St. John’s Episcopal Church

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT FOR 2015
Submitted at
THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
January 24, 2016

St. John’s Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama
(334) 262-1937

St. John’s Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-262-1937
www.stjohnsmontgomery.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Over/Under Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
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<td>1801415</td>
<td>45576 Over</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
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<td>Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td>1755839</td>
<td>1789149</td>
<td>-33132 Over</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess (Deficit)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12264</td>
<td>12264</td>
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</table>
Two ordinations set the tone for 2015 at St. John’s, exhibiting major strengths of our congregation. The first was the ordination of John Jenkins to the Transitional Diaconate. John had been sponsored by this parish in the ordination process, completed his studies at Sewanee, and was ordained here in June. John has since been ordained to the priesthood at St. Paul’s, in Augusta, Georgia, and serves there as Associate Rector. Worth Stuart, also sponsored by St. John’s, is now in his second year at Virginia Theological Seminary preparing for ordination himself.

The second ordination of the year was held on December 12 as Daniel Strandlund joined the Sacred Order of Priests. Daniel came to us in June, having graduated from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, and his talents have merged well with those of Candice Frazer, our other Associate Rector. Not many Rectors enjoy the privilege of working with even one other gifted priest, let alone two. God has called Daniel and Candice to begin Daniel and Candice to begin serving us and clearly he has equipped them for amочный. Be reminded of how very fortunate we are to have them both here. A few baseball fans have compared our clergy team to the great pitching staff of the Atlanta Braves in their heyday. It’s a solid starting lineup, that’s for sure. We make each other better.

These two ordinations express some of the identity of the current life of this remarkable and historic parish. Over the years many people have experienced the call to ordination while sitting in our pews. And so many others have been moved to take up lay ministries. It is a place which engenders and inspires spiritual formation. And in recent years we have had the rich opportunity of having a goodly number of young clergy join our staff right out of seminary. The parish offers sound mentoring for young clergy, this is true. Even more so to our credit, the parish has opened itself to the gifts of these young clergy and we have learned so very much from those who have come to us. My own ministry continues to be shaped by what goes on here on a daily basis. Your clergy, past and present, give thanks to you for allowing us to serve here with you. Together we know the presence of the Risen Christ and together we seek to fulfill the gospel imperative.

These two ordinations have also modeled the extraordinary worship experience we are so accustomed to in this holy place. Our traditional form of worship reveals holiness in an elegant manner, our liturgy is intentionally formed, our music is brilliantly offered to the glory of God and our benefit, and our very lives are shaped each and every time the sacraments are offered. Most parishes would go years without even one ordination. Here, having two in one year, is not unusual and reveals the comfort with which we do sacred liturgy on a regular basis. That simply is what we all expect whenever we respond to the invitation beside our front door to enter, rest, and pray.

Along with our call to worship, probably we would all acknowledge our mutual call to be formed spiritually and to make a return to those in need. To meet our spiritual formation needs, our talented, young, and energetic program staff offers classes, events, and experiences for every age group. Lay and clergy led classes and groups help us incarnate the love of Christ in our day-to-day living. Spiritual Directors, lay and clergy, encourage us to ground ourselves in prayer and reflection.

From this spiritual grounding, St. John’s has heard the call to reach beyond our walls to touch the lives of those in various forms of need. That effort starts financially, as nearly 20% of our $1.7 million budget goes to outreach. And it expands to involve us in projects locally and beyond. Because of your generous gifts combined with careful expense control by the staff and Vestry and a commitment to sound financial management, St. John’s continues to be in strong financial condition.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Chang Wells
Treasurer
here. Somewhat discouraging, however, is the number of people who take advantage. Those who do come find their lives being transformed. Those who do not perhaps are helped by knowing the best is here when they want it. We have considered offering less, being fully aware of how busy modern life is. But we feel bound to share the gospel in as many ways as we can. We remain committed to feeding souls above counting heads. And we invite your deeper commitment.

Yours faithfully,

Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.
XV Rector

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE RECTORS

The Book of Common Prayer defines the priest’s call as the work of “pastor, priest, and teacher…and to share in the councils of the Church.” (p. 351) I find these descriptors of the call to priesthood define my purpose and intent as a faithful witness among the parishioners of St. John’s.

As A Pastor

You may have noticed that each Sunday, a couple of people come forward after communion to receive a little black box. That box contains the blessed Sacrament of Eucharist and is taken by Lay Eucharistic Visitors or LEVs to those who are shut-in, recovering from illness or surgery, or unable to attend church. This ministry is comprised of fourteen lay persons—thirteen visitors and Elizabeth Via Brown who coordinates the scheduling of visits. The response to these visitors by those who are shut-in has been overwhelmingly positive. This ministry is volunteer driven and lay led and is a powerful expression of how much St. John’s cares for its members.

Pastoral Care is another aspect of my work as a pastor. Making hospital visits and seeing those who are shut-in or sick is an important and rewarding part of my ministry. It never ceases to amaze me just where this collar can get me sometimes. It is a joy to pray for the sick and assist those who are sick or having surgery. I’ve even had the privilege of anointing a few surgeon’s hands right before an operation. There is great power in prayer especially as it concerns our physical health and your clergy always desire the opportunity to pray with you and for you in those times of poor health, especially when health issues require hospitalization or surgery.

Being a pastor also requires one to be concerned with the needs of others. In this capacity, I am privileged to manage a discretionary fund that assists those in need financially. I enjoyed the opportunity to create various drives for charities that parishioners have participated in including Aid to Inmate Mother’s purse and toiletry drive and the paper drive for Floyd Elementary. I visited several charities that we support through our Outreach Grants Program over the course of the year to learn about their programs and build relationships with those in our community who seek to meet particular needs. I also organized a Rebuilding Together Day last spring in which about twenty parishioners came together to fix-up an elderly woman’s home.

As A Priest

Liturgy, especially the liturgy of the Episcopal Church, feeds the soul and drives our hunger to know Christ in the world. The liturgy is never done without intentional thought as to the theology that surrounds any actions or words. You may have noticed a few changes to our approach of the liturgy over the past year—those changes are purposeful and, hopefully, open us to new ways of being with God. We have added a third communion station most Sundays. This is not just a convenience but an intentional aspect of hospitality. Those who are no longer comfortable climbing the stairs to the altar rail can still come forward to receive the Eucharist at the third station on the floor of the Nave. Our liturgy reminds us to always be mindful of the needs of others and take those needs in consideration; whether in the church or in the world. Another recent variation in our liturgy on Sunday mornings at 10:30am is the Prayers of the People led by a Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM). Having a lay person lead the Prayers of the People reflects the importance of laity in the liturgy. Sunday morning is not a show put on by the clergy, it is a vital and life-nurturing time of worship that requires the participation of all—laity and clergy, congregation and those who serve as ministers or acolytes. When we sing certain aspects of the liturgy such as at The Great Litany or the Eucharistic Prayers on a major feast day, we do so not simply because we want too, but because sung liturgy resonates deep within us and draws us deeper into our connection with God. Songs are easier to remember than prose as music connects to us in powerful and mysterious ways. Delving into mystery, even with something as simple as chanting portions of the rite, is like diving into a deep and refreshing pool rather than just floating on the top—there is always a sense of wonder and excitement under the water.

2015 REPORT OF THE TREASURER
ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 24, 2016

The year 2015 was a good year financially for St. John’s. Strong revenues in key categories more than offset unexpectedly high expenses for repairs to the building and higher utility costs than anticipated. Consequently, revenues exceeded expenses resulting in a surplus for the year in excess of $12,000.

Total gifts to the parish from all sources exceeded budget by almost $47,650, which represents an excess of almost 3.4% of all budgeted giving revenues. The good result was due to two major sources of funds:

1. Extremely strong special offerings and

2. General pledge receipts of $26,408 better than budget and additional unbudgeted pledges received during the year of $11,165.

These good results were partially offset by local use pledges which were $7,479 under budget and by prior year pledge payments less than anticipated in the budget.

Expenses were extremely well controlled in all categories except that there were unavoidable budgeted expenses for building repairs and utilities costs were greater than expected, resulting in the building category exceeding budget by $40,903. Fortunately, savings in other categories mitigated that number somewhat, with the total excess of expenses over budget being $33,312. Despite these high unexpected expenses, the end result was a small surplus. The ability to cover these high building maintenance costs was entirely due to generous giving by the members of this parish.

Pledging results for the coming year are disappointing, as of today being virtually even with pledging revenues from last year. Pledging results for the prior year were also very disappointing, being a slight decrease from the previous year. Careful expense management in all controllable categories brought good results for 2015. The 2016 budget will be revised in accordance with the funds pledged with the hope of producing a balanced budget for 2016.

Our cash balances at the beginning of the year were strong. As a result of the unexpectedly generous giving which enabled us to show a small surplus for this year, the year 2015 ended with an excellent cash reserve of $717,287.

There are two reports attached for your review which reflect the operation of the parish in 2015. The first report attached shows actual revenues and expenses of the General Fund for the year 2015 compared to budget and, as you will see, shows revenues of $45,576 more than budgeted and expenses of $33,312 greater than budget, resulting in an excess of revenue over expenses of $12,264.
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 Murtis 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 Warden's to assist in the education of worthy ministerial students in the parish.

The MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP FUND (1978) is used at the discretion of the Rector and Wardens to assist in the education of worthy ministerial students in the parish.

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 Louise 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 Record 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 UNTRUST (2004) is a charitable remainder trust.

Last year I challenged the congregation to read the Bible in a year with The Bible Challenge. Many of you took up that challenge and some of you even finished! Kudos! As we read, I tried to regularly offer a blog post related to the reading that day as well as words of encouragement for participants to keep reading. Those posts were all on The City—our St. John’s social media site—and became an interactive tool for reflection and conversation amongst participants. Simply making an attempt to read the Bible on a daily basis is a positive step in spiritual discipline. This year I have offered a new challenge in reading Scripture—the daily reading of the Office. Those who participate can join the group, “The Bible Challenge”, on The City and receive a regular blog entry about the daily reading, as well as interact and post their own responses and reflections to the readings.

As A Teacher

I have had the opportunity to teach a variety of classes over the last year. The Women’s Bible Study focused on Acts last spring and Genesis this past fall. This class has two sessions—one in the morning and one in the evening and meets for about twelve weeks per study. The class is open to all women of the church. Over the summer, I offered a reading group for women called SpiritLit that read three books and got together to talk about them in June, July, and August. This past fall, David Braly and I teamed up to teach a four-week series on church architecture at the Wednesday Night Series in October. I led a variety of Sunday School classes this past year and had the opportunity to teach at St. Paul’s Selma (Lenten program) and Grace, Pike Road (Stewardship program).

Sharing in the Councils of the Church

This January I complete my term as Southern District Presbyter on Diocesan Council. Last summer, I was a clergy deputy for the Diocese of Alabama to The 78th General Convention, the governing body of The Episcopal Church, and spent two long weeks at work in Salt Lake City, Utah. Currently, I serve on the Diocesan Stewardship Committee and the Committee on Liturgy for the Diocese of Alabama.

It is a joy to grow in the love of God with you. We at St. John’s are blessed with numerous resources that are faithfully given in partnership with God to do His work of redemption in the world. The witness that we share is powerful and not only in Montgomery, but throughout the Diocese, to Honduras, and to the world. I am honored to serve this parish and look forward to serving God with you in 2016.

Light and Life,
The Rev. Candice B. Frazer

**FUND** | **MARKET VALUE 12/31/15**
---|---
Endowment Fund | $2,831,449.16
Cameron Trust | 349,498.53
Murray Trust | 1,738,532.01
Gallagher Trust | 284,937.29
Maintenance & Upkeep | 116,370.38
Baldwin Trust | 222,524.90
Barrie Harmon Trust | 36,968.07
McLemore Scholarship | 154,700.73
Thomas Tyson Fund | 127,388.26
Hill Fund | 251,970.78
Rector’s Discretionary Tr. | 225,787.34
George H. Jones, Jr. Tr. | 397,650.62
Paul Bentley Jones Tr. | 23,672.25
Reeder Charitable Trust | 40,058.92
Louise Meadows | 247,052.65
TOTAL | $7,093,571.89
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT FUNDS
AND THE V. BONNEAU MURRAY TRUST

For the year ending December 31, 2015, the combined net return for the various trusts that we manage for the church was -2.6%. 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 2015 returns:

- Dow Jones Industrial: 0.21%
- S&P 500: 1.38%
- MSCI EAFE: -0.81%
- Barclays US Gov/Credit Intermediate: 1.07%

Below are the fund balances for the last four years.

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<th>2013</th>
<th>2012</th>
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**Total:** 7,093,571.90 7,631,171.11 7,631,171.11 6,385,819.00

During 2015, the following were paid out of their respective trusts:

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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Endowment Fund</td>
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<td>Gallagher</td>
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<td>Harmon</td>
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<td>Hill</td>
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<td>Maint. Upkeep</td>
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<td>Paul Jones</td>
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<td>George Jones</td>
<td>20,368.00</td>
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<td>Murray</td>
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<td>Rector's Discretionary</td>
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<td>Reeder</td>
<td>2,052.00</td>
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<td>Meadows</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>321,598.00</strong></td>
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Respectfully submitted,

Bob Young
Bobby Siehels
R. Bruce Rinehart
Mark Harris
Tranum Fitzpatrick
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aid to Inmate Mothers</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
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<td>AMBUCS</td>
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<td>Baptist Health Care Foundation / Camp Celebration</td>
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<td>Boys and Girls Club of The River Region</td>
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<td>Brantwood Children's Home</td>
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<td>Bridge Builders Alabama</td>
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<td>Cancer Wellness Foundation of Central Alabama</td>
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<td>Capital Area Adult Literacy Council</td>
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<td>Catholic Social Services</td>
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<td>Child Protect</td>
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<td>Children's Center of Montgomery</td>
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<td>Children's Harbor</td>
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<td>Common Ground Montgomery</td>
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<td>Compassion 21, Inner City Ministry</td>
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<td>Dream Court, Inc</td>
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<td>Eat South</td>
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<td>Envision 2020 - River Region Healthy Minds Network</td>
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<td>Family Guidance Center-Family Service &amp; Resource Program</td>
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<td>Family Sunshine Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Floyd Food for Kids</td>
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<td>Food Pantry at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter</td>
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<td>Friendship Mission Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hands-on River Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helping Montgomery Families Initiative (HMFI) - Montgomery County District Attorney's Office</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holy Cross Episcopal School</td>
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<td>Hope Inspired Ministries</td>
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<td>Hospice of Montgomery</td>
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<td>Kelcie's Place</td>
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<td>Kid One Transport</td>
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<td>Let God Arise Ministries</td>
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<td>Lighthouse Counseling Center</td>
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<td>Lighthouse Counseling Center (K-9's 4 Kids &amp; K-9's 4 Heroes)</td>
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<td>Medical AIDS Outreach of Alabama</td>
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<td>Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless</td>
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<td>Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA)</td>
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<td>Montgomery Christian School</td>
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<td>Neighbors In Christ</td>
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<td>New Beginnings Educational Center</td>
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<td>One Place Family Justice Center</td>
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<td>Reality and Truth</td>
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<td>Rebuilding Together Central Alabama</td>
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<td>Renascence Re-Entry Community</td>
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<td>Resurrection Catholic Missions</td>
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<td>Salvation Army</td>
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<td>Sawyerville Work Project / Day Camp</td>
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<td>Service Dogs Alabama (K-9's 4 Kids &amp; K-9's 4 Heroes)</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialized Alternatives for Families &amp; Youth</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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**REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN**

It is truly an honor and privilege to serve on the Vestry of St. John’s and I am sincerely grateful for having the opportunity to serve as your Senior Warden. I thank each of you for that opportunity, honor and privilege. It has been very rewarding to work with and to get to know better the members of the Vestry, who give so freely of their time, talent and resources. Many thanks to each of these Vestry members for their dedication to St. Johns. I have very much enjoyed working with Lawrence Hughes who has been an outstanding Junior Warden. I ask that you support Lawrence, Mark Harris, our incoming Junior Warden; and the entire Vestry as St. John’s moves forward.

We have very recently enjoyed the ordination of our newest clergy member, Daniel Strandlund. As everyone knows, we have in the last year “ traded” Daniels, as clergy members at St. John’s. Daniel Strandlund is bright, young and energetic and we are extremely fortunate to have him at St. John’s. As I have said before, our clergy leadership is second to none. We are truly blessed to have Robert and Mary Ward, Candace and Steve, and Daniel and Lucy. Each of our clergy members provide us with excellent sermons, outstanding pastoral care and much needed spiritual guidance. They provide excellent and essential leadership in all areas of our church life, including worship, outreach, Christian education, pastoral care, and community fellowship. I know that you join me in thanking our clergy for all that they do.

We are also extremely blessed to have a dedicated and hardworking staff at St. John’s. Within each of their departments, Libby, Fay, Anne, Mike, Myron, Mary, Caitlyn, Sarah and Joel, all do an outstanding job and keep the Church running smoothly. We are fortunate to have a wonderful staff and I ask that you take the time to thank them for their good work and dedication.

St. John’s is a Church steeped in history and tradition. It is also a Church made up of a diverse congregation. Although we may have our differences on the schools we support, our preferences with regard to worship services or, perhaps, our interpretation of certain scriptural passages; we are all united in our love of Jesus Christ and St. John’s Church. Even in light of our differences, our love of the Lord and St. John’s allows us to continue to fulfill our mission of “Worshiping God and Making Disciples for Christ.” Let us always pray to God for His continued guidance and of blessings on St. John’s Church. Above all things, thanks be to God for His abundant blessings.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Tyson,
Senior Warden

**REPORT OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN**

What a great year it has been here at St. John’s winding down 2015 and beginning 2016. This church means so much to me and my family, and it has been an honor and privilege to serve on the Vestry with the opportunity to serve as Junior Warden.

We have a hard working and diverse Vestry that submits all their efforts for St. John’s. I would like to thank the outgoing Vestry for their dedication and our Senior Warden Fred Tyson for his leadership and dedication.

In my opinion this Church, our clergy and staff are the best around! We have been blessed with Robert, Candice and Daniel, and I personally thank them for all they do for our Church and congregation. Our staff, what can I say? Libby, Fay, Anne, Caitlin, Joel, Sarah, Mike, Myron, and Mary “Thank you for all you do!”

The Stewardship Campaign was organized different this year, and I want to acknowledge the Vestry for their hard work, time and effort in making it a successful campaign. With the campaign coming to an end, we feel optimistic about reaching our goal. As always, we are thankful for our financial support at St. John’s. I would like to say “Thanks Libby” for your dedication to keeping this campaign on track and keeping me up to date.

Our programs this year have been great. From our Youth, Outreach, trip to Honduras and the Bazaar, to name a few, have been very successful. I would like to thank all the volunteers that stepped up to the challenge to make all this happen.

Again, it has been a privilege and honor to be a part of this Vestry and serve as Junior Warden this year. I look forward to next year working with the new and remaining Vestry members, as well as our great clergy and staff. I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Lawrence B. Hughes
Junior Warden
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHILDREN’S
CHRISTIAN FORMATION DIRECTOR

The year 2015 has been such a wonderful year for St. John’s! I am beyond grateful to continue as Director of Children’s Christian Formation. It has been a blessing getting to know all of the sweet children at St. John’s, and I look forward to building even stronger relationships with them over the next several years! Moreover, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who help make this program a success. Their devotion and time has such an impact on our children at St. John’s! Thank you for sharing your sweet children with all of us! 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 (Stories in a Box). The pre-Kindergarten children are continuing with a curriculum titled, “Hands-On Bible Curriculum.” Each lesson comes along with a learning kit, and included are fun, hands-on manipulatives, a talking puppet named “Whiskers”, and Big Story Books related to the Bible lesson(s). This curriculum is an exciting way for the children to learn about the stories of the Bible. Kindergarten through 5th grade continue to use Weaving God’s Promises. This fall we returned to the 3rd year of this 3 year curriculum. It is suggested to repeat the curriculum after the first 3 years, and it is designed to engross children of all ages by including a variety of crafts and activities that follow the church year while weaving Episcopal tradition throughout every lesson. This curriculum has been labeled as a huge success among the teachers and children. Moreover, the 6th grade excitedly participates in Confirmation class. This year they continue with the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama curriculum in preparing to join the church as adults. On Bible Curriculum.

Children’s Lenten Series- “Building Faith Brick by Brick”- This is a curriculum written by Emily Givens. The children heard a variety of Bible stories, and they re-created those using LEGOs, building plates and people/figures.

Sunday Palm Day & Children’s Procession with Donkey
Children’s Easter Egg Hunt in the Labyrinth
Parish Picnic- We had many inflatables, outdoor games, and delicious food!
Confirmation Sunday- Our 6th grade children graduated from Confirmation class, and were confirmed by Bishop Santosh Murray as members of our church!

Vacation Bible School- “Building Faithful Friendships (BFF)”- This year St. John’s hosted VBS. Tiffany Nishibun (The Church Assembly, listening to Bible stories, LEGO building as a review and making new friendships along the way! Christmas in July- This year we decided to collect Operation Christmas Child boxes in July! This is a wonderful shoebox gift outreach, and we collected about 50 shoeboxes!

Children’s Art Camp- Children in grades K-6th grade made crafts for the Bazaar. It was a huge success! We made hand painted rugs, picture frames, paintings, birdhouses and much more! All crafts were for sale at our annual Bazaar.
Kickoff Sunday- We had fun and fellowship kicking off the New Year with games, prizes and class information.

Blessing of the Backpacks
Blessing of the Animals- This year, each pet received a “Blessing collar tag” from each priest. We were joined by the Montgomery Zoo and wet food donations to the Humane Society.

October Wednesday Night Series- “Monsters” (Children learned to give their fears to God. We all face monsters in our lives, but God is always there to take care of us.)
Halloween Carnival- This year we had face painting by Glitterbug the Clown, train rides, inflatables and carnival games!

All Saint’s Procession
Advent Wreath Making
Families lighting the Advent Wreath at the 10:30 service
Las Posadas- Mary & Joseph visit with families during Advent
Christmas Angel Tree Outreach
Annual Christmas Pageant
Birthday Sunday- the first Sunday of each month we gather for a blessing and cake

REPORT OF THE OUTREACH GRANTS COMMITTEE

Every spring, the Outreach committee reviews all requests for grants, contacts each group, and makes recommendations to our Vestry for distribution of the funds budgeted for Outreach. Each of these steps is important, as we strive to be responsible stewards of your resources.

What could be overlooked in this process is your role and how integral every member of St. John’s is to our outreach efforts. I am extremely grateful for your support thru your annual pledge. In looking over the list of organizations, you can see what a real and significant impact St. John’s is having in our community and beyond.

As indicated below, once again, we had a record number of applications and a record amount of funds requested. The need is great and St. John’s continues to respond.

Next Fall, when you hear the familiar drumbeats of another “Annual Every Member Canvas”, remember this list and the difference we are making.

There were a total of 54 applications received this year, for a total dollar amount requested of $278,300. In 2014 we received 39 applications for a total dollar amount requested of $200,557. We distributed a total of $110,000 to 48 different organizations this year.

Continued on page 14
REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The year of 2015 has been a busy year for St. John’s Archives. We have concentrated on photographs of the people of St. John’s with exhibits on Rebuilding Together, VBS, Kick-Off Sunday, the Halloween Carnival, the Bells of St. John’s, and the annual Bazaar.

We have continued to work on filing, scrapbooking, and collecting Eagles, bulletins, sermons, letters, and all other information.

Sallie Millsap and Catherine Woodson made a video documentary this past year, highlighting the history and architecture of St. John’s. They are grateful for the help of Robert Gamble, retired Senior Architectural Historian from the Alabama Historical Commission, and also for Tommy Giles’ technical support and for the images and filming provided by Dr. Ron Wright.

We began an Audio Library in 2015, made up thus far of recollections and anecdotes by members of the Archives Committee and by Mike Jarrell.

We were honored this past year when Dr. Thomas Kaufmann, Professor of Design, Architectural History, and Historical Preservation at Tuskegee University, visited the Archives Committee to further his academic research on church bells. The result of his scholarship is a wonderful article on the historic bells of St. John’s.

We are so pleased to welcome Jeanette Lynn-Rohlig to the Archives Committee, and we thank Kitty Marks, Betty Robison, and Catherine Woodson for their years of hard work and dedicated service to this committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Sallie Millsap
Melissa Carver
Deborah Vogelgesang
Jeanette Lynn-Rohlig

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. Our fabulous group of women delivered special gifts and love during this time as well.

During the other months, pastoral care committee members assisted at visitations and memorial services for parishioners. We prepared and assisted at numerous luncheons or dinners for families who had lost someone, serving from as many as 7 to 100. We delivered meals to those who were sick or had family members who were. We also visited numerous 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 written notes.

Some months were busier than others. We remind those volunteers who serve on a slow month that it’s good that it’s slow; it means 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.

May God be with each of us and guide us in our service to him.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzi Huffaker

The Eagle continues to include materials for parents on our Children’s News page. In addition, we have a Facebook page, and we are using The City. All of these include information and photos of our children at St. John’s!

We currently have eight 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.

I am excited to call St. John’s my church home, and I am even more blessed to have this opportunity to share Jesus’ love with your sweet children! I wish you and your family much happiness in the New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Collier

REPORT OF THE YOUTH DIRECTOR

Two thousand fifteen has been a year of growth for St. John’s EYC. In the fall we welcomed another large class of rising 7th grade students to our group. We also welcomed Jonathan Ross and Sam Collier to our collection of amazing EYC advisors.

Youth meet for EYC AM every Sunday before the 10:30 Eucharist. Our time together consists of coffee, cinnamon rolls, and good conversation. This formational time is planned and led by Caitlin with the help of Lawrence Hughes and Mary Margaret Kyser. This year we are using our own curriculum written by Caitlin. Breakfast Club is a lectionary based discussion group that seeks to bridge the gap between the words of the Gospel lessons and actions in the daily life of our teens. Within this class teens are challenged to write and present discussion questions about the reading. Other activities range from pop culture debates, prayer stations, and Bible Jeopardy.

On Sunday evenings we continue to gather for EYC PM from 5:30-7:30. The senior and junior EYC members meet separately for program time. Dinner for all ages is served in between the two meetings. We are grateful for all the parents who have provided us with meals this year! We’ve also enjoyed incorporating the Casual Eucharist into our schedule at the end of each month.

Highlights from this year include Laser Tag in the Parish and the Canned Food Scavenger Hunt for the Holy Comforter Food Pantry. Consistent support from our evening advisors Sam Collier, Jonathan Ross, and Leslie Little makes everything possible. We’re extremely thankful for the support of Daniel Strandlund who frequently joins our group.

On Wednesday afternoons our youth meet with Ascension’s EYC to fill Café Louisa to the brim. It’s a casual time for us to set aside the chaos of our week for two hours of snacks, coffee, and conversation. We look forward to the continued growth of this fellowship time.

This year we focused on outreach ministries during EYC: SERVE. This event began with serving dinner to the hungry at One Church Mission on the fourth Monday of each month. We have expanded EYC: SERVE to include events like the Canned Food Scavenger Hunt, shopping for Christmas Clearinghouse’s adopted families, and baking homemade cookies for the Sawyerville Christmas Party. Our goal is to participate in at least two types of outreach ministry each month.

In July five youth traveled with our mission team to Tela, Honduras. They worked tirelessly repainting the church walls and bell tower at Espiritu Santo. In the afternoons they led Vacation Bible School for sixty something children in the neighborhood of San Martin. We are counting down the days until we can return!

Our youth have also enjoyed participating in Diocesan Youth Department events this year. We had several youth participate in Happening 867, Young People Paint Birmingham, Christmas Conference, and summer sessions at McDowell. We had record attendance at Awakenings with twelve St. John’s youth in attendance; the most from any diocesan parish. In the fall we also hosted District Day with Capture the Flag on the Capitol lawn. We’re looking forward to our district EYC friends joining us for The Feast of Lights too.
Report from the Organist & Choirmaster

Adult Choir
The adult choir is in healthy condition with stable personnel. In 2015 it has sung the 10:30 morning Eucharist each week. 2 Even-song services, 2 ordination services, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and an Advent Vesper service. Beginning September 2015, we have reorganized the rehearsal schedule to fit more of a professional choir model – that of matching rehearsal time to the demands of the music in the services rather than on a set schedule whether the rehearsals are actually necessary or not. (This latter approach of a set schedule of rehearsals is most commonly taken by churches.) This new rehearsal model has succeeded in allowing us to accomplish more in less time.

On the whole, the choir reads exceptionally well and thus requires less rehearsal time to perform its duties than other choirs of comparable size and constitution. Additionally, the staff singers provide tremendous musical leadership and professionalism. The volunteer singers are of high quality in their abilities and attitude. The adult choir is in very healthy, stable shape. The choir library is still small, but continues to be expanded. The choir consists of 16 singers – 6 sopranos, 1 countertenor, 2 altos, 2 tenors, and 5 basses.

Children's Choirs
As I enter my fourth year as Choirmaster here, I continue to be met with frustration on how to successfully organize a children’s choir at St. John’s so that it is functionally training children for a participation in the music of the church. Currently it is not. This amazes me, given the number of children in this Parish. No matter what schedule I have adopted, except by a very few children (around 3 or 4) attendance is so sporadic so that no musical accomplishments can be made. (Attendance is usually oriented around a sports team not playing on television that weekend, which, during the Fall, presents obvious and consistent absences.) An additional disadvantage to the church of having no functioning children’s choir is this: as new families with children join and seek to include themselves and their children in the church’s life, they often choose the children’s choirs as a logical and easy place to do so. However, they are met with an empty rehearsal room, and not received into the life of the church because the established families’ children are not present to receive them into this program. It is my opinion that parents determine the success of any children’s activity. Music is no exception. Plans are being developed to attempt to reorganize this program yet again to see if a functional program can be achieved. That being said, with very few exceptions, children’s choir programs all across the United States – those which attempt actual music training rather than simply children’s entertainment or ‘musical baby-sitting’ as is practiced by most churches with ‘successful programs’ - are suffering from these same issues. I refuse to give up on organizing a quality children’s program in this church. It is important to me that there is the potential that such a program can be definitely beneficial for the children in areas of artistry, faith, and musical ability – 3 items, once developed that will last their entire lifetimes) are not just for the benefit of the children themselves. They strengthen the entire parish across all age groups by the energy a trained children’s choir brings into the worship life and developing faith of the church.

Organ
The organ is not currently in great shape due to a lightning strike sustained in late summer of 2015. (The same lightning strike that of matching rehearsal time to the demands of the music in the services rather than on a set schedule whether the rehearsals are actually necessary or not. (This latter approach of a set schedule of rehearsals is most commonly taken by churches.) This new rehearsal model has succeeded in allowing us to accomplish more in less time.

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Organ
The organ is not currently in great shape due to a lightning strike sustained in late summer of 2015. (The same lightning strike that affected the sound system.) This event coincided with the retirement of the curator who maintained the instrument for many years. These two events happening at roughly the same time have delayed necessary repairs. There is one main stop that is stuck open and the piston system is not functioning properly. A new curatrix has been engaged and repairs are expected to be made in 2016. Additionally, there are minor wear and tear items on the console that need to be addressed. These are normal in the course of the life of an instrument.

Instrumentalists
A group of professional instrumentalists consistently perform each week for communion at the 10:30 Sunday Eucharist service. This group consists most often of 1 trumpet, 2 violins, a flute and a bassoon. Brass groups were engaged for 2 of the 3 Easter morning services and the 11pm Christmas Eve Service.

Concerts / Programs
The following concerts were presented in 2015:
- Organ Recital (Joel Gregory) – Sunday, February 8, 2015
- Evensong Prelude Recital

Respectfully submitted,
Caitlin Lollar
Youth Director

Report of the Altar Guild
It has been my privilege to continue as acting chair of the altar guild. I am most grateful to the sixteen other members for their dedicated service. This year, we welcomed the addition of Nancy Hemner and Ashley Hamlett.

The seventeen of us currently on the guild prepare for over two hundred sixty celebrations of the Holy Eucharist each year. We consider it a solemn obligation to appear when we are scheduled and, at the same time, a privilege to be allowed into the Lord’s service in such a wonderful place.

We could make good use of a few more people, and if you are inclined to explore such a possibility, I’d be pleased to have you speak to me.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Moore
Altar Guild Acting Chair

Annual Report of the Flower Guild 2014

The Flower Guild has been arranging flowers for the altar for the past twenty-six years. We have thirty-six active members and welcome new members at any time. Each member’s commitment consists of arranging the flowers for Sunday services on the preceding Friday or Saturday. Then the members dismantle and rearrange in vases that are delivered to parishioners who are shut in at home or are in a nursing home or hospital after Sunday services. Each three member team rotates by the schedule every two and a half months. Except for the Sunday’s following a wedding the Flower Guild provides altar flowers year round. 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. Fay Worroll organizes the schedule. Jean Smyth is in charge of organizing and ordering supplies. Sarah Spratling coordinates 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. The Flower Guild members maintained the advent wreaths in the church and the chapel. At Easter Richard Woods and Bob Canter arranged the flowers on the sign at the front of the church.

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,
Flower Guild