

# 2024 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 222<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of St. John's Church,  
in Worthington and Parts Adjacent  
March 16, 2025**

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 221<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, February 25, 2024

Introduction of the clergy and staff – Star Blackford

Introduction of the current Vestry Members – Lisa Graupmann

Introduction of outgoing Junior Warden and Vestry Members – Lisa Graupmann

Introduction of the newly elected Vestry Members and Junior Warden – Lisa Graupmann

Presentation of the 2024 Annual Report – Star Blackford

Invite, Welcome, Connect progress report – Mary Wachtel & Jonathan Johns

Treasurer's Financial Report – John Pascoe and Bob Hays

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 221<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting**  
**for**  
**Calendar Year 2023**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church, Worthington, Ohio**  
**Held on Sunday, February 25, 2024**

**Call to order and invocation:** The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin called the 221<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting to order at 10:27 a.m. and offered an opening prayer:

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

*[Book of Common Prayer, page 818]*

**Welcoming and opening remarks:** Senior warden Mary Bailey welcomed the parish to this 221<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting. Mary thanked those attending, both in church and online. She commented on the recent celebration of the church's 220th anniversary and on the "legacy created by those who came before us, worshiping and serving God in this place for the past 220 years." Mary expressed gratitude "to all of you who are helping us to carry on that legacy, doing the work God is calling us to do." She then directed parishioners to the meeting agenda, found on page 5 of the 2023 Annual Report.

**Appointment of recording secretary:** Nancy Elkington (vestry clerk) was appointed as recording secretary for the meeting and a quorum of the parish was declared to be present.

**Approval of minutes of the 220<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held on February 19, 2023:** Minutes from the 220<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (found on pages 6-8 of the Annual Report 2023) were considered. The senior warden invited suggested changes or corrections, but none were offered. A motion (offered by Bob Hays and seconded by Wendell Gibbs) to approve the minutes passed.

**Introduction of the church clergy and staff:** Mary thanked clergy and staff for all their good work, their skills and good humor, and their dedication to supporting and serving us throughout the year. She 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; Nursery Attendants, Allison Periatt, Lisa Dillon, Molly Yeager, Tiffany Keehn; and the Rev. Catherine Duffy, Deacon and Seminarian.

**Introduction of the current vestry members:** Lisa Graupmann (junior warden) introduced current vestry members (see page 38 of the Annual Report 2023): members Mary Bailey, Bruce Batchelder, Star Blackford, Wendy Ciriego, Louis Huffman, Jonathan Johns, Sarah Iles Johnston, Greg Kellison, Rebecca McCauley, Tom Moushey, Jessica O'Donnell, Anna Sylvester, and Cynthia Woodbeck. Lisa recognized and thanked all vestry members for their efforts and contributions throughout the year.

**Recognition of outgoing vestry members and senior warden:** Lisa asked the parish to join her in thanking Mary Bailey for her faithful two-year service as Senior Warden, and also in thanking the Vestry members who are completing their 3-year terms – Louis Huffman, Jonathan Johns, Jessica O'Donnell, and Anna Sylvester. All outgoing vestry members were given a token of appreciation for their service.

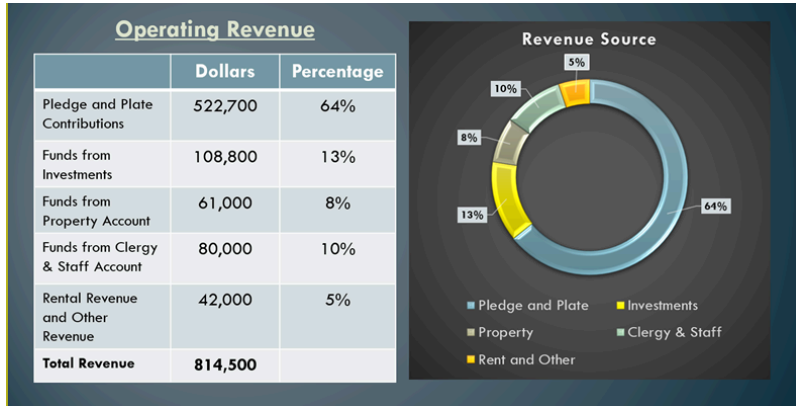
**Introduction of the newly-elected senior warden and newly-elected vestry members:** Mary Bailey thanked members of the nominating committee who identified a set of outstanding candidates for four vestry seats and the senior warden position (a two-year term): Bob Baker, Nancy Elkington, Karen Graham, John Herbert, Louis Huffman, Amelia Lewis, Jessica O'Donnell, Anna Sylvester, and Cynthia Woodbeck. Six candidates ran for four

vestry seats: Carol Newcomb Alutto, Susan Mancini, Keith Redmill, Trudi Snediker, Laura Wallace, and Dana Whitley. Candidates who ran for the position of senior warden were: Star Blackford and Robert Shelly.

Mary congratulated new senior warden Star Blackford (a two-year term) and new vestry members Susan Mancini, Keith Redmill, Laura Wallace, and Dana Whitley (to three-year terms). She thanked all who agreed to run for a vestry position. Because Star has served only two years of a three-year vestry term, our By-Laws dictate that vestry will fill the remaining year of her unexpired term. (The practice at St. John’s has been for vestry to appoint a candidate who ran for a seat but who was not elected.) Vestry will make the appointment at their next meeting.

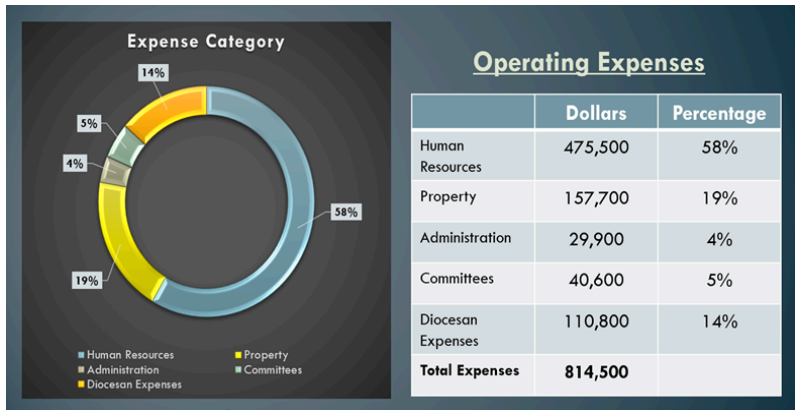
**Presentation of the Annual Report 2023:** Mary presented the Annual Report, encouraging parishioners to take the time to enjoy the lovely photos as well as the reports from clergy and staff and all our various committees, sub-committees, and ministries. There is lots to celebrate! Copies of the 2023 Annual Report are available on the information table in the atrium and on the church’s website under the News tab. Mary introduced John Pascoe, parish treasurer, and Bob Hays, chair of the Finance Committee, to give our Financial Report.

**St. John’s Financial Report:** John Pascoe and Bob Hays began their report by saying that 2023 was an unremarkable year. John expressed particular gratitude to parishioners who helped us reach our pledge goals and those who funded the unbudgeted and extensive nave ceiling plastering project.



**OPERATING REVENUE 2024**

Our primary revenue source (64%): Pledge and Plate Contributions



**OPERATING EXPENSES 2024**

Our major uses of cash include: Human Resources (58%); Property (19%); and the Diocese (14%)

Bob and John talked through the 2024 budget, noting that Human Resources (staff costs) and Property (utilities and maintenance on buildings and grounds) together make up 75% of our annual expenses; our commitment to supporting the diocese amounts to another 14%. Our current revenue versus expense position (see charts, above) will figure prominently at the vestry’s spring planning retreat.

**Acknowledgments:** Retiring senior warden Mary Bailey thanked everyone who attended the annual meeting (either in-person or online). She also thanked attendees for the kindness and support that each person has offered to our



clergy, our staff, our fellow parishioners, and to those outside our walls throughout the year. She expressed appreciation for all the many ways that parishioners offer their time, talent, prayers, and financial support for all our ministries. These efforts help us all to do the work God that is giving us to do at St. John's, in our community, and throughout the world. "It has been an honor to serve alongside you as senior warden."

**Closing prayer:** The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin closed the meeting (her fourth Annual Meeting) with the "Prayer of Good Courage" (from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the ELCA's prayer book):

*O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Adjournment:** The 221st Annual Meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

## RECTOR

Every year when I sit down to write an annual report, I reread the previous year's, to remind myself where we were twelve months ago and notice continuities and change. Last year, I observed that 2023 was the year of moving out of the liminal space of Covid-tide and into the new post-pandemic normal. It strikes me that 2024 was a year of solidifying and strengthening that new normal as we lived out our mission *to grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy*.

We began 2024 with two great celebrations. First was a milestone in our parish's life, St. John's 220th anniversary, which we celebrated with festive Sunday services on February 4 and a choir concert on February 6, the actual anniversary of St. John's first service in 1804. It was immensely gratifying to reflect on St. John's founding ethos of a community pulling together for the common good and see how, despite immense changes—streamed services! indoor restrooms! a woman in the pulpit!—that animating principle still shapes how we live out our faith today. The next celebration was the ordination and consecration of the tenth Bishop of Southern Ohio, the Right Reverend Kristin Uffelman White, on February 17. Many of you made the trek down to the Columbus Convention Center on a snowy Saturday to sing in the choir, acolyte, usher, serve as Altar Guild, and make a joyful noise in the congregation of over a thousand Episcopalians. The Holy Spirit certainly made her presence known that day! The service was a preview of the renewed energy and sense of shared mission that Bishop White is awakening in our diocese. The new normal in Southern Ohio is an exciting place to be.

As part of the vestry's post-pandemic restructuring of committees, clergy are now overseeing adult formation. I led our Wednesday-evening Lent series, *On Repentance and Repair*, based on the excellent book by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg. This book's approach to making amends for the harm we have caused has been formative for me as a human being and as a priest—it shapes the pastoral conversations I have and the sacramental confessions I hear—and I commend it to you. I also co-led our Advent series, *What's the Deal with Revelation?*, with David Burman. I also did more teaching on Sunday mornings this fall than I have in the past, with series on *What Is the Bible?*, *Praying in Anxious Times*, and *Sacraments*. I take a share in children's and youth formation, as well; I lead Children's Church once a month, Youth Roundtable every couple of months, and youth group once a year. I appreciate the relationships I get to have with our young people through this time with them.

A major task for the church staff in 2024 was overhauling St. John's website. Every website needs periodic redesigning. Our previous site had served St. John's well in the past but was hampered by a text-heavy design, overload of information, and cluttered backend that was difficult to update. Bella Olmstead and Star Blackford, with some help from Dana Whitley, worked closely with a vendor to design and populate the new site, striving to communicate our mission *to grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy* in every page layout, photo, and sentence. I reviewed all the content for accuracy and wrote text for several new pages. We were able to launch the new home page in time for Easter with most of the rest of the site going live in the fall. Additional features continue to roll out; St. John's parish calendar is now live on the website, so you can quickly look up event dates and times, and we will add more functionality to the site this year.

The liturgical and pastoral life of St. John's followed familiar rhythms in 2024. One addition that has enhanced our spirituality is public prayer for healing. David and I experienced this rite during the renewal of ordination vows in Holy Week, and at David's prompting, we decided to try incorporating it into Sunday morning services. The first healing service in July was so well received that we offered it again in November. We will continue to incorporate healing prayer into our worship in 2025. The joint sermons that David and I preached once a quarter were also well received, and we even co-wrote a blog post for *Working Preacher* about why and how we preach them. And of course, 2024 brought its usual round of Wednesday Eucharists and Bible studies, holy day services, hospital and home visits, phone calls, pastoral conversations over ice cream or coffee, preparation for Baptism, and funerals. This past year, we



said farewell to Fran Compton, Harriet Culver, Teddy Hash, Janice Howden, Tina Rawlins, Paul Stoodley, Brenda Sutherland, and Bill Weatherholt, all beloved of God, all faithful servants whom God welcomed into God's kingdom.

Even years of solidifying and strengthening involve some change. This spring, St. John's gave thanks for the ministry of seminarian Catherine Duffy, who completed her two-year internship in May. We celebrated with Catherine at her ordination to the priesthood in June and sent her into her first call at St. Patrick's in Dublin with our blessings. We also received the first inklings of a potential change on the horizon. Organist Stephen Sollars has long sensed a call to ordained ministry. He recognized that 2024 was the right time to begin formal discernment of this call, and I convened a discernment committee to begin praying and conversing with him following procedures laid out by the Commission on Ministry of our diocese. I am grateful to committee members Lexi Carney, Karlah Gibbs, Jennifer Hughes, Melissa Stanton, and chair Bob Shelly and to David Burman for their careful, thoughtful listening and astute questions. Nothing is yet certain about Stephen's discernment. We know that God calls him to ministry because God calls all of us to ministry. It remains to be seen whether Stephen's call is to continued lay ministry, priesthood, or diaconate. *If* Stephen discerns a call to ordination and *if* the Commission on Ministry and Bishop White concur and *if* this proceeds according to the fastest possible timeline (three large *ifs*), Stephen could begin seminary in the fall of 2026. I ask your prayers for him as he continues to pray about his vocation.

Service to the wider Church continues to be part of my ministry as a priest, in accord with my ordination vows. Bishop White appointed me to chair the Mission Share Formula Committee, which is charged with crafting the formula for the financial support that congregations send to the Diocese of Southern Ohio. It's a complex task that is continuing into 2025. I was also elected to serve as a deputy from Southern Ohio to General Convention, the Episcopal Church's legislative assembly that meets every three years. I was also appointed to a legislative committee innocuously named Agencies and Boards that considered major changes to the medical insurance plans that cover our church's lay and clergy employees. I spent many hours reading resolutions before driving to Louisville for General Convention, where (among many other things) Bishop Sean Rowe was elected Presiding Bishop and the insurance legislation I had worked on was adopted. And, with a team of clergy colleagues, I helped to plan and carry out the Diocese of Southern Ohio's celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Philadelphia Eleven, the first women ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. The service on July 29, with Bishop White preaching and Bishop Nedi Rivera presiding, was one of the most joyful I've ever attended, and it was a great honor to offer this to our diocese.

A sign of our parish's solidity and strength is the steady flow of newcomers walking through our red doors. Not all of them stay and become members, nor should we expect them to. But many of them find what they yearn for in St. John's joyful heart, openness to questions and doubts, ministries of formation for all ages and service to the world, traditional worship infused with affirming values, and deep love of God and God's people. The Holy Spirit is up to something here, dear ones. 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 the 9 am service on Sundays and Godly Play at 10:15 am between services (Godly Play is a hands-on Montessori-style program), plus Vacation Bible School and the Christmas pageant!

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

Our primary activities for youth are Youth Roundtable at 10:15 am between services, and a youth group we share with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, which meets on weekends. It's so fun!

Here's a list of the volunteers who helped with our program in 2024. Many thanks!

Jessica O'Donnell	Lisa Graupmann	John Pascoe
Carrie Troester	Melissa Christophersen Redmill	Laura Wallace
Star Blackford	Keith Redmill	Blair Wallace
Wendy Ciriiglio	Kim Rice	Russell Allen
Rea Hederman	Marianne Broere	Karrie Kunkel
Teri Foley-Nelson	Sara Ross	Joe Kunkel
Mindy Feurtado	Andrea Reiger	Jeff Nelson
The Rev. Catherine Duffy	Jessica Dickinson	Joan Wintermantel
Mary Bailey	Matthew Dickinson	

With peace,  
**The Rev. David Burman +**

## SENIOR WARDEN

As the end of my first year as your senior warden comes to a close, I am in awe of the transformation of our St. John's family. As we embarked together upon a year marked by change, growth, and hope, parishioners with both storied histories and journeys just beginning at St. John's joined together in living expression of our mission statement: *to grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy.*

The Vestry year began with our Mutual Ministry Review, led by Canon Michael Spencer, in which we learned a new process for evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of our committees. This process included truthful reflection about our willingness to let go of those committees and ministries that had long struggled to retain leadership and committee members and led to **the successful restructuring of our committee and ministry teams earlier this spring.** Our Annual Retreat followed in April, led by the Rev. Vicki Zust, at which time we established our three goals for the 2024 Vestry year:

- Expand and reinvigorate Stewardship program
- Support implementation of Invite, Welcome, Connect
- Increase lay leadership; develop leadership training and transition plan



As we busied ourselves with that work, the people of St. John's, the diocese, and the Holy Spirit were likewise at work:

Together, we launched a vibrant **new website** that tells the story of who St. John's is today; helped **welcome the Rt. Rev. Kristin White** as the 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Southern Ohio at a moving and exhilarating ordination service here in Columbus; **celebrated the Rev. Catherine Duffy's ordination** to the priesthood in May; hosted a joyful diocesan-wide **celebration of the Philadelphia 11 on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women to the priesthood**; gathered at our first outdoor **parish picnic** since the pandemic in September; and as part of the Episcopal communion as a whole, **welcomed our 28th Presiding Bishop**, the Most Rev. Sean Rowe, this fall.

The pages that follow in this report enumerate our committees, ministries, and outreach efforts; they tell the story of an active, engaged, and vibrant community. To list each would inevitably leave out the small but great gifts of others – the person who loads the dishwasher simply because the sink is full; the person who actively escorts the newcomer to Coffee Hour; the person who grabs the box of tissues for one in quiet but deep grief. This, too, is the work of the church led by the Spirit, and for it and each of you, I am grateful.

I am likewise filled with gratitude for our clergy, Gia Hayes-Martin and David Burman, who blend leadership with vulnerability in profound and moving ways; for our staff, including Bella Olmstead, David Talbot, Christine Rees, Nick Taylor, and Stephen Sollars, who share not only their talents but their patience and grace with us each day; and for our outgoing Junior Warden, Lisa Graupmann, whose guidance and support have been invaluable.

I look forward to another year in the service of the people of St. John's and its ministries with humility, gratitude, and God's help.

**Star Blackford, Senior Warden**

## **JUNIOR WARDEN**

The work that is needed to maintain buildings and grounds of St. John's is always a challenge. One of the main projects this year, which was done in collaboration with the St. John's EEC, was the demolition of the old playground equipment to prepare for the installation of the new playground. The work was accomplished with the generosity of St. John's members. The playground will be a focus of activity for both the children of St. John's and the EEC for many years to come.

Other projects that began this year include the replacement of the HVAC units in Kilbourne Hall and in the Carriage House. Other projects were the focus of longer term planning including needed repair work to the steeple and the kitchen exhaust system.

I am thankful for the work of Property Manager David Talbot, Property Committee Co-Chairs Helen Hays and Linda Weatherholt, and the members of the Property Committee and all the volunteers who give of their time and talents to keep our buildings and grounds looking beautiful.

**Lisa Graupmann, Junior Warden**

## ORGANIST

This past year has been a wonderful year of worship at St. John's. It has been my joy and privilege to lead you from the bench as we worship our God each Sunday morning and other times throughout the year.

One of the things I was focused on this past year was exploring different ways to chant the psalm. We spent time using simplified Anglican Chant, plainsong, Anglican Chant, and metrical psalms—a tradition from our Scottish cousins. I have found the different methods as helpful for hearing these ancient prayers in new ways, and I am grateful to you all for your support and participation in new ways of worship!

The organ committee has been hard at work exploring options for addressing the limitations and risks we face with our aging Schantz organ. The choir has been growing and reminding us of the space issues we face, various winding issues and mechanical issues have been arising, and most recently we had the equivalent of a tire blowout in the static reservoir that supplies the wind to the entire organ. We will continue to meet with organ building companies and will provide a recommendation to the leadership of the parish for how best we can move forward in faithful service.

Thanks to generous gifts from Nancy Elkington and Jo Pascoe, I was able to work with our A/V consultants, BellTree Productions, to replace the lectern microphone and add two additional microphones for improving the audio quality for our livestreamed services. The new lectern microphone is easier to adjust and mute, and it also provides an easier sightline for our lectors.

I want to thank all the vocalists and special musicians who have shared their gifts to enhance our worship throughout the year.

**Stephen Sollars**

## CHORAL DIRECTOR

Reflection is so valuable a tool for any group that desires growth, efficacy, and success. This previous year was an ambitious one for the choral program at St. Johns. My major goal for 2024 was to present a large scale sacred work by one of the many masters of this field throughout the course of history. Music of this nature offers a rare opportunity to envision a cultural snapshot. We are able to absorb and exist in the spiritual lives of not only that first congregation on the work's premiere, but also the ranks of masses that have been spiritually and aesthetically motivated by such a work.

Such a chance presented itself on February 6<sup>th</sup> of 2024 when St. John's choir performed Franz Schubert's Mass in G in its entirety in honor of the 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. John's Church. The choir worked tirelessly on this ambitious piece and presented it to the congregation both artfully and reverently. We are blessed to have such a talented and committed bunch of musicians, not to mention featured soloists that rival the best around.

The choir also commissioned a new piece of choral music for this event from Jessica Nelson who is a rising star in the current world of sacred music. Her setting of the Locus Iste text was sublime and juxtaposed the majesty of worship with the simplicity and diligence of life for those early settlers in Worthington. Premiering a piece comes with its own set of challenges and excitement. Once more the choir rose to the challenge and managed to beautifully convey both the text and the scope, this time without any frame of reference as they were the first ever group to sing it. Jessica Nelson's Locus Iste now finds its place in our regular anthem rotation.

Some other highlights of this year have been the continuance of the concert series including a phenomenal organ recital by Dr. Christopher Reynolds who blessed us with a varied and expertly executed repertoire. We have also done original service music settings composed by our very own organist Stephen Sollars as well as some original and



arranged compositions of my own making. Our Christmas Eve prelude included music in four languages and spanned 600 years of varied cultural lenses. All of this is possible through the careful dedication and hard work of the musicians at St. Johns as well as the support of the clergy, staff, and congregation. Not to mention that we are supremely blessed to have such a thoughtful and talented organist in Stephen Sollars. I am truly honored to be your choral director and hope to live up to the brilliance and artistry that exist in our musicians and congregants.

The Lord bless you and keep you,

**Nicolas Taylor**

## **DIRECTOR OF EARLY EDUCATION**

At St. John's Early Education Center, we embrace each child's uniqueness, create spaces where each child can safely grow socially and emotionally, and prepare each child with the building blocks needed to become a confident learner. At SJEEC, we know that early childhood education is the foundation for future growth socially, emotionally and academically. We value the uniqueness of each child and believe that each child's path to growth is also unique. For this reason, teachers plan and implement learning experiences based on each child's interests, needs and learning goals in an effort to individualize each preschool experience.

We have 62 students enrolled for the 2024-2025 school year. We currently have six classrooms, three are three-year-old classrooms and three are four/five year old classrooms. This is one more class than we offered during the previous school year. We offer Spanish and Art weekly and Yoga and Music on a bi-weekly basis. We also have a weekly Enrichment Class that we offer to our students preparing to go to kindergarten. Enrichment extends the day by two hours and includes lunch and extension activities in math, literacy, writing and science. Once a month, the Enrichment Class goes on a walking field trip in Old Worthington. Walking field trips have included visits to Graeter's Ice Cream, The Orange Johnson House, the local bicycle shop and the post office.

We are licensed by the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. Our ratio of children per teacher is lower than the state regulations require, which allows the teacher more one on one time with each child. We also incorporate the Ohio Early Learning Content Standards in the children's daily lessons. Our staff includes: Julie May (Yellow Room M-Th), Sara Posey and Carrie Hallam (Purple Room M-F), Ashley Turk (Green Room T,W,Th), Molly Penrod and Samrath Grubb (Red Room T,W,TH), Heidi Anderson (Blue Room, M-Th) and Lindsey Cantrell (Orange Room T&Th). Genna Carey is our Art teacher, Becky Ogden is our Music Teacher and Jennifer Pawley has returned to be our Spanish teacher. Office staff includes Kelly Monahan, our Office Manager and Laura Hudson, our Accounting & Financial Advisor. For more information about the preschool, please contact the office at 614-885-2315 or find us at [www.sjpreschool.com](http://www.sjpreschool.com).

**Carrie Troester, Director**

## OPERATING BUDGET COMPARISON REPORT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2025 and 2024

	2025	2024	
Revenue	Budget	Budget	Actual
Operating Revenue:			
Pledge Contributions	479,000	470,700	450,543
Funds From Investments	46,465	108,833	-
Funds From Property Account	70,000	61,000	61,000
Funds From Clergy and Staff Account	80,000	80,000	80,000
Other Plate Contributions	82,000	52,000	111,208
Building Rental Revenue	28,500	28,500	28,500
Building Usage Revenue	13,000	12,000	11,730
Special Purpose Revenue	-	-	29,704
Other Revenue	1,500	1,500	3,922
Total Operating Revenue	800,465	814,533	776,607)
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Operating Expenses:			
Human Resources Expenses	490,270	475,678	379,447
Property Expenses	164,240	157,700	73,744
Special Purpose Expenses	-	-	170,287
Administration Expenses	27,780	29,150	24,945
Committee Expenses	26,450	40,605	33,129
Ministry Expenses	7,225	-	-
Diocesan Expenses	84,500	111,400	91,575
Total Operating Expenses	800,465	814,533	773,127
<b>Operating Deficit</b>	-	-	3,480

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 2025 is 5%.

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

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

Note 4: For 2024, \$83,380 of human resources and \$68,682 of property expenses have been reallocated to special purpose expense

**Christine Rees**

Staff Accountant

## TREASURER'S REPORT

For the year 2024, we concluded the year with operational expenses totaling \$773,100, which was approximately \$40,000 below the budget. This favorable variance was mainly due to a significant credit in our mission share of about \$17,000. Additionally, we exceeded our budgeted income from pledges and plate by about \$40,000. 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.

In terms of non-operational expenses, we spent less this year on repairs compared to the previous year (only about \$5,000 this year), and the amount we did spend was largely offset by grants from the diocese. We provided \$91,400 in mission share, which is approximately \$12,000 less than last year. For the coming year, we will give \$84,400 to Diocese in mission share.

Looking ahead to 2025, the operating budget is set at \$800,500. While our largest expenses continue to be personnel and property, any increases in these areas have been offset by a reduction in the mission share I noted above. Our primary source of income remains the pledge and plate, which is budgeted at \$561,000. The remainder of the budget will be supported by our investments, property and staff funds, rental income, and other sources. The budget for 2025 allows for transfers of \$80,000 from the staff and clergy fund and \$70,000 from the property fund, with the remaining \$46,500 coming from investments.

For 2024, we budgeted \$470,700 in pledges, and for 2025, the budgeted amount has increased to \$479,000. Notably, our actual plate revenue in 2024 was \$60,000, well above the \$25,000 we had budgeted. For 2025, we have budgeted \$40,000 for plate revenue.

### Endowment Funds

As of the end of 2024, the Church's investment balance stands at \$1,274,500. At the end of 2023 it was \$1,250,886. It's important to note that we withdrew funds from our investments this year to balance the budget. Despite this, our investment balances grew due to market gains and the continued generosity of our parishioners. I would like to thank our parishioners that continue to make these gifts.

As we enter 2025, I want to 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: 2024 WOMEN'S RETREAT

**Attendees:** Donna DeRemer-Hissrich (Coordinator), Mary Bailey, Tricia Herban, Teri Foley-Nelson, Laura Wallace, Jessica Dickinson, Katie Williams, Dana Whitley, Cynthia Woodbeck, Melissa Christopherson-Redmill, Mary Branch, Jennifer Hughes, Sue Sheets and Marie Kovitch (Facilitator).

Another awesome St. John's Women's Retreat is done for this year. Fourteen of us braved the elements on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> to drive to Cincinnati for this year's retreat. Things this year changed Friday morning before I was set to leave. With Hurricane Helena coming in, we were moved to different accommodations than we were expecting to go to. This is all on one floor and we were above the cafeteria so we wouldn't have to brave the elements of the weather. There is an elevator for those who couldn't endure the steps.



I think each one of us took away something pretty powerful. Our theme was Faithfully Tending to Life Events. Marie introduced us to the Grief Recovery Method on Friday evening. This is the action program for moving beyond death, divorce and other losses, including health, career and faith. We also did Scripture and Visio Divina. On Saturday afternoon we were introduced to Soul Collage. It's a craft of making cards that speak out to you and writing on the back why you chose the card and maybe a prayer or a psalm on the back

This group is a very special group because we may only get together in this setting once a year but when we do, something so powerful always comes out of it. We always grow spiritually, individually and as a group. We welcome everyone with open arms and hearts. So, if you couldn't make it this year, please consider joining us next year. Next year we are booked for St. Mary's again. The group really liked that facility over Bethanna. The rooms are bigger, and everyone has their own private bath. Next year's retreat will be Sept. 19-20<sup>th</sup>. I look forward to seeing you there.

**Donna DeRemer-Hissrich**  
Women's Retreat 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 (Junior Warden), John Pascoe (Treasurer), Star Blackford (Senior Warden) and Tom Moushey (Vestry Liaison.)

St. John's closed 2024 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 \$1,274,500, up slightly from the beginning of the year due to market appreciation and parishioner donations—in spite of budgeted withdrawals of \$141,000 from the Clergy and Staff Fund and the Property Fund. Additional details of the 2024 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 (IWC)

During 2024, our St. John's community has explored *Invite. Welcome. Connect* as a next step in our life together. 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". (Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop (retired), 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. After all, we ourselves have been blessed to find St. John's, to draw deeper into our life together, and to strengthen our faith. Why wouldn't we want others to find and experience that too?

We are grateful to all those who have participated in adult forums, discussions, and planning meetings throughout 2024—your ideas have been heard! We are planning a launch event this spring to continue our journey to Invite, Welcome, and Connect folks.

The IWC planning committee: Jonathan Johns, Mary Wachtel, Rev. David Burman, Joseph Wasdovich, and Star Blackford with vestry liaisons Wendy Ciriegio and Susan Mancini.

**Mary Wachtel**

## 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 2024: Margaret Allen, Bob Baker, Bruce Batchelder, Laura Batchelder, Susie Bonnell, Marianne Broere, Wendy Ciriegio, Geralyn Esselburn, Tricia Herban, Emmanuel Koomson, Karen Kuhr, Amelia Lewis, Rebecca McCauley, Ruth McCauley, Jeff Purdom, Constance Rivera, Jose Rivera, Lee Shepherd, Paula Smailes and Ben, Janet Souder, Bill Weatherholt, 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](mailto: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, Karen Graham, Lisa Graupmann, Eve Herold, Jennifer Hughes, and Christine Rees.

The OSJ Committee provided monthly opportunities for St. John's parishioners to participate in OSJ ministries throughout our community, and people got involved! Whether it was to cook a meal for a person needing nourishment, attend a B.R.E.A.D. Assembly addressing community issues, tie fleece blankets for oncology patients at The James, help build a house for a single mom, or donate to Huckleberry House for at risk youth, St. John's was there!

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. Members of the OSJ Committee may attend regular meetings for these organizations, serve as liaisons, and/or coordinate St. John's involvement. OSJ's budget and the generosity of our parishioners fund our outreach efforts. Thank you for your financial and time contributions.

In 2024 we supported two new ministries: Huckleberry House Wish List Drive and The James Cancer Hospital Blankets and Cards Donation Drive. Below is a summary of our involvement in 2024.

### LOCALLY:

**In the Garden** – St. John's volunteers prepared and served hot meals for about 50 people on a monthly basis at Trinity Church downtown. This year St. John's provided traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. We also donated lip balm, razors, deodorant, and body lotion. All who attended this established ministry were very grateful.

**Street Church** – St. John's prepared and served nine meals for St. John's Franklinton Street Church. This ministry is held outdoors; a short prayer service is offered to nourish their souls and then a meal is provided to nourish their bodies. Approximately 60 people are served at this ministry. This ministry is funded by a member of St. John's.

**Habitat for Humanity** – In January, September, and October, OSJ arranged a work day for the Habitat House build. 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.

**Worthington Food Pantry** – St. John's volunteers helped at the Worthington Food Pantry on February 28<sup>th</sup> by distributing non-perishable foods and fresh produce to our neighbors in need.

**Ronald McDonald House (RMH) Team Cuisine** – On March 27<sup>th</sup>, OSJ organized a hands-on ministry for parishioners to participate in Team Cuisine where we made dinner in the RMH kitchen and served it to the people staying there. Both made a big difference for the RMH families.

**B.R.E.A.D.** – St. John's supported the B.R.E.A.D. (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) Nehemiah Action Assembly. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, 36 people from St. John's attended the Assembly where four issues were presented: One ID, Stop Violence/Build Trust, Families First and Housing Now, and Care for Creation-Environmental Justice.

**Worthington Pride Sunday Funday (WPSF)** – On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, OSJ represented St. John's at the WPSF event by hosting a table and distributing materials to help spread the message of the Episcopal Church: God loves you, no exception! Within our congregation, we celebrated by distributing rainbow carnations and handouts about how to support the LGBTQ+ community. In addition, OSJ purchased two new God Loves You No Exceptions banners for display on church grounds.

**The James Cancer Hospital Donation Drive** – Many parishioners gathered in July with a hands-on ministry to support The James. We made six fleece tied blankets and signed 54 Greeting Cards for the oncology patients of The James.

**Partners in Ministry in Liberia (PIMIL)** – In July, OSJ donated a gift basket for their Silent Auction fundraiser. We also provided tuition assistance for a PIMIL student as well as monetary support for their infrastructure upkeep.

**Huckleberry House (HH) Donation Drive** – St. John's first donation drive for HH kicked off on August 4<sup>th</sup>. HH keeps their doors open for at-risk and homeless youth in Central Ohio. OSJ delivered a \$500 check to the house from the proceeds raised during the donation drive.

**Kilbourne Middle School (KMS) Hygiene Product Donation** – In October OSJ purchased nearly \$200 worth of hygiene products, that were delivered to KMS for the students, including such items as deodorant, body wash, and socks.

**KMS Giving Tree/Huckleberry House** – Between November and December, OSJ led the Giving Tree ministry, which continues to be a valuable outreach ministry to our neighbors at KMS. St. John's provided gifts for 6 families from KMS, with 21 children being supported, and each family received a \$100 Kroger gift card. New this year, we participated in the HH Christmas Wish List drive and donated gifts for one HH child.

**Meet and Greets** – OSJ organized and held five Meet and Greets during Coffee Hour with representatives of the organization present to interact with and bring awareness to our parishioners of their mission and outreach opportunities: BREAD, Community Refugee and Immigration Services, The James Cancer Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, and Huckleberry House.

**Monetary Donations** – the Committee financially supports ministries and programs on behalf of St. John's as the budget allows. In 2024, we supported the Worthington, Gladden, and Mid-Ohio food banks, B.R.E.A.D., COMPASS, Central Ohio CROP Walk, Episcopal Community Ministries, Habitat for Humanity, Huckleberry House, and the Indian Lake Tornado Relief Fund.

**NATIONALLY and INTERNATIONALLY:** This year, OSJ provided national and international programs with monetary donations to assist those in need, including Hurricane Helene and Milton Relief (Florida), The Park Fire Wildfire Response Fund (California), the Mission of El Hogar Program (Honduras), Episcopal Relief and Development, and Partners in Ministry in Liberia.

**Lillian Balukjian Thompson**

## **OSJ: GLADDEN AND WORTHINGTON FOOD PANTRIES**

Our support of the Gladden Food Pantry since 1986 and the Worthington Resource Pantry since 2009 is an outreach ministry that involves a large number of St. John's parishioners of all ages. Our regular food donations in 2024 totaled 881 individual food items, 381 toiletry and household products, 11 boxes of diapers, 19 pet food items, and 15 pairs of socks, mittens, and gloves. This was a 60% increase in food donations and more than double the non-food donations of 2023! 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 Worthington Resource Pantry marked an exciting milestone in 2024 – 15 years of service to our community! The number of individuals and families who need to rely on the pantries for food continues to grow dramatically. For example, by November of 2024, Worthington Resource Pantry had served 124,655 neighbors – an 11% increase from 2023. This included over 9000 seniors and over 48,000 children. Turning to the Food Pantries for assistance stemmed from a number of factors, including inflation, rising food prices, illness, job loss, and other challenges.

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 <https://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 <https://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 to Jesus's call to "feed my sheep." Our donations of food, toiletries, and dollars 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](http://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 know we can rely on our clergy, Gia and David, to minister to us in times 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. Active members in St. John’s Pastoral Care Ministry in 2024 included Wendy Ciriegio, Beth Hall, Jeni Jerrell, Jo Pascoe, Andi Rieger, Trudi Snediker, Linda Weatherholt, Cynthia Woodbeck (Vestry liaison), and Mary Bailey, who joined Pastoral Care as coordinator in March 2024, 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 he never said we need to be on a committee to do so. Each of us as parishioners has a part to play in the ministry of caring. When we greet each other at church and ask how things are going, that’s pastoral care. When ushers and greeters and others welcome parishioners and newcomers to church with a smile, that’s pastoral care. When we notice that someone wasn’t at church and call them to see if they’re okay, that’s pastoral care. When we deliver a homemade loaf of bread or a casserole to someone who has been sick or injured or grieving, that’s pastoral care. When we pray for a fellow parishioner who is ill or grieving or having a rough time, that’s pastoral care. When we give someone a ride to a doctor’s appointment or physical therapy, that’s pastoral care. 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**

## 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](mailto: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 this year, Mary Bailey has joined her in coordinating this ministry, and Pam Zych helps in sending out prayer requests when needed. 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 15 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 Jo Pascoe at (614)306-7983 (call or text) or [twopas@aol.com](mailto:twopas@aol.com) or Mary Bailey at (614)619-1803 (call or text) or [mphbailey.3@gmail.com](mailto:mphbailey.3@gmail.com).

**Jo Pascoe and Mary Bailey**

## **PASTORAL CARE: SACRED STITCHES PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

We've had another active ministry in 2024 with members who knit and crochet, and who work both at the monthly meetings, and at home. Several newly made shawls or lap robes were donated, blessed by Gia or David, and distributed by the Pastoral Care Committee monthly. These shawls are meant to be given out to those who are ill, bereaved, baptized, or just need to be encircled with warmth and a blessing. 21 winter scarves or blankets were included in gift bags to the children in Giving Tree families in December. We ended the year with 18 baby or youth blankets for baptisms or Giving Tree families in 2025. Persons wishing to obtain a prayer shawl should speak to a member of the Pastoral Care Committee or contact the church office. Many thanks to everyone who has participated in this Ministry during 2024! The Prayer Shawl ministry is being re-organized for 2025 so watch for upcoming announcements!

**Jeni Jerrell**

## **PASTORAL CARE: SOUP FOR THE SOUL**

This supportive ministry began in 2021 with the enthusiasm of 12 very talented soup makers. 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 2024, our 8 active members have had 6 referrals to which 19 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**

Members of the committee: Helen Hays and Linda Weatherholt (Co-Chair), Jonathan Johns and Greg Kellison (Vestry Liaison), Lisa Graupmann (Jr. Warden), David Talbot (Facilities Mgr.), Ted Dziemianowicz, Emmanuel Koomson, John Ross

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

We were pleased to be able to complete the renovation of the playground for St. John’s Early Education Center (EEC) which provides activity and recreation for those registered students. With the help of several committee members, we were able to save a significant amount on the installation cost.

Much of this year was devoted to the assessment, repair and replacement of the eleven (11) separate HVAC systems that function on our campus. The majority of these units are aged beyond their intended productivity. Thanks to our capable Facilities Manager, we have been able to repair some rather than replace. Some units have been replaced but several are slated and budgeted for 2025 installation.

The Committee has welcomed the diligent efforts of Ted Dziemianowicz and Nancy Elkington as they have made great strides with the Graveyard Renewal project. Their team of workers have made a noticeable difference in our Churchyard.

In response to the Facilities Assessment, sponsored by the Diocese, we have methodically removed specific trees on our campus to improve drainage, roofing life and to instill good relations with our neighbors.

The Committee has established a three (3) year plan which will include a \$400K budget to manage major repair of our steeple, needed repairs and improvements to Township Hall, which is primarily used for Outreach and to continue replacement of HVAC units.

Respectfully,

**Helen Hays and Linda Weatherholt**



## **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) to assist churchyard visitors
- to conduct and publish new research on approximately 350 burials

The following progress was made in 2024:

- in collaboration with the Worthington Historical Society, the 3d grade History Week (formerly called Pioneer Days) program was modified to remove the risk of damage to the gravestones
- 38 headstones were cleaned, 11 reset (straightened) and one rebuilt thanks to parish and community volunteers on June and September work days, putting us at 75% of project physical preservation goals
- historic Episcopal churchyards in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia were visited to see models of signage and educational materials we might adopt/adapt.
- project goals and progress were presented at the annual meeting of the Worthington Historical Society in June; many members of St. John's were present in the standing room only crowd.

Despite the Ohio History Fund's decision to not fund this project, we continue as a self-funded initiative.

**Nancy Elkington & Ted Dziemianowicz**

## **PROPERTY: COLUMBARIUM/CHURCHYARD**

We have been relatively quiet this year, but there are two significant changes that have taken place this year that I wish to report on and one issue requiring clarification.

In the first instance, early this year the Finance Committee decided to change the way income from the sale of niches and charges for engraving are recorded. Prior to this year, a line in the annual budget recorded a fund for capital work on the Columbarium was kept at \$15,000. Any funds above this were transferred to the operating budget. The Finance Committee voted to record all income in a fund for perpetual care for the Columbarium.

In the second instance, a donor interested in the Church Yard project decided to pledge \$25,000 over five years for a perpetual care fund. Donations have been received for this purpose and recorded as a separate fund. This fund is available to support the repair work under way on the Columbarium and the Church Yard.

Going forward, the responsibility of the Columbarium Committee and the Church Yard Project need to be clarified. On the one hand, this work could be treated as a sub Committee of the Property Committee or as a stand alone committee reporting to the Vestry. This clarification is needed given the funding available to support maintenance and repairs in the future.

Sincerely,

**Bob Shelly, Chair of the Columbarium Committee**

## **PROPERTY: LAY WEEDERS**

The drought of Summer 2024 was so severe that lakes and ponds in Central Ohio lost as much as two feet of water. Gardens at St. John's needed extra watering, and the Prairie Garden told the story when native plants were stunted or didn't grow at all. A greater impact on gardens came about when necessary tree removal turned the Kilbourne Garden from a shade garden into a sun garden, killing many of the plants in it. A redesign of the Kilbourne Garden is in progress. The Chapel Garden is also undergoing a reset as it, too, was impacted by the necessary removal of large shrubs.

As Lay Weeders plan for the future, this summer's experience with drought is a clarion call to make the gardens as drought resistant as possible, choosing plants that will survive drought and use little water. In midsummer, landscape designer Kate Wilson met with us one Saturday to give us her advice about current and replacement plants and shrubs. At our Perennial-Annual Meeting in the fall, we gathered ideas and suggestions for the future of the gardens in a changing climate.

To encourage caterpillars and pollinators, orange butterfly weed and rose swamp milkweed were planted -- and were visited by butterflies! Stems of perennials were left for insects to winter in. The herb garden was augmented, and a plan to replace the boxwood hedge is in process. Good news included survival of the copper beech, which had been treated for two kinds of blight.

Nineteen work days -- almost every other Saturday from March into December -- were marked with teamwork on projects such as 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, Anne Davidson, Teri Foley-Nelson, Judy Gallucci, Craig Hackman, Kathy Hall, Eve Herold, Peg Kennedy-Dygas, Jane & Alex Lagusch, Helen Macdonald, Diane Marsicano, Mary McRury, Suzy Moushey, Tom Moushey, Jeff Nelson, Andi Reiger, Bonnie Ross, Sara Ross, Lee Shepherd, Sue Speer, Ellen Stukenberg, Betsy and Charlie Warner, and Scarlett Winters.

*Ex officio:* Ted Dziemianowicz, David Talbot

**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 (vestry liaison), Ruth McCauley, Tom Moushey, Cynthia Woodbeck

Major steps taken by the Task Force since its creation in early Fall 2024 have included recruiting members to represent a variety of constituencies, reviewing materials created by previous related groups, and developing a proposed scope of work for the committee. The committee has met three times via zoom (10/14/2024, 11/10/2024, and 1/12/2025) and hopes to submit a document outlining our scope of work on 2/18/2025.

**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.

**The Friendship Dinner** restarted for the community in October of 2023. 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 guests. The other objective was to serve a healthy meal, as well as adding more variety to what was being served. The Worthington Lutheran, Presbyterian and Methodist churches also serve a monthly dinner. The 4 Worthington churches each chose a week to serve a community dinner; ours 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 grow to 100 guests each month. 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 serve a kid's menu when the meal is less likely to be enjoyed by our young guests. To date we have received 2 grants from the diocese that have covered the cost of the dinners through 2025.

**The Social gatherings** for St. John's members restarted with the Church Picnic September of 2024 and we have had a gathering every other month since. November was the Un-Thanksgiving potluck dinner and January, the 12<sup>th</sup> night potluck dinner. So far everyone who has attended has had a good time. The remainder of the year has the following scheduled:

- March 4, 2025 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- April 27, 2025 – Between service Brunch (Week after Easter Sunday)
- June 8, 2025 – Pentecost Ice Cream Social
- September XX, 2025 – Church Picnic
- November XX, 2025 – Not yet scheduled.

If there are any additional social events the congregation would like to have, like the St. Patrick's Day Dinner that has been held the past couple of years, please contact me at [jbross52@gmail.com](mailto: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 you 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 but 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 2024, Singles Dining Out met once a month, except for December, and participants took turns choosing a restaurant. We shared delicious meals and good conversation at Anna's Greek Cuisine, Hudson 29, Molly Woo's Asian Bistro, Marcella's, Olive and Lime, Claudiana's, Café Istanbul, City Barbecue, Cuco's Taqueria, and Nicola's. In June we met outdoors for a potluck picnic in the shelter house at Suzan Jervy's cabin north of Newark. We usually have 9-18 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**

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The 2025 stewardship campaign concluded on December 31, 2024. Rather than selecting a piece of scripture to use as a theme, this year's campaign focused on St. John's mission: **"To grow, heal, and serve with God's wisdom, love, and joy."**

Prior to launching this year's campaign, Gia conducted a careful review of our member database. As part of this review, she removed those parishioners that we had not seen since the pandemic and ensured our membership list was current. While this did result in a lower number of "pledging units" in 2024, giving exceeded the previous year, something for which we hold profound gratitude.

At the close of our official campaign, we raised \$500,519; the numbers below clarify several important data points. Numbers on the **left** side of the slash mark represent the results from last year's (2024) campaign, and the numbers on the **right** side of the slash mark represent this year's (2025) campaign.

Pledging units who have pledged: 120 / 110  
Pledging units who may potentially pledge: 53 / 44  
Pledging units who will not make a pledge: 10 / -  
Total: 183 / 154

Number of pledges not yet received: 53 / 44  
Number of increased pledges: 62 / 62  
Number of decreased pledges: 22 / 11  
Number of unchanged pledges: 46 / 37

Total dollar amount of pledge increases: \$54,194 / \$63,665  
Total dollar amount of pledge decreases: (\$21,948) / (3,650)  
Net increase (decrease): \$32,226 / \$60,015

Using the recommendations of the 2023/2024 Stewardship Task Force as a blueprint, the Stewardship Committee will hold an extensive brainstorming session in mid-March, examining the next concrete steps we must take to diversify and enhance giving at St. John's. Likewise, we



encourage parishioners to attend our Lenten Adult Formation series, “Spirituality of Money” on March 9, March 23, and April 6.

I am grateful to those who have contributed their time, talent, and expertise to our Stewardship efforts in this past year: **Wendy Ciriegio, Dana Whitley, Matt Dickinson, Ike Wade, and Greg Kellison**, members of the Reimagining Stewardship Task Group; and **Gia Hayes-Martin, David Burman, Lisa Graupmann, Susie Bonnell, Carol Newcomb-Alutto, and Blair Wallace**, members of our current Stewardship Committee.

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 and coordinators of 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 (Nicholas Taylor), lectors and Eucharistic ministers (Keith Redmill), and ushers (Matt Rice). Keith Redmill is the chairperson and Sarah Iles Johnston is our vestry liaison.

Overall, this has been a good year. The lay-led Celtic services continue Sunday afternoons once a month, having moved to 4:00 PM to facilitate daylight driving needs, and an age-appropriate Children's Church continues at the 9:00 AM service. We continue to record and live stream the 11:15 AM 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**

## **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 2024, the following individuals participated as Acolytes in St. John's Worship services: Susie Bonnell, Steve Ellcessor, Corinne Feurtado, Grover Furey, Lisa Graupmann, David Hissrich, Louis Huffman, Mark Lewis II, Logan O'Donnell, Wilson Slykhuis, Donna Somerville, Emary Spencer and Andrew Troester. 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](mailto: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. In 2024, Sarah Iles Johnston was the Vestry Liaison to the Worship Committee.

**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, Helen Hays, Jane Lagusch, Melissa Christophersen-Redmill, Barbara Rogers, Donna Somerville, and Mauria Watts

**Donna Somerville, Chair**

## **WORSHIP: CELTIC SERVICES**

The Celtic Fellowship held nine monthly Celtic services in 2024 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 including 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 Sunday afternoons for 40-45 minutes and congregate afterwards for a time of hospitality.

For the first six months we met at 5:00 pm, but attendance fell to the teens in the spring. During the summer, the Fellowship decided to change the starting time to 4:00, hoping this would make it easier for attendees to drive home while there was still light. We also publicized our service to other churches in our locality and in the diocese. As a result, we have been drawing worshippers in the mid to high twenties. 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, Karen Kuhr, 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 is required for this ministry, and one must take Safe Church Training, which is available online. Hosts are provided for the homebound who participate in worship via the online service. Parishioners serving as Eucharistic Visitors in 2024 included Melissa Christophersen Redmill, Ted Dziemianowicz, Nancy Elkington, Andi Reiger, and Sue Sheets. If you feel called to become a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, please contact Jo Pascoe at (614)306-7983 (call or text) or contact Gia, who must give her recommendation.

**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-one adults and two youth have participated in this ministry over the last year. At least five new members were trained to serve as readers and prayer leaders in 2024, two of whom were also trained to serve as a Eucharistic minister. A training and refresher meeting for all Eucharistic ministers was held in March, a training and refresher meeting for all lectors was held in June, 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](mailto:redmill.1@osu.edu))

## **WORSHIP: USHERS**

Ushers have welcomed new volunteers for the 11:15 am service. They include Scarlett Winters, Chris Carney and Eileen Pilcher. We always have a need for volunteers and if you are interested, please contact Matt Rice - Usher Liaison. It's a great way to meet Parish members!

We had a well-received training session in October and plan on another training session in the first Quarter. Scheduling is usually once every 4 – 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 Liaison**

## **CHAMBER MUSIC CONNECTION, INC. (CMC)**

CMC, a 501c3 non-profit equal opportunity educational organization, has been fortunate to call St. John's their home since 1998. CMC provides an environment where students of all ages, levels, and socio-economic backgrounds have access to study and play chamber music. CMC welcomes anyone who would like to participate and provides financial aid to those who could not otherwise participate. CMC connects students, professional musicians, and educators to one another and to audiences throughout the community. Parishioners and community members can hear CMC young artists, faculty, and guest artists perform locally and nationally through free concerts - online and in person - church services, special events, national competitions, open rehearsals, masterclasses, and residencies. These events are held at St. John's and additional venues. Throughout 2024, CMC continued the increased financial commitment to the church as outlined in the formal usage agreement established in 2022, including providing musicians to perform once a month for St. John's services.

Throughout 2024, we served approximately 50-60 participants per semester, which has remained about 65% of our pre-pandemic numbers. Students, associated faculty, and guest artists have traveled to CMC from Central Ohio, Cincinnati, Dayton, Granville, Cleveland, NYC, NY, IL, West Virginia, and beyond. CMC students and faculty performed for students at Ohio State School for the Blind, Shady Lane Elementary School, Thomas Worthington High School, Delaware Hayes High School, Denison University, Ohio Wesleyan University and more. CMC's Lumen String Quartet participated in the finals of the St. Paul String Quartet Competition and the Voyageur Trio in the quarterfinals of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition. 2024 also marked the second annual "Jingle Jam" (formerly "Snowflake Social"), which raised approximately \$3k to be used for the CMC Experience Scholarship Fund, helping to provide our students with unique opportunities to participate in national and regional competitions as well as special educational events, including master classes, supplemental coachings, and side-by-side studies with professional artists. Financially we are still working through challenging times, including a drop of over \$28k in revenue. We continue to reach out to funding sources, including a matching sponsor, and are grateful for the support of our donors and foundations, along with CMC friends and families who have allowed us to continue our mission and commitment to serve St. John's and the community at large.

2024 Podcast Episode featuring CMC and Artistic Director Debbie Price:

<https://www.worthingtonstories.com/music-miniseries-mini-ep-3-chamber-music-connection/>

Respectfully submitted,

**Deborah Price**, Artistic Director & Founder of Chamber Music Connection, Parishioner of St. John's

[www.cmconnection.org](http://www.cmconnection.org)

## **OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS THAT USE ST. JOHN'S SPACE**

Chamber Music Connection

Chamber Music Connection Board

Chamber Music of Columbus Board

Choices Alateen

Columbus Miniature Society

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 In Education Group

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  
Lisa Dillon, Nursery Attendant

### **Wardens**

Star Blackford, Senior Warden  
Lisa Graupmann, Junior Warden

### **Vestry**

#### *Class of 2025*

Carol Newcomb Alutto  
Sarah Iles Johnston  
Greg Kellison  
Cynthia Woodbeck

#### *Class of 2026*

Bruce Batchelder  
Wendy Ciriegio  
Rebecca McCauley  
Tom Moushey

#### *Class of 2027*

Susan Mancini  
Keith Redmill  
Laura Wallace  
Dana Whitley

### **Diocesan Convention Delegates**

Star Blackford  
Nancy Elkington  
Lisa Graupmann  
Rebecca McCauley

## PARISH STATISTICS

### Transfers In: January 1 - December 31, 2024

Gary Beougher  
Susan Beougher  
Maureen Carr  
Declan Kunkel  
Everett Kunkel  
Joseph Kunkel  
Karrie Kunkel  
Zara Kunkel  
Martha Phillips  
Laura Wallace  
Scarlett Winters

### Transfers Out: January 1 - December 31, 2024

None recorded

### Baptisms

Archer Francis Allen  
Lester Russell "R.J." Allen V  
Benjamin Paul Anderson  
Jennifer Renee Cordle  
Corinne Helen Feurtado  
Penelope King Wallace  
Russell Hawk Wallace

### Necrology in Memoriam *for those for whom the Burial Office was read at St. John's Church in 2024*

Frances Compton  
Harriet Culver  
Teddy Hash  
Janice Howden  
Paul Stoodley  
Brenda Sutherland  
William Weatherholt

### Other Deaths within the Parish *for whom services were held elsewhere*

Tina Rawlins

## COMPARATIVE STATISTICS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>Transfer In</b>	11	8	8	6	23
<b>Transfer Out</b>	0	3	4	8	1
<b>Baptisms</b>	7	8	9	1	5
<b>Confirmations</b>	0	5	0	0	0
<b>Receptions</b>	0	6	0	0	0
<b>Marriages</b>	0	3	0	0	0
<b>Burials</b>	7	14	13	11	10
<b>Baptized Members</b>	410	421	418	469	477
<b>Communicants in Good Standing</b>	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.

Communicants in Good Standing = All parishioners who are active or prospective and pledged or gave regularly in 2024 were considered in obtaining this figure.

<b>Sunday &amp; Saturday Evening Eucharists</b>	105	108	108	62	24
<b>Total Weekday Eucharists</b>	54	53	49	9	12
<b>Total Private Eucharists</b>	36	38	15	7	13
<b>Daily Offices on Sunday</b>	9	9	10	33	49
<b>Daily Offices on Weekdays</b>	33	10	5	18	12
<b>Total Streamed Services</b>	58	61	59		