



## An Easter Vigil to Remember

*Wait, you may be thinking. Lent doesn't start for over a month. Why is Gia already talking about the Easter Vigil?* You're right. Lent begins late this year, with Ash Wednesday falling on March 5. The Easter Vigil won't be until Saturday, April 19. But it'll be especially memorable this year: for the first and probably only time in St. John's history, confirmation and reception into the Episcopal Church will be part of our Vigil. Bishop Kristin White has graciously given permission for Bishop Wendell Gibbs, retired bishop of Michigan (or "Wendell from the 9:00 service," as he prefers to be known at St. John's) to officiate at these rites of initiation for teens and adults.

This is a special circumstance that is unlikely to be repeated. The Diocese of Southern Ohio is emerging from a long period of distant, strained relationships between bishop and congregations. Our diocese elected Bishop White to change that pattern, and she has already driven thousands of miles across the diocese to be as physically present with us as possible. It's important that our primary experience of a bishop be with her. Unfortunately, there are 71 congregations in our diocese and only one Bishop White. She made an unofficial visit to meet us in January of 2023 before she was consecrated bishop, but she will not make her first visit to St. John's as bishop until 2026. Meanwhile, David and I have been hearing from people in our parish who want to be confirmed, and some of their life circumstances made waiting until next year inadvisable. So we're moving forward with confirmation at the Easter Vigil.

In the earliest years of Christianity, the Great Vigil of Easter was the only day that the Church celebrated Baptism. New followers of Jesus prepared for Baptism in the weeks leading up to Easter—the origin of Lent—and were initiated into Christianity in the early hours of the day of resurrection. Easter Vigils in the 21st century are still a time for Baptism, and ideally the Vigil includes confirmation as well. These days, it's rare to see confirmation at a Vigil outside of a cathedral, so it's exciting for St. John's to get to experience this liturgy in all its fullness.

To help adults discern whether they want to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church—or just to learn more about the Episcopal tradition—we'll offer an Episcopal 101 series during Lent. It will meet on Saturdays, March 1 through April 5, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Childcare will be available. We'll use *Walk in Love* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe as our starting point for conversation. To sign up for the series, please contact me by February 10 so I can order books for everyone.

Please mark your calendars for the Great Vigil of Easter on April 19 at 7:00 p.m. And please pray for those who'll be confirmed or received then.

**Blessings, Gia+**

700 High Street  
Worthington, OH 43085  
(614) 846-5180  
StJohnsWorthington.org

The Rev. Gia Hayes-Martin,  
Rector

The Rev. David Burman,  
Assoc. Rector

Stephen Sollars,  
Organist

Nicolas Taylor,  
Choral Director

Bella Olmstead,  
Parish Engagement Coordinator

## Warden's Corner

One of my favorite things about our baptisms of late has been the giggling. If you typically attend the 9:00 am service as I do, you may recall that our Pentecost and All Saints Day baptisms were of older children, and that our latest was of an infant with an older sibling. Children who are present at the service leave Children's Church early to witness the baptisms – recently of their friends – and gather around the font with the clergy and family of those being baptized. They pay unusually rapt attention to the proceedings, stretching and craning their necks to catch a closer glimpse. And then, inevitably, come the “holy giggles,” erupting as they watch their friends or siblings get generously splashed with the water of baptism. Yes, this holy moment of baptism has been marked of late by giggles, and I've come to realize it's exactly how I feel when I'm sprinkled with holy water myself. Forgiven, healed, renewed; joyful, pure, and giggly.

It seems fitting to me that as we mark each new calendar year, we also celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord with baptism or the renewal of our baptismal vows. With these fresh starts, blank pages, tabula rasas in front of us, we take a moment to ground ourselves in our faith and our commitment to following Jesus Christ in all we do - with God's help - as we begin another year of collective growing, healing, and serving with God's wisdom, love, and joy.

New ministries are taking shape at St. John's, particularly Invite, Welcome, Connect (IWC) and a new fellowship group for Gen X and millennial women. Our newest Vestry candidates will soon be announced, and through our Mutual Ministry Review and the Vestry's Annual Retreat, we'll celebrate successes and identify new goals for the year ahead. We'll face challenges as well, including the ongoing challenge of owning a beautiful but historic property that will continue to need often costly maintenance and repair. May we do all of this with God's help – and a healthy amount of holy giggles.

Faithfully,

**Star Blackford**

*Senior Warden*





## Holiday Dinners at Trinity

St. John's served very special In the Garden holiday dinners for Thanksgiving and Christmas, thanks to the generosity of our congregation and the help of the Trinity ITG team. For Thanksgiving, we served turkey and gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie with whipped cream to 60. The Christmas meal included ham, sweet potato casserole (with marshmallows and pecans!), green beans, and rolls to 50. On both occasions there were bananas and cuties for the diners to take with them after the meal. Thank you to the St. John's team that served the meals, Karen Graham, Eve Herold, Lee Schneider, Bob Shelly, Janet Souder, Katie Williams, and Irene Zahm, and to all those who donated food. A very special thanks to Jean Duncan who cooked turkey and gravy to feed 60 people!



## Episcopal 101 Begins on March 1

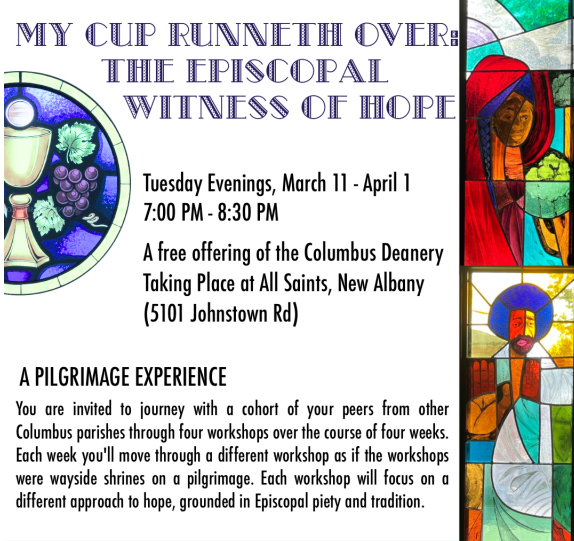
If you're new to St. John's or the Episcopal Church, here's your opportunity to learn about the unique Episcopal way of being Christian. We'll use *Walk in Love* by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe plus the 1979 Book of Common Prayer as our starting points for discussion. The series meets on Saturdays, March 1 through April 5, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in Kilbourne Hall. Childcare is available. This series is preparation for confirmation or reception at the Easter Vigil--and if you don't know what that sentence means, this class is for you! To sign up, please contact Gia by February 10 so that she can order books. Late signups are welcome, though please acquire your own copies of the books.

## Adult Formation: The Apostle Paul

Who was Paul? Why is he such a dominant figure in the early Church and in the Bible? How should Christians understand this brilliant, infuriating saint of contradictions today? Join Gia and David for this series for adults, which continues on Sundays, February 2 and 9 at 10:15 am in Kilbourne Hall. Nursery care, Godly Play, and Youth Roundtable are offered at the same time.

## My Cup Runneth Over: The Episcopal Witness of Hope

This year's Lenten School 2025 will be offered on Tuesday Evenings, March 11 - April 1, 7:00 - 8:30 PM. This is a free offering of the Columbus Deanery, taking place at All Saints Episcopal Church, 5101 Johnstown Road, New Albany. Go to <https://bit.ly/lentenschool> to learn more and register!



**MY CUP RUNNETH OVER:  
THE EPISCOPAL  
WITNESS OF HOPE**

Tuesday Evenings, March 11 - April 1  
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

A free offering of the Columbus Deanery  
Taking Place at All Saints, New Albany  
(5101 Johnstown Rd)

**A PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE**

You are invited to journey with a cohort of your peers from other Columbus parishes through four workshops over the course of four weeks. Each week you'll move through a different workshop as if the workshops were wayside shrines on a pilgrimage. Each workshop will focus on a different approach to hope, grounded in Episcopal piety and tradition.

Go to <https://bit.ly/lentenschool> to register!

## Singles Dining Out

Fifteen ladies gathered around three tables at J. Alexander's for our January Singles Dining Out, enjoying an elegant dining experience and delicious food. We all had lots of catching up to do, hearing about each other's holidays and travels, so many interesting conversations kept us occupied as we savored our meals.

Our February Singles Dining Out adventure will find us at Texas Roadhouse on Wednesday, February 26, at 6:00 pm. Texas Roadhouse is located at 8440 Lyra Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43240. You can find Texas Roadhouse's menu at [www.texasroadhouse.com/location/168-polarisoh/menu](http://www.texasroadhouse.com/location/168-polarisoh/menu). Please RSVP to Heather Stanton at 502-595-8449 or [hesarne@yahoo.com](mailto:hesarne@yahoo.com) so she can let Texas Roadhouse know the size of our group. We hope you can join us!

Singles Dining Out is an informal group of St. John's parishioners and friends, always happy to welcome new participants. Singles and married individuals who will be attending without their spouse are welcome to participate, and feel free to invite a friend who is not a member of St. John's.

Mary Bailey



---

## New Women's Fellowship Group

We are forming a new social group for Millennial and Gen-X women for monthly social events, casual gatherings, and friendship. The initial idea was discussed at the Women's Retreat in September 2024. During the autumn months, we asked more potential participants about their level of interest and gathered an initial contact list. Our first official event was on January 15, 13 women attended a casual gathering with appetizers at Laura Wallace's home.

The group currently has a decentralized structure, and participants are invited to each plan one monthly event per year. The intent is to encourage a variety of activities and locations around the city that may interest different people. By offering a different event date and time each month, we hope to accommodate women with busy schedules who may not be able to commit to a specific meeting time each month. Women are invited to attend events as they are able and interested.

Monthly events will be posted in the weekly announcements and sent via email to the list of interested participants. New names will be added to the email contact list on an ongoing basis as people attend events. To join the email list before the next event, contact Laura Wallace at [laura.f.wallace22@gmail.com](mailto:laura.f.wallace22@gmail.com) or Dana Whitley at [danalw3@gmail.com](mailto:danalw3@gmail.com).

We are still brainstorming a group name. Ideas are welcome! We hope you can join us during 2025!

Laura Wallace and Dana Whitley



## Garden Glories!

*“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater.” Isaiah 55:10*

Welcome snow? Following the drought of last summer, the rains and snow of December and January have been welcome signs that we may, indeed, have budding plants, a vibrant springtime, and a fruitful summer in 2025.

Nonetheless, lay weeders are looking ahead and planning for increasingly hot, dry summers. As shrubs, trees, and garden plants need replacement, they will be replaced with native plants that are drought resistant (as well as deer resistant), and, once established, in need of little water.

**Ellen Stukenberg and Wendy Ciriegio**  
*for the Lay Weeders*



## Huckleberry House

This year St. John's supported the Huckleberry House Christmas Wish List as part of the Giving Tree ministry. Gifts were purchased for a 14-year-old male and delivered to the house in time for Christmas!

**The Outreach and Social Justice Committee**



## Outreach and Social Justice

Thank You for a very Merry Christmas! St. John's parishioners came through again this year! Our community provided twenty-one Santa sacks filled with clothes, games, toys, and books for 21 children from six families chosen by the Worthington Kilbourne Middle School counselors for our Giving Tree ministry. Thanks to all who participated in this outreach ministry to make sure these 21 children had a wonderful Christmas morning!

**The Outreach and Social Justice Committee**





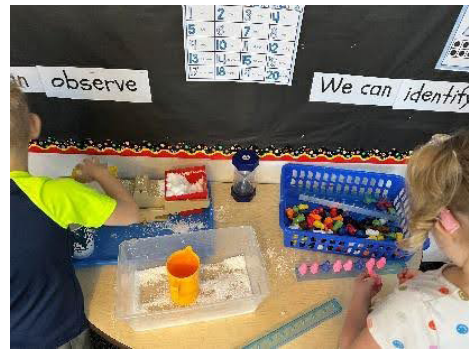
## Early Education Center

Enrollment is officially open to everyone for the 2025-2026 school year! We have wonderful programs for three, four and five year olds that include Spanish and Art Class weekly, as well as Yoga and Music Class bi-weekly. Please visit [www.sjpreschool.com](http://www.sjpreschool.com) for more information or call us at 614-885-2315 to schedule a tour.

After a long holiday break, our classes jumped right back into the swing of things. Students returned to classrooms ready for winter sports, space travel and snow science. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team of teachers at St. John's. They spend hours beyond their work day to make every learning environment an engaging one for our young learners.

Finally, I wanted to announce that our church website now has a tab dedicated to the Early Education Center! Check it out! <https://www.stjohnsworthington.org/early-education-center/>

**Carrie Troester**  
*SJEEC Director*



---

## Evensong – Sunday, February 23rd at 4:00 PM

Please join us at St. John's for an Evensong Service on Sunday, February 23rd at 4:00 PM. This service will feature psalms, canticles, and hymns sung by St. John's choir and the congregation, as well as prayers of intercession, The Lord's Prayer, and Collects. We will be honoring the rich tradition of African American composers in particular at this service with musical settings by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, David Hurd, Robert Ray, and many others. The Episcopal Evensong started in the 16th century and exists to praise God for his works in history and in the life of Jesus Christ. It also serves as a time for prayer and penitence.

# Food Pantry

Thank you to those who collected a “Food Pantry Advent Calendar” box in December and to those who made extra contributions to our food pantries in December and January! The food pantry baskets were overflowing, a wonderful sight to see. The Worthington Resource Pantry says, “It was an amazing holiday season at the Worthington Resource Pantry!... We remain incredibly grateful for the financial generosity of our community, which allows us to keep serving so many families each month.”

With Valentine’s Day just around the corner, February is a month to give from the heart. Please listen to your HEART as you consider how you can help keep the food pantry shelves well stocked to provide nourishing food to those who are having a hard time paying for heat or food in these COLD winter months. You can drop food and toiletries in the Food Pantry baskets on Sunday morning. You can make a financial donation to either of our pantries online. Or maybe your heart is calling you to volunteer - the Worthington Resource Pantry still needs many volunteers each week to help with Open Pantry, sort and pack groceries, and deliver food orders to homebound neighbors. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the pantry or to submit an online application, go to [www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/volunteer](http://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/volunteer).

You can donate financially to the Worthington Resource Pantry at [www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate](http://www.worthingtonresourcepantry.org/donate) and you can donate to the Gladden Pantry in Franklinton at [www.gladdenhouse.org/food-pantry](http://www.gladdenhouse.org/food-pantry). Hunger, illness, unemployment, and high heating bills will continue to plague some families and individuals in the coming months, so let’s give from our hearts to help feed God’s hungry people in our community.

February 2 – chunky or condensed soup; bar soap

February 9 – applesauce; body wash

February 16 – cereal; shampoo

February 23 – peanut butter; diapers (3-4-5-6)

Mary Bailey

---

## Volunteer at Worthington Resource Pantry



Come volunteer at the Worthington Resource Pantry (WRP) on Wednesday, February 26, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We are looking for **FIVE** volunteers to help our neighbors make snack bags for students, sort and pack groceries, and/or guide guests through the shop. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Atrium on Sunday, February 9.

WRP is a food pantry and resource center that serves neighbors in eight zip codes in northern Franklin and southern Delaware counties. Their mission is to feed our community by connecting neighbors to healthy food, resources, and each other.

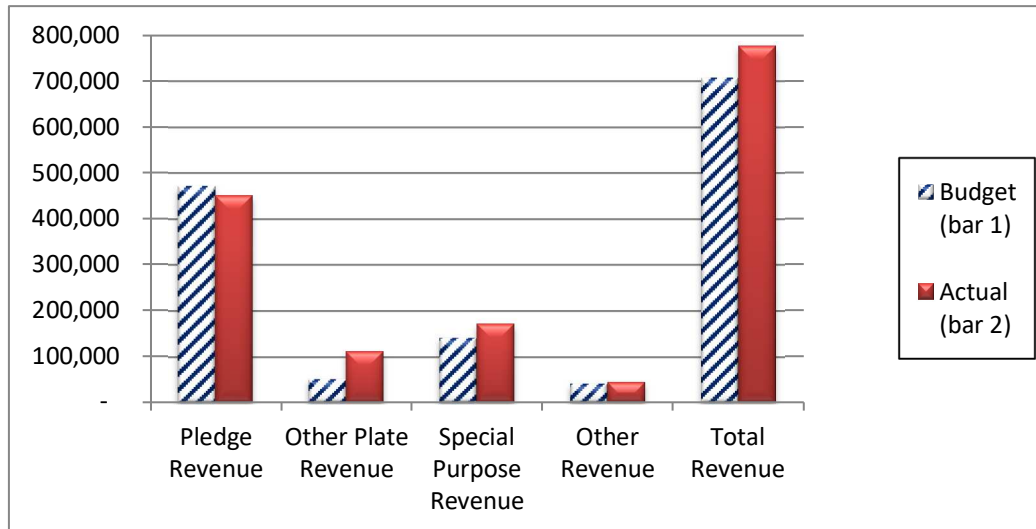
**The Outreach and Social Justice Committee**

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>(Under) or Over Budget</u>
<b><u>Operating Revenue:</u></b>			
Pledge Contributions	470,700	450,543	(20,157)
Other Plate Contributions	52,000	111,208	59,208
Special Purpose Revenue	141,000	170,704	29,704
Other Revenue	42,000	44,152	2,152
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>705,700</b>	<b>776,607</b>	<b>70,907</b>
<b><u>Operating Expenses:</u></b>			
Human Resources Expense	475,678	379,447 *	(96,231)
Diocesan Expense	111,400	91,575	(19,825)
Other Administrative Expense	29,150	24,945	(4,205)
Building & Grounds Expense	157,700	73,744 *	(83,956)
Special Purpose Expense	0	170,287	170,287
Committees Expense	40,605	33,129	(7,476)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>814,533</b>	<b>773,127</b>	<b>(41,406)</b>
<b>Operating Cash Flow</b>	<b>(108,833)</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>112,313</b>

**Financial Summary:**

At the end of December, our pledge contributions were under budget by \$20,200; our other plate contributions (which consist primarily of contributions from non-pledging members, prepaid pledges and plate cash) were over budget by \$59,200; and in total, our revenues were over budget by \$70,900. In total, our operating expenses were under budget by \$41,000, which, in combination with our revenues and our budget transfers from our investments, left us with a positive cash flow of \$3,500.



\*Please be advised that \$80,000.00 of Human Resources expenses and \$61,000.00 of Property expenses were reallocated to Special Purpose expenses to match revenues transferred from the Clergy and Staff and Property accounts at Hamilton Capital to cover operating expenses per the 2024 approved budget



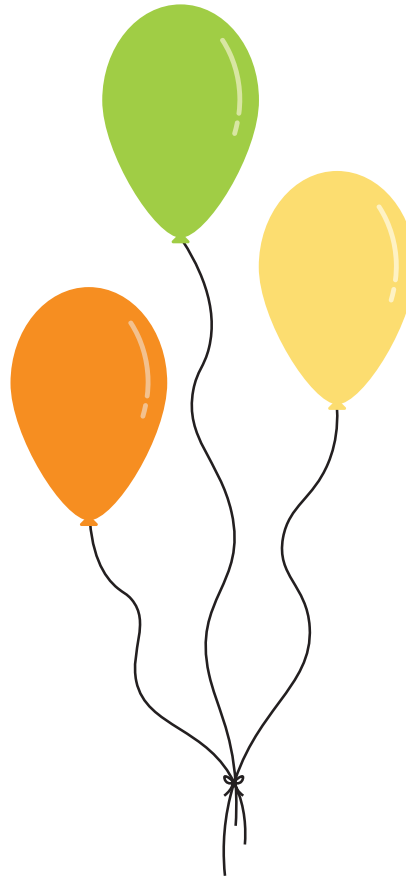
# February Calendar

Sun., February 2, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., February 2, 10:15 AM	Adult Formation in Kilbourne Hall – The Apostle Paul
Sun., February 2, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., February 2, 2:00 PM	Youth Group in the Carriage House
Sun., February 2, 4:00 PM	Celtic Service in the Atrium
Mon., February 3, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Tues, February 4, 5:30 PM	Property Committee on Zoom
Wed., February 5, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., February 6, 1:30 PM	Prayer Shawl Knitters in the Atrium
Thurs., February 6, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., February 9, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., February 9, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., February 9, 2:00 PM	Youth Group at St. Stephen's
Mon., February 10, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Mon., February 10, 7:00 PM	Outreach & Social Justice Committee
Tues., February 11, 5:30 PM	Finance Committee on Zoom
Wed., February 12, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., February 13, 6:00 PM	Friendship Dinner in the Undercroft
Thurs., February 13, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., February 16, 10:15 AM	Adult Formation in Kilbourne Hall –Invite, Welcome, Connect
Sun., February 16, before and after services—	Vestry Voting in the Atrium
Sun., February 16, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., February 16, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Mon., February 17	Office Closed in observance of Presidents' Day
Mon., February 17, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Mon., February 17, 1:00 PM	Facing Loss Support Group in the Atrium
Tues., February 18, 7:00 PM	Vestry in the Atrium and on Zoom
Wed., February 19, 10:00 AM	Wednesday Worship and Bible Study in the Nave
Thurs., February 20, 7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
Sun., February 23, 9:00 AM	Worship in the Nave
Sun., February 23, 10:15 AM	Meet the Candidates in the Nave and streamed on YouTube
Sun., February 23, 11:15 AM	Worship in the Nave with Streamed Service on YouTube
Sun., February 23, 4:00 PM	Choral Evensong in the Nave
Mon., February 24, 12:00 PM	Facing Loss Lunch at La Chatelaine
Mon., February 24, 1:00 PM	Centering Prayer with Teri Foley-Nelson
Wed., February 26, 5:30-7:00 PM	Volunteering at Worthington Resource Pantry
Wed., February 26, 6:00 PM	Singles Dining Out at Texas Roadhouse

Office Closed for Presidents Day, February 17.

## February Birthdays

Emmanuel Koomson	Feb. 2
Constance Rivera	Feb. 4
Russell Allen	Feb. 7
Michael Koomson	Feb. 7
John Herbert	Feb. 8
Don Utter	Feb. 8
Tim Price	Feb. 11
Bruce Batchelder	Feb. 14
Stephen Sollars	Feb. 16
Mark Lewis	Feb. 18
Dawn Wallace-Pascoe	Feb. 18
Blair Wallace	Feb. 23
Angela Herban	Feb. 25
Juliette Ballard	Feb. 28
Rosalyn Cross	Feb. 28
Wren Monroe	Feb. 28
Bill Schwartz	Feb. 28



---

## All Saints Fund Donations

The following people have recently made a donation to the St. John's All Saints Fund:

**In memory of Colin Cross:**

Rosalyn Cross

All donations to the All Saints Fund are used for permanent or semi-permanent improvements for St. John's programs or premises. If you wish to make a contribution in honor of someone or in thanksgiving for any event, simply write a check to St. John's Episcopal Church with a notation for the "All Saints Fund." The name of the person or event being memorialized should be included in the memo line.