St. John’s Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-262-1937

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 2012

As we began the year 2012, we entered into important search processes for three key staff members, the end results of which will have a huge effect on the life of this parish for the next five years and beyond. Our expectation, from the outset, was to attract the very best candidates for these positions, taking advantage of our strong reputation, attractive facility, and a wonderful atmosphere in which to work.

Harald Rohlig, our world-famous Organist/Choir Director here for fifty years, stepped down due to health reasons as the year began. Randy Foster stepped forward as our Interim Organist/Choir Director and served ably for seven months. He was able to build our adult choir base while our search for a permanent musician was conducted. That search, while it entertained a number of talented people from around the country, centered quickly on Joel Gregory. Joel joined our staff as Organist/Choir Director on August 1 and, in addition to his remarkable talent, he has brought to us an ambitious approach to build our Adult Choir and to rebuild our Children’s Choir. Great strides have been made in the five months Joel has been here and it is clear that the music program will be more and more integral to what occurs here in the future. Joel and I anticipate a congregation inspired to sing increasingly well, led by talented choirs and musicians. The standard set by Harald Rohlig, complemented by Randy Foster, now continues in a very positive direction with Joel Gregory. Our first search was a smashing success.

Our next two searches centered on the two Associate Rector positions vacant since 2011. Early in the year, we were led to a star senior student at Virginia Theological Seminary, Daniel Cenci. Having interviewed a number of people previously, we knew quickly that Daniel was a very good fit for our congregation and could add something no other candidate could. Even though switching his canonical status from another diocese caused a year-long delay in his ordination process, Daniel agreed to join us as a Lay Associate for that year and pursue ordination in the Diocese of Alabama. He came to us in July and the six months have been exciting with his youthful enthusiasm and solid, scripturally based sermons. If all canonical requirements are met as we expect them to be, Daniel will be ordained here to the Sacred Order of Deacons on May 18 and then to the Priesthood in December. Daniel will also be married this spring to Jessica Outlaw and we will continue to enjoy their presence among us.

The search for the other Associate also took a little different but quite exciting turn as we were led to Candice Frazer, then in her second year of seminary. The fit was so perfect that we decided it was worth waiting for her to graduate a year later. Candice served an internship here over the summer and we all came away knowing what a very good choice we had made. Candice, like Daniel, still needs to fulfill some canonical requirements but we anticipate her ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons in May and to the Priesthood in December. She will graduate from Sewanee in May and join our permanent staff in June of this year.

With these hires the Vestry and I are convinced that we are now better positioned for growth, spiritual and numerical, than we have been in many years. My own ministry is revitalized by the opportunity to serve with Joel, Daniel, and Candice, along with our other capable staff members. Few rectors have the opportunity to work in such a remarkable parish with such talented people. And not many of my peers who have thirty years of ordination behind them are more excited about their jobs now than they were when they were first ordained. I find myself in yet another vibrant era at St. John’s and anticipate even greater accomplishments than the ones we have already seen together.

To help us with our many services during this year while we have had only one full-time priest on staff, the Rev. Charles Womelsdorf joined us on a part-time basis and will continue to help us in 2013. His assistance has allowed me to maintain my own personal health and his presence has added greatly to the life of the parish. I will always be grateful to Charles and Sarah for being with us at this time.
2012 saw an evolving hunger in the parish for more chances to serve our community in a hands-on way. Mary Margaret Kyser led a Vestry push for more volunteers in various areas and Lori White emerged as a coordinator of efforts. We have established new initiatives with Rebuilding Together, Habitat for Humanity, feeding the homeless at One Church Mission, and tutoring at Floyd Elementary School. Our elder efforts with Meals on Wheels at the Montgomery Area Council on Aging, and with Family Promise (our Homeless Family Ministry), have both attracted increased participation from the parish. These hands-on efforts, in addition to our generous Outreach Grants of $105,000, our support of Holy Cross Episcopal School, our Honduras Mission efforts, and our ongoing involvement with various community ministries, help us live into our Christian obligation to become more and more generous.

Bottom line parish statistics show us maintaining a plateau after some years of substantial growth. We began the year with 1384 members and ended with 1387. 307 services of worship were held, the vast majority of them including Holy Eucharist. 7 burials were conducted. 4 marriages were solemnized. 11 members were added by Baptism, 17 were Confirmed. 22 people transferred out of the parish. 20 transfers in were received. Our Sunday morning attendance is steady but somewhat disappointing, considering the quality of the worship experience offered. Assisting with these various services of worship was Dottie Moore who joined us in January as the Head of our Altar Guild. Her organization and careful tending to our many volunteers is most appreciated.

John Jenkins and his family moved from us this past summer as he entered the School of Theology at the University of the South. He has completed the first semester of a three year seminary program, is doing extremely well, and we are proud to sponsor John in the ordination process. Over the years this parish has raised up numerous people who have gone on to serve as priests in the Church.

Our congregation continues to get younger, an exciting shift for an old, downtown parish but one we have worked hard to encourage with a continued emphasis on children’s and youth programs. As we attract more and more of this population, we must also deal with busier schedules of young families. The worship of our Lord, and the stewardship of our financial resources, must take priority over our various other commitments, and so we must educate our membership. If we are merely one thing that busy families are adding to their schedule we have failed the cause of Christ. We are to serve the Lord first and then meet our worldly obligations.

Financially our parish continues to be in a healthy position but there is cause for concern. Some very positive cash-flow years have allowed us to build a solid reserve. 2013, however, will potentially see us draw down some of that cash and, unless pledges increase, 2014 could see further depletion of our reserves. Certainly we are not here to accumulate huge sums of money but our income must meet our expenses. Hopefully an improving economy, furthering our stewardship education, and the initiatives of our new and energetic staff members will bring the growth needed in our financial giving. Our current indebtedness from our building campaign is $1.8 million. It is our goal to retire that debt by the summer of 2015.

Mid-year, Melanie Kelley announced her retirement as Principal of Holy Cross Episcopal School. While an independent school, separate from St. John’s, Holy Cross and this parish are intertwined in many ways. Melanie has served for the entire fifteen year history of Holy Cross and will be greatly missed. It was my pleasure to serve on the Search Committee for our new Head of School. With great delight, we announced early in January the hiring of Melissa Comanis who we believe will lead us well. This search process, on top of the others we have conducted this year, has served to increase my faith. Truly God seems to bring us the people we need.

In just a few weeks we will host Diocesan Convention as several hundred clergy and delegates come to us to conduct business, worship in grand style, and enjoy rich fellowship. It’s a huge task and will involve numerous parishioners under the leadership of Margie Sellers who graciously agreed to chair this event. The Diocese of Alabama counts on us for many things and hospitality is certainly one of our better gifts.
So another year passes and we prepare for the next. What a tremendous blessing this parish is in our lives and to the Montgomery community. I continue to thank God for the opportunity to serve here and invite your prayers for our continued success in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. If you have forgotten just how special St. John’s is, may the following reports rekindle your appreciation.

Yours faithfully,
Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

REPORT OF THE LAY ASSOCIATE

In July of 2012 I began serving at St. John’s as the Lay Curate. I am thankful to have received a call to such an active and Spirit-filled parish. The past six months have been a time of great excitement in my life as I have followed God’s call here in Montgomery, Alabama. I have been truly blessed to learn from and work with the wonderful people of St. John’s church as we seek to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ together! Since coming to St. John’s I have had the opportunity to serve in almost every aspect of the church’s ministry. This has certainly helped me grow in my role as a pastor in Christ’s church and has given me a heart of love for all of God’s people.

Adult Sunday School/Christian Education
I firmly believe that Christian education is at the heart of our development as disciples of Jesus. Adult Sunday school offerings and Bible studies help us to gain a better understanding of the Scriptures, our faith, and our heritage as Anglican Christians. This past fall I offered an eight week Sunday school class which looked at the development of the Anglican Church during the Reformation period. This class provided attendees with an understanding of how both reformed doctrine and Roman Catholic heritage helped shape the church we now call Anglican. This winter I have offered two additional adult Sunday school classes. The first was a discussion based class which attempted to address the “difficult” questions of the faith. In this class we looked at a variety of theological perspectives discussing topics such as: the problem of suffering and evil, the concept of righteous anger, and the orthodox understanding of the Holy Trinity. The second course which I have offered this winter is a class on the history of the Episcopal Church (1585-present.) It is my hope that this class will help attendees understand the complex history of our denomination, thereby enabling us to better evaluate the current issues which face the Episcopal Church.

Young Adult Bible Study
Since joining St. John’s one of my primary goals has been to offer opportunities for scriptural study and fellowship for the young adult members of the church. The young adult Bible Study meets every Tuesday at 6:30pm at my home in Cloverdale. Thus far we have been able to look closely at the books of James and Daniel. This has proven to be a group from which fruitful conversation easily emerges. We have also been blessed to have a number of the young adults from the Church of the Ascension participate in our group as well.

EYC
I have also had the opportunity to serve as an EYC advisor for the past six months. This has ena-
bled me to build strong relationships with many of the youth at St. John’s and given me the opportunity to work closely with the youth pastor and other advisors. I serve as a pastoral presence at Sunday evening EYC gatherings and have helped chaperone a number of EYC events. I believe that the youth program at St. John’s is strong and viable and I am grateful to be a spiritual support for our young people.

Mission and Outreach Committee

In Matthew 25:35-36 Jesus said, “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” We at St. John’s take this scripture very seriously. Therefore this past fall we formed a new committee dedicated to living out this very passage. The goal of the Mission and Outreach Committee has been to offer the congregation opportunities to engage in hands-on outreach in our local community as a witness of Christ’s love. So far we have been able to partner with a variety of organizations that serve many of the needs in the Montgomery area. Some of the organizations that our congregation has been involved with include: Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together, Bridge Builders, Meals on Wheels and Family Promise. We have also been able to help with tutoring young people at Floyd Elementary School. In addition to these activities, St. John’s has become active with the One Church Mission (homeless mission.) We serve dinner at the mission on the fourth Monday of every month. We are also conducting an ongoing clothing drive to serve those in need.

Friday Worship at One Church Mission

Beginning this January I have started officiating a Friday afternoon prayer service at the One Church Mission. This service is designed to offer a time of prayer, praise and Bible study for Montgomery’s homeless community. The service is a simple liturgy which begins and ends with the singing of hymns and includes a time for the congregation to reflect on a scriptural passage and to offer both liturgical and extemporaneous prayer. A number of St. John’s parishioners have also been able to utilize their gifts in assisting with this service. It is my prayer that through this service our homeless community and all those involved will come to know more fully the love of Christ.

Visitation

I have had the opportunity to visit and fellowship with many of our parishioners. One of the most rewarding aspects of my duties as curate has been getting to know the homebound of St. John’s. I have been able to share in the Lord’s Supper with many of these parishioners as well as provide them with pastoral care in their times of need. This has given me a great insight into the deep spiritual connections that have been formed at our church over the years. I am very excited to see what God has in store for this congregation in the coming years as we continue to serve together in the name of Christ!

Blessings,
Daniel

REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN

Serving as Senior Warden this year has been a great blessing and privilege. At St. John’s, we are fortunate to have an excellent staff dedicated both to this incredible physical space and the spiritual growth. I have been able to share in the Lord’s Supper with many of these parishioners as well as provide them with pastoral care in their times of need. This has given me a great insight into the deep spiritual connections that have been formed at our church over the years. I am very excited to see what God has in store for this congregation in the coming years as we continue to serve together in the name of Christ!

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Blessings,
Daniel
St. John’s continues to be sound financially, despite the struggles the parish has faced over the past six years with inability to increase pledges. This year evolved to be quite different than expected when budget plans were made, due primarily to a vacant second clergy position and changes in the music program and personnel. Additionally the Vestry and staff have carefully controlled expenses, with the result that very comfortable cash balances remain on hand.

Although pledging declined in 2012, there were significant savings realized against budget, primarily due to the loss of our second clergy member, whose compensation, housing and other costs had been budgeted for the full year, and for whom a good replacement was not found until much later in the year. Conscripted efforts at reducing costs have been continued, resulting in savings against budget in three other expense categories: Christian Formation, Evangelism and Worship (which also benefited from changes in personnel) and plans for the music program. On the negative side, we actually collected slightly less from pledges than had been pledged and budgeted. Nonetheless, in the final analysis, we realized a $60,090 surplus for the year, an unusually outstanding result.

You may recall from last year’s report that in the five years ended in 2012, pledges increased by a total of only 1% for the entire period. Pledges made for the year 2013 are even lower than for the previous year, and in fact are 3% lower than pledges in 2007. At the same time 2013 expenses will increase significantly with a second clergy on staff for the full year, and a third beginning in June, bringing the parish back to our full clergy contingent, and with other increased costs that cannot be avoided. Expenses are being reduced wherever possible without compromising church programs.

As a result of increased expenses and declining revenues, some difficult choices must be made by the Vestry as the budget must be adjusted for significantly less revenue than had been hoped. Fortunately, those decisions are faced with the knowledge that we have strong cash balances and a surplus realized in 2012 which are available for 2013 without compromising our financial strength. However, the revenue-expense gap cannot continue for long, and strategies must be developed to eliminate it.

There are two reports attached for your review which reflect the operation of the parish in 2012. The first report attached shows actual revenues and expenses for the year 2012 compared to budget and, as you will see, shows revenues only slightly less than budgeted and expenses significantly less than budget, resulting in a considerable surplus due, in large part, to the unique circumstances of personnel changes in the year.

The second report attached, the Cash Flow Statement, shows the activity in the General Fund and also in various restricted funds in a summary fashion. The first column shows our General Fund cash, receipts and expenditures.

All other columns show funds restricted for various purposes that do not fall within the budget. The names of the various funds appear at the top of the page and the headings down the left side of the page show the sources and purposes for which funds were received and paid and beginning and ending cash balances for each segregated fund. Cash on hand in the General Fund is at a satisfactory level adequate to fully fund church operations for more than four months, a plentiful reserve.

The Building Fund, which is held distinct and separate from the General Fund and does not impact the General Fund Budget, is reported in the third from the last column and reflects transactions only during the year 2012. During 2012, loan principal due was reduced by $250,000, leaving a balance...
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

What a blessed year 2012 has been at St. John’s. I am very grateful to all of the volunteers who make this program a success. I am thankful to all of you for sharing your children. It is with much joy and gratitude that I give this report.

On Sunday mornings, there are many activities for the children. The Toddlers continue to use Catechesis of the Good Shepherd materials. The Atrium was open through May with Catechesis of the Good Shepherd curriculum for children ages 3-6. In the fall the pre-kindergarten children moved into its own room and began a new curriculum, Spark Bible Stories. This curriculum retells 150 bible stories in fun and engaging ways for young children. Kindergarten through 5th grade continue to use Weaving God’s Promises. This fall we began the third year of the new 3 year curriculum designed to engage children of all ages by offering a variety of activities that follow the church year while weaving Episcopal tradition throughout every lesson.

Both teachers and children have found it to be a huge success. We have also implemented goals for the Christian Formation year at each age level. These goals were derived by using the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama Scope and Sequence. The 6th grade eagerly 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 continues to thrive! Oh what a wonderful place!

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

- Lenten Wednesday Evening Programs-Kids Choice Awards/SlimeTime
- Confirmation class outreach project
- Palm Sunday Procession
- Easter Procession
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- Presentation of Mite Boxes on Easter, proceeds going to Heifer International
- Vacation Bible School-Holy Land Adventure: Daniel’s Courage
- In a location rotation, this year VBS was held at Church of the Ascension
- Christmas in July-children were invited to attend 2 days of making crafts for the Annual ECW Bazaar, with funds going to help St. John’s missions
- Annual Round Up Rodeo- fun and fellowship kicking off the new year with games, prizes and class information
- Blessing of backpacks

The William Inge and Ilouise P. HILL TRUST (1982) is used by the Vestry for religious, educational, 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.
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 arc 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.

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The EAGLE continues to include materials for parents on our Children's News page. This will continue in the New Year, including photos of our children in action.

We currently have eight qualified nursery workers who provide childcare on Sunday mornings and other events. We hold a gathering once a month to stay current on our childcare needs.

I am grateful to God and to all of you for this opportunity. I wish you and your family blessings of hope and joy for the New Year.

Respectfully submitted,
Ashlee Hooper
Director of Children’s Christian Formation

- Blessing of the Animals- joined by the Montgomery Zoo
- October Wednesday Night Series-Beakers, Bubbles & the Bible (interactive science experiments with bible themes)
- Halloween Carnival
- All Saints Procession
- Operation Christmas Child-shoebox gift outreach
- Advent Wreath Making
- Families lighting the Advent Wreath at 10:30 service
- Los Posadas-Mary & Joseph visit with families during Advent
- Christmas Sharing Tree Outreach
- Annual Christmas Pageant- all children were invited to participate in the retelling of the Christmas story, a precious tradition
- Birthday Sunday- the first Sunday of each month we gather for a blessing and cake
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT FUNDS
AND THE V. BONNEAU MURRAY TRUST

For the year ending December 31, 2012, the combined net return for the various trusts that we manage for the church was 12.1%. We currently allocate 75% of our investments to equities/stocks and 25% to fixed income/bonds. The 75% allocated to equity is further divided with approximately 75% invested in U.S. based companies and approximately 25% in non U.S. based companies.

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 2012 returns:

- Dow Jones Industrial: 10.24%
- S&P 500: 16.00%
- MSCI EAFE: 17.90%
- Barclays Gov’t/Corp Intermediate: 3.90%

Below are the fund balances for the last three years. This does not include the loan on the Murray Trust. During 2012, the following were paid out of their respective trusts:

- Hill: $11,631.
- Maintenance: $5,338.
- P. Jones: $1,058.
- G. Jones: $18,304.
- Murray: $83,963.
- Rectors Disc.: $10,288.
- Reeder: $1,853.
- Meadows: $10,508.
- McLemore: $5,000.
- Harmon: $1,492.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Young
Bobby Seibels
R. Bruce Rinehart
Mark Harris
Tranum Fitzpatrick

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Hill: 11,631.
Maintenance: 5,338.
P. Jones: 1,058.
G. Jones: 18,304.
Murray: 83,963.
Rectors Disc.: 10,288.
Reeder: 1,853.
Meadows: 10,508.
McLemore: 5,000.
Harmon: 1,492.

REPORT OF THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Last year was a great year for St. John’s EYC. We continue to meet on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and Sunday evenings for EYC. Our Wednesday night Senior High program is strong as ever and we continue our Wednesday afternoon Coffee meetings. Youth also serve as acolytes, an integral part of worship at St. John’s.

We started off the year with our annual Feast of Lights service (youth led candle-lit worship service), which was a great success. The following weekend we took 16 youth to Winterplace, West Virginia for our annual ski trip. It was a wonderful trip!

In February we watched the Super Bowl here at the church. As part of the Super Bowl, we collected over 50 pounds of canned goods and raised money for the Montgomery Area Food Bank. Later in the month we had Nate Paulk, Director of Servants In Faith And Technology (SIFAT), come and speak to our EYC. The next week, the EYC from Church of the Ascension joined us for a Labyrinth Walk.

In March and April, EYC met on Wednesday nights while the adults met for their Lenten Series speakers. Later in March, we took four youth on a trip to SIFAT! There we learned about poverty in the world, and left challenged to make a difference by helping those living poverty. Late March saw the Diocese of Alabama’s Youth Department hold an event at Camp McDowell called “Rites of Spring”. Aidan White was reelected and Parker Turner was elected to serve on the 2012-2013 Youth Department.

In April, we joined with Ascension’s EYC once again for a Paintball outing! A messy but fun time was had by all! At the end of the month we held our annual Youth Banquet, in which we celebrated our year together. We also honored our Seniors: Cille Harris, Rosalind O’Connor, Daniel Pacheco-West, and Arthur Sellers.

May 6th was Youth Sunday. Cille Harris preached a wonderful sermon, sharing how life at St. John’s has prepared her for the years to come. Youth served as LEMs, ushers, and readers for the service. They all did a wonderful job!

In June, a number of St. John’s youth attended Senior Session at Camp McDowell, while Worth served on Program staff for the session. There were also a couple of movie nights in June where we ate popcorn and enjoyed each other’s company.

Worth served on Sawyerville Day Camp for Session 1. Multiple youth from St. John’s served on staff for Sawyerville Day Camp Session 2. Right after Sawyerville, Worth travelled to Honduras for the first week of the St. John’s Mission Trip. There we hosted Vacation Bible School for kids in one of the nearby communities.

In August, we welcomed our new 7th graders with a trip down the street to see the Montgomery Biscuits play a ball game! On August 24th, Worth celebrated his two year anniversary as St. John’s Youth Director.

September kicked off the new school year for the EYC. We welcomed our new 9th graders and new opportunities for our youth. Senior High began meeting on Wednesday nights for lessons and dinner together. We also resumed our weekly Coffee meetings at Café Louisa. Here youth meet with Worth and Holly Bauer, Youth Director at Ascension, for casual conver-
REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Archives committee has continued to collect the bulletins of St. John's as well as the Eagles which Kitty Marks has collected and placed in notebooks to preserve. We have collected any written and printed material for our files and collections.

The scrapbooks are a never-ending job. Deborah Vogelgesang has used her artistic ability making the scrapbooks lovely. Melissa Carter and Betty Robison have worked on other scrapbooks to make them interesting. We wish there were an official church photographer to take photographs of special occasions in the church, sunday school and parish house. Meanwhile Deborah remains the photographer for the Archives and if she has taken your picture during the year, stop by Archives and find it in our scrapbook.

Catherine Woodson works on the computer doing graphics for exhibits and labels and maintains the computer files and index telling where items can found in the Archives. She has given presentations to the Genealogical Society of Montgomery on the history of St. John's and to St. Catherine's and St. Phoebe's guild on the Kneelers of St. John's.

The exhibit on the Kneelers of St. John's remained on display until April, 2012 at which time we set up a new exhibit on the Liturgical Vestments of St. John's which remains on exhibit through the year. This is a learning exhibit. Also during the year, we cleaned out and organized our files.

In January 2012 we were saddened by the death of one of our Archives members, Martha Bennett. Our group convenes on Thursday afternoons working, laughing and having a good time together preserving the history of St. John's.

Respectfully submitted,

Sallie Millsap, Chairman
Melissa Carter
Kitty Marks
Betty Robison
Deborah Vogelgesang
Catherine Woodson

REPORT OF THE ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

I began the job of Organist and Choirmaster at St. John’s at the beginning of August of 2012. I will address various aspects of the program in turn:

Adult Choir

The adult choir consists of approximately 13 singers - 3 basses and 10 trebles - 6 of whom are staff singers brought in from outside the church with the remainder volunteers from within the church. The choir is quite capable and dedicated though small, particularly when you consider both the scale of the services and the size of the room at St. John’s. I would like to see the numbers expanded substantially while maintaining and improving the skill level. I believe there were 8 people in the first rehearsal that I ran in August. In the past 6 months there has been a high percentage of change in personnel within the choir. This is normal when a new choirmaster is brought in and was something I expected. The personnel has begun to stabilize and grow.

The choir library is profoundly limited and needs to be expanded. This is an expensive endeavor and can only be handled properly over many years.
Children’s Choir

We began a children’s choir in September of 2012 which is open to all children between 2nd and 6th grades. We have approximately 12 children singing in this choir with 8-10 in regular attendance at rehearsals. They are making considerable progress, though 12 children are no match for the size of the room. It is my hope that the church will see the need and benefit of expanding this choir considerably. The parents are quite dedicated in support of the children’s activity in this choir – impressively so. As with any children’s music program, it is the parents’ commitment that ultimately determines its success. We’re off to a very good start with this group.

The children’s choir library is, for all practical purposes, non-existent and must be started from scratch. This requires resources, though it is not as expensive an endeavor as building a library for adults, due primarily to the fact that the adults sing 1 or 2 anthems per week, while the children sing once every six or eight weeks once the children are in a regular rhythm of performing in the services.

Through a generous gift from an anonymous donor, the church was able to purchase a large set of used handbells at a substantially reduced price compared to purchasing the same number of bells newly cast. These bells are primarily intended for the children’s use over the near term, though they are clearly available for use in other ways as the opportunity presents itself over time. There will be some moderate maintenance expense over time with these bells as they are already 20 years old. However, bells last for many decades and the maintenance issues generally only deal with replacing plastic and rubber fixtures rather than the bronze parts of the bells.

Instrumentalists

On a weekly basis, the church brings in an ensemble of professional musicians to play music during communion. Generally, though not exclusively, we use 2 violins, a flute, bassoon, and trumpet. This activity by the church is a very strong signal to the community that St. John’s supports the arts in worship and in the community. The church’s dedication in this area is widely known due primarily to this activity.

The church’s library of instrumental music is surprisingly quite extensive, though limited primarily to German and Italian music of the Baroque, and Classical periods. The instrumentalists bring in music from their own libraries to supplement on a frequent basis. Small additions to this library over time are desired to fill in music from countries and periods not currently represented.

Organ

The organ is a large pipe, digital combination instrument built originally by Wicks and expanded on digitally by Walker. It is in good working condition with no expected major maintenance issues beyond normal tuning and minor repairs as arise with any instrument of its complexity.

Vision for the Future

The musical potential at St. John’s is huge. This is what interested me in taking the job last year. There are many aspects which I would like to see expanded. As the choir continues to work together and grow musically, I would like to see a series of Evensong services presented regularly. Since the room and the instrument are one of Montgomery’s very few good venues for organ concerts, the organ should be played in recital on a frequent basis by guest organist slow month that it’s good that it’s slow: it means that everyone in the parish is getting along fine. We give thanks to God at all times, but particularly when we know none of us is experiencing loss or sickness.

One accomplishment of which we are very proud is the new pastoral care handbook, a compilation of procedures for delivering pastoral care that is accompanied by a number of recipes. The handbook was mailed to each pastoral care committee member along with the new roster of committee assignments at the end of January 2012.

The monthly committees that were in place in 2012 remain the same except for the changes that individual members have requested, and the happy addition of several new members. If you are interested in becoming a member of this rewarding ministry, please let us know.

We are saddened by the death of Nootsie McCall, who, with Ann Carol Coleman, established this Pastoral Care Committee at St. John’s in 2005. Nootsie and Ann Carol served as the co-chairmen of the committee for its first five years, and Ann Carol continued as co-chairman for the next three years. Our deepest gratitude goes to them for their launching of this committee, and for the early oversight and dedication they provided that have established the Pastoral Care Committee as one of the vital ministries of the congregation.

As the writer of this report, I, Sunshine, would like to say, as my tenure as co-chairman of this committee comes to an end, that it has been a personal blessing to serve the committee in this capacity, and I thank each member for her cooperation, enthusiasm, and creativity. I have been repeatedly amazed at the thoughtfulness and compassion demonstrated by the participants in this ministry. I look forward to remaining on the committee as a monthly participant and am eager to experience the leadership of Suzi Edwards, who will be our new chairman by the time you read this.

May God be with each of us in this new year of 2013 at blessed St. John’s and guide us in our service to Him.

Respectfully submitted,
Sunshine Huff (mejbooks@gmail.com)
Suzi Edwards (sdedwards@me.com)
both youth and adults who have signed up for one or both weeks of service.

Rebuilding Together- Work with Dee Moody on a number of small projects to help elderly people in dire need with repairs so that they may remain in their own homes.

Habitat For Humanity-Participate in a building projects in the city of Montgomery to allow lower income citizens to build and own home.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Margaret Kyser

REPORT OF THE PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The pastoral care committee is primarily a ministry of providing food to individuals and families within our parish community during crucial times of loss or sickness. About fifty women make up the pastoral care committee. These folks are divided into twelve monthly teams, headed by a captain. (Some people serve more than one month.) The captain discusses with the four or five people who will work with her that month about how they would like to share the work. Most decide that every member should have the opportunity to make a delivery, as it is at that time that one can experience what a blessing this ministry brings to those in need of it. Many of the current members of the committee have been recipients of pastoral care at some time in the past, and want to have a chance to participate in an activity that meant so much to them.

Easter and Christmas offer the opportunity to do a little something special for all those church members on the prayer list, some of whom are in nursing homes or homebound. This year Easter, Alice Persons made her delicious deviled eggs, and pastoral care members, along with other parishioners, delivered them to fourteen shut-ins after the Good Friday service. In December, Nancy Buzard assisted by her committee of Libby Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Via Brown, Karen Marks, and an extra volunteer, Sandy Marks, made and delivered Christmas gift bags containing day diaries, tea bags, hot chocolate mix, cookies, and candy to twenty-seven St. John’s parishioners. For the first time ever, our members in the military who are currently stationed in war zones received care packages, thanks to the efforts of Nancy Buzard and her committee. The care packages, containing tea, coffee, cocoa, cookies and candy, warm hiking socks, and knitted ear warmers were gratefully and quickly acknowledged by several soldiers in Afghanistan.

During the other months, pastoral care committee members assisted at visitations and memorial services for parishioners. We prepared a total of nine different luncheons or dinners for families who had lost someone, serving as few as seven to as many as fifty. We delivered fifty-three meals to those who were sick or had family members who were. We visited thirty-five different individuals, usually while delivering food. Sometime the people we called needed no food, but we let them know the church was thinking about them; many of those calls were followed up with a written note.

Some months were busier than others. We remind those volunteers who serve on a from around the country. The children’s choir program needs to be attended to carefully for several years so that a strong chorister program can be built here. We are at the very cusp of beginning this program. A much longer term, though very real, goal is building the choir here to such a level that regular concerts could be presented to the church and the public.

The staff and the church members are a pleasure to work with and have been extremely supportive and kind as I began my work here. I thank you all.

Signed,
Joel Gregory
Organist and Choirmaster

REPORT OF THE FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild has been arranging flowers for the altar for the past twenty-three years. We have thirty-six active members and welcome new members at any time. The commitment consists of arranging the flowers for Sunday on either Friday or Saturday, and then dismantling them after Sunday services for delivery to members of St. John’s in homes, hospitals, and nursing homes. Three members serve on a team and arrange once every two months. We as a flower guild do not arrange flowers for weddings or funerals.

Kitty Coleman and Catherine Woodson select and order the cut flowers each week. Each member of the Flower Guild provides the altar flowers for St. John’s year round, except on Sundays following a wedding. Sarah Spratling and Martha Allen coordinate the Easter and Christmas decorations, with the Flower Guild members arranging flowers, wreaths, and greenery in the church, parish house, hallways, and on doors. Sarah, with assistance from members, arranged the altar flowers. Richard Woods joined in to help with Easter and Ward Chesser helped at Easter and Christmas. The Flower Guild members maintained the advent wreaths in the church and the chapel.

Plants, cut flowers, dried arrangements, and greenery were placed in the hallways and parish house throughout the year.

Valerie Wilkerson with fourteen additional members make up the Flower Delivery teams and rotate once a month. After Easter and Christmas the group delivered potted plants to the shut-ins. St. John’s is blessed to have these dedicated members.

The cooperation and help from Mike, Myron, and Mary are greatly appreciated by all of us.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Allen
Flower Guild Chairman
REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD

The ministry of the St. John’s Altar Guild is to prepare the sanctuaries of the Church and Chapels for worship services and to be stewards of the silver and linens used in those services.

During 2012 our 18 team members served with quiet humbleness, loyalty, and dedication at more than 274 services; most of which were Holy Eucharist.

During the year we received gifts that enabled us to replace some worn linens. I do anticipate the need to replace a few more linen pieces during the coming year.

As you examine your talents, if you discover that service on the Altar Guild is of interest to you, know that we welcome that interest and dedication. Please give me a call with any questions you may have.

Respectfully submitted,

Dottie Moore
Altar Guild Chairman

REPORT OF THE OUTREACH GRANTS COMMITTEE

In 2012, the Outreach Grants Committee distributed $105,000 in grants to charitable organizations providing services to our neighbors in need. The amount we had budgeted was level funded from the previous year. In the spring, the members of this committee reviewed the grants submitted to us and worked to ensure our resources were shared with worthy organizations in and around Montgomery.

The committee always strives to distribute funds among a variety of needs, such as children, elderly, prisons, homeless, and the sick. Before we meet as a committee to determine funding amounts for each charity, a member of the committee calls on the organization requesting the grant money and further researches their services and needs.

This year, our monies helped fund Child Protect, Common Ground, Holy Cross for scholarships, Hospice, MACOA, Renascence, and the Sawyerville Day Camp, just to name a few. In all, we provided grant money to 33 charitable organizations. Of the total amount, we issued $10,000 in a grant to the Honduras mission trip and the remaining money was used for ministries in and around the Montgomery area.

As always, we encourage St. John’s members to provide us with information on any charitable organization that might benefit from our outreach grants.

Thanks to the entire Outreach Committee for all of their hard work in carefully researching each of the requests we receive.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Norrell
Outreach Committee Chair

PARISH OUTREACH REPORT

Through the increased involvement of our parishioners, St. John’s hands-on outreach has been extremely busy this year. Lori White took the reins and immediately organized a group of members who are committed to hands-on outreach within our community. Working with our new Curate, Daniel Censi, our Outreach Committee identified several opportunities to broaden its base and endeavoring to make a lasting and continued impact in Montgomery and other areas of need.

One Church Mission for the Homeless.

St. John’s has committed to providing and serving dinner at the homeless mission the 4th Monday of each month. Donations of food, money, time, and talents help support this program and are greatly appreciated! Please consider giving a small donation and mark your check "Homeless meal". We usually need 10 people to serve at 5pm on the 4th Monday. Michael Clark is heading this program.

Floyd Elementary School is excited about partnering with St John’s again this year. Rebecca Miller has done a wonderful job of getting this off the ground we are offering our services as tutors for children who need extra help. This can be done at your convenience. The Mary and Martha Guild organized a project for Floyd in which we will help purchase blazers for the rising 5th graders at the end of the year! These will be presented in a special ceremony. Also, thanks to the Guild for monetarily supporting both the reception noted above and the books for the 1st graders! What an impact God’s love may make in this school, the lives of these children, and ultimately, our community.

Christmas Clearing House has been our Christmas sharing project for several years. Everyone is invited to share in choosing a family to adopt. Our involvement with this community project allows children and families to have gifts, food, and many times the simple necessities that they are not able to provide for themselves.

Shoebox Ministry – Sunday schools and EYC participate to send necessities to children from a sub-Saharan African country.

Family Promise is housed at St. John’s several times a year and again the week of Feb. 3rd. This is a project that has direct, hands on opportunity to impact the lives of people who are actively working to improve their situation. Please consider getting involved in this very worthwhile event and sign up to bring dinner, spend the night, or just come and eat with the families and share God’s love with them through this fellowship. Watch for more and the sign-up sheet!

Meals on Wheels is still in need of drivers! Let’s really push as a church community to take over a route and staff it for each day of the week. This takes about 1 1/2 hours at lunch time. For some of these elderly people, the Meals on Wheels representative may be the only contact they have with another person all day. What a wonderful way to share a smile, conversation and show concern for your neighbor.

The Honduras Mission team is collecting donations for ovens. A $70 donation builds a safe, indoor, well ventilated, wood burning stove in place of a previously very dangerous stove not ventilated and emitting smoke into the house. What a small price to pay for the health and safety of an entire family! This donation would make great Christmas gifts in honor of your friends and family. Please mark your checks as "Honduras Stoves." We have a number of members,