

2025 Annual Report

St. John's Episcopal Church

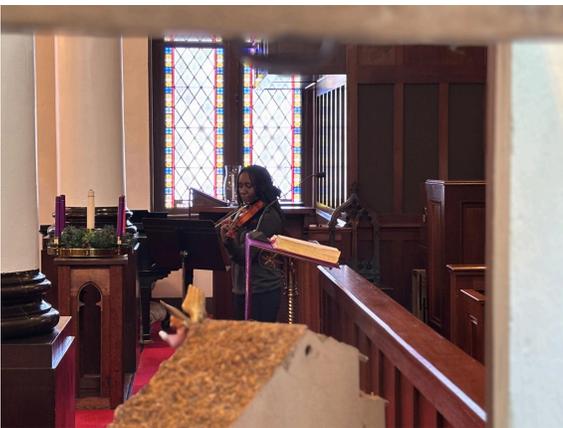


"To grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love and joy"

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**Agenda for 223rd Annual Meeting of St. John's Church,
in Worthington and Parts Adjacent
March 15, 2026**

Call to order – The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin

Welcome and opening remarks – Star Blackford

Appointment of Recording Secretary and declaration of a quorum

Approval of Minutes of the 222nd Annual Meeting, March 16, 2025

Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish, September 14, 2025

Introduction of the clergy and staff – Star Blackford

Introduction of the current Vestry Members – Steven Ellcessor

Introduction of outgoing Senior Warden and Vestry Members – Steven Ellcessor

Introduction of the newly elected Vestry Members and Senior Warden – Star Blackford

Presentation of the 2025 Annual Report – Star Blackford

Update on Vestry Meeting with The Rev. Canon Jodi Baron – Star Blackford

Treasurer's Financial Report – John Pascoe

Questions and Answers regarding the Annual Report or the Financial Report – Star Blackford

Acknowledgements – Star Blackford

Closing Prayer – The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin

Minutes for the 222nd Annual Meeting for Calendar Year 2024 of St John's Church, in Worthington and Parts Adjacent Sunday, March 16, 2025

Call to Order and Invocation: The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin called the 222nd Annual Meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and offered an opening prayer.

Welcoming and Opening Remarks: Senior Warden Star Blackford welcomed the Parish to the 222nd Annual Meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church. She thanked those attending, both in person and online, and she directed parishioners to the meeting agenda, found on page 6 of the 2024 Annual Report.

Appointment of Recording Secretary: Scyld Anderson was appointed as recording secretary for the meeting, and a quorum of the Parish was declared to be present.

Approval of Minutes of the 221st Annual Meeting held February 25, 2024: A motion to approve the minutes the 221st Annual Meeting was made by Wendell Gibbs and seconded by Jonathon Johns. The senior warden invited suggestions for changes or corrections, but none were offered. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Introduction of Clergy and Staff: The Senior Warden introduced our Rector, the Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin, our Associate Rector, the Rev. David Burman, Facilities Manager David Talbot, Parish Engagement Coordinator Bella Olmstead, Staff Accountant Christine Rees, Director of St. John's Early Education Center Carrie Troester, Organist Stephen Sollars, Choral Director Nick Taylor, Childcare Attendants Allison Periatt and Lisa Dillon, and our new intern Erica Hayes. She noted that we see only a small portion of their accomplishments, and she extended our collective esteem and gratitude for all they do, seen and unseen.

Introduction of Current Vestry Members: Lisa Graupmann (Junior Warden) acknowledged current Vestry members, namely, Carol Newcomb-Alutto, Bruce Batchelder, Star Blackford (Senior Warden) and Wendy Ciriglio, Sarah Iles Johnston, Greg Kellison, Rebecca McCauley, Susan Mancini, Tom Moushey, Keith Redmill, Laura Wallace, Dana Whitley, and Cynthia Woodbeck.

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members and Junior Warden: Lisa Graupman was thanked for her faithful service as Junior Warden. All outgoing Vestry members, Sarah Iles Johnston, Greg Kellison, and Cynthia Woodbeck were also thanked. They all were given a token of appreciation for their service.

Introduction of Newly Elected Vestry Members and Junior Warden: Junior Warden Lisa Graupman thanked the nominating committee, which identified a set of outstanding candidates for four Vestry seats and the position of Junior Warden position. All those who stood for election also were acknowledged and thanked. The newly elected are Carol Newcomb-Alutto, Tom Moushey (Junior Warden), Josh Mullet, Kristy Reel, and Scarlet Winters.

Presentation of the 2024 Annual Report: Senior Warden Star Blackford presented the 2024 Annual Report. Copies of the report were available on the information table in the Atrium and on the church's website. She encouraged parishioners to enjoy the photos and to read the reports from clergy, staff, officers, committees, and ministries contained in the report.

Invite, Welcome, Connect Progress Report: Jonathan Johns presented on behalf the Invite, Welcome, Connect initiative (“IWC”). Its written report is contained in the 2024 Annual Report. Jonathan explained that IWC is an approach, not a program, and he invited parishioners to review the new IWC handbook. His presentation was full and compelling. Among the many highpoints were the importance of modelling Jesus’ love and compassion, discovering each other’s gifts, and sharing our individual faith stories as part of intentional evangelization. More practical aspects include assessing individual and congregational responsibilities, signage, and budget. John and his co-chair, Mary Wachtel, were thanked for their work on this very important initiative.

Treasurer’s Financial Report: John Pascoe, Parish Treasurer, and Bob Hays, chair of the Finance Committee, presented the Financial Report. They emphasized trends, as well as details. They gave thanks for annual giving, endowment giving, and the giving of time and talent. In the past year, Bob met with the Diocesan Missioner for Stewardship to discuss what the Parish will look like in ten years. In this meeting, they discussed the fact that most parishes, including St. John’s, will need to develop multiple streams of revenue beyond annual giving. We are developing these streams – our endowment, for example. That said, we “live paycheck to paycheck.” We are viable, meaning that we can do all we need, but not all that we would like. A Power Point presentation was offered. Operating expenses, investments, and income were described in detail. Both operating revenue and expenses were under budget. Money was moved from the endowment as budgeted. We were blessed with a very generous donor, and the market had a good year. Socially responsible investing has been adopted, with goals such as cutting carbon emissions, without giving up revenue. The endowment balance actually increased. A “narrative budget’ pie chart was offered. It is expressed in terms of mission and shows how our mission share is allocated. It is who we are and what we do. It conveys much more information than do simple numbers in columns. Moreover, it does not even capture volunteer hours, which are substantial. The Senior Warden extended deep and sincere thanks to Bob Hays, John Pascoe, and the entire Finance Committee.

Questions and Answers regarding the Annual Report or the Financial Report: Senior Warden Star Blackford invited questions concerning the Annual Report and Financial Report.

Acknowledgements: Senior Warden Star Blackford extended thanks to each and every one of us for sharing our lives with St. John’s. Although the Annual Report is full of information and stories, it does not and cannot name everyone who contributed to our life as a Parish . She also noted that sometimes, you might need to receive care, and receiving care may even help you offer your own gifts later. Every person in every condition is welcome.

Closing Prayer: The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin closed by offering the “Prayer of Good Courage” used by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, which is in concordat with the Episcopal Church of the United States of America.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Scyld Anderson, Recording Secretary

Minutes for the Special Meeting of the Parish of St. John's Church, in Worthington and Parts Adjacent Held on Sunday, September 14, 2025

The Rector Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin offered the opening prayer.

The meeting was called to order and Senior Warden Star Blackford circulated attendance sheets. A quorum was declared. Ms. Blackford appointed Scyld Anderson to serve as recording secretary, and Mr. Anderson accepted the appointment.

Ms. Blackford observed that notice of this special meeting was duly given as required by St. John's by-laws on August 26, 2025. A true copy of said notice is attached to these minutes. The purpose of the meeting was to consider amending the by-laws, pertaining to: (1) whether Vestry members may also serve as committee chairs; and (2) the permissible number of candidates for the positions of Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Vestry. As set forth in the notice of meeting, the proposed amendments were as follows, with deleted language being marked by ~~struckthrough~~, and new language being underlined:

Article VI.7.D.

Vestry Committees - There shall be Vestry Committees established at the first regular meeting of the Vestry with chair persons nominated by the Rector, subject to confirmation by the Vestry. Vestry members may not also serve as Vestry Permanent Committee chairs.

Article VII.2.A.

A. Number of Candidates for Wardens & Vestry - The Nominating Committee shall select, present & publicize to the Parish the following slate of candidates no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of elections:

- For the offices of Senior and Junior Warden, there shall be at least two (2) candidates. The Nominating Committee shall use its reasonable best efforts to secure at least two (2) candidates. If, however, only one candidate has agreed to be nominated after those efforts, there may be only one (1) candidate.
- For the four (4) vestry seats, there shall be at least six (6) candidates. The Nomination Committee shall use its reasonable best efforts to secure at least six (6) candidates. If, however, fewer than six (6) candidates have agreed to be nominated after those efforts, there may be fewer than six (6) candidates.

The adoption of the two amendments were moved by Keith Redmill and seconded by Helen Hays. Junior Warden Steve Ellcessor opened the floor for discussion. Following robust discussion, the amendments were adopted by a majority of those present by a show of hands. Accordingly, the pertinent sections of the Bylaws now provide as follows:

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Official business being concluded, Mr. Ellcessor offered an interim report concerning the work of the pipe organ task force, various capital investment challenges currently facing the church, and efforts to identify new funding sources.

Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin offered the concluding prayer.

Scyld Anderson, Recording Secretary

RECTOR

When people who aren't really churchy ask what I do as a parish priest, I often fall back on the framework of the Book of Common Prayer (minus the Episcopal jargon, of course). It describes the ministry of a priest as pastor, priest, and teacher. Those three categories are an excellent way to describe my sixth year as your rector.

Pastoral ministry is perhaps the least visible aspect of my work, simply because so much of it happens behind closed doors to protect people's privacy. The rhythm of my days includes hospital and home visits, phone calls and texts and email, requests for prayer during coffee hour, casual chats in the parish office, conversations over coffee or ice cream, preparation for Baptism, and funerals. This past year, we said farewell to God's beloved children Katherine Haines, Susan Herbert, Bob Lindsey, Dick Martin, Patrick O'Brien, Julie Weatherington-Rice, and Jeanne Winget. As well as all this, there are moments, and sometimes seasons and years, when an individual or family needs more intense pastoral support, and 2025 had its share of those as well.

The role of a pastor includes helping people discern where God is at work in their lives. This year, I had the privilege of walking alongside two people who have been asking whether God was calling them to ordained ministry. Erica Hays, an explorer from St. Andrew's in Pickerington, spent a six-month internship at St. John's, gaining exposure to a different congregational system, experiencing new aspects of ministry, and meeting with a discernment committee to listen to God's call to her. I'm grateful to committee members Bob Baker, Luanne Hall-Stoodley, Emmanuel Koomson, Kristy Reel, Matt Rice, and chair Jennifer Hughes for their careful attention to Erica. And Stephen Sollars, our organist and longtime parishioner, completed his own discernment internship at All Saints in New Albany. Bishop White admitted Stephen to postulancy for the priesthood in October. He is currently applying to seminaries, intending to begin his Master of Divinity program in fall 2026.

As a priest, I get to preach and preside at liturgies, which is what most people think of when they think of the life and work of a priest. David and I continued to preach joint sermons once a quarter. Wesley Glen invited me to lead a Sunday-afternoon Vespers service for residents in May. In October I participated in the Columbus-area Episcopal churches' pulpit swap, which took me to St. Philip, our historically Black congregation, located near Franklin Park. One highlight of this year was the Great Vigil of Easter. With Bishop White's gracious permission, Wendell Gibbs, a member of St. John's who happens to be the retired Bishop of Michigan, presided at a service of Confirmation. Four people were confirmed, five received into the Episcopal Church, and two reaffirmed their baptismal vows. Another highlight was the first wedding in the nave since the pandemic, also the first wedding I've officiated in our church (we've had several weddings off site). Altar Guild members patiently answered my flood of questions, and St. John's offered a wedding that was both beautiful and affirming of God's work in this couple's life together.

Teaching has become a major part of my ministry as your rector. In 2025, I taught adult formation series on the Christian year, the Apostle Paul, Saints, the Nicene Creed, and Ignatian Spirituality. David and I co-led Episcopal 101 and an Advent series on Prophets. I was one of the four presenters for the Lenten School, a shared ministry of Episcopal churches in the Columbus area that gathered for the first time since Covid this year. I also continue to lead Children's Church once a month, to know our children and be known by them, and now that we are offering Children's Church at both services, my time with our kids has similarly expanded.

Responsible teachers are learners themselves, and in 2025 my continuing education took me to our diocese's initial College for Congregational Development program. CCD aims to help congregations of all sizes, locations, and conditions become more faithful, healthy, and effective with tools from church experts and from secular organization development. Teams of clergy and lay leaders participate in a week-long intensive, and Star Blackford and Emmanuel Koomson joined me for this time at Procter Center in July. We learned a number of models, from Benedictine spirituality to change processes to stages of conflict, and planned to try out one of them—called Sources of Transformation—at St. John's. When we led the exercise in the fall, we learned how God is already

transforming us and where we might need to create a little more space for God to work among us. Incorporating a little more silence and stillness into our worship services is one outgrowth of that inquiry.

That is my work as pastor, priest, and teacher. Then there is what our prayer book helpfully describes as “the other ministrations entrusted to you.” Stewardship letters. Participating in the Worthington faith leaders group and the city’s Leadership Roundtable that brings together city officials and nonprofit leaders to strengthen Worthington’s community. Working with our wardens and finance team to explore funding streams that can stabilize St. John’s finances over the longer term. Beeping door alarms (why do they always go off when David Talbot is on vacation?!).

Service to the wider Church continues to be part of my ministry as a priest, in accord with my ordination vows. I finally wrapped up my duties as chair of the Mission Share Formula Committee, which was charged with crafting the formula for the financial support that congregations send to the Diocese of Southern Ohio. In addition to lots of meetings and spreadsheets, this work involved holding two forums to hear input on proposed formulas from people in the diocese, getting the endorsement of Diocesan Council, and presenting the formula to Diocesan Convention for its approval. Diocesan Convention also elected me to serve a second time as a deputy to General Convention, the Episcopal Church’s legislative assembly that meets every three years. This will take me to Phoenix, Arizona, for ten days or so in—God help me—July of 2027.

God has been among us in 2025, growing, healing, and serving with wisdom, love, and joy. As always, it is a joy and honor to serve as your rector.

The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin, Rector

ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Annual Update on Children’s and Youth Ministry at St. John’s

Our children’s program is growing! Our primary activities for kids are Children’s Church during both services on Sundays and Godly Play at 10:15am between services (Godly Play is a hands-on Montessori-style program), plus Vacation Bible School and the Christmas pageant!

In 2025, we began offering Children’s Church at the 11:15am service as well as the at the 9am, to accommodate our growing number of kiddos – it has been a success! Likewise, we are increasingly splitting the kids by age during 10:15am Godly Play for the same reason.

Little ones (aged 0-3 or 4 or so) often spend time in our nursery, I am grateful to our nursery staff: Allison Periatt, Molly Yeager, and Tiffany Keehn, and to Sara Ross the volunteer.

Our primary activities for youth are Youth Roundtable at 10:15am between services, and a youth group we share with St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, which met on weekends (thanks to Nile Najmi, the children’s and youth minister at St. Stephens’s whom I work with). It’s so fun!

Our youth group also took a trip to Cincinnati this summer, staying overnight at Christ Church Cathedral, and then attending worship there the next day – we also spent time at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center the next day, learning about the history of the Underground Railroad.

Here’s a list of the volunteers who helped with our program in 2025. Many thanks!

Jessica O’Donnell
Carrie Troester
Star Blackford

Wendy Ciriegio
Rea Hederman
Teri Foley-Nelson

Mindy Feurtado
Mary Bailey
Lisa Graupmann

Melissa Christophersen Redmill
Keith Redmill
Kim Rice
Marianne Broere
Sara Ross

Jessica Dickinson
Matthew Dickinson
John Pascoe
Laura Wallace
Blair Wallace

Russell Allen
Karrie Kunkel
Joe Kunkel
Jeff Nelson
Joan Wintermantel

With peace,
The Rev. David Burman +

SENIOR WARDEN

As my time as your senior warden ends, I am filled anew with joy and gratitude for the incredible faith community that is St. John's. As we shared another year marked by growth, challenges, change, and hope, the myriad gifts of the Spirit that abide in each of our parishioners ensured that no matter the circumstance, we continued *to grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy.*

The Vestry year began with our Annual Retreat, a holy time for those assembled as Laura Wallace guided us in sharing snapshots of our spiritual journeys and coalescing into a leadership team invested in one another as well as the congregation. Our Vestry's work this past year has often been challenging; working as team has not. For this, I offer profound thanks to this incredible body.

Where and how have we been at work this year? Here are some examples:

Early this year, we **revised and updated our building use policy and fee schedule** to address safety and liability issues and make our fees commensurate with similar properties. After significant research by Junior Warden Steven Ellcessor and members of the Property Committee, we **approved the formation of an Historic Preservation Trust** as a new potential revenue stream for future upkeep and maintenance of the historic areas of our property. Gia, Emmanuel Koomson, and I attended the first year of the **College for Congregational Development** at Procter Center this past July, sharing a transformational time with leaders throughout our diocese and developing skills that help build healthy, sustainable, and effective congregations. We began the process of sharing that knowledge with the congregation in October using the **Sources of Transformation** exercise, and we look forward to continuing to share and apply these valuable learnings.

In September, we held a Special Meeting of the Parish to make changes to our bylaws to address our challenges in identifying candidates for senior lay leadership positions; those challenges, and that work, continues. **And yet:** our story continues to be that of a growing, active, and engaged community – one in which I have, these past two years, witnessed each and every member growing, healing, and *servicing*. Whether you sing in the choir, serve as a greeter or usher, volunteer for our Children and Youth Ministries, serve on a committee, have helped with coffee hour, participate in worship at the altar, or have called or texted to check on a fellow parishioner – thank you. *This* is what it looks like to grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy.

I will be forever grateful for our clergy, Gia Hayes-Martin and David Burman, who blend leadership with compassion on a daily basis; for our staff, including Bella Olmstead, David Talbot, Christine Rees, Nick Taylor, and Stephen Sollars, who share not only their talents but their patience, grace, and laughter with us each day; and for our Junior Warden, Steven Ellcessor, who continues to give abundantly of his time and vast skill set.

It has been a privilege to serve for and with you, and I look forward to continuing that work in new ways in the years to come.

Star Blackford, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN

While the junior warden works with Gia, the senior warden, and the vestry on a wide variety of parish issues, the junior warden's attention is often most focused on property matters. This past year was no exception, and I worked closely with the members of the property committee throughout the year. Please review the report from the property committee in this annual report for a discussion of the many projects that David Talbot, the committee, and other volunteers worked on in 2025. I want to extend my thanks to all of them for their time and efforts.

Since the property committee report covers the projects from last year, I want to focus in this report on a different but related topic—funding of those projects. As I am sure you are all aware, it is a continuing challenge at St. John's to fund all of the property maintenance and repair projects that are required to keep our historic buildings and grounds in proper condition. Every year, we juggle what can be done and what must be postponed until more funding is available. We have been able to meet our most important needs over the years, partly through funds provided for in our annual budgets but also through hours and hours of work personally contributed by individuals in the parish. Special donations from parishioners have also been and will continue to be critical to meeting our property needs, and the diocese has been helpful in providing grants and loans. But even with all of that, there is always a list of projects that must be deferred because of a lack of available funds.

We have recently gotten to the point, however, where there are several important projects that cannot be deferred any longer and which will take substantial funds that we don't have readily available. Most importantly, our steeple is in very poor condition and needs to be replaced. Also, there are numerous places where the brickwork of the church itself is decaying and needs to be repaired or replaced and where plaster on interior walls has been damaged due to leaks related to exterior brick issues and needs repaired.

The wardens, vestry, and the property committee, with Gia's support and guidance, have been examining alternatives to try to help find funding for these and other needed projects. One such potential source is The National Fund for Sacred Places (the "NFSP") (see [Homepage – National Fund For Sacred Places](#)), an organization that makes grants to community-serving, historically important houses of worship across the country to help them meet needs precisely like those we are facing at St. John's. After discussions with vestry and the property committee, we have decided to apply for a grant from the NFSP this year. The application is due on March 3. The application competition is highly competitive as it is likely that between 300 and 500 religious entities will file for an NFSP grant this year. So, it is obviously not a sure thing that we will receive an award. But in reviewing the NFSP materials and criteria, we believe that St. John's is a good candidate that meets the grant criteria very well, and we believe that it is well worth making the effort to apply.

In addition to the NFSP application, vestry has authorized investigation of another source of potential funding for our property needs. There are foundations, community funds, and other sources of charitable gifts that have an interest in supporting the preservation of historic buildings. Unfortunately for St. John's, many of those entities are either forbidden by the terms of their organization documents from donating funds to religious entities or are otherwise disinclined to do so. So, following the example of several historic religious sites elsewhere in the country, we are looking at forming a historic preservation non-profit entity that, while legally separate from St. John's, will be dedicated to soliciting donations from foundations and other entities to be used solely for the preservation and maintenance of our historic buildings and property. Any funds raised by such an entity could not be used for parish operations or other non-property purposes, but anything that is raised could certainly help take pressure off of our regular operating budget.

We will, of course, keep everyone informed of developments regarding the proposed NFSP grant application and the formation of the historic preservation non-profit. If you have questions regarding either of these projects, please let me know.

Steven Elcessor

ORGANIST

As I look back at 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the community of St. John's. This past year was filled with meaningful worship and dedicated service. The Organ Committee, under the leadership of Steve Ellcessor, wrapped up their work in the beginning of the year and offered a recommendation to our Rector and Finance Committee to continue to work with a local builder for addressing the needs of our primary Schantz Organ in the nave. The recommendation is the culmination of three years of work, and I give thanks for the extended service of committee members.

I had the opportunity to participate in a program through the Association of Anglican Musicians this past year that had me meet with Gia and Bishop White to explore ways of building healthy working relationships between musicians and clergy. The three of us participated in a panel discussion at the Association's annual conference which was held in Cincinnati this past summer. I am grateful for the time spent in conversation with Gia and Bishop White and for being able to represent our parish and diocese to the larger community of Episcopal Church musicians.

Finally, I want to thank you all for your support since I came to St. John's nearly 10 years ago. St. John's has been a community of support that has allowed me to grow as Christian and as a leader. After two formal years in a discernment process, I became a postulant in October and next fall I will be beginning my seminary formation. As I transition from musician to seminarian, I will take the lessons, experiences, and support you all have given me and go into the world to continue my service to God. Continue to grow, heal, and serve in this community with God's wisdom, love, and joy—you will never know the full impact of your faithful witness.

Stephen Sollars

CHORAL DIRECTOR

What a wonderful year 2025 was for music at St Johns! We have seen the choir grow with new members, which was a major goal of mine. With the talent that has been assembled we had the opportunity to present a larger cross section of sacred music dating from ancient to modern.

The overarching theme was peace and hope. We presented works from the renaissance as well as modern reimaginations of old tunes. Music has a special property in that sometimes it can take a text and give it new life and meaning. The message of peace and hope was intended to stand strong our message - "To grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy."

We also presented an Evensong for the first time since covid reared its ugly head. The choir performed music from the rich tapestry of African American composers that are so important to the Episcopal faith for this occasion.

The choir also celebrated the end of the year with our semi annual cabaret to highlight the broad level of talent that makes St. John's choir a spiritual home!

On a personal note, I had the singular joy of welcoming my son Atticus Matthew Taylor into the world in November and was granted a very gracious paternity leave to spend the first eight weeks with my son and wife. While I missed being able to celebrate Christmas with my spiritual family, Stephen Sollars did not miss a beat and managed to put on a wonderful Choral Prelude for Christmas Eve while still playing brilliantly on the organ as always.

Music unites us as singers and congregants. St. John's rich tradition of music to honor God and all his mercies is a blessing to us all, and I am personally blessed to be granted a small role in this historical pursuit!

Nick Taylor

DIRECTOR OF EARLY EDUCATION

St. John's Early Education Center serves families with three to five year olds. Our families come from Worthington, Dublin, Gahanna, Delaware, Clintonville, Columbus and Westerville. We are a nonprofit and operate financially independent of the church. Tuition is our only source of income outside of fundraisers and the occasional donation. Currently, we have 65 students enrolled at the preschool for the current school year. We have two three year old classrooms and two four/five year old classrooms. Our regular school day runs from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, we offer an extension to the day called Lunch Bunch which ends at 1:00 p.m. Additionally, we offer an Enrichment Class for four and five year olds. This add-on to the regular schedule extends the day to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday. During this time, students have lunch and recess and then dive deeper into some of the learning they have done previously through walking field trips, STEM activities and games. And finally, we offer Art Club. This is offered in eight week sessions and gives students an opportunity to learn about different artists and mediums while expressing themselves through art projects involving paint, clay, chalk, beads and collage.

We are licensed by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth (DCY). Each year, we have an unannounced visit by DCY for a rigorous inspection. Our student to teacher ratio is lower than the state regulations require, which allows the teachers more one on one time with each child. Our staff includes: Julie May, Lindsey Cantrell, Elizabeth Dawes-Bailey, Heidi Anderson, Samrath Grubb and Molly Penrod in our three year old classrooms, and Sara Posey, Carrie Hallam and Ashley Turk in our four/five year old classrooms. Genna Carey is our Art Teacher, George Barrie is our Music Teacher, Dayna Case is our Yoga Teacher, and Judy McCombs is our Spanish Teacher. Office staff includes Kelly Monahan, our Office Manager and Laura Hudson, our Accounting and Financial Advisor. For more information about the preschool, please check our website, www.sjpreschool.com or contact us at 614-885-2315.

Carrie Troester, Director

OPERATING BUDGET COMPARISON REPORT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 and 2025

<u>Revenue</u>	2026	<u>2025</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Operating Revenue:			
Pledge Contributions	509,000	509,000	514,558
Funds From Investments	49,243	46,465	-
Money Market Reserves	4,000	-	-
Funds From Property Account	70,000	70,000	82,100
Funds From Clergy and Staff Account	80,000	80,000	83,874
Other Plate Contributions	60,000	52,000	70,397
Building Rental and Usage Revenue	39,000	41,500	37,925
Special Purpose Revenue	-	-	16,805
Other Revenue	1,350	1,500	9,060
Total Operating Revenue	812,593	800,465	814,719
 <u>Expenses:</u>			
Operating Expenses:			
Human Resources Expenses	506,811	490,270	396,674
Property Expenses	167,748	164,240	83,550
Special Purpose Expenses	-	-	181,209
Administration Expenses	29,180	27,780	34,741
Committee Expenses	27,250	26,450	18,530
Ministry Expenses	8,895	7,225	7,857
Diocesan Expenses	72,709	84,500	85,671
Total Operating Expenses	812,593	800,465	808,232
 Operating Gain/(Deficit)	-	-	6,487

Note 1: The pledge contributions budget is determined by actual amounts from the Pledge forms received but is then adjusted downward by a percentage based upon an analysis of contributions actually received in prior years. The reduction rate for 2026 is 5%.

Note 2: Other contributions includes contributions from non-pledging members and visitors, plate cash, and prior year contributions

Note 3: The operating budget that is approved annually by the Vestry includes monies expected to be used from investments

Note 4: For 2025, \$83,874 of human resources and \$82,100 of property expenses have been reallocated to special purpose expense, as reflected in the numbers above, to match monies received from investments and other parishioner donations for these expenses

Christine Rees, Staff Accountant

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year 2025, we concluded with operational expenses totaling \$808,234, which was \$7,767 above our budget. On the revenue side, operational revenue exceeded budget by \$6,483, with total operational revenue of \$814,727. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone in the Parish for keeping their pledges current and for their generous contributions to the plate, allowing us to achieve a slight overage.

Regarding non-operational expenses, we completed several important projects, including repairs to Township Hall and work on portions of the HVAC infrastructure across the campus. Much of the Township Hall work was funded by a grant—an income source that will continue to be important to St. John's as we move forward with upcoming projects such as repairs to the Steeple and other key improvements. Contracts have also been signed to replace the roof of Kilbourne Hall and to repair the South stairs. These expenses will be paid in 2026, and I am grateful for the donations already made to support these efforts.

We provided \$85,234 in mission share, approximately \$5,000 less than last year. For the coming year, we anticipate giving about \$72,709 to the Diocese in mission share, continuing a downward trend over the past several years.

Looking ahead to 2026, the operating budget is set at \$812,593. The largest expenses remain personnel and property, while the primary source of income continues to be pledge, prepaid pledge and plate revenue, budgeted at \$569,000. The remainder of the budget will be supported by investments, property and staff funds, rental income, and other sources. The 2026 budget allows for transfers of \$80,000 from the staff and clergy fund and \$70,000 from the property fund, with any additional need covered by investments.

Pledges were budgeted at \$479,000 for 2025, increasing to \$509,000 for 2026 which includes \$40,000 in expected pre-paid pledges. Actual plate revenue in 2025 totaled \$70,397—an amount that continues to grow and exceed budget expectations. For 2026, plate revenue is budgeted at \$60,000.

Endowment Funds

As of the end of 2025, the Church's investment balance stands at \$1,259,571, compared to \$1,274,500 at the end of 2024. During the year, \$150,000 was withdrawn from investments to balance the budget and support the Property and Staff Funds. Maintaining our fund balance reflects both continued investment growth and the generosity of our parishioners, particularly those contributing to the Property and Staff Funds. I am deeply appreciative of these ongoing gifts.

As we enter 2026, I extend my sincere thanks to the staff for their continued hard work and commitment to the mission of St. John's.

Faithfully submitted,
John Pascoe, Treasurer

ADULT FORMATION: ST. JOHN'S MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

St. John's Men's Bible Study, was organized at the request of Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin, and is led by Chuck Camp. The group meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30 PM from September through May in the Conference Room next to Gia's office. Study materials, in six-week segments, are purchased by participants through Little Rock Scripture Studies (littlerockscripture.org). Chuck has organized and led Small Group "life application" Bible studies for 40 years. The group currently consists of Chuck, Wendell Gibbs, Robert (Bob) Maier, and Melville Hayes-Martin.

Chuck Camp (614-816-4066, thecampman88@gmail.com)

ADULT FORMATION: 2025 WOMEN'S RETREAT

Our Fall Women's Retreat was held on Friday, Sept 19th - 20th at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center located at 495 Albion Way, Cincinnati, OH. Fifteen women attended. They were Donna DeRemer-Hissrich, Coordinator, Marie Kovitch, our Facilitator, Attendees were Mary Bailey, Tricia Herban, Teri Foley-Nelson, Donna Bailey, Melissa Christopherson-Redmill, Jennifer Hughes, Sue Sheets, Judy Gallucci, Diana Shirley, Anne Davidson, Eve Herold, Mary Branch and Constance Rivera.

Our theme was Finding what you need (Courage, Strength, Hope, etc) through the Holy Spirit. We discussed the different names of the Holy Spirit, what the main purpose and function is of the Holy Spirit, where we might have seen the Holy Spirit, and the ways of receiving and embracing the Holy Spirit into our life by faith. We did some of these through the Examen.

Where did I see God today?

Where was I able to draw near to God?

Where did I seem to move away from God?

We revisited doing Soul Collage and I taught Diamond Art as an activity. Our Fall Retreat for 2026 will be Oct. 9th at the Transfiguration Spirituality Center. Watch the bulletin for additional information.

Donna DeRemer-Hissrich, Coordinator

FINANCE

The Finance Committee meets monthly on the Tuesday preceding the monthly Vestry meetings. The current members are: David Hissrich, Kala Sue Bush, Christine Rees (Staff Accountant), Rea Hederman, Bob Hays (chair), Lisa Graupmann, John Pascoe (Treasurer), Star Blackford (Senior Warden), Steve Ellcessor (Junior Warden) and Tom Moushey (Vestry Liaison.)

St. John's closed 2025 with expenses being lower than budgeted and pledge income and other contributions exceeding budget. The result was that no additional funds were required from our investment account to complete the year. Our investment account finished the year at \$1,259,571, down slightly from the beginning of the year and helped by market appreciation and parishioner donations—in spite of budgeted withdrawals of \$150,000 from the Clergy and Staff Fund and the Property Fund. Additional details of the 2025 finances can be found in the Treasurer's Report.

I would like to express my gratitude to Christine Rees and all of the members of the committee for their hard work and dedication. We also want to thank Gia for her input and guidance during this past year. Last, but definitely not least, we wish to thank all of the members of the congregation for their financial support of St. John's in the past and hopefully for the years to come. Without you we would not be the church that we are today.

Bob Hays, Chair

St. John's Finance Committee

INVITE WELCOME CONNECT

At the root of IWC is the belief that "We are called to be exactly who we are in Jesus Christ, and to invite, and welcome, and connect others to that life-giving reality". (former Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church). IWC is not a program—it is an approach for how we as a parish can examine and embed intentional acts

and strategies of invite, welcome, and connect throughout all that we do. In 2025, the IWC core group continued to gather input from the parish, reviewed and prioritized that input, and developed a plan for 2026. We also held the first “Chat SJW” in June, during coffee hour, with about 35 parishioners participating and getting to know each other better. The IWC 2026 plan includes:

INVITE

- Welcome the public to St. John’s-sponsored and Worthington community events and provide information about the St. John’s community. We will assemble a calendar of 2026 events and recruit St. John’s volunteers to “staff” a few of the events.

WELCOME

- Design and install signage both inside and outside to welcome folks to St. John’s and direct them to key areas of our campus, e.g., nursery, Kilbourne Hall, disabled parking.
- Recruit and support coffee hour ambassadors -- parishioners who intentionally circulate during coffee hour to greet, listen to and connect with folks.

CONNECT

- Offer “Chat SJW” during coffee hour 3-4 times per year
- Bring back the annual “ministries fair”

We welcome volunteers for any of these activities--you can do a little or a lot, whatever your time and interest allow.

Blessings,

Mary Wachtel (614.616.0328, mdwachtel@gmail.com)

Jonathan Johns (614.425.5295, <mailto:jonkatz23@sbcglobal.net>)

Rev. David Burman (865.438.3361, davidb@stjohnsworthington.org)

Vestry Liaison Susan Mancini (614.361.2197, mancinisj@sbcglobal.net)

INVITE WELCOME CONNECT: GREETER MINISTRY

The Greeter’s role is to make each person feel comfortable upon entering St. John’s by extending a warm, caring, and sincere welcome. Greeters help identify visitors and newcomers and are prepared to answer questions about childcare, location of the rest rooms, elevator, coat racks, etc.. Greeters are scheduled for each 9:00 and 11:15 Sunday service as well as special events such as Music Series concerts.

The following parishioners served as Greeters during 2025: Margaret Allen, Bob Baker, Bruce Batchelder, Laura Batchelder, Susie Bonnell, Marianne Broere, Wendy Ciriugio, Geralyn Esselburn, Tricia Herban, Emmanuel Koomson, Rebecca McCauley, Ruth McCauley, Jeff Purdom, Constance Rivera, Jose Rivera, Lee Shepherd, Paula Smailes and Ben, Janet Souder, and Linda Weatherholt.

If you would like to know more about this vital ministry, please contact Susie Bonnell at 260/450-1788 or sjbonnell2011@gmail.com .

Susie Bonnell

OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (OSJ) COMMITTEE

Committee Members: Lillian Balukjian Thompson (chair), Dana Whitley (Vestry Liaison), Joan Bird, Ted Dziemianowicz, Jean Duncan, Eve Herold, and Jennifer Hughes.

Our mission is to reach out locally, nationally, and internationally to support programs and provide services to those in need in the places where that need is greatest. Committee members may attend regular meetings for these organizations, serve as liaisons, and/or coordinate St. John's involvement, at times with other churches. OSJ's budget and your generous contributions fund our outreach ministries and we thank you!

In addition to striving to provide opportunities throughout the year for parishioners to participate in helping ministries, OSJ conducted a survey of parishioner preferences for engagement in ministries moving forward. Responses indicated strongest interest in participating in the following respectively: Feeding Ministries, Active Participation Ministries, and Donation Drives.

Here is how St. John's actively reached out to help those in need in 2025.

FEEDING and ACTIVE PARTICIPATION MINISTRIES:

- St. John's provided **1,000 hot meals** for food insecure Columbus residents, through our monthly turns providing for the **In The Garden** and **Street Church** feeding ministries. All meals are donated by St. John's parishioners. These ministries partner with Trinity Episcopal Church and St. Stephen's Episcopal church.
- On February 26, St. John's helped distribute non-perishable foods and fresh produce to our neighbors in need at the **Worthington Food Pantry**.
- A **Mid-Ohio Food Collective** representative visited on July 20 during Coffee Hour and shared information about the food collective with parishioners.
- On March 25, St. John's participated in a hands-on ministry in the **Ronald McDonald House** kitchen where we made dinner and served it to the people staying there.
- In August, November and December, OSJ organized a hands-on ministry event with parishioners at **Huckleberry House** to make and serve dinner to the residents and staff.
- St. John's came out in force, about 28 of us, to support the **B.R.E.A.D. (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)** Nehemiah Action Assembly on May 13, where two action campaigns were presented: Stop Predatory Landlords and Trees Protect Us.
- Parishioners joined Bethel Presbyterian Church on November 1 to help at a **Habitat for Humanity** new home build on Minnesota Avenue. St. John's is part of the Northside Partnership whose mission is seeking to put God's love into action with a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live.
- OSJ hosted a table at the **Worthington Pride Sunday Funday** event staffed with St. John's volunteers. We distributed giveaways and materials to help spread the message of the Episcopal Church: God loves you, no exception! We also celebrated by distributing rainbow carnations, in the Atrium, to our parishioners in support of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Thanks to generous parishioners who participated in making 50 Street Church **Blessing Bags** in October which were distributed to Franklinton residents in November. In addition, there were two parishioners who led Blessing Bag drives for people in need. Bags were prepared for parishioners to take and hand out to homeless people on the streets.

DONATION DRIVES:

- In February we raised \$3,398 through the **Welcome Home Refugee Support** drive to help pay for rent for a refugee family from El Salvador. This support drive was in conjunction with the Worthington United Methodist Church.

- St. John's donated nearly \$700 in Kroger gift cards to **Huckleberry House** in August. The cards were distributed to teens and young adults in need.
- Parishioners were very generous in donating 50 blankets to the October **Street Church Blanket Donation Drive**. OSJ delivered them to Franklinton residents in November.
- Thanks to parishioners' overwhelmingly generous support, the **Kilbourne Middle School Giving Tree Program** provided 17 children with gifts of clothing, winter coats, sneakers, socks/underwear, and toys! In addition, each of the 9 families received a \$200 Kroger gift card. Adding to the season, our Sacred Stitches ministry knitted hats and scarves for all the kids!

Each act taken to fulfill these opportunities -- making a meal or a blessing bag, donating a blanket, supporting a refugee family, giving a Christmas gift -- helps make our community a better place, one act of kindness at a time!

ADVOCACY INITIATIVE – OSJ set-up a table in the Atrium in February with information on how parishioners can contact their member of Congress and their Senators to share their opinion on current events and policy issues they are concerned about and advocate for change.

MONETARY DONATIONS – the Committee financially supports ministries and programs on behalf of St. John's as the budget allows. In 2025, we supported, Worthington, Gladden, and Mid-Ohio food banks, B.R.E.A.D., COMPASS, Central Ohio CROP Walk, Episcopal Community Ministries, and Habitat for Humanity.

NATIONALLY and INTERNATIONALLY: This year, OSJ provided national and international programs with monetary donations to assist those in need, including the U. S. Disaster Fund- Texas Floods, the Mission of El Hogar Program (Honduras), Episcopal Relief and Development, and Partners in Ministry in Liberia.

Lillian Balukjian Thompson

OSJ: WORTHINGTON AND GLADDEN FOOD PANTRIES

Our support of the Gladden Food Pantry since 1986 and the Worthington Resource Pantry (WRP) since 2009 is an outreach ministry that involves a large number of St. John's parishioners of all ages. Our regular food donations in 2025 totaled 1189 individual food items, 497 toiletry and household products, 15 boxes of diapers, and 36 pet food items. This was a 35% increase in food donations and a 33% increase in non-food donations compared to 2024! Our weekly food donations were delivered to the Gladden Food Pantry and the Worthington Resource Pantry to help stock their food shelves and make much-needed non-food stamp items available for their clients.

The theme for Vacation Bible School in June was God's Children Making a Difference, and the children of St. John's made a big difference in the lives of 45 other children. Our Worthington Pantry loves to have Birthday Bags on hand to give to kids whose families rely on the WRP for food in tough times. The 45 bags assembled by our VBS kids contained cake mix, frosting, birthday plates, napkins, balloons, candles, and party favors to provide a Happy Birthday for the kids who received the bags. Thanks to all the parishioners who made donations, and big thanks to our VBS kids, who joined in Making a Difference and sharing from their hearts to serve our neighbors!

Besides food and toiletry donations, many parishioners have provided financial support to the Worthington Resource Pantry, the Gladden Food Pantry, and/or the Mid-Ohio Food Collective. Both the Worthington Resource Pantry and the Gladden Food Pantry can amplify the impact of our financial donations. You can make an online donation to the Worthington Resource Pantry at www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate or send a check to Worthington Resource Pantry, P.O. Box 27, Worthington, Ohio 43085. You can donate to the Gladden Food Pantry in Franklinton at www.gladdenhouse.org/food-pantry or send a check to Gladden Food Pantry, 318 S. Glenwood Ave., Columbus OH 43223.

Feeding our hungry neighbors is a ministry shared by every member of the parish. Thank you for responding generously to Jesus's call to "feed my sheep." Our donations can transform the lives of our hungry neighbors. Thank you for your caring and your contributions.

Mary Bailey, Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is defined in the glossary at www.episcopalchurch.org as "The ministry of caring at the heart of the church's life. It may include hospital visitation, counseling, and ministries of shared presence, listening, and support. It also includes parish ministries of clergy and laity who respond to human need." All of us at St. John's, parishioners as well as clergy, have a role in offering pastoral care to our fellow parishioners.

We can rely on our clergy, Gia and David, to minister to us in time of crisis – a death in the family, a hospitalization, a scary diagnosis, or an unexpected and devastating loss in our personal lives.

Our Pastoral Care Committee and its various subgroups also play an important role in offering pastoral care to our parishioners. Some committee members reach out to parishioners who are temporarily or permanently homebound or hospital bound and unable to attend church services. Some make telephone calls, visit parishioners, or send cards to offer condolence or celebrate births or baptisms. Members of the Intercessory Prayer Group pray for those for whom prayer has been asked, and the Prayer Group maintains a policy of complete confidentiality in their prayer ministry. Eucharistic Visitors bring communion, prayer, and a friendly face to those who are not able to attend church. Members of the Sacred Stitches Prayer Shawl Ministry knit and crochet prayer shawls, blankets, and other items, praying for those who will receive them. Facing Loss is a support ministry for dedicated caregivers and those experiencing grief or loss. Soup for the Soul is a pastoral ministry able to provide soup for a limited time to those affected by illness, loss, or tragedy. Members of COHI (Community of Hope International), a new ministry at St. John's, can offer a compassionate and confidential listening ear to anyone facing a challenge.

Active members in St. John's Pastoral Care Committee in 2025 included Mary Bailey (coordinator), Wendy Ciriegio (Vestry liaison), Beth Hall, Jo Pascoe, Andi Rieger, Trudi Snediker, Linda Weatherholt, and Cynthia Woodbeck, as well as our clergy, Gia Hayes-Martin and David Burman. Meetings are at 2:15 pm on Zoom on the fourth Tuesday of odd-numbered months.

Remember the laity mentioned in the pastoral care definition? That's all of us! Jesus calls each of us to love and care for one another, and we don't need to be on a committee to do that. Each of us as parishioners has a part to play in the ministry of caring. When you do any of these things, you are offering pastoral care:

- When you greet other people at church and ask how things are going
- When you welcome parishioners and newcomers to church with a smile
- When you notice that someone wasn't at church and call them to see if they're okay
- When you deliver a homemade loaf of bread or a casserole to someone who has been sick or injured or grieving
- When you pray for a fellow parishioner who is ill or grieving or having a rough time
- When you give someone a ride to a doctor's appointment or physical therapy

Each of us has been empowered by Jesus to serve as his eyes, his ears, his hands, and his heart. Thank you for the part you play in the pastoral care of our church family!

Mary Bailey, Coordinator

PASTORAL CARE: COHI

Community of Hope International (COHI) is a new pastoral care ministry that was launched at St. John's in 2025. COHI has its roots in Benedictine spirituality and offers training and support which "equips lay people to serve in all forms of pastoral care, ...being 'present' in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner."

Nine parishioners and one former parishioner participated in 14 weeks of COHI training in the Spring of 2025. Nine class members, some of whom are also Eucharistic Visitors, signed commitments to COHI for the coming year, and Gia performed their Commitment Ceremony during both services on September 7, to introduce the congregation to these compassionate listeners and to let parishioners know that they are available to anyone who needs a listening ear.

The COHI caregivers are Mary Bailey, Wendy Ciriegio, Ted Dziemianowicz, Nancy Elkington, Beth Hall, Helen Macdonald, Melissa Christophersen Redmill, Scarlett Winters, and Cynthia Woodbeck. They are available to anyone who needs a listening ear, no matter what the situation is – a health challenge, a difficult family situation, a problem at work, a conflict with a friend or neighbor, or whatever they are struggling with. COHI members can meet with someone in their home, in the hospital, for coffee or a meal, whatever is best for them. COHI members are committed to maintaining the confidentiality of those with whom they meet.

If you would like a phone call or visit from a trained COHI caregiver, for yourself or someone else, please contact Gia or David.

Beth Hall, Cynthia Woodbeck, and Mary Bailey – COHI Leadership Team

PASTORAL CARE: FACING LOSS MINISTRY

Facing Loss is a support ministry for those experiencing many types of loss, dedicated caregivers, and those who compassionately support them. We are Episcopalian (St. John's, SJE), Presbyterian (Worthington Presbyterian, WPC) and unaffiliated, sharing and caring for each other. We gather on the third Monday of the month except December at 1:00 pm, rotating between the Atrium at St. John's and the Living Room at Worthington Presbyterian Church. Programs encompass all facets of need from grief counseling to estate planning. We use scripture, poetry, music, meditation, yoga, clergy, grief professionals and personal reflection.

We also host a casual fellowship luncheon on every fourth Monday at the Worthington La Chatelaine. We reserve their back room, and no reservations are needed. We are available for one-on-one conversation and lunch or dinner out.

The SJE Library has a Facing Loss shelf with helpful books we have read and DVDs we have purchased which may be borrowed. We send cards of condolence, new birth, baptism, and caring. We gift a comforting book of meditations to those newly-grieving. We also have booklets to share on End-of-Life Planning.

Facing Loss operates under and reports to the SJE Pastoral Care Committee through the SJE Vestry Liaison. To contact us, to let us know of someone in need, or to join us, call or email Cynthia Woodbeck, SJE Co-Chair, at 614-847-9529 or cwoodbeck235@gmail.com, or call Louann Shearer, WPC Co-chair at 567-377-3194.

Cynthia Woodbeck, SJE Co-Chair

PASTORAL CARE: INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

St. John's Intercessory Prayer Group prays for others and the situations in which they, their loved ones, friends, co-workers, etc., may find themselves. Our extremely private Intercessory Prayer Group began in 1985 under the tutelage of the late Fr. Don Peterson. About two years later, Jo Pascoe agreed to be the coordinator of the group. Since Jo began having computer issues last year, Mary Bailey has joined her in coordinating this ministry. The original name of the Prayer Group was UNISON, because we were UNIted in prayer for God's people, empowered by the love of His SON. We are not as large as we once were, because of changes in the lives of some members, and others passing away, but two members remain from the original group, Jo and Mary, along with 16 others who have joined in praying over the years. To become a member, you must promise to obey the Prayer Group Guidelines, the foremost of which is maintaining absolute confidentiality of the information entrusted to those of us who are praying for others. In addition, the rector must agree to your becoming a member, due to the detailed and very sensitive information with which the intercessors are entrusted. If you or someone you love or know needs prayer support, or if you feel called to become an intercessor, please contact Gia+ or Mary Bailey at (614)619-1803 (call or text) or mphbailey.3@gmail.com or Jo Pascoe at (614)306-7983 (call or text) or twopas@aol.com.

Mary Bailey and Jo Pascoe

PASTORAL CARE: SACRED STITCHES PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Sacred Stitches rebooted in 2025 with Bonnie Ross and Jocelyn Lieberfarb hosting meetings in St. John's Atrium monthly on the second Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This summer we tried holding meetings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., to see if this time was more convenient for more members, and to take advantage of the extra sunlight in the evenings. It was not very successful. From March 2025 to Nov. 2025, Sacred Stitches gave shawls, baby blankets & lap robes totaling 20, for baptisms & pastoral care to members and non-members of St. John's. We also gave 16 scarves and a baby blanket to the Giving Tree for the Kilbourne Middle School children and their siblings. We asked Christine Rees if they would like matching hats to go with the scarves, and she thought they would, so a couple of Sacred Stitches members made scarves with matching hats. So now we have added hats to our repertoire! We also have had our members teach us a new skill at some of our Thursday meetings, for example, a stretchy castoff, how to use double pointed needles, knitting lace, how to knit or crochet a pocket prayer shawl, etc. Sacred Stitches also participated in St. John's Ministry Fair in September 2025. We had a table with information about what we do, and how to join. We also displayed our members' handiwork, and gained a new member. After the 2 child's shawls we gave for baptisms on 1/11/26, our total count of available shawls etc. as of 1/8/2026 is: Baby Blankets – 12, Child's Prayer Shawls – 1, Adult Prayer Shawls – 5, Child's Scarves – 10, Lap Robes – 1. We have a budget of \$50.00 for buying yarn, I believe many members use and donate from their own stash, and Sacred Stitches also has a stash of yarn in the Atrium bench: 6 skeins of Wood Brown, 4 skeins & a ball of red "Chili Bean" yarn, 2 of bright rainbow, 1 of pastel rainbow, 1 of Lion Brand multi pink heather & 1 kit for a child's hat pink yarn & kitten topper.

Bonnie Ross and Jocelyn Lieberfarb

PASTORAL CARE: SOUP FOR THE SOUL

This supportive ministry began in 2021 with the enthusiasm of 14 very talented soup makers. Our current list of "Super Soupers" is Ted Dziemainowicz, Nancy Elkington, Jane Lagusch, Andi Reiger, Bill Schwartz, Sue Sheets, Eric Anderson, John Ross, Mary Wachtel, Matt Rice, Emmanuel Koomson, Elizabeth McClintock, Heather Stanton and Linda Weatherholt.

Our mission is: “In the spirit of love, we provide contact, compassion, and pastoral care in the form of soup for a short term, to those whose lives have been interrupted by illness, loss or tragedy. By reaching out to those whose lives have been impacted by dreadful events, we extend and grow the community of St. John’s through God’s love working within us.”

In the year 2025, our 14 active members have had 10 referrals to which 34 soup meals were provided. Our recipients of meals are most appreciative of the personal contact as well as the loving food we provide. If you have been told you make a wonderful soup, we would welcome you to your group.

Linda Weatherholt, Lead

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Committee Members: John Ross & Ted Dziemianowicz (Co-Chairs), Scarlett Winters (vestry liaison), Steve Ellcessor (Jr. Warden), David Talbot (Facilities Mgr), Lisa Graupman, Linda Weatherholt, Emmanuel Koomson, Jonathan Johns.

The mission of the Property Committee is to act as stewards of the building and grounds of St. John’s, on behalf of the congregation.

In March 2025 we prepared a 3-year plan of major and minor projects to address deferred maintenance and ageing infrastructure around the campus, following guidance from a 2023 Diocesan Facilities Assessment. The financial impact was estimated at over \$400,000.

Planned major projects completed or underway as of end 2025:

- Kilbourne Hall and Thompson Room (Nursery) AC units replaced (\$45,000)
- Township Hall roof and box gutters replaced (\$50,000)*
- Steeple Restoration Phase 1 – Stabilization (\$7,000)
- Kilbourne Hall roof replacement; now looks 1Q2026 (\$40,000)**

*Covered by a Diocesan grant. **Not on March, 2025 project list

Minor projects completed or underway:

- South Stairwell Upper Window Replacement (\$3000 savings by volunteer installation)
- Repair of perimeter fencing and ironwork (atrium patio, south landing; contracted)
- Painting and railing replacement of Mary chapel door (contracted/volunteer)
- Atrium gutter repairs/re-sealing (est. \$3000 deferral by volunteer labor)
- Minor masonry repairs to carriage house path, front patio and sidewalk (volunteer)
- Removal of trees (contracted) and shrubs (volunteer)

A major goal for early 2026 will be to apply for a grant through the National Fund for Sacred Places for upcoming major projects including the steeple restoration, nave masonry repairs and more. Meanwhile the committee will continue to work at recruiting parish volunteers to help with projects we can manage ourselves.

Ted Dziemianowicz and John Ross

PROPERTY: CHURCHYARD PRESERVATION PROJECT

Project Team: Nancy Elkington, Ted Dziemianowicz, Jennifer Lane Maier, and John Ross

The St. John's Worthington Churchyard Preservation Project was conceived in early 2023 with Vestry approval and these objectives:

- to preserve at-risk grave markers in our 220-year-old churchyard.
- to develop churchyard use policies in consultation with the Worthington Historical Society and community allies.
- to produce a series of online and paper guides (flyers, pamphlets, maps, audio guides) to assist churchyard visitors.
- to conduct and publish new research on approximately 350 burials.

The following progress was made in 2025:

- 12 headstones were cleaned on a May community work day; we are now at over 70 cleaned since beginning of the project.
- John Ross straightened the large Barker obelisk using only straps and levers!
- 2 broken headstones were repaired and restored to their original (1830s) locations.
- Findings on African American funerals and burials 1830-1871 at St. John's were published in an article in Connections (online newsletter of the Diocese of Southern Ohio).
- A generous parishioner endowed the project with a grant for ground penetrating radar in 2026.

Nancy Elkington and Ted Dziemianowicz

PROPERTY: LAY WEEDERS

In 2025, the *National Wildlife Federation* conferred the status of "Sacred Spaces" on St. John's as a result of Lay Weeders' emphasis on native plants and provision for pollinators. A second award for the gardens designated St. John's as a *Pollinator Pathway* for *Worthington's Green Team*.

Revision of the gardens in front of Kilbourne Hall brought a new hedge, a native inkberry holly, which replaced the boxwood hedge in front of Kilbourne Hall that was killed in the winter of 2023. Updating has begun on the 161 Columbarium Garden.

Some plants did not recover from the severe drought of 2024, and new ones struggled in the drought of late summer and fall of 2025. Even the Prairie Garden – all native Ohio plants – has been affected by the droughts. Native plants that are drought resistant and need little water are still inviting to caterpillars and pollinators of all kinds. Once again, stems of perennials were left for insects to winter in.

Eighteen workdays – every other Saturday from March through November – were marked with teamwork on projects such as deadheading daffodils, collecting walnuts, and clearing gravel from pathways in the churchyard as well as tending our twenty+ gardens. The collegial crew included Celia Besselman, Wendy Ciriegio, Jim and Kitty Dalrymple, Teri Foley-Nelson, Judy Gallucci, Craig Hackman, Kathy Hall, Jane & Alex Lagusch, Helen Macdonald, Diane Marsicano, Suzy and Tom Moushey, Jeff Nelson, Gayle O'Brien, Martha Phillips, Andi Reiger, Bonnie Ross, Sara Ross, Lee Shepherd, Heather Stanton, Ellen Stukenberg, Betsy and Charlie Warner, and Scarlett Winters. *Ex officio*: Ted Dziemianowicz, John Ross, David Talbot *Vestry liaison*: Scarlett Winters

Ellen Stukenberg and Wendy Ciriegio, conveners

RISK AND SAFETY TASK FORCE

Task force members: Bruce Batchelder (vestry liaison), Matt Dickinson, Melville Hayes-Martin, Emmanuel Koomson, Rebecca McCauley (acting chair), Tom Moushey, Kristy Reel (vestry liaison), Cynthia Woodbeck

Major steps taken by the Task Force in 2025 included proposing a scope of work that was approved by the vestry on 2/18/2025. The Committee has met 10 times this year (1/12, 2/9, 3/17, 4/21, 6/16, 7/14, 8/25, 9/15, 10/27, and 12/1). Over the year, members of the task force met or communicated via email with almost all standing committees of St. John's, including (property, finance, outreach and social justice, pastoral care, social events ministry, worship committee, and invite/welcome/connect committee). The purpose of our meetings/communication was to determine what safety policies were associated with each group, where those policies were recorded, and what additional policies might be helpful. Based on these meetings, two congregational evacuation practices are planned for 2026 (April 19 – fire evacuation; April 26 tornado sheltering in place). Signage to lead congregants to areas for sheltering from tornados will be in place prior to those meetings. In addition, the task force has received support from the vestry for developing materials to guide ushers and others in the event of a medical emergency and for convening relevant parties to address the need for shared food safety practices—both goals that will be addressed in 2026.

Rebecca McCauley

SOCIAL EVENTS MINISTRY

The Social Events Ministry was formed in July of 2024. The mission of this ministry is to bring social gatherings on a regular schedule to help bring community back to the congregation. In addition, the friendship dinner was also brought under the umbrella of the Social Ministry. We have completed our first year under the new structure

The Friendship Dinner the vision was to bring a more social environment to the dinners. Using a model from a past parish of Reverend Gia's it was decided to serve the dinner family style, meaning instead of putting out a buffet where you need to have a food line, we set up tables with 10 guests at each table and the food is brought to the table and passed around by our guests. We also have at least one St. John's volunteer joining them at the table and eating and interacting with the non-St. John's guest. The other objective was to serve a healthy meal, as well as adding more variety to what was being served. St. John's dinner is the second Thursday of each month. The meal is not only for non-St. John's guests but also for the members of St. John's. If you are out and about or just don't feel like cooking come and join us. At present we average about 40 guests each month with as many as 55 guests, we are hoping to increase to 100 guests each month but seem to be stuck at 40 to 45 guests each month. We have noticed more guests than members coming to the dinner in the last few months. Also not to exclude anyone with Allergies or alternate diets we always have a Gluten Free, Dairy Free, Vegetarian and, most of the time, Vegan alternative menu we serve. In addition, we served a kid's menu for a while then for most of the spring, summer and fall we had no children coming to the dinner, so we stopped the kid's menu. Recently we have started to have children attending again, so I'm thinking of starting the kid's menu again for the fall and winter months. Last year we received a grant from the diocese that funded the friendship dinner for 2025. Last summer we applied again but did not receive a grant to cover 2026. We are about to apply for another grant to help cover our 2026 expenses.

The Social gathering for St. John's members restarted with the Church Picnic September of 2024, and we had a very successful relaunch with the 2025 picnic last September. Last year's Un-Thanksgiving potluck dinner and January, the 12th night potluck dinner were poorly attended so we decided to bring back the Chili Cook-off and the St. Patrick's corned beef dinner for 2026. Everyone who attended the Chili Cook-off had a good time. The remainder of the year has the following schedule:

- February 17, 2026 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- March 14, 2026 – St. Patrick’s Day Potluck Dinner
- April 12, 2026 – Between service Brunch (Week after Easter Sunday)
- May 24, 2026 – Pentecost Ice Cream Social
- September XX, 2026 – Church Picnic

Any additional social events the congregation would like to have, like Kentucky Derby Day suggested last year or any other event that has been held the past years, please contact me at jbross52@gmail.com, text 847-254-1821 or grab me on Sunday morning and we will try to add them to the list. Any additional events would need to be funded.

Thank you for all your support in this ministry,

John Ross

SOCIAL EVENTS MINISTRY: SINGLES DINING OUT

Singles Dining Out (SDO) is an informal group of St. John’s parishioners and friends who like to eat out and enjoy the company of others while dining. Singles and married individuals who will be attending without their spouse are welcome to participate, and participants are welcome to invite a friend or colleague who is not a member of St. John’s. In 2025, Singles Dining Out met once a month, except for June and December, and participants took turns choosing a restaurant. We shared delicious meals and good conversation at J. Alexander’s, Texas Roadhouse, Bravo! Italian Kitchen, Chapala Mexican Grill, Chi Thai, Outback Steakhouse, True Food, Anna’s Greek Cuisine, and Hunan Lion. In October we met outdoors for a potluck picnic in the shelter house at Suzan Jervey’s cabin north of Newark. Our gatherings ranged in size from 5 to 18, with an average of 11 people attending Singles Dining Out. Much friendly conversation and fellowship abounds in these gatherings, allowing new friendships to be formed and old friendships to be strengthened. New participants are always welcome!

Mary Bailey

SOCIAL EVENTS MINISTRY: WOMEN’S GROUP FOR MILLENIALS AND GEN. X-ERS

The inaugural year of this new women’s group offered monthly fellowship activities to encourage community and friendship among Millennial and Gen-X women in the parish. Events and activities ranged from volunteering and creating charity gift-bags to visiting the Dublin Farmer’s Market and the Blacklick Woods Metro Park Canopy Walk. The group also had social events such as a Valentine’s Day tea party, making holiday-scented candles, and a backyard campfire gathering.

This group meets numerous aspects of the parish Mission Statement. It offers opportunities for *Growth* through fellowship and new community experiences; it offers opportunities to *Serve* through volunteer projects; and it offers opportunities to *Heal* through shared experiences and encouragement. This group also supports the Invite-Welcome-Connect ministry by offering a means of inviting non-members to participate in social events and meet St. John’s women in a casual, low-pressure environment; it helps new-comers — and potentially young families — feel welcome by offering a social group that women can easily join; and it connects women of younger generations to help build long-standing friendships and a support network for mid-life.

This group is still growing, and participants continue to meet and build friendships. It is also seeking a group name as it continues to establish and grow in its second year.

Laura Wallace and Dana Whitley, Co-Chairs

STEWARDSHIP

The 2026 stewardship campaign concluded on December 31, 2025; we once again focused our campaign on St. John's mission rather than a particular piece of scripture: *"To grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy."* Each of the primary weeks of our campaign focused on a different action within our mission statement, and included signage and "stewardship moments" in which our parishioners reflected on how they had personally grown, healed, or served as part of the St. John's community.

Prior to launching this year's campaign and in advance of submitting our 2025 Parochial Report to the diocese, Gia conducted a final "post-pandemic" review of our member database, something she began two years ago. As part of this review, she removed those last parishioners that we have not consistently seen since the pandemic and ensured our membership list was a true reflection of attendance.

At the close of our official campaign, we raised \$509,000; the numbers below clarify several important data points. Numbers on the **left** side of the slash mark represent the results from last year's (2025) campaign, and the numbers on the **right** side of the slash mark represent this year's (2026) campaign. We are profoundly grateful for each sacrificial gift that allows St. John's to continue the important work of growing, healing, and serving with God's wisdom, love, and joy.

Pledging units who have pledged: 110 / 111
Pledging units who may potentially pledge: 44 / 15
Pledging units who will not make a pledge: - / 45
Total: 154 / 171

Number of increased pledges: 62 / 58
Number of decreased pledges: 11 / 22
Number of unchanged pledges: 37 / 31

Using the recommendations of the 2023/2024 Stewardship Task Force as a blueprint, the Stewardship Committee held an extensive brainstorming session in mid-March 2025 to explore ways we might diversify and enhance giving at St. John's; this session also led to the development of the successful "Spirituality of Money" series during Adult Formation in Lent. Other areas of this report discuss efforts to establish additional funding streams for St. John's including the formation of an Historic Preservation Trust and our research of potential grant opportunities to bolster our traditional giving campaigns.

I am grateful to those who have contributed their time, talent, and expertise to our Stewardship efforts in this past year and invite those who may have skills or interests in Stewardship to contact Gia, Steve Ellcessor, or myself to learn more about assisting the Stewardship team in its efforts to modernize and diversify our giving opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,

Star Blackford

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee assists the clergy in planning, facilitating, and evaluating the worship services of the church. The committee meets roughly every two months and specifically before the beginning of each liturgical season. The committee is open to any member of the congregation.

Its members also represent the chairs, coordinators, and trainers for the various lay ministry groups that provide assistance in specific aspects of the preparation and leadership of worship, including the acolytes (Lisa Graupmann), altar guild (Donna Somerville), Celtic worship service (Eve Herold), children's worship (David Burman), flower guild (Donna Somerville), greeters (Susie Bonnell), organist (Stephen Sollars), choral director (Nicolas Taylor), lectors and Eucharistic ministers (Keith Redmill), and ushers (Matt Rice), as well as the rector (Gia Hayes-Martin). Keith Redmill is the chairperson and the vestry liaison.

Overall, this has been a good year. The lay-led Celtic services continue Sunday afternoons once a month, having moved to 4:00PM to facilitate daylight driving needs, and an age-appropriate Children's Church continued at the 9:00AM service and, beginning as an experiment during Advent, was also held during the 11:15 service. Healing prayers were also offered on several Sundays this year, and Stations of the Cross were made available for private reflection in the nave during Lent. Our first Evensong since the covid pandemic was held on February 23. We continue to record and live stream the 11:15AM worship service and other special services. Several ministry opportunities, including the choir, ushers, acolytes, and lectors have experienced growth and new participants. Finally, we continue to explore the maintenance and future of our 1983 Schantz organ.

Keith Redmill, Chair (redmill.1@osu.edu)

WORSHIP: ACOLYTES

The Acolyte program at St. John's is a very important part of every worship service. Everyone, both children (fourth grade and up) and adults, are eligible to assist and be a part of the program. Our acolytes serve in the capacity of Crucifer, Altar Server, Clergy Crossbearer, Torchbearers and Thurifer. St. John's Acolytes participate in lighting and extinguishing the candles on the Altar before and following the service; carrying the Crosses (and torches) during the Processional and Recessional hymns as well as during the Gospel procession and serving the Clergy at the Altar during the preparation of the Eucharist. In addition, Acolytes participate in several important services during the Church year, including Holy Week services and assisting with weddings and funerals, when requested.

In 2025, the following individuals participated as Acolytes in St. John's Worship services: Susie Bonnell, Steve Ellcessor, Corinne Feurtado, Grover Furey, Lisa Graupmann, David Hissrich, Sophie Longley, Leland McCandless, Logan O'Donnell, Donna Somerville, Emary Spencer and Melissa Stanton. As always, we continue to seek new members to join us. Anyone interested may contact Lisa Graupmann at 614-653-1917 or lisa.graupmann@gmail.com. All Acolytes are required to have training prior to serving in the program.

Acolyte Master Lisa Graupmann reports to the Worship Committee chaired by Keith Redmill.

Lisa Graupmann

WORSHIP: ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild is a vocation. It is not just another church job. Altar Guild differs entirely from the work in the social aspect of the church. A feeling of dedication and discipline is essential for any person aspiring the privilege to serve at God's Altar. The Altar Guild exists so that worship will be more meaningful and appropriate for the congregation.

Altar Guild cares for all the linens, candles, Eucharist vessels, Priest vestments, and other liturgical items used in the Eucharist and all other services. Before and after each Eucharist, Baptism, wedding, and funeral there is an Altar Guild member present. An Altar Guild member prepares the sanctuary for Worship fifty-two weeks of the year. Altar Guild assists the clergy by preparing for each liturgical season.

Joining Altar Guild is an enriching experience about the liturgical and tradition of the Episcopal church. All new members are provided ample information and support as they discover the intricacies of this vocation.

Members: Celia Besselman, Marianne Broere, Lisa Graupmann, Kimberly Ellcessor, Eve Herold, Donna Hissrich, Jane Lagusch, Melissa Christophersen-Redmill, Donna Somerville, and Mauria Watts

Donna Somerville, Chair

Keith Redmill, Vestry Liaison

WORSHIP: CELTIC SERVICES

The Celtic Fellowship held nine monthly Celtic services in 2025 from January through June and October through December. The Celtic service is a quiet, contemplative form of worship, held in a circle in the Atrium, and includes music, liturgy from the *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, Bible readings and poems, a period of silent meditation, and lighting of candles for people we hold in our hearts. We worship on the first Sunday of the month at 4:00 pm for 40-45 minutes and congregate afterwards for hospitality and fellowship.

Publicizing our service to other churches in our locality and in the diocese, we have been drawing worshippers from other places. Younger participants have begun to take on more responsibilities this year. We enthusiastically invite church members and non-church members to join our Celtic circle at any time.

Eve Herold and Ellen Stukenberg

WORSHIP: FLOWER GUILD

Flower Guild, under Altar Guild, is responsible for creating the lovely fresh flower arrangements on the Altar each week. Close attention to the liturgical calendar is followed. Among the many arrangements each week are special Christmas and Easter decorations around the church and Altar.

Flower Guild does not have a budget. A monthly calendar Chart is provided for donations in Memory of, or Thanksgiving for a Loved One.

New members are welcome. Each new member is trained and guided until they feel comfortable enough to arrange on their own.

Members: Jean Duncan, Barbara Gessaman, Jane Lagusch, Andi Reiger, Linda Weatherholt, and Donna Somerville

Donna Somerville, Donations and Financial Chair

WORSHIP: LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Lay Eucharistic Visitors take Communion to our homebound parishioners. The usual procedure is to take Communion to the person once a month. Special training by Gia+ is required for this ministry, and one must also take Safe Church Training, which is available online. Hosts can be provided for homebound parishioners who participate in worship via the online service.

Parishioners serving as Eucharistic Visitors in 2025 included Mary Bailey, Melissa Christophersen Redmill, Donna Deremer-Hissrich, Ted Dziemianowicz, Nancy Elkington, Andi Reiger, and Sue Sheets. If you feel called to become

a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, please contact Gia+, who must give her recommendation, or Jo Pascoe at (614)306-7983 (call or text).

Jo Pascoe

WORSHIP: LECTORS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We are all called to be full and active participants in the worship of God. The lectors and Eucharistic ministers provide lay service and leadership during each of the services of worship by reading the scripture lessons, leading the people in prayers, and assisting the priests in the distribution of the Eucharist. Volunteers select dates and tasks, and a schedule is created approximately once every two months. Our best count indicates that thirty-three adults and two youth have participated in this ministry over the last year. At least four new members were trained to serve as readers and prayer leaders in 2025, two of whom were also trained to serve as a Eucharistic minister. A training and refresher meeting for all Eucharistic ministers was held in May, and several individual training sessions were also arranged.

Anyone interested in participating in this ministry should contact the rector or Keith Redmill. A short individual or group training and practice session can be scheduled.

Keith Redmill (redmill.1@osu.edu)

WORSHIP: USHERS

We welcome Martha Phillips as a new usher this year! Several volunteers have left due to school and job relocation. Members provide service to both the 9 am and 11:15 am services as well as funerals and several special events throughout the year.

Current members are Charlie Warner, Eileen Pilcher, Scarlett Winters, Melville Hayes-Martin, Bob Shelly, Linda Weatherholt, Marianne Broere, Mary Wachtel, Sue Sheets, Martha Phillips and Matt Rice. We always have a need for volunteers and if you are interested, please contact Matt Rice – Usher Coordinator. It's a great way to meet Parish members! Training is provided and Scheduling is usually once every 3 – 5 weeks depending on availability. Gia, the Vestry and I appreciate all of the support of service our team provides.

Yours in Service,

Matt Rice, Usher Coordinator

CHAMBER MUSIC CONNECTION, INC. (CMC)

The Chamber Music Connection (CMC) has been grateful to call St. John's our home since 1998. CMC provides an inclusive environment in which students of all ages, skill levels, and socioeconomic backgrounds have access to the study and performance of chamber music. Participation is open to all, and financial aid is available to ensure that cost is not a barrier. A core tenet of CMC's mission is to connect students, professional musicians, and educators with one another and with audiences throughout the broader community. Parishioners and community members have opportunities to hear CMC young artists, faculty, and guest artists through free concerts—both online and in person—as well as during church services, special events, national competitions, open rehearsals, masterclasses, and artist residencies. These activities take place at St. John's and at additional venues locally and nationally. Throughout 2025, CMC continued its financial commitments to the church as outlined in the formal usage agreement established in 2022. This included providing musicians to perform monthly during St. John's worship services, organized by—and often featuring performances from—CMC's onsite manager and faculty member, Norman Cardwell-Murri.

During 2025, CMC served approximately 45–60 participants per semester. Students, faculty, and guest artists traveled to CMC from Central Ohio, Cincinnati, Dayton, Granville, Cleveland, New York City, Illinois, West Virginia, and beyond. CMC musicians performed outreach concerts for students and community members at the Ohio State School for the Blind, Shady Lane Elementary School, Denison University, Ohio Wesleyan University, South Bend Public Schools (IN), and other locations. CMC ensembles also achieved notable national recognition. The Lumen String Quartet advanced to the finals of both the 2025 Rembrandt National Competition (IL) and the St. Paul String Quartet Competition (MN), while the Voyageur Trio reached the quarterfinals of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition (IN). In 2025, CMC Fellows designed and launched a new service initiative to bring music to local seniors. The Student Musician Initiative for Local Elderly (SMILE) provides solo and chamber music performances at senior centers and care facilities, sharing the joy of music across Central Ohio. SMILE is 100% managed and produced by CMC high school fellow students.

The year also marked the third annual Jingle Jam, which raised approximately \$2,000 for the CMC Experience Scholarship Fund. While CMC continues to navigate financial challenges, including revenue decrease of private foundation funding, we secured an operating grant from the Ohio Arts Council that will be available for annual application moving forward. Additional funding efforts continue through sources such as the Columbus Foundation, Let the Children Play, and broader community support. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our donors, foundations, and the CMC families and friends whose continued support allows us to carry out our mission and remain committed partners to St. John's and the wider community.

www.youtube.com/c/ChamberMusicConnection

Article from Saratoga NY - Re St. John's member Debbie Price, and family members Kyle Barrett Price, Stephanie Price-Wong, with mention of Chamber Music Connection

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Price, Founder & Artistic Director, St. John's Parishioner

OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS THAT USE ST. JOHN'S SPACE

Chamber Music Connection

Chamber Music Connection Board

Chamber Music of Columbus Board

Choices Alateen

Couples in Recovery – 12 Step Program

Home Schooler Band

Keep it Simple – 12 Step Program

MUCAI Academy (Multi-Cultural Arts Integration)

Re-Entry – 12 Step Program

Sane & Sober – 12 Step Program

Saturday Night Improv – 12 Step Program

Step by Step – 12 Step Program

Thomas Worthington High School Band Boosters

Wednesday Night Jam with Len & Friends

Women's Choice – 12 Step Program

Worthington Liberty – 12 Step Program

ST. JOHN'S STAFF, WARDENS, VESTRY AND DELEGATES

Staff

The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin, Rector
The Rev. David Burman, Associate Rector
Tiffany Keehn, Nursery Attendant
Bella Olmstead, Parish Engagement Coordinator
Allison Periatt, Nursery Attendant
Christine Rees, Staff Accountant
Stephen Sollars, Organist
David Talbot, Facilities Manager
Nicolas Taylor, Choral Director
Carrie Troester, St. John's Early Education Center Director
Molly Yeager, Nursery Attendant

Wardens

Star Blackford, Senior Warden
Steve Ellcessor, Junior Warden

Vestry

Class of 2026

Bruce Batchelder
Wendy Ciriegio
Rebecca McCauley
Tom Moushey

Class of 2027

Susan Mancini
Keith Redmill
Laura Wallace
Dana Whitley

Class of 2028

Josh Mullet
Carol Newcomb-Alutto
Kristy Reel
Scarlett Winters

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Star Blackford
Steve Ellcessor
Kristy Reel
Josh Mullet

PARISH STATISTICS

Transfers In: January 1 - December 31, 2025

Richard Adams

Elizabeth McClintock

Richard Moser

Sharon Moser

Transfers Out: January 1 - December 31, 2025

Jeanette Jerrell

Baptisms

Wade Theodore Frank

Eva Josephine Hallowell

Jack Oliver Hallowell

Oliver Joseph McCandless

Confirmations

Alexis Nicole McCarthy Carney

Jessica Lauren Epley Frank

Emary Margaret Renee Spencer

Kathryn Elizabeth Michael Williams

Receptions

Margaret Ruth Allen

Curtis Leland McCandless

Kristina Louise Ritz McCandless

Jerry David Risch

Joseph Raymond Wasdovich

Reaffirmations of Baptismal Vows

Jane Ellen Whiteside Geanangel

Helen Hudson Macdonald

Marriages

Noel Hackman and Yoon-Joo Moh

Necrology in Memoriam for those for whom the Burial Office was read at St. John's Church in 2025

Katherine Lisle Haines

Susan E. Miller Herbert

Robert Charles Lindsey

Richard Thomas Martin

Patrick Joseph O'Brien

Ric Todd

Julie Bishop Paynter Weatherington-Rice

Jeanne Christine Richards Winget

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Transfer In	4	11	8	8	6	23
Transfer Out	1	0	3	4	8	1
Baptisms	4	7	8	9	1	5
Confirmations	4	0	5	0	0	0
Receptions	5	0	6	0	0	0
Marriages	1	0	3	0	0	0
Burials	8	7	14	13	11	10
Baptized Members	374	410	421	418	469	477
Communicants in Good Standing	277	260	353	351	423	443

Baptized Members = All members whose status in ShelbyNext database was labeled as Active or Prospective were considered in obtaining this figure. Membership data was reviewed and updated in 2025 to acknowledge post-pandemic changes.

Communicants in Good Standing = All parishioners who are active or prospective and pledged or gave regularly in 2025 were considered in obtaining this figure.

Sunday & Saturday Evening Eucharists	105	105	108	108	62	24
Total Weekday Eucharists	54	54	53	49	9	12
Total Private Eucharists	41	36	38	15	7	13
Daily Offices on Sunday	10	9	9	10	33	49
Daily Offices on Weekdays	18	33	10	5	18	12
Total Streamed Services	49	58	61	59		
Average In-Person Sunday Attendance	155	144	142	130	111	

