

## Senior Warden Report

It was so exciting to start 2021 with Mother Minerva as our new Rector! When Mother Minerva asked me to serve as Senior Warden, I admit there was some trepidation on my part.

Here is the scenario: Rector: new Priest, first time as leader of congregation. Senior Warden: also new, no experience as head of Vestry of any church. In the midst of the COVID pandemic! What could happen? What would happen? Let the excitement begin!

Based on my time and experience with Mother Minerva in my role as Senior Warden, this is what I believe: Mother Minerva has energized our members with her vision and enthusiasm as she continues to learn about the people and culture of St. John's. I'm confident that our parishioners will follow as she helps us re-imagine our church. Although St. John's is strong, we can be so much stronger.

We have abundant love and kindness to share. With Mother Minerva's leadership and the help of all of us, we will identify our focus and take action! As the saying goes, "We can't do everything, but we can do something!"

St. John's will find new ways to go beyond our church walls and, for those whom we encounter, as the song says, "they'll know we are Christians by our love". We will work to identify racial and social justice issues (and tangible ways to help) as we continue to walk the path, as MLK said, toward Becoming Beloved Community.

I want to say a special thanks to Mother Minerva, for being our fearless leader as we continue our journey through the wilderness of COVID. We are still searching for a way out, but it is nice to know that we have a strong, confident leader.

I also want to offer my thanks to Deacon Victoria. She has been our dedicated, steadfast presence and source of comfort. While at our church, she has served and honored three different Rectors (plus Father Ben, and Father David!). In addition, for the past 18 months, she has been our Racial Justice Team Leader and Sacred Ground Team Leader and Facilitator. She exemplifies love, kindness, grace, and support when needed. Thank you, Deacon Victoria.

To my Fellow Vestry members: Thank you to all the members I have served with for the last three years. I would like to especially recognize the work of our out-going Junior Warden, Hal Hughes, for his many years of dedication

to keep the buildings and grounds in such great shape and his forward-thinking approach regarding our future infrastructure needs. Hal has provided me with wise counsel; thank you, Hal!

Thank you to Mother Minerva; Deacon Victoria; our office staff – volunteers Sheri and Nancy; our tech guru, Bill; A/V specialist, Marvin; our Treasurer, Sandy; and the ministry leaders who keep our church humming along.

I want to recognize the on-going support and services of Fay Jones, Philip Riley, and Alfonso Hernandez. Thank you, Fay, for keeping us well-informed, and to Philip and Alfonso, as well as our choir, for keeping our sanctuary full of beautiful music!

I know that there many others who serve our church, both “seen and unseen”. As I reflect on my role as Senior Warden, I have grown to understand this even more during this past year. I know that there are folks I have missed, but you have all been in my prayers!

It has been my honor to serve as Senior Warden of St. John’s Episcopal Church.