



St. John's Episcopal Church

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT FOR 2025

Submitted at

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 18, 2025

St. John's Episcopal Church

113 Madison Avenue

Montgomery, Alabama

(334) 262-1937

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
January 18, 2025

The Meeting will be called to order in the Parish Hall at 9 a.m.

The agenda, in compliance with the by-laws of the parish, is as follows:

1. Calling of the meeting to order.
2. Determination of quorum.
3. The election of six new Vestry members. (Duncan Johnston and
Keith Miller)
4. Introduction of the 2026 Wardens. (Duncan Johnston)
5. Reports:
 - a. The Rector, including Courtesy Resolutions
 - b. The Senior Warden (Keith Miller)
 - c. The Treasurer (Richard Bradford)
 - d. 1834 Committee (Will Hill Tankersley)
 - e. Other reports, as written
6. The 2026 Budget (Duncan Johnston and Richard Bradford)
7. Result of the election
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025

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RECTOR'S REPORT



2025 was an important and fruitful year for St John's. We grew in numbers, in wisdom, and in our sense of purpose.

St. John's is a Beacon in the Heart of Montgomery, welcoming all into Christ's transforming love.

Yes we are! That is the truth the Vestry identified at the end of several months of discernment of who we are and what our purpose is. This was then adopted as our parish Mission Statement in the late summer.

The beauty of a church mission statement is that it gives direction, energy, and momentum to the parish as it makes decisions about who they are and what their primary task is. 191 years ago God put us in downtown for a purpose. Nearly two centuries later, Montgomery is a very different place, but God still has a call for us to fulfill, and a task for us to perform.

This is an outward-looking mission statement. Beacons shine. They can be clearly seen – for many miles. They give comfort and hope. They communicate Good News. They are not like lighthouses, which exist to warn seafarers of dangerous rocks. (If you are on a boat, you're supposed to stay away from lighthouses!) If you are on land and you see a beacon you draw close – to warm yourself, to cheer your spirit, to share time with other people, and to celebrate.

Here's the main point then – we're here to shine. A light hidden under a bowl is of no use, said Jesus. We exist not for our own sakes but for the sakes of a city and state that need the light and warmth of God's love. Our task is to shine.

We took great steps in that direction in 2025:

- Membership rose substantially as we were joined by new residents of Montgomery as well as people who have lived here for many years. Average Sunday attendance rose (just!) to 206, continuing the encouraging post-pandemic trend (2020 = 122; 2021 = 114; 2022 = 172; 2023 = 191; 2024 = 205.) We are now just one person short of our pre-pandemic average attendance.
- We are partnering with new projects that will bring lasting change to many people's lives, such as the Grove support system for young women regaining a place in society and the Many Colors Collective supporting differently abled adults. In all we gave 10% of our pledged income to over 20 mission partners - \$125,000.
- We grew our ministry as a destination of churchwide worship events, such as the Jonathan Daniels commemoration and the Diocesan Youth Happening.
- Our digital media grew to exciting new dimensions. As a result, the number of views that our Sunday streams received in 2025 rose to an average of 529 per week.
- Joel Gregory has quickly built the reputation of St John's a place of lunchtime and Sunday afternoon concerts, entertaining office workers and partners from other churches.
- Once again the vestry, wardens, and treasurer (Richard Bradford) have managed our finances so well that our income exceeded our spending.
- Later in this report you will read about the 1834 Society, which was established in 2025 as a way of funding the maintenance and preservation of our historic and beautiful campus in perpetuity. This, too, is part of being The Beacon, as we add to the architectural beauty and historical richness of Montgomery.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your support in 2025.

Every blessing,

Duncan

REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN



This past summer marked Rebecca's and my 25th year as members of St. John's. We were married at St. John's, our children baptized and confirmed here, and our son sent to seminary from this wonderful parish. It was an honor and privilege to be able to give back to St. John's in light of all that it has given to me and my family.

In May, we completed the replacement of the 20 + year old chiller. The new chiller was ordered in December 2024. At the beginning of March, the main chiller experienced a "catastrophic failure" due to a fire which we believe was caused by short. While our maintenance company was able to get the main chiller partially working, the fire was a clear indication that the earlier decision to move forward with the new chiller was the right decision especially given the 6 months it took us to receive the new chiller. Mr. Jack Morris with Morris Davis Engineering oversaw the chiller replacement process which included soliciting bids from a number of contractors. All of those bids were significantly less than a bid that had been provided to St. John's several years ago. Ultimately, the chiller replacement project cost \$408,131.75 which was paid for by a commercial loan.

During the process of replacing the chiller, Mr. Morris also recommended replacing the two 28+ year-old boilers. Bids were solicited, and the Vestry authorized the replacement of the boilers during its June meeting. At the time, the project was approved, only one of the boilers was working, and it was not functioning at 100%. Because of the age of the boilers, replacement parts were not readily available, and parts would have to be taken from the other non-functioning boiler or made by hand when repairs needed to be made. By beginning of September, the new boilers were installed. The total cost of the project was \$202,522.00 which we were able to pay with cash on hand.

Since both projects have been completed, kilowatts usage has been cut in half. In prior years, St. John's has been spending more than \$100,000 in maintenance costs, most of which has been tied to the chillers and the boilers. Going forward, maintenance costs will decrease significantly.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is composed of Myron Smoke, Christy Anderson, Phillip Brown, Bob Canter, and Fred Mathews. Their hard work made both of these projects possible.

Looking to the future: Stucco repair work in the Nave will be beginning soon. This work will be paid for with cash on hand. Libby Beck, Tracey Campbell, Sommerville Hill, Ken Kline, Mary Nelms Parsons, and Nick Prillaman have all agreed to serve on the Vestry for the next 3 years. Bill Eskridge and Florence Tyson have agreed to serve as Senior Warden and Junior Warden, respectively. I am excited about what each of them is going to bring to the table and offer St. John's.

The Vestry has made a few changes to how it will handle ushering on Sunday morning at the 10:30 a.m. service. Prior to the start of the service, one of the ushers will be stationed by the portecochere with another between the Narthex and the Education Building. We hope that this will put us in a better position to help visitors who may enter the church from doors other than main front doors. The other change is that each Sunday there will be a Head Usher. When the Senior or Junior Warden is serving as an usher, the Warden will be the Head Usher. On other Sundays, another member of the Vestry will be designated as the Head Usher and will perform the duties traditionally performed by the Warden who is on duty. This will reduce the time- commitments of the Wardens and provide greater leadership opportunities for the remainder of the Vestry.

Finally – Thank you to each of you for giving me a front-row seat to see all that God has been and is continuing to do here at St. John's from the new faces in the pews, to the wonderful and amazingly talented clergy and staff, to so many members who in big and small ways pour themselves into this community and make all of our lives richer.

Keith Miller

MEET THE WARDENS



Bill Eskridge. Bill Eskridge joined St. John's in 1996. He is married to Josie Eskridge and they have three children, Inge (29), Dora (26), and Bobby (21). Bill has previously served three terms on the Vestry including serving as junior warden and senior warden, has served on the Every Member Canvass many times, and he also has assisted in Children's Chapel over the years. Bill is a shareholder with the law firm Rushton, Stakely, Johnston and Garrett, P.A.



Florence Tyson. Florence was born and raised in Huntsville as an Episcopalian. She was a member of Church of the Nativity. She joined St John's in 1982 after moving to Montgomery. Florence has served in many capacities at St. Johns including as a Sunday School teacher, Bible School teacher, member of ECW, Pastoral Care volunteer and has volunteered at many Bazaars over the years. Just recently she has become a Lector at St. Johns. Florence was married to the late Fred Tyson, who served several terms on the Vestry, as well as serving as Sr. Warden. She has three married children and eight grandchildren.

MEET THE PROPOSED VESTRY CLASS OF 2028



Tracey Campbell

Tracey has been a member of St. John's for 20 years, coming to the Episcopal Church in mid-life. She has served as a Sunday School teacher, lector, intercessor, lay eucharistic minister and as a member of the Flower Guild. Tracey completed the EFM program in 2011, deepening her faith through the weekly, four-year experience. This is her first time to serve on the vestry and she looks forward to working with other vestry members to help grow and diversify our congregation and reach out to our community in active ways. She lives in Cloverdale-Idlewild with two friendly and talkative cats.



Libby Beck

Libby Beck is a lifelong Episcopalian and member of St. John's. She has served as a Sunday school teacher, ECW president, Cursillo lay rector, and is currently a member of the alter guild and the pastoral care committee. Libby has served two previous terms on the vestry. Libby is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has been in private practice for 10 years. She is married to Jim Beck and has two adult daughters, Anne Tyler and Allie Fitzpatrick.



Ken Kline

Ken was born and raised in and around North Manchester, Indiana. He married into the Episcopal Church in 1991 (confirmed Nov. 2006) when he joined Christine for life's journey. He joined the US Air Force, in the same year, where he served a variety of positions in the Fire & Emergency Services career field and completed 10 deployments around the globe. Through their 23 years of service in the Air Force, they attended five different churches in the six different states (IN, ND x 2, MO, FL, and VA) that they lived. Ken is the Installation Fire Chief for Maxwell AFB and Gunter Annex. Ken and Christine have been members of St. John's since moving to Montgomery in 2021. Ken serves St. John's as a videographer and, more recently, took on duties as a Lector. Ken and Christine have 2 daughters (Kayla and Kelsey), who are married to Air Force members, and three grandchildren (Odin, Otilie, and Baylor). In his free time, Ken enjoys playing golf, salt-water fishing, and cherishes any time he can get with family.



Mary-Nelms Parsons

Mary-Nelms Rosa Parsons, a life-long Episcopalian, has been active at St. John's in many ways. She has previously served on the Vestry, was a member of the Mary and Martha Guild, helped with the Bazaar, does outreach as a Meals on Wheels driver for the St. John's route and is on the ECW Executive Board where she serves as Secretary Treasurer. Nelms is also active in the community, having served in the past on several boards including Hospice of Montgomery, Landmarks Foundation and is currently on the Montgomery Humane Shelter Board. She and her husband, Will, live in Old Cloverdale with their two beagles and rescue feral cat. Nelms is Corporate HR Director of Kelly Aerospace Companies.



Sommerville Hill



Nick Prillaman

My name is Nick Prillaman and am originally from Tennessee. I attended the University of Alabama where I received a B.S. and an M.S. in Finance. I am also a CFA charterholder. Since 2007, I have been working at the Retirement Systems of Alabama where I am currently a Portfolio Manager/Fixed Income Analyst specializing in mortgage-backed securities. My life at St. John's has been blessed with multiple important events including the marriage to my wonderful wife, Allison, the baptisms of our sons, Walker and Henry, and my confirmation. I have held various roles at St. John's including a prior Vestry term, a member of the search committee that selected our current rector, a lay eucharistic minister, and a lay reader.

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION DIRECTOR

I am blessed to continue as Director of Children's Christian Formation. The year 2025 marks 12 years since I started in this position at St. John's. I have enjoyed watching the children grow over the years, and many are now in the EYC program or young adults.

We have an incredibly special group of children and families, and I consider each one at St. John's a part of my church family. In addition, I would like to thank all the volunteers who help make this program successful. Their commitment and time have such an influence on our children. It is with much pleasure and joy that I give this report. On Sunday mornings, there are many activities for the children. All our children in PreK3 through 5th grades use a new curriculum called "Spark Lectionary." The children are divided up into three separate classrooms based on grade level (PreK through Kindergarten, 1st through 2nd, and 3rd through 5th grades). Each week, they are introduced to a new lesson that goes along with our Lectionary readings for the week. Each lesson motivates the children to explore the story in interactive, age-appropriate ways and offers a variety of multisensory activities that integrate Bible learning with real life experiences. Moreover, our 6th grade children actively participate in Confirmation class. This year they continue with the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama curriculum in preparing to join the church as adult members. Our 5th through 6th graders gather together twice a semester for CLUB 56. This is a time for them to build relationships and prepare for EYC.

In addition, our Children's Library was relocated to our 1st floor Education Building. It has a new look, and all children (and families) can visit and check out books. This is a great space for down time between Sunday school and church services. Moreover, our children's chapel continues to evolve. Each week we participate in a "modified" children's liturgy, group activities/games and incorporate picture books/read aloud(s) into our chapel. I often use www.storypath.com, www.sermon4kids.com, www.truewaykids.com and www.dskidsermons.com as resources for Bible connections.

We spend many weeks together in the small chapel (located next to the Parish Hall), and the children enjoy this additional location and use of the quaint worship space. I am grateful to be a part of St. John's, and I look forward to more exciting events in 2026.

Other activities and events took place throughout the year for Children's Christian Formation. They include:

- Children's Lenten Series
- Palm Sunday & Children's Procession with Donkey
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt
- Parish Picnic- We had many inflatables and delicious food.
- Confirmation Sunday- Several adult parishioners and 6th graders were confirmed by Bishop Glenda Curry as members of our church.
- Presentation of Mite Boxes on Easter
- Vacation Bible School- "EGYPT- Joseph's Journey from prison to palace"- This year the Church of Ascension hosted VBS. The curriculum was based on Joseph's life at the Pharaoh's palace (near the Nile River). The children were able to explore what it might have been like to live in a culture that had never heard of the one true God. They experienced new traditions, tasted new foods, tried new craft projects, and discovered that God never leaves us alone through life's trials and triumphs.
- Kickoff Sunday- We had fun and fellowship kicking off the new Sunday school year with giant water slides and a hot dog lunch.
- Sunday "Busy Folders"- located in the Nave for children ages PreK through 5th grades. Each folder contains activities related to the gospel reading for the day (and Children's chapel lesson).
- Fall Wednesday Night series
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Blessing of the Animals- Each pet received a special blessing from a priest. We were joined by the Montgomery Zoo and WSFA news.

- Halloween Trunk-or-Treat and Family Movie Night- This was our 9th year for Trunk-or-Treat. We didn't let the rainy weather stop us, and all families were moved inside the Parish Hall to decorate individual tables. We ended the evening with "Toy Story of Terror" on the big screen, popcorn and a corndog dinner.
- Advent Wreath Making
- Families lighting the Advent Wreath at the 10:30 am service
- Las Posadas- Mary & Joseph visit with families during Advent
- Christmas Angel Tree Outreach- We adopted a total of 13 families through Christmas Clearinghouse. Thank you to all who participated.
- Annual Children's Christmas Pageant- Our Confirmation class (6th graders) narrated our pageant. Younger children took on roles of the Holy Family, Angel Gabriel, Wisemen, dancing angels, shepherds, and barn animals. This set the mood for the true meaning of Christmas.
- CLUB 56- Each semester our 5th -6th graders meet off the church grounds for fun and dinner. This is a great way to build relationships and prepare for EYC.
- Birthday Sunday- the first Sunday of each month we gather for a blessing and cake
- Children & Youth Sunday
- Children's Christmas Eve service- This is a special service for children and families.
- Christmas Toy Collection- All members are invited to bring new toys to our 5 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve service- All toys are donated to families in need.

The weekly Eagle (email) continues to include materials for parents. In addition, we have a Facebook page, Instagram and use of the church database for communication purposes. All of these include information and photos of our children at St. John's.

We currently have nine qualified nursery staff members who provide childcare on Sunday mornings and other events. We hold a meeting once a month to stay updated on our childcare needs. Our nursery staff members are phenomenal, and they make Sunday mornings so special for our young children and families.

I continue to feel grateful to be a part of such a special place as St. John's. I am blessed to have this opportunity to share Christ's love with you all. May the New Year bring you all much happiness.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah Collier
Director of Children's Christian Formation

REPORT OF THE YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Since August, when I began as Youth Minister at St. John's, consistent weekly gatherings have been provided for our youth.

- On Sunday mornings, youth meet on the third floor for casual, relationship-building conversations and discussions of the day's lectionary readings.
- On Sunday evenings, the youth gather on the third floor for dinner, recreation, a lesson, and a Compline worship service.
- On Wednesday evenings, the youth gather at different local restaurants for dinner and a visit with their friends.

Other youth events this past fall include:

- Happening #87: St. John's hosted this diocesan-wide weekend event for approximately 50 10th through 12th grade youth. The group took over the St. John's campus, where they escaped the outside world to dig deep and explore their life of faith.
- DioLympics: St. John's youth took a road trip together to Birmingham to participate in a Youth Department planned event. Friendly competition was the name of the game as 7th -12th grade youth from around the Diocese gathered to play games and worship together.
- The Fair: St. John's youth enjoyed a trip to the Fair together.

- Christmas party: During Advent, St. John's EYC had a Christmas party with children in Club 56 (5th & 6th graders). Our youth bonded over a meal and interactive games.

St. John's youth participated in service work this fall:

- In October, before St. John's Wednesday night program, the EYC prepared and served dinner to the parish to practice giving back to our parish family.
- During Advent, as part of our Christmas Party, our youth traveled together on the church van to shop for our adopted Angel Tree families. St. John's youth delighted in finding items listed on our Angel Tree families' wish lists.

St. John's youth lead in worship services at St. John's:

- Acolytes serve during Sunday & Holiday services: The Acolyte program at St. John's has been steadily growing. There are several new, enthusiastic additions to the Acolyte roster which have injected new energy into our Acolyte program. It is a joy to witness this group's dedication to their church community.
- The Feast of Lights service: St. John's youth is entirely responsible for this worship service celebrating Epiphany at St. John's. This year, a group of about 15 youth executed a beautiful Feast of Lights service for our parish community.

St. John's has several youth leaders in our group:

- Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Youth Department: St. John's has 3 youth who serve on the Diocesan Youth Department. Nancy Bradford, Robert Marshall, and Margie Anne Prescott serve on YD. These 3 youth commit their time and energy to planning and executing Diocesan youth events.
- Happening #87 Staff: Three members of St. John's youth held leadership positions for the weekend. Robert Marshall was Lay Rector for the weekend; Margie Anne Prescott was Head Gopher for the weekend; and Nancy Bradford served on staff for the weekend.
- Providence IV Youth Conference: St. John's had 1 youth participant, Margie Anne Prescott, in this youth conference weekend held in Greensboro, North Carolina.

So far, as Youth Minister at St. John's, I have focused on observing how the program has operated historically. I have also focused on establishing a routine of consistent gathering to support friendships within our group. This observation period allowed me to assess where and how the program might develop. The most obvious need for the St. John's youth program is the need for adult volunteers dedicated to forming mentor relationships with our youth and dedicated to providing substantive programming and events for our youth. To provide more opportunities that might inform the hearts of St. John's youth, we need more people collaborating on events that do just that: more service work that touches these kids, more events off campus given this age group's desire for more independence, more special trips together for fellowship. This is how our youth become Christian leaders. My focus will now be on finding adults within our community with the gift of working with youth. The youth program at St. John's needs a handful of dedicated individuals to really affect the lives of our young people. With just a few more helping hands, we could do something special for the youth in our community. If you are interested in working with our youth group, please reach out to me at jr@stjohnsmontgomery.org.

In peace,
J.R. Marshall

REPORT OF THE ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER

Organ

The organ is in good condition with only minor maintenance and repairs expected that are to be natural with the age of the instrument.

Choir

The choir consists of 3 sopranos and 2 baritones. We are very grateful for their skill, dedication, and generosity of talent. Soloists are occasionally invited to sing with them.

Childrens' Choirs

There are currently no functioning children's choirs.

Instrumentalists

St John's has continued a multi-decades long tradition of supporting and using instrumentalists in the services in a way that few churches do. We have a skilled, talented, core group of musicians participating weekly in the services. We are grateful for them.

Concerts

In 2025 we presented the following concerts on Sunday afternoons at 4 pm as part of our regular concert series:

- Feb 23, 2025—Chamber Music Concert
- April 6, 2025—Joel Gregory, *organ*; Camilla Armstrong, *artist*. (*Music and art - a contemplation on the paintings of the Stations of the Cross.*)
- May 18, 2025 - Joel Gregory, *organ*
- 'Bach's Lunch' Summer Series—Eight recitals were presented on Wednesdays at 12:05 during the months of June and July. The recitals featured guest organists who were invited to play. The programs were very well received and well attended. Lunch followed each concert in the Parish Hall
- Nov 16, 2025—Dr Joshua Coble, *Christ Church Cathedral*
- November 30, 2025—Bishop Glenda Curry hosted a program celebrating Rosa Parks Weekend and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd. The program featured Dr. Alcee Chriss III as organist performing music by black composers.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Gregory
Organist / Choirmaster

REPORT OF THE 1834 SOCIETY

The 1834 Society is an instrumentality of St. John's dedicated to creating a fund for the care, maintenance and upgrades to the buildings and grounds of the church campus. It is to be funded with direct contributions and legacy gifts, including but not limited to bequests in a last will and testament as well as from trusts ("LW&T"). Those who inform us that they have included the 1834 Society in their LW&T or have made a direct contribution will receive a commemorative challenge coin and are invited to an annual 1834 Society dinner. The board of the 1834 society includes: Judge Rich Anderson; Anne Hill, Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston, Anne Elizabeth McGowin, Dr. Paul Moore and Will Hill Tankersley.

Will Hill Tankersley

REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD

Not much changes year-to-year for the Altar Guild except for dramatic events like the COVID period. So my report often seems like something you've read before. Close! The year 2025 has been "normal" and that is both good and bad. Good because we've not had to scramble to find new ways of doing things; bad because we are not growing. We have not had any retirements during the year, but neither have we attracted new members. Some of us are actually getting old (that must come as a surprise), but we do our best to carry on. We continue to wish we had more members, so please tell me if you think altar service is something you could do. There are fifteen of us now compared to the pre-COVID period when we had twenty-one active members. You may have noticed that the number of services has not changed – just the number of people setting up and cleaning up for them.

We have very little flexibility for sickness, vacations, and those things that are part of any scheduled operation. Each team member serves at one Sunday service per month – either at 7:30 or 10:30. A few of us serve more often. All the "7:30 people" are regular 7:30 service attendees. Weekday chapel services are staffed by members who regularly attend those weekday services. If you wish to join us, we won't try to change your service preference.

The Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary for worship services. Their result of their work is seen, but seldom observed in progress; yet they perform it regularly and faithfully. We estimate there are about 200 celebrations of the Holy Eucharist in a year's time, and one or two of our members prepares the altar for each celebration and cleans vessels and linens after the service. Baptisms, weddings and funerals add to the mix.

All of the brass inside the communion rail (the sanctuary) is the responsibility of the Altar Guild. We try to hold brass polishing "field days" twice a year and will soon be preparing for Easter of 2025. Candles which must be changed every several weeks are cared for by the Altar Guild. Changing the "frontal" (the cloth which covers the front of the altar) to correspond with the liturgical season is the responsibility of the Altar Guild as is caring for those not in use.

We continue to need more members. Think about how this ministry might fit into your life. Write to me at: moore.cn@gmail.com or call 334-391-2640.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Moore
Altar Guild Chair

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Archives Committee meets each Thursday afternoon. We maintain records pertinent to the church, including information on its worship services, events, meetings, committees, church school offerings, publications, and special activities. We keep binders of service bulletins and printed portions of weekly email newsletters. We scrap-

book each year's events and photographs. We conduct research, as needed, for those with questions about church-related history or ancestry.

We continued two long-term projects in 2025: an in-depth review and update of all our files, and a cataloging of our many books. We moved overflow items (like Holy Cross altar linens, Eucharistic vessels, and school publications) and large archival items (like pieces of original St. John's altar railing and Madison Avenue signage) out of the room next to the Archives. This emptied the room for Myron to use as office space. Myron then converted narrow bookshelves in what used to be the children's library into more open storage space, so we can now use this repurposed room for archival storage. We thank Myron for all his hard work in getting us settled! A new project in 2026 will be to find the most efficient way to store our holdings in these two rooms.

We would be remiss in this report not to mention the person who made the St. John's Archives possible and whose presence we dearly miss. It's all thanks to the hard work and vision of Sallie Millsap that we have a church archives. In the months preceding the church's January 1984 Sesquicentennial celebration, then-rector Charlie Douglass tasked Sallie with putting together an exhibit in the parish hall to showcase St. John's history. Sallie did just that by amassing information and hunting down items that were either privately owned, like the church's first communion table, or residing at the Alabama Archives, like certain Bishops' portraits. After the anniversary events ended, Sallie saw the need to form an Archives Committee to organize and care for the artifacts she had unearthed and to continue the work thus begun. Different volunteers came and went over the years. The group moved from the balcony over the Perry Street end of the parish hall, to a classroom in the Education Building, to sharing cramped office space with the Parish Administrator, to its current location in room 202 in the "new" building (to which is now added the aforementioned former children's library space).

Today's Archives Committee endeavors to maintain and further the important work Sallie so lovingly began. As always, with gratitude for each other and for our clergy and staff's support, we respectfully submit this report.

Melissa Carter, Fred Matthews, Jim Power

REPORT OF THE BACKPACK MINISTRY

St. John's Church Backpack program provides weekend food for 30 students at Carver High School who have been identified as being food insecure. As we are able occasionally provide limited amounts of shirts, belts, hygiene items. We also try to include a treat for holidays and inspiration. Although our main emphasis is the weekend food we also give incentives for student and teachers as an award for outstanding accomplishments.

St. John's has provided support to students in the Montgomery Public Schools for 25 years. There is no way to count the number of children whose lives have been touched. Members of our committee include Anne Hamner, Faye Worriow, Mary Helen Mahan, Katie, Virginia, and Vivian Wood, Fairlie Herron, J R Marshall, and Gibbs Davis. We welcome anyone who would like to assist.

Gibbs Davis

REPORT OF DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King (DOK) at St. Johns is an active group of 28 women who have pledged themselves to service in the church and prayer. We are part of an international order in the Episcopal Church for laywomen. Our mission is the extension of Christ's kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. We pledge to pray daily and confidentially for all the needs and concerns of the parish, friends of the parish, our community

and the world. As our vision statement reads in part, “we strive to assist in making Jesus Christ known to others by becoming reflections of God’s love throughout the world.”

We meet regularly every other month after the 10:30 service for lunch and updates on those on our prayer list. During the meetings we often have short programs and learn about opportunities for us to be involved in various aspects of growth and outreach at St. John’s. Additionally, we receive weekly prayer updates which can include concerns from any member. Your information is kept confidential and will continue on the list as long needed. Just let any member, Duncan or Mark, know about your request.

All our daughters are very active in study and various aspects of the worship service being LEMS, lectors, serving on the altar guild, flower guild, pastoral care and many other outreach projects. This year we also assisted in the youth Happening by providing lunch for the participants.

Annually, the DOK sponsors training classes for any woman interested in joining our Order. We generally hold six hour-long sessions that are designed to fit into the schedule of the participants. We would love to continue our growth and hope you will consider joining us. Please contact any member and we will be happy to talk with you. We are easy to spot, as we wear our DOK crosses proudly each day.

Callie T. Dietz

REPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The ECW hosted a beautiful Spring Social on the evening of May 7th at the home of Laura McLemore. The ladies contributed jars of peanut butter for the Backpack Program. In addition to enjoying time together, this social event provided the wonderful opportunity to get to know new ladies of the church as well as sharing information on volunteering for guilds and committees within the church.

As we rolled into fall, the ladies of the ECW hosted and enjoyed the Diocese of Alabama 136th ECW Fall Conference on October 17 serving a delicious lunch. It was a fun filled two days with tours of the local Episcopal churches, keynote speaker - Sister Monica Clare, fellowship, and delicious food. We then served a spaghetti dinner for the students of the Happening on November 7th. They were a delight to see and very appreciative of the meal. The much anticipated Bazaar took place on November 19, filling the Church with excitement and activity. Parishioners dedicated countless hours over several months to prepare for the event, strengthening bonds of fellowship and friendship along the way. A sense of accomplishment should be felt by all, as this year was one for the books! With the proceeds from the Bazaar, the ECW made contributions to the Boys & Girls Club of the River Region \$19,864.86, Friendship Mission \$5,000, Meals on Wheels \$5,000, Grace Episcopal Diaper Ministry \$2,500, the Backpack Program \$2,500, and shared in the holiday with an Angel Tree Family \$500. Thank you to all!

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Kline
ECW President

REPORT OF THE FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild is a ministry of St. John’s that displays and shares the floral beauties of God’s creation. This is done for the Glory of God, the remembrance of loved ones, and as a part of and an enhancement to our corporate worship. The Guild has many duties performed by its 24 members. We are not responsible for wedding and funeral flowers. Members arrange the altar flowers for Sunday services on a rotating basis. After the 10:30 service, the large arrangements are broken down into smaller bouquets in glass vases and delivered to parishioners who are ill, shut-in and other appropriate people by the Flower Delivery Team. The Flower Guild is appreciative of the services of Bob Canter, a valuable adjunct member of our Guild. Most Sundays, Bob is the person who moves the flowers from the altar to our Flower Guild work room.

The Flower Delivery Team is made up of 5 teams who deliver flowers on the same Sunday once a

month. At Easter and Christmas, the whole group comes together to deliver plants from our services. Sunday flowers are donated by parishioners in memory of deceased family or in honor of special family or friends. Kitty Coleman works with Constance Rodgers to develop the memorial flower calendar. Then Kitty or Sarah Spratling contacts the donors regarding their flower preferences before they place the weekly flower order.

At Easter and Christmas, anyone may donate to have family or friends on the memorial or honorarium list. Often donations are made at Christmas as gifts in honor of someone. The amount of your contribution is strictly up to you, the donor. Our tradition at St. John's is that each year our decorations for Easter and Christmas will differ. Accordingly, Sarah designs a unique plan for each year. For Easter, the color and flower choices vary, but Easter Lilies are a constant. One of the highlights of Easter is the arrangements at the base of our glorious windows. Jean Smyth, Karen Westhauser, Bette Smith, and Carroll Nason have become our window team, having arranged the baskets for over a decade.

Another highlight of Easter is the flowers placed on the St. John's sign. Bob Canter leads a team who climb ladders and even work in the rain to ensure that the sign in front of our church proclaims the joy of Easter. Generations have had their pictures taken in front of the St. John's sign at Easter.

Most Guild members were able to help during Holy Week in preparing the abundance of beautiful Easter flowers. At Christmas, the overall design changes but some things must remain traditional – wreaths on the walls of the Nave and all doors, garland on the front sign, and poinsettias placed somewhere. In 2025, Bob hung the smilax, Myron Smoke and his staff hung the wreaths, the window group created arrangements, Sarah and Betsy Cannon created the 2 large altar arrangements, guild members arranged other flowers and placed poinsettias. A group of parishioners volunteered to help the Flower Guild prepare for Christmas in 2025. Myron, Travis James and Sharon Jones are very helpful to the Guild at Easter and Christmas, as well as on a weekly basis.

This year the Guild welcomed Lacy Gibson, Debbie Steindorff and Alice Longshore. Thanks to you for joining us in this ministry. We invite anyone interested either in arranging or delivery to give one of us a call. You do not have to have design experience. We will assist you along the way, and very soon you will find arranging flowers a natural expression of your own creativity. If you have questions about joining either the Flower Guild or Delivery Team, or donating, please call Sarah Spratling (334.202.1420), Kitty Coleman (334.301.3303) or Jean Smyth (334.832.4916).

Sarah Spratling
Flower Guild Representative

REPORT OF THE PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The goal of Pastoral Care (PC) at St. John's is to minister to parishioners who are ill, recovering from a medical procedure or have experienced a birth or death in the family. Pastoral Care also ministers to our parishioners who can no longer attend church in person. PC currently has close to 60 volunteers, divided into 12 teams, each having a designated chairperson. All volunteers for a designated month receive an initial call from the respective month's captain. We are constantly adding and recruiting new volunteers and can never have enough. It seems that we have lost a handful of key veteran volunteers, and we are eager to replace them with any parishioner who is willing to help.

The clergy determines who needs PC on a weekly basis. Suggestions for those who might need PC are accepted from parishioners. Such requests are given to the clergy for consideration. Those needing PC are communicated to pastoral care co-chairs on a weekly basis who, in turn, notify the PC Team Captain for the respective month.

A report of PC activities is submitted to the clergy by the PC co-chairs on a monthly basis. These monthly reports serve to keep the clergy informed of our parishioners who are receiving PC. These reports are also an invaluable record keeping tool for the PC committee coordinators.

PC serves parishioners through meals, other food items, cards, calls, texts, emails, flowers, and visits. It is worth noting that many parishioners receive PC assistance more than one time. The data from our weekly reports for 2025 reveals the following:

- 60 parishioners (individuals and families) were contacted.
- 42 meals and other food items were provided to parishioners.
- Numerous visits were made to parishioners by PC volunteers (in addition to clergy visits)
- Numerous cards were sent to parishioners.
- Flowers were also delivered by St. John's Flower Delivery Team.

As of January 2026, both Virginia Banister and Cam Hughes will serve as co-chairs of the Pastoral Care Committee. A meeting for all pastoral care team captains will be held in February.

Pastoral Care is always in need of additional volunteers to increase our capacity to serve. Both ladies and gentlemen are welcome to join this ministry at any time. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact Virginia Banister at 334-354-9517 or Cam Hughes at 334-462-1732.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Banister

REPORT OF THE WELCOME & EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Welcome and Evangelism Committee is pleased to report another year of positive growth and outreach at St. John's. We have been especially encouraged this year by the increase in attendance at our services, which reflects the welcoming spirit increasingly defines our parish. We continue to strive toward creating an inviting environment where all who come to worship feel warmly embraced and connected to the community of faith.

The most powerful and effective way we can grow St. John's is through the personal actions of our parishioners. Each of you plays a vital role in growing our parish. We encourage everyone to continue to invite friends, family, and coworkers to join us for worship. Word-of-mouth remains one of the most impactful ways to grow our congregation, and your enthusiasm and personal invitations make a significant difference.

In addition, we ask that every parishioner take the time to greet newcomers with a warm welcome. If you see someone new at church, please make sure to introduce yourself and share with them how glad you are that they are with us at St. John's. A simple introduction can make all the difference in helping someone feel included and connected. We also encourage everyone to ensure that visitors are introduced to the clergy, so they are personally welcomed by the rector.

The growth of our parish is a collective effort, and with continued commitment from each of us, we can further strengthen our parish. Together, we can help St. John's continue to thrive and be a place of welcome and spiritual growth for all who seek it.

Thank you for your support and dedication to this important work.

In faith and service,

The Welcome and Evangelism Committee

REPORT OF THE OUTREACH GRANTS COMMITTEE

2025 marked our thirty sixth year as a committee. Working off memory (which is dangerous) a conservative estimate of the funds St. Johns has provided to our community exceeds two and one half million dollars. Think about that for a minute. The impact St Johns continues to have in Montgomery and other areas is truly making a significant difference.

Much has changed in the past thirty-six years but one constant remains – our commitment to those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you for all each of you do for St. Johns and for are neighbors. This would not be possible without the support of each of you.

Grant Applicant	2022 Amount Given	2023 Amount Requested	2023 Amount Given	2024 Amount Requested	2024 Amount Given	2025 Amount Requested	2025 Amount Given
Aid to Inmate Mothers	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$3,000.00	\$5,000	\$3,000
Alabama Writers Forum (AWF)	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000.00	\$2,000	\$2,000
Camp McDowell-Special Session	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$6,000.00	\$6,000	\$6,000
Cancer Wellness Foundation of Central Alabama	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$2,500.00	\$3,000	\$3,000
Child Protect	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000
Children's Center of Montgomery, Inc.	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500.00	\$2,500	\$2,500
Dream Court	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$5,000.00	\$7,000	\$5,000
Friendship Mission	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$2,500.00	\$10,000	\$7,000
Girls on the Run South Central Ala	\$3,000	<i>not spec.</i>	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000.00	\$3,000	\$3,000
Hands on River Region	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000
Hope Inspired Ministries	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$2,500.00	\$7,500	\$2,500
Let God Arise Ministries	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200.00	\$1,200	\$1,200
MACOA-Meals on Wheels	\$12,000	\$20,000	\$12,000	\$20,000	\$12,000.00	\$22,536	\$14,000
Many Colors Arts Collective	New	\$8,500	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$3,500.00	\$7,000	\$5,000
MAP Center for Excellence	\$5,000	<i>not spec.</i>	\$12,000	\$30,000	\$15,000.00	\$20,000	\$15,000
Medical Outreach Ministries	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500.00	\$4,500	\$5,000
Mid-AL Coalition for the Homeless	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$2,500.00	\$7,500	\$2,500
Montgomery Humane Society	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$8,000	\$6,000.00	\$8,000	\$6,000
New Beginnings	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	\$2,500.00	\$2,500	\$2,500
Respite Ministry FUMC	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$3,000.00	\$5,000	\$3,000
Rebuilding Together Central Alabama	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000
Sawyererville	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000
Service Dogs of Alabama	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$5,000.00	\$5,000	\$5,000
St. John's Backpack Program (Kids' Food)	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	\$8,000
The Grove						\$5,000	\$5,000
Bus Fares to Map Center							\$1,300
TOTALS	\$99,200	\$127,700	\$107,200	\$160,700	\$112,200	\$162,236	\$127,500

2025 budget for grants is \$127,500

TOTAL OUTREACH FUNDS AWARDED IN 2024: \$127,500

2025 REPORT OF THE TREASURER
ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 18, 2026

This past year was active at St. John's. In 2025, we closed out the Light Campaign, added over \$600,000 in capital improvements to the church including new boilers and new HVAC and created the 1834 Society to accumulate funds specifically to support the ongoing maintenance of our beloved campus. Our cash position remains solid at \$1,567,060. This is comprised of operating and excess cash of \$873,948; other discretionary funds of \$59,569; the newly formed 1834 Society account \$118,836 and reserve funds of \$514,680.

We entered the year with bank debt of \$175,000 from River Bank and Trust. This loan was originally used for our stained-glass restoration. It was paid off in April 2025, officially and successfully closing the \$2,000,000 Light Campaign. We borrowed \$425,000 from Renasant Bank to finance the HVAC replacement and paid for the boiler replacement with budgeted cash. The current balance of the Renasant loan is \$384,088. We repaired our steeple in 2024 and originally borrowed \$325,000 from our Trusts. That balance is now \$265,000. In total, long-term liabilities increased from \$175,000 in 2024 to \$650,000 in 2025.

Total income for the year exceeded budget expectations in every category. We ended the year collecting \$1,820,270 (\$117,350 more than budgeted). This excess was used to manage excess expenses. Actual expenses of \$1,756,336 exceed budget of \$1,606,392 by approximately \$150,000. The largest costs to exceed budget were utilities (\$46,016), Hazard Insurance (\$41,094), Building & Maintenance (\$34,858) and Payroll (\$21,939). Since the installation of the new HVAC and Boilers, we are actively monitoring energy costs, and it appears that the church is operating more efficiently. Hazard Insurance premiums continue to increase and given the size and age of our campus may continue to increase. Insurance cost is monitored very carefully at renewal each year to make sure we get the most appropriate coverage at the best available price. Finally, the age of our campus continues to make accurate budgeting for maintenance a challenge. Necessary maintenance is monitored by the Wardens and reported to the Vestry frequently to ensure preservation of our physical plant. The 1834 Society was established in 2025 to accumulate assets sufficient to meet our maintenance needs. St. John's has long felt a responsibility and a desire to share our blessings by reaching outward to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our community and beyond. It is a pleasure to report that in 2025 the Church made total gifts of over \$265,000. This was comprised of gifts from the General Fund budget (including awards by the outreach committee), the ECW, the Rector's and Associate Rector's Discretionary Funds, and the Baldwin Trust.

2026 BUDGET

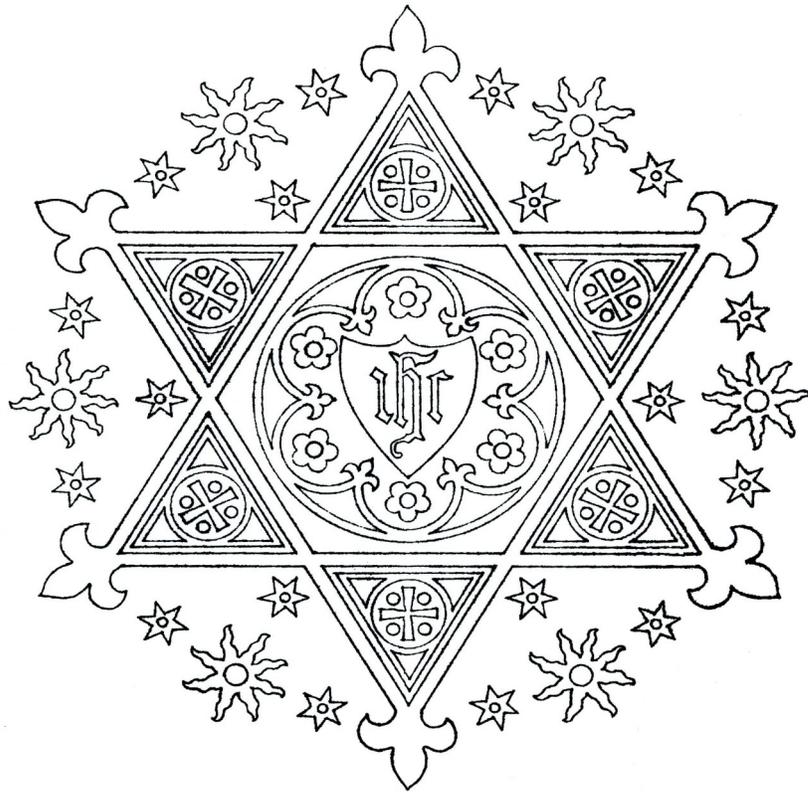
The 2026 budget was approved by the Vestry in its December meeting. The revenue budgeted in the approved report was \$1,781,500. Budgeted Expenses are \$1,760,059. The Church expects a net increase in assets of \$21,441. Below are highlights:

Revenue: For 2026, we have budgeted \$1,781,500 in total revenue. This amount is \$88,770 less than 2025 actual.

Expenses: Budgeted Expenses of \$1,760,056 are expected remain very close to 2025 actual of \$1,756,336 and include a \$100,000 line item for debt reduction.

It remains my honor and pleasure to serve as your Treasurer. The past five years have been extremely rewarding. Serving in this role has deepened my love of St. John's and opened my eyes to the extraordinary talents of all who serve the Church. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Respectfully submitted, Richard Bradford, Treasurer



St. John's Episcopal Church

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