.

Don Hester made the motion to adjourn the meeting following closing prayer. Rich Maddox seconded the motion. No objections noted. Motion carried.

Fr. Jeff offered the closing prayer at 12:18pm.

Appendix B: Statement of Vestry Policy

The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship, and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God. (BCP p. 856)

As a member of the Vestry, you represent the parish and community. It is therefore expected that you will fulfill the above expectation as stated in our Book of Common Prayer, and will also commit yourself with God’s help and to the best of your ability to the following:

1. Regular attendance and participation in Sunday worship services.
2. Regular attendance at the scheduled monthly meetings and any other meetings as necessary to carry out the responsibilities of parish governance. These meetings may be brief but usually will last one and a half hours. Your presence throughout the meeting is imperative. You will notify the clergy and/or Wardens in the case that you will not be able to attend and will review minutes and monthly reports from the missed meeting as soon as possible.
3. Support and participate in parish activities as often as you are able to do so and will take on responsibilities for areas of parish life as may be needed and requested of you in so far as you are able.
4. Regular prayer for the clergy, Vestry, ministries of the parish, parishioners, and the community.
5. Support the financial needs of the parish by pledging.
6. Study and learn the responsibilities of the Vestry as laid out in the *Vestry Handbook* and other literature as may be distributed by the clergy.
7. Attend and participate in an annual planning retreat and an annual organizational meeting (this is to take place following the election of new vestry members).
8. To be a public example for the entire community.

Appendix C: Qualifications for Voters & Vestry

Article III St. Ann's Bylaws:

A. Presiding Officer of Annual or Special Meeting

1. The Presiding Officer of the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting shall be the Rector, or if there is no Rector, or if the Rector is absent, one of the Wardens elected for this purpose by a majority of duly qualified voters present, or if no Warden is present, a Vestry person elected in like manner.
2. Such Presiding Officer shall:
 - a. Be the judge of the qualifications of the voters and the validity of the ballots;
 - b. Receive the votes cast;
 - c. Declare the results of the votes cast; and
 - d. Enter the proceedings of the meeting in the "Book of the Minutes of the Vestry" and affix their signature

B. Qualification of Voters

1. Voting members of the Parish are those who are eighteen years of age or older, who have been baptized, are regular attendees at the services of the Parish for six (6) calendar months before the meetings, and are regular contributors for six (6) calendar months to the current expenses of the Parish.

C. Qualifications and Election of Warden and Vestrypersons

1. Wardens and Vestrypersons shall be elected by ballot from persons qualified to vote at such election.
2. No person shall be a candidate for election as Vestryperson or Warden unless that person is a voting member of the Parish. (See Article III-D).
3. No person shall be eligible for election as Warden unless that person is also confirmed in the Episcopal Church.
4. The Election of Warden shall be by majority vote, except if both Warden positions are to be elected, then the Election shall be by plurality.

The Election of Vestrypersons shall be by a plurality vote. In the event that a vacancy is to be filled for an unexpired term the candidates receiving the greatest numbers of votes would be elected to vacant expired terms. Then, after all vacant expired terms have been filled, remaining candidates receiving the greatest number of votes would be elected to vacant unexpired terms.

Appendix D: Commissioning of Vestry Persons

Liturgy: Commissioning of Vestry persons at St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, NY

Presenter - Warden	I present to you these persons to be admitted to the Vestry of the parish.
Celebrant	Are the persons whom you present prepared by quality of life, regular attendance at Divine worship, evidence of good stewardship, and knowledge of their duties to exercise their special ministries to the honor and glory of God in this place?
Presenter - Warden	I believe they are so prepared.
Celebrant	Have the persons you present been duly elected to the offices to which they are to be admitted?
Presenter - Warden	They have been duly elected
Celebrant (To Vestry persons)	Will you be faithful in prayer, fellowship, and witness? Will you be diligent in your ministry as a Vestry person, seeking Christ in all persons and giving of your time, talent, and treasure in his Name?
Response	I will.
Celebrant	By your affirmative response to the ministry set before you, you are hereby commissioned to Christian service as Vestry persons. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do in God's will in the service of the Kingdom of His Christ.

Let us Pray:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with these new and returning vestry members as they seek the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach each of us that in all things we are called to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*