

# St. John's Episcopal Church

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT FOR 2022

Submitted at

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 22, 2023

**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 22, 2023**

The Meeting will be called to order in the Parish Hall at 9:00am.

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 Will Hill Tankersley)
4. Introduction of the 2023 Wardens (Duncan Johnston)
5. Reports:
  - a. The Rector, including Courtesy Resolutions
  - b. The Senior Warden (Will Hill Tankersley)
  - c. The Treasurer (Richard Bradford)
  - d. Stewardship Committee (William Haynes)
  - e. Other reports, as written
6. Provisional 2023 Budget (Duncan Johnston and Richard Bradford)
7. Result of the election
8. Other Business
9. Adjournment



# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2022

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## Rector's Report

*Look what God has done for us  
Over all the years we've shared,  
Ever since the day  
He joined our flick'ring  
Lights into one flame.  
Look at all the lives he's changed.  
By his grace we're not the same.  
All the fruit that's grown,  
All that's yet to come,  
Look what God has done.*

*Look at all we've shared in him,  
Joy and laughter, tears and pain,  
Grace to carry on  
When days were dark  
And all our strength was gone.  
Look at all the prayers he's heard,  
All the times he's proved his word,  
Blessing on our homes,  
Children that have grown,  
Look what God has done.*

*Copyright: G Kendrick 1986*

### Rejoice

I'd like to begin my first Annual Report with a huge 'thank you' to every parishioner. You have welcomed Gelind and me into your parish, your homes, and your hearts. We are thrilled to be here. Our transition from New Jersey has been smooth and enjoyable, and that is due to the warmth and generosity you have lavished on us.

I thank God for the extraordinary history of St John's. I have been deeply moved by people's deep sense of rootedness and belonging in the parish. You love this piece of God's world, and it shows. I am profoundly aware that I am here as the servant of God and his people. My tastes and desires are less important than the identity of the parish, shaped by word and sacrament, mission and service, for 139 years. Thank you for the privilege of accompanying you for this chapter of your illustrious story. Your excitement about St John's and your hope for a thriving future are infectious, and I share them.

As we review 2022, there are so many reasons to give thanks.

- \* God has kept us remarkably safe during the pandemic and is now leading us into a new season of hope. We all experienced losses of some kind during the pandemic, but God was faithful and has brought us through.
- \* The Shine the Light campaign to restore our stained-glass windows has been brilliantly managed, funded, and (very nearly) completed.
- \* Deonna Neal and the senior lay leaders of the parish (Will Hill Tankersley, William Haynes, and the Vestry) have been amazing leaders during the rector transition.
- \* The staff team has been resilient, faithful, and dedicated through the last 2 or 3 years of change.
- \* Attendance has been building strongly as we have exited the pandemic. Average Sunday Attendance for 2022 was 171, this is an increase of 47% from the covid years of 2020 and 2021. In addition to this, our streaming of the 10:30 service received on average 238 views per week. (Note: only some of these were 'live' views, and most occurred 'on demand' at other times.) This is an extremely encouraging number, and leads us to imagine how we can further use digital media to expand our mission and ministry in 2023. There is no going back to the pre-digital church!
- \* The combined attendance of the four Christmas services showed a small increase from the most recent **pre-pandemic** Christmases.
- \* Financial giving has increased, and the vestry anticipates passing a healthy, balanced budget for 2023 at its meeting later this month.

## Dream

At the *'Rector and Wife Q&A'* on September 11<sup>th</sup>, I was asked the excellent question, "What is your vision for St John's?" I sheepishly replied that I didn't have one. There are many years in the future in which we can form a vision and strategize its fulfillment. For now, I explained, I felt that my task was simply to get to know people, listen to their stories, learn the histories, and absorb myself in the culture of the parish. Building relationships and learning our traditions are the extent of my personal goals.

And yet, I think it is possible to let a few tentative and general words about the future crawl from my keyboard.

**Although Sunday attendance is dramatically up from the Covid years, it is still a long way short of pre-pandemic levels.** It is still too early to know how the pandemic has permanently altered the religious landscape of the US and the membership of its churches. It's possible that we may never get back to the sort of in-person Sunday attendance we had in our peak years. But that's OK. God may well be calling us to new ways of measuring our devotion and fruitfulness than crudely counting back-sides on pews. We must be patient, and continue to do the work of evangelists.

**We must renew our efforts to connect with missing members.** There are still a large number of St John's folk who have not returned since the pandemic. Some of these are taking wise health precautions. These folks are likely joining us online. But some have not returned for other reasons – they're feeling inertia, they got out of the habit, something else has taken the place of church, they've realized that church just wasn't that big a part of their lives, and so on. Each of us has a role in reaching out to these dear folk, reassuring them that we love them and miss them.

**We must be who we are.** St John's has tremendous, God-given strengths. We are unique. We have dynamic ministries in certain key areas. We are the only church in downtown Montgomery that believes in the primacy of preaching, the centrality of the Eucharist, the beauty of liturgy, the priority of outreach, and the excellence of music. Other downtown churches have some of these things, but we are the only place to have all of them. They define who we are. I believe we will always be these things.

But we will be more than these things. **Children, youth, and young families need to become a major focus of our ministry and resources.** To this end we are currently seeking to hire a new Associate Rector to work alongside Deonna and me, with a particular focus on youth and young adults. Our prayer is that this new priest will be identified and called to Montgomery by the spring.

**We need to make a deep study of how to exploit digital communications to grow the parish.** In the next few weeks, I hope to announce the creation of a new committee – the Digital Communications Committee. Along with Constance Rodgers, our new Director of Communications, this group will have the task of hatching a vision of what is possible and strategizing how to accomplish it.

Thank you for reading this report and for being a part of what God is doing in and through St John's. It's a great privilege to be your Rector.

Faithfully,

**Duncan**

## REPORT FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR/ASSOCIATE RECTOR

It's hard to do justice to how extraordinary the year 2022 was both for me and for the life of the parish. I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for having had the opportunity to be the chief shepherd of St. John's from September 22nd, 2021 to September 1st, 2022. I believe I grew a lot, both personally and professionally, and my love for St. John's truly deepened during that time. I am tremendously grateful to all of you, especially to the staff (past and present): Anne, Heather, Victoria, Constance, Joel, Mike, Myron, Sharon, and Joleen; and to the vestry and Wardens during my tenure: Radney Ramsey, Will Hill Tankersley, Jr., and William Haynes. I felt tremendously supported over this past year and never felt like I was on the adventure alone.

As your interim rector, we accomplished a lot together. We raised the money needed to complete the windows restoration project. You also exceeded the stewardship 2022 goal and reversed the 10+ year declining pledge trend line. These are signs that you have great faith and hope for the future of St. John's. Programmatically, we changed the format of our Lenten Speaker Series and had an overwhelming turnout for our program focused on Mental Health and Spiritual wellness. We also hosted a three-day training for the Montgomery Fire Department's Peer Support program which helps our firefighters and first responders deal with trauma.

Much of the year was also focused on addressing some maintenance issues. New carpet was installed on the first-floor office area and much needed repairs were done on various parts of the building, to include the iron gates to the columbarium, labyrinth and playground, roof, steeple, and parts of the breezeway. We dealt with three major water leaks, which caused thousands of dollars of damage. We brought a new website and new data base online, and our financial records are now fully computerized. We also conducted a full audit of our financials for the first time in over 10 years. These are only some of the outward and tangible signs of activity that the parish undertook. The sustained effort of generous giving and care for our historic building reflects the obvious love each of you has for this church. However, it is perhaps the internal changes of the parish for which I am most grateful.

It was obvious to all of us that my taking on the interim rector role as the only clergy person on staff was unsustainable if the parish continued to operate in a heavily 'rector centric' way. As a result, I encouraged our lay leaders, especially our vestry, to take a more active leadership role. They responded brilliantly and I think we moved the needle a little bit in the direction of helping the vestry feel that they have more meaningful input and see themselves as partners in ministry with the rector. Our major lay ministries operated very smoothly with little rector oversight under dedicated lay leadership, e.g. the Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers (Kat Dailey); Lay Eucharistic Visitors (Rosa Davis); Pastoral Care (Debbie Schremser and Team); Altar Guild (Chuck Moore); DOK (Melissa Carter); Men's Breakfast Brigade (Richard Bradford); ECW (Betsy Cannon) and Outreach (Charlie Harris).

My goal as the interim was to make sure that when the new rector arrived, he or she would walk in and find a parish that was faithful, loving, and healthy--organizationally, financially, and spiritually. With everyone's hard work and support, I think we achieved this goal. I was very happy to see the Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston and his wife Gelind embraced with much grace and generosity by the staff, parish, and vestry. I think we have had a tremendously smooth transition and this is a credit to everyone. St. John's is on track for a bright future.

While it took a couple months for me to decompress from the stress and pressures of the interim role and adjust to resuming my role as associate rector, I am now finding more time to relax and pursue hobbies that had been set aside for a while. If you are looking for me on one of my days off, I am probably out flying airplanes or gliders!

Thanks again for a great 2022 and I am looking forward to where God leads St. John's in 2023!

In Christ,  
**Deonna+**



## REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN

Below are vestry highlights for 2022:

### 1.) The Vestry Steps Up

At our last annual meeting, **Deonna Neal** was three months into her interim rectorship of the church. Part of what made her decision such a brave one is that she knew she had no guarantee of having meaningful support to run a complex church like St. John's. Plus, we were in the midst of the largest Capital Campaign (the "Light Campaign") that St. John's had undertaken in twenty years. Your Vestry stepped up and stood shoulder to shoulder with her. As Deonna stated in her valedictory message as the interim rector, we had grown comfortable with being a "rector-centric" church. Your 2022 Vestry assumed a role of strong leadership alongside the clergy in the operations of the church. Your Vestry was also comfortable and collaborative with assuming and asserting its responsibilities for the financial health of St. John's. Our church is better and stronger as a result.

Your Vestry also realized that our fellow parishioners needed to know what we were doing. Hence, the Warden's Report that I hope will continue as a regular feature of church communication. It is, after all, your church.

### 2.) Windows

The crown jewel of our efforts this year has been the Windows project. If the start time is measured from when Femenella & Associates ("F&A") first came to St. John's, this has been a two-year project. The results have been stunning. The windows are not just as beautiful as they were over 100 years ago when most were installed. They are even better than the original because we color-corrected, moved some of the leading, and fixed bizarrely misspelled (and, in one instance, misplaced) windows. This was made possible by our fellow Parishioners who, in addition to regular generous pledging, also gave so abundantly to the Light Campaign chaired by **Kathleen and Richard Bradford**. As a result of this project, and the protective glazing that now guards against the harsh Alabama summer sun, our windows will retain their beauty for generations to come.

Your Windows contract administration team made sure this project came in within budget. This team was comprised of **Richard Bradford, Betsy Cannon, Bob Cantor, William Haynes, and Fred Matthews**. The team met monthly and communicated nearly every day of the project once construction began in June 2021. Every expense item from F&A was scrutinized and we were able to find ways to get the most out of the "Light Campaign" funds. Bob and Fred in particular are due special thanks and recognition for their dedicated efforts on the project.

### 3.) Finances

At our last annual meeting, we were able to report that for the first time in a long time, our pledges met or exceeded our budget. All 100% collected as of this writing. We are within a whisker of repeating a fully successful calendar year 2022 Stewardship campaign of having pledges that cover 100% of the prospective 2023 budget.

Since then, we have worked successfully with the Alabama Power Company to get the house of worship discounted rate. We have also worked with our insurance agent, (fellow St. John's parishioner and former senior warden) **Charlie Harris**, to reduce our insurance premium and to persuade our insurance carrier to reduce the planned 2022 increase in our annual premium.

Your Vestry has always understood that the financial assets of this church derive from our fellow parishioners' generosity and has been extremely cautious with those funds.

### 4.) Aging Campus, Meet William Haynes

One of the main functions of the Vestry is to attend to the physical building and campus of our church. This turned out to be a long task list that included (but is not at all limited to): an exploding ice-maker that caused extensive water damage; stucco shearing off of our historic steeple, causing us to work with the city to divert traffic on a major traffic thoroughfare while we put a massive boom truck in position for repairs; an aging heating and air conditioning system, parts of which were disintegrating; and nettlesome leaks that resisted repair. Led by **William Haynes** and his financial and building committee these problems were successfully resolved. We also lost (through retirement) our long-time and much-loved Sexton, **Mike Jarrell**. His duties have been very ably fulfilled by our new Sexton, **Myron Smoke**.

## 5.) Security

With the tragic events of June 16, 2022, at St. Stephen's in Vestavia, Alabama, so heavy on our hearts, your Vestry took on the sad but necessary task of a comprehensive security assessment. We worked closely with the Department of Homeland Security and appointed a select committee to take the DHS report and make recommendations to the Vestry. This select committee was comprised of **Jim Beck, John Carter, Duncan Johnston, Nina Knapp** and **Casey Shaw**. As a result of their fine work, the Vestry has a clearer path forward for our collective safety.

## 6.) Opening Our Doors

Many paths cross here at St. John's. We are next-door neighbors with state universities and the Air University; we are down-the-street neighbors with a major Air Force Base; the seat of state governmental power is all around us; and a major center for civil rights tourism is two blocks away. This means that lots of newcomers and visitors pass by St. John's every day. It is difficult to capture all the things the Vestry, the Clergy, and our parishioners have been doing to show anyone who cares to look that St. John's is an open and welcoming place to worship. This includes:

- Supporting Deonna's reimagined Lenten Series
- Conducting "Operation Lost Sheep" where we reached out to parishioners we had not seen in a while
- Experimenting with paid advertising
- Placing articles in *The Montgomery Independent*, *The Alabama Episcopalian* and *BOOM!* magazine
- Arranging for television media coverage for our events
- Conducting the "For Whom the Bell Tolls" Memorial Day event
- Planning and executing Kick Off Sunday
- Conducting our windows re-dedication
- Finding funds for Bishop **Glenda Curry's** portrait and then arranging an unveiling event in our "Hall of Bishops,"
- Planning and executing a Veteran's Day "Poppy Sunday" or Remembrance Sunday Conducting tour of the renovated windows.
- Supporting **Duncan Johnston's** reimagined, well-attended, and re-focused children's service on Christmas Eve.

These are just a few of the many things we have done and will do to show that our doors are wide-open and inviting to our fellow parishioners, visitors, and new members. However, the most important and successful thing we have done (not just the Vestry, but also the parish) is to re-discover and be intentional about *the power of "Hello."* By this I mean noticing someone you have not seen before in church, walking up, saying hello, learning about the visitor, and extending a warm welcome. In terms of bringing in new parishioners, there is nothing more effective.

## 7.) The Future

The year 2022 was when our excellent Discernment Committee considered hundreds of candidates and conducted a nationwide search. Your Vestry approved the members of the Discernment Committee and made sure they had the resources they needed to do their work. The Discernment Committee was chaired by **John Carter** and **Rosa Davis**. It was comprised of **Libby Beck, Nancy Bradford, Bob Cantor, Kat Dailey, Reggie Hamner, Arthur Mazyk, Jimmy McLemore, Chuck Moore, Nick Prillaman** and **Emily Wise**. The happy result of their hard work was the Vestry's unanimous vote to make the rector's call to the Reverend Doctor **Duncan Johnston** and **Gelind Johnston**. As you can see in the Rector's Report, Duncan has an ambitious and clear-eyed view of our future. Your Vestry has worked and is working hard to set up Duncan, and this church, for success.

At this writing, we expect the window scaffolding (finally) to come down on January 11, 2023, before the annual meeting. Walk around and see the beautiful and welcoming worship space we have all worked together to make possible. Let that be the light that shines upon us all for generations. Let that be the light that shines upon us all for generations.

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On January 9, 2023, we will have removed the copies of the large Ruben's paintings that have hung in our church for nearly 100 years. They are being taken to the renowned art conservation studio, Savant & Shutts Art Conservation near Atlanta, Georgia. We expect to have them back (restored and cleaned) in their St. John's home sometime between March and June of 2023. The project oversight committee for this project is comprised of: **Melissa Carter, Hank Johnson, Duncan Johnston, Seibels Marshall and Fred Matthews.**

The church and the Vestry are in very good hands with your new Senior Warden, **William Haynes** and Junior Warden **Margaret Ann Selman.** Both have previously served as Senior Warden. They bring wisdom and energy to the leadership of the Vestry.

As I look back on this year, I can see that your Vestry undertook and accomplished everything we set out for ourselves this time last year. If I had to do it over again, there are a couple of additional modest projects that I would have proposed to our Vestry to provide for an enhanced worship experience as well as a draw to new members. I have communicated these projects to the Vestry and to Duncan. It will be for them to decide whether these projects merit the resources of our dear church.

Every blessing.

**Will Hill Tankersley**

Senior Warden

## REPORT OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Dear St. John's Parish Family:

It has been my pleasure and privilege to serve as your Junior Warden under the leadership of our Senior Warden, Will Hill Tankersley. Through his diligence and determined work ethic, much has been accomplished towards needed repairs and renovations within our church facilities and towards parish participation. Our Senior Warden has reported on the many accomplishments and goals achieved during 2022. The focus of my report will be on the year ahead.

### Stewardship 2023:

Many thanks to all who have so generously given and faithfully pledged to St. John's. At this writing, we are closing in on our budgeted needs for 2023. Thus far, based on 162 pledging households, we have received 95% of our 2023 stewardship campaign goal of \$1,367,116.00. This translates to \$1,304,203.07 received and a remaining balance of \$ 62,912.50.

For those of you who have not yet renewed your pledge, there is still time to join in our communal effort to meet our 2023 financial obligations. Please remember that your pledge may be altered or cancelled by notifying our Financial Administrator, Heather Herring (262-1937), at any point during the year. Every pledge will give us the momentum we need to push our stewardship drive over the top and provide the funds we need for the maintenance and upkeep of the church we all love.

### Finance, Building Repairs and Administration:

Many building improvements and repairs took place in 2022 as reflected in the Senior Warden's report, but the care and upkeep of our facilities is an ongoing process. Our tireless treasurer, Richard Bradford, has retained the services of Ken Upchurch to prepare a capital needs assessment for our physical plant which includes buildings, grounds, and equipment. This assessment will allow us to reserve the funds necessary for our future expenses.

### Steeple Repairs:

You will recall that we had a large piece of stucco fall off of our steeple. We retained the services of Woolard Brothers Construction, who specializes in stucco repair. During that process, we learned that the 3 ft x 4 ft piece of stucco that fell to the sidewalk was only the tip of the iceberg. We are in the process of consulting again with Paul Woolard to get an estimate of what it will cost to repair – not simply patch – the steeple. We anticipate that the biggest cost associated with the steeple repair will be the scaffolding.

### Rotten Wood:

Some of you may have noticed the rotten wood in the window seals along the hallway on the Eastern (parking lot) side of the church that runs from the garden to the parish house. In March of 2023, the Costa Group (who helped refurbish the wooden, stained glass window frames) will begin those repairs.

### Security Plan:

In the aftermath of the St. Stephen's tragedy, your vestry approved appointing a committee to investigate and implement security enhancements to the church. The security plan committee members are Jim Beck, John Carter, Duncan Johnston, Nina Knapp, Casey Shaw and Will Hill Tankersley.

### Pilgrimage Destination:

In March of 2022, the house of Bishops (consisting of 150 Bishops) will be coming to St. John's as part of a pilgrimage.

### Membership and Attendance:

Of vital interest to our rector, Duncan Johnston, is church membership and attendance. Coming out of the pandemic, regular weekly in-person worship has been re-established. Your clergy and vestry are always on the lookout for newcomers who may be searching for a new church home. Please welcome new faces and let the clergy/vestry know of their presence so we can welcome and connect with them. It is gratifying that within the last few months, several newcomers have made pledges ensuring that we maintain our beautiful space where we gather to join our voices in worship, prayer and praise. Continued Support for St. John's Events and Programs:

Historically, St. John's parishioners have been strong supporters of our traditional events such as the Annual Bazaar, Vacation Bible School, and parish picnics. This year, Will Hill Tankersley implemented two new events which we expect to become yearly traditions: "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "Poppy Sunday" were received with enthusiasm by our parish. "For Whom the Bell Tolls" took place in the steeple of St. John's where the tolling of our bell commemorated the sacrifices made by our veterans who fought to preserve our freedoms. On "Poppy Sunday" Liturgy of Remembrance and Healing was held for fallen service members in our Labyrinth Garden before our 10:30 am Sunday service. To commemorate the event, hundreds of ceramic Poppies were placed in the Labyrinth and paper lapel poppies were available for parishioners to pick up with their programs.

### Our outreach programs include:

- (1) Mercy House: St. John's partners with the Ascension to provide volunteers to aid in the distribution of food to the homeless.
- (2) Friendship Mission: Addresses the needs of the homeless through donations of paper products for their soup kitchen and clothing for their men's shelter.
- (3) Angel Tree: During Advent, St. John's decorates a tree with the names of low-income families to provide Christmas gifts for their children.
- (4) Sawyerville: A summer program which supplies provisions for needy young people.

Together, we will continue the mission of St. John's by worshipping God and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

May the Lord always be with you.

Sincerely,

**William S. Haynes**

Junior Warden

## MEET THE WARDENS

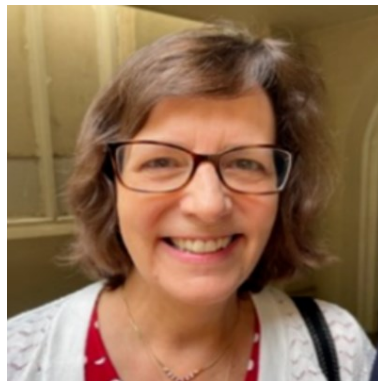


**William Haynes.** William has been practicing law for over 35 years and is a shareholder at the law firm of Rushron Stakely where he practices civil liability law principally in the area of medical and dental malpractice. He holds an undergraduate degree and law degree from the University of Alabama. William has many professional accolades including the invitation-only American Board of Trial Advocates, being included since 2010 in The Best Lawyers in America, and being selected to be the 2023 "Lawyer of the Year" in his area of legal practice. William is a lifelong member of this church and has previously served as a St. John's Senior Warden.



**Margaret Ann Selman.** Margaret Ann Selman holds an undergraduate degree in Finance from the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa). While achieving her Masters in Business Administration from the University of Alabama (Birmingham), she worked for Central Bank (now PNC Bank); Southtrust Bank and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Prior to coming to Montgomery (and St. John's ) with her family, Maragaret Ann served as the Senior Warden of St. Phillips Episcopal Church of Ft. Payne, Alabama. After coming to St. John's, she has served in many capacities at the church including a former Vestry member for a previous St. John's Vestry, co-chair of the Pantry Committee, Sunday school teacher, and member of the ECW. Margaret Ann has served as the 2022 Chair of Vestry Membership Committee and has been active in church activities such as the Bazaar and co-chair of a St. John's Discernment Committee.

## MEET THE PROPOSED VESTRY CLASS OF 2025



**Melissa Carter.** Melissa is originally from Baltimore and is a cradle Episcopalian. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Duke University in French and German. She has taught high school French and German. She has also worked as a language analyst for the NSA. As part of her husband John's Air Force assignments, Melissa has lived in 10 states as well as England and Korea. Upon John's and her return to Montgomery in 2007, Melissa recalled St. John's from its Vacation Bible School and became a member of our church. Since then, Melissa has served in many St. John's activities. She is the chair of the St. John's archives, is the current President of the Daughters of the King, serves on the altar guild, is part of the flower delivery team, provides pastoral care, helps to organize the Treasure Attic for the St. John's annual bazaar, is a member of the paintings restoration project and serves on the reception committee. Melissa has previously served on the St. John's Vestry.



**Mark Chappell.** Mark is a business and transactional lawyer with the law firm of Holtsford Gilliland. Originally from Alex City, Al, He holds an undergraduate degree from Auburn University and a law degree from The University of Mississippi School of Law. When he and his wife, Morgan Chappell (also a lawyer), moved to Montgomery in 2019, neither had much experience with the Episcopal Church. They visited several local churches and were impressed with St. John's beautiful liturgy and worship spaces. More than that, they were enthusiastically and warmly welcomed to our church. Since then, both Mark and Morgan have been active as Eucharistic Ministers. This will be Mark's first term on the St. John's Vestry.



**Anne Hamner.** Anne was received into the Episcopal Church from the Catholic Church in 1969, She became a communicant of St. John's in 2004. Anne has been a faithful and active member of our church. She has attended Cur-sillo, completed EFM and has represented St. John's at the Diocesan Con-vention. She has chaired and continues to support the Bazaar and Reception com-mittees. Other current involvement includes, the Hope Inspired Ministry (HIM), Backpack Program, ECW, office volunteer and the Eucharistic Visitor ministry. She is a frequent participant in St. John's adult formation classes both in person and online. Anne is also a veteran and retired nurse. Her nursing career includes serving as an officer in the United States Air Force. She retired as an OB/GYN Registered Nurse educator for Health Services, Inc. This will be Anne's first term on the St. John's Vestry.



**Catherine McLemore** Catherine is a cradle Episcopalian with a long family history at the Church of the Ascension. She holds a BFA in drawing and paint-ing from the University of Georgia. Catherine studied portraiture in Paris and spent the next 20 years making a living as a portrait artist in several Southern states. Presently, she paints for her own enjoyment. Catherine joined St. John's in 2002. After that, she met and married Charles. She participates in food min-istries, especially the St. John's Backpack Program and the Holy Comforter Food Pantry. Catherine is a graduate of EFM, serves on the flower guild, is a Lector, serves at the Bazaar and is a chalice bearer. She also devoted consider-able time and energy to our parish profile. This will be her first term on the St. John's Vestry.



**Keith Miller.** Keith was brought up Baptist in Mobile, Alabama and in 1996 was confirmed into the Episcopal church. Keith has had a distinguished legal career stretching back nearly 30 years. He holds an undergraduate degree from Samford University and a law degree from the University of Alabama. He is a Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of Gray Television, Inc. a media company that owns 113 television stations that reaches over a third of all U.S. television households. Prior to joining Gray TV, Keith was an Associate Gen-eral Counsel for Alfa Mutual Insurance Company. Since he and his family joined St. John's in 2000, Keith has been very active at St. John's as a High School Sunday School teacher, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, St. John's Dioce-san Delegate, every member canvasser, and host for Family Promise. Also, he has previously served on St. John's Vestry.



**Allison Prillaman.** Allison was born and raised in Montgomery. She attended Auburn University where she received her degree in Marketing. She is a mort-gage loan officer at Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation. Allison pre-viously served as the president of the Junior League of Montgomery and is currently on the board of the Family Sunshine Center. She was raised in the Methodist church and became an Episcopalian upon her marriage to Nick in 2015. Allison and Nick have two sons. Her involvement with St. John's has included ECW and the young adults supper club. This will be Allison's first term on the St. John's Vestry.

## REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION DIRECTOR

The year 2022 has been such a refreshing year for St. John's. I am beyond grateful to continue as Director of Children's Christian Formation. St. John's has a very special group of children and families, and I enjoy seeing them all grow to love Christ. They bring happiness to my Sunday mornings, and I look forward to every time we are together. In addition, I would like to thank all the volunteers who help make this program successful. Their commitment and consistency have such an influence on our children. It is with much joy and gratitude that I give this report.

On Sunday mornings, there are many activities for the children. Our Pre-Kindergarten class (3–4-year-olds) use the *Frolic Preschool Sunday school* curriculum. Each two weeks, they learn a different Bible story using creative play spaces and storytelling. Moreover, our Kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class is using the Lego curriculum titled "Building Faith Brick by Brick." This is an imaginative way to explore the Bible with children. Each week, they study a different Bible lesson. Then, they are motivated to reconstruct the lesson using Lego bricks, figures and building plates. This is a very exciting hands-on curriculum! In addition, our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders are using a new Spark curriculum called "Connect." It is written specifically for preteens (9–12-year-olds), and it guides them to make real life "connections" with the scripture. Each week, they are given opportunities to write in their own Bibles (to help create connections), they build background knowledge by watching a humorous lesson video and they end each lesson with a STEM activity that relates to the scripture for the week. Furthermore, the 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade actively participates in Confirmation class. This year they continue with the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama curriculum in preparing to join the church as adult members. Our Children's Chapel is continuing to grow! We have a large wooden sailboat where we sit together for worship and fun! Each week we participate in a Children's Liturgy, setup our prayer table for a place of worship and incorporate picture books/read aloud(s) into our chapel. I often use [www.storypath.com](http://www.storypath.com), [www.sermons4kids.com](http://www.sermons4kids.com) and <https://dskidsermons.com> as resources for Bible connections. I am thankful to be a part of St. John's, and I look forward to even more exciting activities in 2023.

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

- Children's Lenten Series- "Emotions"- Each week we focused on a different emotion (anger, fear, disgust, sadness, and joy). We think of some emotions as good and others as bad, but God made every part of us, and we can turn to Him.
- Palm Sunday & Children's Procession with Donkey
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt- This year the Easter Egg Hunt took place in the Labyrinth. The EYC stuffed our Easter eggs, and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class hid them.
- Parish Picnic- We had many inflatables and delicious food.
- Confirmation Sunday- Several adult parishioners were confirmed by Bishop Glenda Curry as members of our church.
- Presentation of Mite Boxes on Easter with proceeds going to the Respite Ministry.
- Vacation Bible School- "Discovery on Adventure Island"- This year St. John's hosted VBS. The curriculum was modified and encouraged evangelism by teaching kids the ways God's great light shines in the lives of familiar Bible characters. That same light can shine for us all.
- Christmas in July- We collected new toys for the *Common Ground Montgomery (CGM)* Christmas Store.
- Summer *Meals-on-Wheels* (MACOA outreach)- We had different families sign up for meal deliveries this summer.
- Kickoff Sunday- We had fun and fellowship kicking off the new Sunday school year with giant inflatable water slides, hot dog lunch and a KONA ice truck.
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Blessing of the Animals- Each pet received a special blessing from a priest. We were joined by the Montgomery Zoo, WAKA news and collected donations for the Humane Society. In addition, we had a local food truck here for dinner.



- Halloween Trunk-or-Treat- This was our sixth year for Trunk-or-Treat, and it was a hit! Our parking lot was full, and we even had a contest for the “best decorated trunk!” In addition, we had a delicious corndog dinner.
- Advent Wreath Making Luncheon
- Families lighting the Advent Wreath at the 10:30 service
- Las Posadas- Mary & Joseph visit with families during Advent
- Christmas Angel Tree Outreach- We adopted a total of 14 families through Christmas Clearinghouse. Thank you to all who participated.
- Annual Christmas Pageant
- CLUB 56- Each month our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders meet off church grounds for fun and dinner. This is a great way to build relationships and prepare for EYC.
- Children & Family Read Aloud- A different family meets on Facebook Live most Sundays at 7:00 pm. They share a story book that is related to the gospel reading.
- 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. Various children help lead this service as well.
- Salvation Army Christmas Toys- All members are invited to bring new toys to the 5:00 pm Children’s Christmas Eve service- All toys are delivered to the Salvation Army for children in need.

The weekly Eagle (email) continues to include materials for parents. In addition, we have a Facebook page “St. John’s Children’s Christian Formation”, and we use Instagram. All of these include information and photos of our children at St. John’s.

We currently have seven qualified nursery workers 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 is remarkable, and they make Sunday mornings so special for our young children and families.

I am thankful to be a part of St. John’s. Each child, family and staff member are dear to my heart, and I am delighted to have this opportunity to share Christ’s love with you all. May the New Year bring you all much joy!

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Collier**

Director of Children’s Christian Formation

## REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

### Organ

The organ was disabled for replacement of the memory system and combination action for approximately six weeks beginning February 2022. It was restored to service for Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2022.

Approximately 10 ranks of pipes affecting the pedal division were taken off their windchest in late 2021 and stored in the chambers to allow repairs to the Crucifixion window. They have been out for the entirety of 2022. They will be reinstalled and tuned as soon as can be scheduled now that the scaffolding for the window repair has been removed.

The organ is in good shape with no expected repairs in the near future. There is cosmetic damage to a grill screen at the top of the great chamber. The damage has been there for more than 10 years. It does not affect the sound.

### Choir

Following the COVID pandemic we have not been able to find skilled staff singers in sufficient numbers to reform a choir. This situation is not caused by the COVID pandemic. However, the pandemic did bring an already developing situation to a head and has affected our ability to have a choir in the services.

Several trends in music, and especially sacred music, have been developing over the last few decades:

First, there is a general trend across the United States that music study of all descriptions, including voice, is in tremendous decline. This trend began in the mid to late 1990s and has only accelerated since.

The trend has been disguised to most people because enough young singers were already participating in choirs as the trend began. The ability to disguise this trend is coming to an end as retiring singers are not being replaced by others coming up through the ranks.

Two (and likely part of the trend of declining music study), the main source from which we have drawn singers for the last 50 or so years was Huntingdon College. They have reduced their music instruction to such a limited basis that we have not been able to recruit singers from there. Other colleges in the area have also seen declines in voice study.

As we consider a choral program it is important to note the average age of choirs in area churches. It is my estimate that the average age of functioning choirs at best is around mid-60's with almost no one coming up through the ranks to replace singers who retire.

Until and unless this trend reverses, I foresee that we will be focusing on instrumental music and soloists in the services for the foreseeable future. We are fortunate to have talented, skilled, reliable soloists. As others who are interested come to my attention, I will be looking to add them to our music program.

### Instrumentalists

We have continued a 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.

### Programs

I presented an organ concert of Christmas Music on December 22, 2022.

I continue to be grateful for the level of support St. John's gives toward quality music in worship.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joel Gregory**

## **REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD**

Much of my report each year is a rehash of the previous year's report. Last year, I reported about 2021 and things were very different. This report covers 2022 which was also different but more pleasant inasmuch as it represented a partial return to what we would call "normal."

Our team now consists of twelve people compared with a "pre-COVID" team of 21. Two new people have offered to join us, and their presence will be very welcome! Servers at 10:30 services used to be pairs, but we now have only one person scheduled for each Sunday 10:30 service. "Pairs" made life much easier and I hope to add members so that we can have the flexibility that partnering offers.

The Altar Guild prepares the sanctuary for worship services. Their work is seen, but seldom observed; 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. Weddings and funerals add to the mix.

All of the brass inside the communion rail (the sanctuary) is the responsibility of the Altar Guild. COVID restrictions once again interfered with our polishing in 2022 but we did polish brass and we hope to be back on track before Easter 2023. 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. Some who have stepped aside may wish to rejoin our ranks (I hope) and a new face is always welcome. Think about how this ministry might fit into your life. Write to me at: [moore.cn@gmail.com](mailto:moore.cn@gmail.com) or call 334-391-2640.

Respectfully submitted,

**Chuck Moore**

## **REPORT OF THE FLOWER GUILD**

Members of the St. John's Flower Guild arrange altar flowers for the regular Sunday services and other services such as Christmas Eve/Day. We do not however, provide arrangements for weddings and funerals. Currently, we have 22 talented women who are scheduled for Sundays on a rotating basis. For Christmas and Easter, it is all hands on deck. Under the talented guidance of Sarah Spratling and everyone contributing their own talents and time, St. Johns becomes a flower masterpiece from almost every corner, all done to the glory of God.

After the 10:30 services, Guild members dismantle and rearrange the flowers into smaller vases for delivery to parishioners who are shut-in at home, in the hospital, a nursing home or on the prayer list. There are 17 generous members under the leadership of Valerie Wilkerson who wait patiently as the small arrangements are created. Then, they make deliveries to the appropriate parishioners.

Sarah Spratling is our designer/arranger extraordinaire. It is her designs and vision that make our Easter and Christmas arrangements and decorations so beautiful. She also provides training and guidance that make better arrangers of the rest of us. Kitty Coleman and Sarah alternate weeks for ordering our flowers. I develop a schedule for our guild. Currently there are 22 members divided in teams of 2. We will arrange about once every 2 months. The Flower Delivery team consist of 4 teams who each deliver one Sunday a month and a fifth team who delivers on fifth Sundays.

The Flower Guild invites anyone with interest in the flowers of St. Johns either arranging or delivering to join with us in this important ministry. You don't need to be an expert arranger, just have a love for flowers. Members will be so happy to assist in teaching you the skills that will soon make you an expert. It is a great joy to be a part of this ministry. If you have questions or would like to join, please call Kitty Coleman at 334-263-6176 or myself at 334-201-6070.

The Flower Guild is very appreciative of all the help Myron Smoke, Sharon Tyus and Travis James provide during the year. We thank Mike Jarrell for all his help during the past years and wish for him a blessed retirement.

**Mary Helen Mahan**

Flower Guild Representative

## REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Archives Committee meets weekly on Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30. We maintain records pertaining to our parish and its position in the Diocese. Some of our routine tasks include scrapbooking events and photographs from the previous year. We keep binders of every service bulletin and Eagle mail-out. We maintain files of sermons, committee reports, minutes, and all matter of other information. We constantly update our recently-created computer database of holdings. We research requests that come through the church office for ancestral information or St. John's School-related queries, for example.

Our biggest project of 2022 was commissioning a portrait of Bishop Glenda Curry for our Parish Hall, where we display portraits of Bishops with close connections to St John's. It was a many-faceted endeavor, beginning in March with the presentation to the Vestry of bids from several Alabama artists. The selection of the artist (Marguerite Edwards) was followed by invaluable assistance from our senior warden, Will Hill Tankersley, in drafting a contract that would protect both our church's concerns as well as those of our artist. We then spent the next several months working closely with Ms. Edwards and with the Bishop's office to answer questions, locate examples of vestments, and provide pictures needed for the preliminary design. We delivered the Episcopal flag you see in the portrait background from our conference room to the artist's studio. We met with framers, tried sample moldings on the Parish Hall wall, and took frames to the studio until we had the perfect frame. We arranged for the Bishop to visit Ms. Edwards' studio for a brief sitting. We aided in the acquisition of a new easel for the grand unveiling on Oct. 23. We retained the services of Mr. Steve Womble to hang the finished portrait and shift a few of the other portraits to new positions. We are grateful to Mr. Womble for donating his time to St. John's and we thank Bob Canter for affixing the new brass nameplate under the portrait. All in all, it was a fascinating process.

Fred Matthews continued to do invaluable work this past year on our memorial file, meticulously updating it and making it very user-friendly. He also provided historical sketches of each of our windows for the new "Stained Glass of St. John's" page on our website.

We rounded out 2022 with several other special projects: we put up an exhibit in the Sacristy Hall featuring vintage Bibles, prayer books, and service books; we finished creating the self-guided tour brochure for visitors we had begun the previous year; we updated the parish history on our website; we reviewed items in the vault before the parish paper purge to collect important records for the archives; and we provided Duncan with a concise timeline of our church history (among other items) to help him get acclimated.

As always, we thank our clergy and staff for their wonderful support and we give thanks for the fun and fellowship we enjoy with each other on this committee!

Respectfully submitted,

**Sallie Millsap**

**Melissa Carter**

**Jeanette Lynn**

**Fred Matthews**

## REPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

As 2022 began, the ECW Board continued as we had in 2021 with more regular in-person monthly meetings. Covid concerns continued, but the lessening of restrictions helped garner the possibility of revisiting large group gatherings.

One such gathering was the Episcopal Church Women Bash on Sunday, April 3, following the 10:30 service. After a 2-year hiatus, the women of the church met together in the Parish Hall and had a great luncheon, discussion, and fellowship. The turnout was plentiful with over 60 women in attendance. Discussions centered around the need to foster more participation among the women and possibly restructure guilds more suitable for our changing needs and interests. Ideas centering on social, spiritual, and philanthropic pursuits were highlighted.

Beginning preparations for the 2022 Bazaar kicked off in early summer with many groups meeting to brainstorm and begin the months of dedicated hard work required to achieve a successful Bazaar. The St. John's Bazaar is not only an annual event, it is a special process of fellowship and devotion by many. The months of preparation are almost as highly anticipated as the November day itself. This year brought the return of the Silent Auction room which was hugely successful, not only in proceeds, but in the unique offerings contained within. The popular Pantry, Arts and Crafts, and Treasure Attic rooms plus the delicious luncheon rounded out this year's Bazaar. As every year, the Chairs and teams, staff, and donors helped make the day a great success. One new feature was our extended hours for shopping. In addition to the 10 am-2 pm hours, we added 5-7 pm shopping hours to allow those who work or have other obligations to participate in volunteering and shopping. Boston Butt orders were offered as a feature of the extended hours, as well. We received much positive feedback and hope to offer this in the future.

In the past year, St. John's began partnering with Mercy House, a Montgomery faith-based organization helping people in our most challenged neighborhoods. To help deepen our relationship and contribute to the continued growth of this vital ministry, we chose Mercy House as our 2022 Bazaar recipient and donated proceeds totaling \$22,XXX in December.

The Fall Fest returned in September, after a 2-year break. This cocktail and hors d'oeuvres gathering of women was held in the home of Jeanne Drummond. It was an opportunity for those in attendance to meet Gelind Johnston, wife of St. John's new Rector, The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston. Many were in attendance and enjoyed the chance to gather with friends, old and new.

In 2023, Kathleen Bradford will assume the role of ECW President. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve with such a talented group and anticipate much success for the ECW in the future.

Sincerely,

**Betsy Cannon**

2022 ECW President

## 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 when there is a death in the family. Pastoral Care also ministers to those parishioners who no longer can attend church in person and to those families with new babies. PC also organizes visitations/receptions for funeral services held at St. John's.

PC currently has 57 volunteers that are divided into 12 teams. The number of volunteers for 2022 has increased by 9 over 2021.

The Clergy determines who needs PC services 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 a PC co-coordinator who in turn notifies the PC Team Captain for the particular month regarding those persons who may need PC.

The PC Co-coordinators met with Deonna on February 24, 2022 to discuss how PC could improve its efforts to better meet the needs of our Parish. Upon Deonna's recommendation, a weekly report describing PC activities is submitted to our Clergy. This report keeps our Clergy informed as to those parishioners who are receiving PC. These weekly reports have proven to be an invaluable tool for record keeping to the PC committee as well. All reports are placed on St. John's website for anyone to view (MYSTJ- Pastoral Care- Files).

The PC Co-coordinators also met with Duncan on September 21, 2022, after his arrival to St. John's. This meeting was to communicate PC goals and to receive direction regarding PC from him.

PC serves parishioners in need through meals, other food items, cards designed especially for PC, calls, texts, emails, flowers, and visits. All persons who are referred for PC receive an initial call from the designated team captain. It is worth noting that many parishioners receive PC more than one time. The data from our weekly reports reveals the following PC activities for 2022:

- 76 parishioners (individuals and families) were contacted.
- 10 parishioners did not need PC when contacted.
- 75 meals and other food items were delivered to parishioners. Approximately 10 of these parishioners received meal/food deliveries on more than 1 occasion.
- 39 PC Cards were sent to parishioners who were ill.
- 22 Easter cards were sent to parishioners on the prayer list, parishioners who were ill, and to those who cannot attend church in person. The card sent to all was a depiction of one of St. John's kneelers
- 25 Christmas cards were sent to parishioners who were on the prayer list, parishioners who were ill, and to those who cannot attend church in person. The card sent to all was also a picture of one of St. John's kneelers.
- Numerous calls, texts, and emails were made to those receiving PC and to PC Committee members.
- Flowers were also delivered by St. John's Flower Guild Delivery Team.
- 7 funeral visitations/receptions were organized by the 3 PC team members who share this responsibility.
- SPECIAL DELIVERY!!! - In an effort to welcome Duncan, Gelind, and Esme to St. John's and Montgomery AND to provide a taste of Southern hospitality, 13 meals were provided to them along with a gift basket filled with Alabama goodies between September 6 and October 5, 2022. All 12 PC teams participated in this endeavor to provide our new Rector and family a sampling of St. John's home cooked meals!

Pastoral Care is always in need of additional volunteers to strengthen our capacity to serve. Both ladies and gentlemen are welcome to join us at any time. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact one of our co-coordinators: Debbie Schremser- 306-2043; Kitty Coleman- 301-3303; or Elizabeth Via Brown- 399-9658. We will assign you to a team right away!

"The peace of the Lord be always with you".

Respectfully submitted,

**Debbie Schremser**

## **REPORT OF DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

The DOK is an international order for laywomen in the Episcopal Church and certain other liturgical traditions. St. John's DOK is currently a group of 28 women who have pledged themselves to prayer and service. Through the Rule of Prayer, Daughters promise to pray daily, and confidentially, for any needs and concerns of the parish and its friends, and for the spiritual growth of the church. Through the Rule of Service, Daughters take part in the church's regular worship, study, and work, and undertake a program of personal devotion. We also send prayer cards to many of those for whom prayer has been requested, and hold bi-monthly luncheon meetings on the second Sunday of the month.

We are thrilled to report that our chapter held a 12-week course of study over the summer months to prepare three wonderful ladies for admission to the Order: Virginia Banister, Leah Reader, and Carrie

Shaw. The induction ceremony took place on Nov. 20 during the 10:30 service, and was followed by a celebratory luncheon and meeting.

On October 15, Linda Hutchison accompanied me to St. Mary's on the Highlands in Birmingham for a lovely day spent at Fall Assembly with Daughters from across the Diocese. This was not only a perfect opportunity to meet new people and enjoy fellowship, but it was also a great learning experience, as our chapter of the DOK will be hosting Spring Assembly here at St. John's on March 4! We're all excited to begin planning for this very big event.

We in the DOK so appreciate the incredible support we receive from our clergy in passing on and following up on prayer requests. We're also very grateful for the sisterhood we share within the Order and for the opportunity to serve our parish through prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Carter

## **REPORT OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE**

Emerging from COVID and little activity for two years, we had five receptions in 2022: Confirmation Sunday (with Bishop Curry), Kickoff Sunday/Duncan's welcome reception, Duncan's installation (with Bishop Curry), Mike's Retirement, and the window rededication (with Bishop Curry). We had a great response by parishioners, both in making preparations and attendance, and we are currently working to re-establish a full committee moving forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Christy Anderson**



## REPORT OF THE OUTREACH GRANTS COMMITTEE 2020

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Matthew 25:35-40

For the past several years, our report has started with this passage from Matthew and it has become our unofficial Mission Statement as we talk with different groups and meet together. In looking over the attached recipients, you can see the impact that your gift to St. Johns is having in our community. None of this would be possible without your help.

We have continued to look for volunteer opportunities. This past summer, St. John’s and the Ascension started working every Thursday at The Mercy House assisting in distributing 200 to 300 meals a day. This is ongoing and we could certainly use your help. Please call the church for more information.

In the first quarter of 2023, we will be identifying other areas for volunteer opportunities and are excited about what our future holds.

Thank you so much for your gifts, your time, and your talent. It is making our community a better place.

Peace,



**Charlie Harris**

Community / Social Services	\$33,500.00	<b>27%</b>
Elderly	\$15,000.00	<b>12%</b>
Incarcerated	\$10,200.00	<b>8%</b>
Indigent	\$12,500.00	<b>10%</b>
Literacy / Arts	\$2,000.00	<b>2%</b>
Special Needs	\$15,904.00	<b>13%</b>
Youth	\$36,500.00	<b>29%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$126,200.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Amount Granted 2022</b>
Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM)	\$4,000
Alabama Writers Forum	\$2,000
Bridge Builders Alabama	\$3,000
Camp McDowell	\$2,500
Cancer Wellness Foundation of Central Alabama	\$1,500
Child Protect	\$5,000
Children's Center of Montgomery	\$2,500
Common Ground Montgomery	\$5,000
Dream Court, Inc	\$5,000
Food for Kids Backpack Program	\$6,000
Friendship Mission Inc.	\$5,000
Girls On The Run	\$3,000
Hands On River Region	\$5,000
Hope Inspired Ministries	\$5,000
Let God Arise Ministries	\$1,200
Medical Outreach Ministries	\$4,500

<b>Organizations</b>	<b>Amount Granted 2022</b>
Mercy House	\$5,000
Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless/Homeless Outreach Services	\$2,500
Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA)	\$12,000
Montgomery Habitat for Humanity	\$2,500
Montgomery Humane Society	\$5,000
New Beginnings Educational Center	\$2,000
Rebuilding Together Central Alabama	\$5,000
Renascence Re-Entry Community	\$5,000
Respite Ministry at FUMC Montgomery	\$3,000
Samaritan Counseling Center	\$904
Sawyerille Work Project / Day Camp	\$5,000
Service Dogs Alabama (K-9's 4 Kids & K-9's 4 Heroes)	\$5,000
Special Session (A ministry of the Diocese of Alabama)	\$5,000
That's My Child Youth Organization	\$5,000
Women in Training, Inc	\$2,500

**Total Outreach funds awarded in 2022- \$125,604.00**

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT FUNDS AND THE V. BONNEAU MURRAY TRUST

For the year ending December 31, 2022, the combined net return for the various trusts that we manage for the Church was -7.4%. The current allocation set by the Trustees is 75% to equities/stocks and 25% to fixed income/bonds/cash. The 75% allocated to equities is further divided with approximately 87% invested in U.S. mutual funds (domestic) and approximately 13% in non U.S. based mutual funds (international).

Our objective is to achieve favorable long term risk adjusted returns compared to the appropriate indices to which we are exposed. Our exposure is best represented in the following indices with 2022 returns:

Indices Returns for 2022:

Dow Jones Industrial	- 6.86%
S&P 500	-18.11%
MSCI EAFE	-14.45%
Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index	-13.00%
Russell 2000	-20.40%

Below are the fund balances for the last four years.

	2022	2021	2020	2019
<i>Endowment Fund</i>	3,373,021.57	3,738,427.24	3,428,165.07	3,222,001.06
<i>Consolidated Fund</i>	2,391,951.47	2,739,739.49	2,542,953.57	2,448,594.75
<i>Murray Trust</i>	1,849,163.72	2,151,441.09	2,018,667.43	1,941,998.16
<i>Cameron Trust</i>	<u>400,403.23</u>	<u>477,724.68</u>	<u>448,923.38</u>	<u>438,672.02</u>
	8,014,539.99	9,107,332.50	8,438,709.45	8,051,265.99

Withdrawals before end of year 2022:	<i>Baldwin Annual Dist.</i>	17,548.53
	<i>McLemore Scholarship</i>	5,000.00
	<i>Endowment</i>	170,537.73
	<i>Gallagher</i>	16,704.36
	<i>Harmon</i>	0
	<i>Hill</i>	14,775.58
	<i>Maint. Upkeep</i>	6,820.15
	<i>Paul Jones</i>	1,386.45
	<i>George Jones</i>	23,301.10
	<i>Murray</i>	100,055.86
	<i>Rector's Discretionary</i>	0
	<i>Reeder</i>	2,348.55
	<i>Meadows</i>	14,502.74
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>372,981.05</b>

	<i><b>MARKET VALUE 12/31/2022</b></i>
Endowment Fund	\$3,373,021.57
Cameron Trust	400,403.23
Murray Trust	1,849,163.72
Gallagher Trust	311,059.47
Maintenance & Upkeep	126,881.04
Baldwin Trust	233,255.94
Barrie Harmon Trust	43,965.75
McLemore Scholarship	200,863.54
Thomas Tyson Fund	166,193.54
Hill Fund	275,131.41
Rector's Discretionary Trust	260,584.09
George H. Jones, Jr. Trust	433,490.22
J Paul Jones Trust	25,793.19
Reeder Charitable Trust	43,692.07
Louise Meadows	271,041.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,014,539.99</b>

The **ENDOWMENT FUND** (1948) is used for church purposes or for any religious, charitable, or educational institution...which may be owned by the church or which may be under its direction, supervision or control.

The Abram Martin and Elizabeth Ewin **BALDWIN FUND** (1955) is paid to the Rector for disbursement; 50% goes to needy persons in the parish, and 50% to needy Blacks in Montgomery.

The **GALLAGHER MEMORIAL TRUST FUND** (1972) is used at the discretion of the Vestry, normally for purposes outside the parish.

The Barrie H. **HARMON TRUST FUND** (1975) is used at the discretion of the Rector and Wardens to assist in the education of worthy ministerial students.

The **MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP FUND** (1978) is used at the discretion of the Vestry for the maintenance and upkeep of property belonging to the church.

The Thomas M. **TYSON FUND** (1980) is used at the discretion of the Rector for the education of young people who are members of St. John's.

The Mary Oliver **McLEMORE FUND** (1981) IS USED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE Rector and Wardens to assist in the education of young people, with preference being given to the education of young women.

The William Inge and Ilouise P. **HILL TRUST** (1982) is used by the Vestry for religious, education, and charitable purposes within and sponsored by the parish.

The V. **BONNEAU MURRAY TRUST** (1989) may be used by the Vestry "...in furtherance of the religious and charitable mission of the Church, or for the benefit of any entity or institution under the direction, supervision, or control of the church, but not for usual and ordinary operating expenses...".

The **RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY TRUST** (1995) consists of investment securities donated to the Rector and Curate many years ago and transferred to the Endowment Fund Trustees for management. Income is used at the discretion of the Rector.

The **DOROTHY CAMERON UNITRUST** (2004) is a charitable remainder trust.

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**ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**ASSET ALLOCATION**  
**December 31, 2022**

		<b>CASH</b>	<b>FIXED IN- COME</b>	<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
CONSOLIDATED / FIXED INCOME AC- COUNT	10827696	164,792.87	408,827.43	108,710.04	682,330.34
CONSOLIDATED / CUS- TOM CHOICE	24347195	0.00	0.00	1,709,621.13	1,709,621.13
MURRAY TRUST / FIXED INCOME	27159989	87,563.18	338,583.58	164,700.56	590,847.32
MURRAY TRUST / CUS- TOM CHOICE	32246477	0.00	0.00	1,258,316.40	1,258,316.40
DOROTHY CAMERON CHAR REMAINDER TR	44402501	0.29	100,562.85	299,840.09	400,403.23
ENDOWMENT FUND / FIXED INCOME	52048221	206,823.30	528,549.95	0.00	735,373.25
ENDOWMENT FUND / CUSTOM CHOICE	85165276	0.00	0.00	2,637,648.32	2,637,648.32
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>459,179.64</b>	<b>1,376,523.81</b>	<b>6,178,836.54</b>	<b>8,014,539.99</b>

<b>PERCENTAGE OF ALLOCATION</b>	<b>5.73%</b>	<b>17.18%</b>	<b>77.10%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
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## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

2022 was a great year. Revenue was right on budget. Total General Fund revenue exceeded expectations by \$4,356. Expenses exceeded budget by \$26,549 and resulted in a decrease in net assets of \$22,192. The Church collected over 100% of budgeted Parishioner Giving and remains in a strong cash position and sound financial condition. As of December 31, 2022 we hold \$18,602 more cash in the general fund than we began 2021.

Attached for your review are the 2022 fiscal year end balance sheet and income statement. The following analysis is based on those reports as prepared by Heather Herring. Fiscal Year End financials will be presented to the Vestry for approval at the January meeting on Monday January 23, 2023.

As of December 31, 2022, the Church reports total assets of \$1,478,153. Assets consist of \$512,135 in unrestricted cash and \$966,018 in restricted cash. The restricted cash includes \$5,845 in local use money, \$128,478 in various restricted accounts, \$131,695 in Capital Campaign funds, \$200,000 in various maintenance reserves and a \$500,000 operating reserve. Current liabilities are \$15,457 and consist of current monthly payroll obligations (taxes, pension, insurance, etc.). Long term debt totals \$502,504 and consists entirely of the current balance of the Capital Campaign loan. Net assets are \$960,191.

For 2022, the Vestry approved budgeted Revenue of \$1,720,715, Expenses of \$1,734,778 and a small deficit of \$14,063. Actual Revenue of \$1,725,071 was \$4,356 above budget and \$9,716 more than prior year. Parishioner giving was effectively on budget, falling short by \$735. Current year pledges exceeded budget by \$25,590. Other Revenue exceeded budget by \$5,091. Trust fund distributions are set by the Trustees and are known ahead of time. These distributions met budget of \$350,432 exactly.

Expenses of \$1,761,327 exceeded budget by \$26,459. Clergy expense was \$71,490.4 more than expected. This overage is attributable to the uncertainty in timing and details of employing our new Rector. The bulk of the overage is considered "one time" expense. Total Clergy Expense of \$270,312 is considerably lower than budgeted expense of \$329,333, \$403,346, and \$345,445 in 2019-2021. Administration was \$8,650 less than budget. This follows a 3 year trend of excellent budgeting and a 4<sup>th</sup> straight year of being under budget. Christian Formation was \$5,278 below budget. As with Administration, Christian Formation does a great job of establishing and following its budget. It has been under budget by \$6,000+/- for the past 4 years. Evangelism and Hospitality was under budget by \$5,394, despite hosting multiple Church receptions this year. During 2022, the church made a deliberate effort to rely more on parishioners and less on outside parties for our receptions. The positive result has reached far beyond the budget. Worship was below budget by \$22,908. This category was greatly affected by the pandemic, but also reflects efficient use of resources to improve our online offerings and production quality of broadcasts. Maintenance was above budget by \$41,836. The largest cause of this overage was an unanticipated increase in utilities partially attributable to increase heating and cooling cost of a sanctuary without windows. Additionally, unanticipated inflation and unscheduled maintenance expense likely played a role. Outreach was \$44,548 below budget. This represents timing of grants. Before the end of the first quarter, St. John's will have fully distributed its Outreach budget to the approved recipients.

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 great pleasure to report that in 2022 the Church made total gifts for community outreach of \$267,162. Of this \$222,614 was distributed in the calendar year. The remaining \$44,548 will be distributed 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2023. 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.

Several financial projects were completed in 2022 and will continue through 2023. The Church financials and processes were subjected to an external audit by Jackson Thornton. The result of the audit was positive receiving an unqualified opinion. Process audit was passed with no recommendation for change.

Restricted funds were analyzed for purpose and activity. Many restricted accounts were found to be duplicative and dormant having been held on the balance sheet for 10+ years without activity. These accounts were reviewed and consolidated to provide easier reading of financials and to better align funds with their intended use. The goal of this exercise is to ensure that the resources received by the Church are promptly used as intended.

Depreciation Reserve was carefully reviewed and deemed inadequate. Ken Upchurch with TCU Consulting is engaged to provide a Capital Needs Assessment. This assessment is intended to analyze the major systems of the Church and determine a remaining useful life of these systems. Additionally, it will provide an estimate of replacement cost allowing the Church to plan and prepare for major capital needs. Completion of this project is expected by March 31, 2023. Once complete, the Church will be prepared to budget additions to its Depreciation Reserve. The goal of this exercise is to reduce the necessity of capital campaigns to finance predictable expenses.

A review of the Church's utility consumption is underway. Power, water and gas usage will be assessed individually and recommendations sought to reduce usage and ensure that we are good stewards of our resources. This process is expected to be complete by mid-year.

The budget for 2023 is being finalized and will be available for approval prior to the February Vestry meeting if not before.

### **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

To date, we have received pledges totaling \$1,969,000 on a goal of \$2,000,000. As of December 31, 2021 we have collected \$1,263,168. Total expenditures through the same period are \$1,633,977. We have a loan balance of \$502,504 and a deposit balance of \$131,695 related to the Campaign.

It remains my honor and pleasure to serve as your Treasurer. The past two years were full to the brim with challenges. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

**Richard Bradford**

Treasurer



**St. John's Episcopal Church**

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