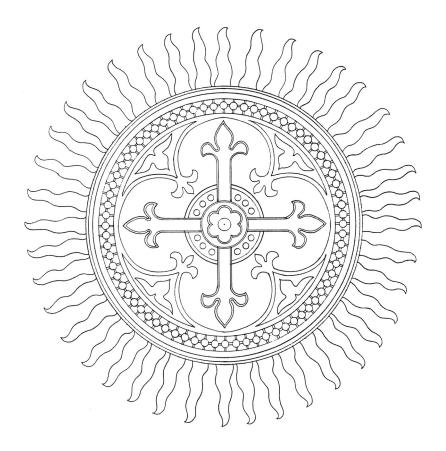
St. John's Episcopal Church

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT FOR 2018
Submitted at

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING January 27, 2019



St. John's Episcopal Church

113 Madison Avenue Montgomery, Alabama (334) 262-1937

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REPORT OF THE RECTOR	3
REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR	4
REPORT OF THE PRIEST ASSOCIATE	5
REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN	6
REPORT OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN	6
REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION DIRECTOR	7
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES	8
REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR	9
REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD	10
REPORT OF THE FLOWER GUILD	10
REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE	11
REPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN	11
REPORT OF THE OUTREACH GRANTS COMMITTEE	12
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE ENDOWMENT FUNDS	14
REPORT OF THE TREASURER	16

Annual Report of the Rector for the Year 2018

There are several areas in which St. John's truly excels and surely places in the top 5% of all Episcopal parishes in the nation. As I take stock of things here, it occurs to me that these areas of excellence include: Children's Ministries; Youth Ministries; Financial Health; Music and Worship; Physical Plant Maintenance; Outreach; Staffing; Preaching and Teaching. There are many things we do well together but these are our very best areas of ministry.

Our Children's Ministries are among the most important things we do. Every Sunday morning each class has well prepared teachers, inspiring curriculum, and gathers in spaces reflecting intentionality and thoughtfulness. The love of God for every single creature is proclaimed in ways in which our younger children can relate. Twice a year, a dazzling presentation of the Gospel is proclaimed in an evening series. Children's imaginations are encouraged and they learn a bit more about their value in the world and God's way of holding all creation together. That ministry extends to our children right from birth and carries them through their childhood years. Our nursery facilities are designed to be safe and holy places where our youngest members can be nurtured and encouraged. Each summer a Vacation Bible School is designed which excites our children and their friends. Our Children's Ministries are fresh and among the very best in our Church. Sarah Collier is a gifted teacher, administrator, and planner.

While we have a long history of quality Youth Ministries, there have been times when we have wondered if we could attract enough participants to have critical mass. Joleen George has built on the success of the past and taken our program to new heights. The youth are happy to come together, find programs which entertain them and transform their perspectives. There are opportunities to serve in the Diocese, the community, and in Honduras. Our Youth come to know their many blessings and their responsibility to treat others with respect and dignity. Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings, along with special series, weekly gathering at a coffee shop, and numerous other touches allow our Youth to see the light of Christ. Joleen's energy, drive, and enthusiasm are palpable. And our youth are thoughtful, curious, and respectful.

Our Financial Health is an area that has received much attention in the past two decades. We have discussed money matters openly and increased the transparency of our finances. We are used to hearing about tithing and the great freedoms gained through Christian Stewardship. We have raised over \$15 million in order to design and build a state of the art physical plant and we are virtually debt free! Our endowment fund is large enough to fund most of our Outreach and Major Maintenance and the income is clearly designated so that the regular operating income is provided by annual giving. We have enviable reserve accounts for major maintenance and operating expenses. We live within our means, give generously to the community, and are able properly to maintain a historic structure. There simply are very few parishes which can claim this level of financial health and each member here is to be commended. Libby Poole – our Financial Administrator –and Helen Wells – our Treasurer – lead us so well and work hard to build trust.

The worship experience we share here, week-in and week-out, is one typically reserved for the grandest of Cathedrals. As I am reaching for my handkerchief during worship to dry tears in order to be able to read the words off the page, it just doesn't seem that something this glorious could be going on in Montgomery, Alabama. Yet is does and has been for many, many years. Much goes into our offering of worship, as it is the most important thing we do. Joel Gregory's talents as our organist and choir director are the best available.

The physical plant we worship in, gather in for fellowship, meet in for classes and conferences, and the grounds which surround our buildings, proclaim the glory of God in a majestic way. In the midst of a downtown area which waxes and wanes, St. John's has remained an inspiration for all who pass by as well as those of us who call this our church home. The church is not simply a building but our physical plant says some things about God that you and I cannot say on our own. The work required to maintain our facilities properly is tremendous. Our maintenance staff provides a real service to the community. Mike Jarrell, Myron Smoke, and now Faye Mitchell work hard every day and take pride in that work.

St. John's takes a goodly portion of our financial resources and uses it beyond our own walls. Last year more than \$350,000 – nearly 20% of our operating budget - was given to ministries in our community, diocese, and the world. That kind of generosity has expanded the heart of this parish in such a way that we only want to do more.

Our staff is the envy of the diocese and has gained national prominence. Success in the past has led to continued success as we find highly qualified people are eager to work here and help us continue our programs. Together the staff members help each other become better at what we do.

The quality of sermons, classes, conferences, and retreats offered here is high and we are accustomed to having the very best available. Our clergy take seriously their responsibility to be prepared every time we have the privilege of preaching or teaching. The fact that we get to hear good sermons from each other helps us become better preachers ourselves.

The things that our parish does not do as well may all fall in the general description of taking our offerings for granted. While we expect the very best in our programs, classes, worship, and outreach opportunities, our levels of participation are fairly low. A newer member of the parish remarked to me recently about how she has not been part of a parish with the resources we enjoy. I think we all recognize our good fortune. But we could all do a better job of making use of the offerings here and inviting others to join us.

As we depend so greatly on our staff, each year attention must be paid to transitions and making sure we have the people in place who can help us expand our reach. This past year, Deonna Neal joined our clergy staff as a Priest Associate. While she works full time at the Air University at Maxwell, she has shared her plentiful talents with us preaching and teaching and leading worship. She

is a gifted priest of the church and has allowed us to know God's mission for us in new ways. Faye Mitchell joined our maintenance and housekeeping staff in the Spring. She is highly motivated and a great joy to work with. In 2018, we prepared for the departure of Anne Tippett, the Administrative Assistant to the Rector, as her family planned a move to Nashville. Happily for us, those plans changed and Anne remains with us! We all, but I especially, depend on her for so much. Candice Frazer left us in the Fall to become Rector of the Church of the Ascension. Candice was a great gift to us for over five years and now serves the Episcopal Church in an even bigger way. Jamie Osborne now takes on increased responsibilities, as our Senior Associate Rector. He is a wise and holy presence among us, possessing an authenticity which reveals God's love in a tangible way.

The biggest news, staffing wise, as we begin 2019, is that Fay Worrilow has announced her retirement at the end of May. She will have served us as Parish Secretary for a full 25 years. Handling communications and publications, as well as parish records, Fay's job has grown immensely as technology has made so many advancements in her tenure. Because of her, St. John's had the first website in the Diocese and our printed publications are now the standard of excellence in the Diocese. Fay, we will miss you a lot and will enjoy your continued participation among us as parishioner.

Another good year for the books. As we faithfully seek to take the next small and large steps in our parish's history, look for the light of Christ which shines here. Grow in that light and show it in all you do.

Yours faithfully, *Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.*

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

I give God thanks for another year at St. John's. I have been here for a year and a half. On one hand, the time seems to have flown by. On the other hand, the transition here from seminary and the good fit makes me feel like I have been a part of the community for a while now. Thank you all for the support you have extended to me, Lauren, Rowan, and Phoebe. I am grateful for this parish family and the staff which make it a joy to serve here as one of your priests. Robert is the best boss I have had and I am grateful for his leadership, example, and friendship. I miss Candice here at St John's, but I am so glad she and Steve have remained in Montgomery in their new call at the Ascension. Deonna has also been a great colleague and has brought many gifts to the parish through her ministry. I am grateful that I get to exercise my ministry of teaching, preaching, pastoral care, and the sacraments with the clergy, staff, and parish of St. John's.

This past year afforded me many opportunities at the diocesan level and beyond. I spent a week and a half in Honduras on a wonderful medical mission. I was impressed with the impact of the work there among the Honduran people, but even more, I was impressed with the depth of relationship between St. John's and our sister parish, Espiritu Santo, which has been built over a period of many years. In addition, I also spent ten days at Camp McDowell as a chaplain for sophomore camp. We have a great resource in our camp and conference center and several youth from St. John's attended that session. I also spent another several days at Camp McDowell serving as a chaplain and worship leader for Vocare, a weekend retreat of renewal for young adults. There were also another couple days spent at Camp McDowell for a young adult retreat with young adults from St. John's and other churches from around the diocese. It was a full year of ministry within the diocese and beyond with almost a solid month of time away from the parish, but with the transition from three full-time clergy to two, I will be pulling in my focus to the parish level in 2019.

I enjoy gathering people to nurture relational connection and spiritual depth. I also have a passion for the unique spirituality we have as Episcopalians and want to help as many as I can enter into it more deeply. Here is a brief summary of how I have spent my time and energy trying to nurture relational connections and spiritual depth within our Episcopal tradition.

St John's has a thriving young adults group, filled with bright and energetic Episcopalians. It is a diverse group of those in their twenties to late thirties. The young adults have a monthly supper club and meet the second Sunday of the month for lunch after church. Some of the highlights were a young adult small group that met in the spring, a summer pool party, and a tacky sweater Christmas party in addition to the retreat I mentioned previously.

The men's group has continued to thrive. We have a consistent group of about eight to ten men who gather for a shared meal, fellowship, learning, and prayer on a weekly basis. In the spring we were covering a variety of topics, and this fall we started a focused study on saints with a different saint discussed each week. It has given us a chance to learn about individual lives of the faithful while also giving us a broader understanding of the history of the Church and the development of its theology.

The Centering prayer group has continued to grow in its depth and practice. We have had members of other Episcopal churches and other denominations attend our weekly prayer gatherings. The number of participants fluctuates but we have a solid core group of about five to eight folks who meet each week. One of the highlights this year was a one-day centering prayer retreat we took together

in the spring.

Morning Prayer on Facebook has been successful as a prayer opportunity made available to those through technology. We average about seventy views for each video on Tuesday mornings. I am beginning to think of ways to expand this ministry by possibly adding an additional weekly Compline service, and also raising up a team of leaders who could officiate and broadcast via St John's Facebook live. And as a side note, we have many opportunities here at St. John's throughout the week for spiritual nourishment. On a typical week we offer five Eucharists, a morning prayer service via Facebook, a centering prayer group, and a clergy-led bible study. If you are looking to grow spiritually in 2019, think about how you might take advantage of the many opportunities available in the ministry of St. John's.

Many blessings, Jamie Osborne

REPORT OF THE PRIEST ASSOCIATE

I write this report with deep gratitude to Robert, Candice, Jamie and the members of the staff and congregation of St. John's for welcoming me to the parish in January 2018 as a priest associate. As many of you know, I came to St. John's after having been away from the church and the priesthood for 7 years. St. John's has been the place where I have found grace, reconciliation, and healing in my relationship with God and with the Church. It is also the place where God has restored my vocation to me. Experiencing the privilege of being able to preach, teach, preside at the Eucharist, and start developing relationships with many of you has helped me to rediscover the joy of being a priest again. Thank you all for providing a supportive and welcoming environment as I started a new life and ministry here at St. John's.

Teaching the 11-week summer course "Christianity and Bioethics" as well as "War and Christian Ethics" for the Wednesday night series in October have been highlights of the year for me. I also enjoyed teaching my Fall class on NT Wright's book *Authority and Scripture: How to Read the Bible Today*. Having the opportunity to teach at St. John's is helping me learn how to be a priest and a theologian in a parish setting—an opportunity I have not yet had before.

Representing the St. John's staff as a member of the medical mission team to Honduras was both quite the adventure and a meaning-ful experience. It was great to see the fruits of the long term relationship St. John's has had with our companion parish, Espiritu Santo, in Tela. I have also enjoyed participating in parish events and ministries such as Family Promise, Rise Against Hunger, the Halloween Carnival, Blessing of the Animals, Advent Wreath Making, Vestry Retreat, Monday Bible Study, Heavenly Hosts, and Diocesan Convention. I was also grateful for the invitation to speak to the Avis and All Angels Guild, as well as to the Thursday morning men's group at Ascension on two occasions.

My ministry here at St. John's and the rediscovery of my vocation is also having a positive impact on my "other life" as a professor of leadership and ethics at Maxwell AFB. I was invited to participate in a working group of Air Force chaplains and civilian researchers on "spiritual fitness" in August at Duke University. I have been teaching and lecturing on moral injury and healing for the Air Force Chaplain's Corps College and the USAF Senior NCO Academy. I was invited to an international ethics conference held at the University of Virginia in November where I presented on moral injury, tragedy, and healing. I also authored multiple entries for two forthcoming encyclopedias: Conflict in the 21st Century: The Impact of Cyber Warfare, Social Media, and Technology and Conflict in the Holy Land: An Encyclopedic History from Ancient Times to the Arab-Israeli Conflicts. Finally, I was recently invited to serve as a member of the Ethics Committee for USA Triathlon.

Life as a bi-vocational priest definitely has its challenges, but it is a very rich, grace-filled, and rewarding way to live. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve here.

Yours Faithfully, **Deonna**The Rev. Dr. Deonna D. Neal

REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN

It was an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Senior Warden this year. We are blessed with a great vestry and I have enjoyed working with them the last three years. I would like to give special thanks to Lawrence Hughes, Mark Harris, Bill Eskridge, and Jimmy McLemore for their help and dedication to our Parish.

The Church is in sound financial condition. We have had several years of solid giving through our Every Member Canvass. For the church to continue to grow its offerings, both to our congregation and to the community at large, we will need to continue to increase the amount of pledges given each year. I am very much encouraged by the progress we made during 2018 in paying down our Building Debt. While there is still work to be done, we made tremendous strides in eliminating the remaining balance.

While Candice's departure is a loss for St John's, it is a big long-term win for the Episcopal Community in Montgomery. Jamie and Deonna have both stepped up and are flourishing with their additional responsibilities.

In closing, I would encourage every member to participate in any and all activities and, if able, to serve when asked. We have a great church community that only gets better with increased participation. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Senior Warden.

Faithfully, *Jim Marshall* Senior Warden

REPORT OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN

It has been a blessing to serve the parish as Junior Warden for the past year. We have a fantastic group of clergy and staff that care deeply about the church and do an amazing job. Each of them is a pleasure to work with and we are very fortunate to have such a group. The programs they offer are tremendous. We should all take full advantage of our opportunity to participate in the many exciting options they provide.

The Junior Warden's main task on the vestry is to chair the every member canvas, which is our annual stewardship campaign. As I write this report, we have pledges totaling ninety one percent (91%) of our 2019 goal, so I still have some work to do. We are hopeful that we will reach our 2019 goal and we will continue to work to achieve our goal. Your pledges allow the Church to budget for the coming year which drives the programs and activities the Church is able to offer. Many of you assisted and continue to assist the every member canvas by soliciting pledge cards and in various other ways. I want to thank everyone who has assisted in the canvas. We could not do it without each of you! Thank you all for your pledges, financial support, volunteer work and other support of our parish.

I would like to thank Jim Marshall III for his work as Senior Warden. He has done a great job as your Senior Warden. It has been a pleasure serving with him (and we have had some fun too). I would also like to thank each member of the vestry for their service. I have enjoyed serving with the outgoing class and look forward to serving with the remaining members and this year's new vestry class next year. Sunday mornings on the door are a special way to participate in worship service.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Junior Warden of the vestry and look forward to a great year next year!

Faithfully, **Bill Eskridge** Junior Warden

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION DIRECTOR FOR 2018

The year 2018 has been an exciting year for St. John's! I am overjoyed to continue as Director of Children's Christian Formation. St. John's has a very dear group of children, and I enjoy watching them grow in love with Christ. They bring joy to my Sunday mornings, and I look forward to every time we are together! In addition, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who help make this program successful. Their commitment and time has such an influence on our children at St. John's. Thank you for sharing your precious children with all of us! It is with much pleasure 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). This year, we have a Pre-Kindergarten class (3-4 year olds) that uses a modified version of the "My First Hands-on-Bible" curriculum. Each week they learn a different Bible story, create fun crafts, play games and have a special Bible Big Book read aloud. Whiskers (our mouse puppet) helps the leader read the stories to the children! He is a special favorite among our Pre-K children! Moreover, our Kindergarten through 2nd grade class are using *Weaving God's Promises*. This is a 3 year curriculum, and many lessons have been updated with home connection pages, new crafts, games and even more. It is suggested to repeat the curriculum after the first 3 years, and it is designed to captivate 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. The 3rd through 5th grade class is also continuing with *Weaving God's Promises*. They took a break from this curriculum last year, while they used the imaginative Lego series "Building Faith Brick by Brick." This was a successful series; however, we wanted to go back to our Episcopal tradition found in Weaving God's Promises. Furthermore, 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 has transformed! We have a large wooden sailboat where we sit together for worship and fun! The children especially enjoy this fun style of worship! Each week we participate in a Children's Liturgy, setup our prayer table for a place of worship and incorporate picture books/read aloud(s) into our chapel. I often use www.storypath.com as a resource for Bible connections. In addition, we started something new this year! Each Sunday morning, the children in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to meet together in the boat (Children's chapel) before Sunday school. We take roll, pray together and sing songs. Those with perfect attendance receive a special donut celebration on the last Sunday of each month! I am thrilled about even more activities that will go on in the year 2019! St. John's is such a sensational place to be, and I look forward to all the years to come!

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

- Children's Lenten Series- "Diary of a Godly Kid"- This curriculum was based off of the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books series and movies. The children learned how they can do big things if they seek after God! Each week, we compared the character from the series (Greg) to young King David. In addition, we conducted exciting object lessons, crafts, games, Bible stories and snacks!
- Palm Sunday & Children's Procession with Donkey
- Children's Easter Egg Hunt- This year the Easter egg hunt took place in the Labyrinth. The EYC stuffed our Easter eggs, and the Confirmation class hid them.
- 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 Kee Sloan as members of our church!
- Vacation Bible School- "God is all around us... Awaken your Senses!"- Adapted from St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church (Laura Heravokich) and modified- This year Church of the Ascension hosted VBS. The curriculum was based around the 5 senses. Each day, we focused on a different sense. We discovered fun ways of feeling God all around us! In addition, our 6th graders participated in various outreach projects each day of VBS.
- Christmas in July- This year we collected Operation Christmas Child boxes in July! This is a great time to collect for Advent. We collected many shoeboxes filled with toys, toiletries, crafts etc. for children in need.
- Children's Art Camp- Children in grades K-5th grade made crafts for the Bazaar. It was a huge success! We made beautiful garland wreaths, painted coasters, beaded angel ornaments, nativity ornaments, glitter angel ornaments, canvas paintings and wooden painted crèches. Most of the crafts were for sale at our annual Bazaar.
- Kickoff Sunday- We had fun and fellowship kicking off the new Sunday school year with a giant inflatable water slide, toddler play area and hot dog lunch.
- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Blessing of the Animals- Each pet received a special blessing from a priest. We were joined by the Montgomery Zoo and collected donations to the Humane Society.
- Halloween Trunk-or-Treat- This was our third year for Trunk-or-Treat, and it was a hit! We even had a contest for the "best decorated trunk!" The winner won movie tickets! In addition, Glitterbug the Clown participated in face painting and balloon making! We also had several inflatables for the children

- Children's Fall Series- "The Gospel According to Harry Potter"- This curriculum was based off of the Leader's guide by Connie Neal and Skip Parvin. The children participated in a modified kid friendly version. We only focused on the first book/movie. The children learned what it means to be a Christ figure. In addition, the children entered into a fantasy world of 9 ¾ and Hogwarts! Each week they participated in Bible connections, fun games and discussions!
- 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- We adopted a total of 15 families! Thank you to all who participated
- Annual Christmas Pageant.
- "Happy Birthday Jesus" cake reception- following the Children's Christmas Eve service we had a cake for Jesus
- Birthday Sunday- the first Sunday of each month we gather for a blessing and cake
- Perfect attendance donut celebration- This is new this year! Children with perfect attendance are rewarded with a donut celebration on the last Sunday of every month!

The Eagle continues to include materials for parents on our *Children's News* page. In addition, we have a Facebook page "St. John's Children's Christian Formation", and we use Instagram. All of these include information and photos of our children at St. John's. We currently have 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. Our nursery staff is outstanding, and they make Sunday mornings so special for our young children and families!

I am thankful to call St. John's my church home, and I am even more delighted to have this opportunity to share Christ's love with your precious children! Happy New Year and much love to you all!

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

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

2018 was a wonderful year and I would like to give a great big thank you to the EYC advisers, parents, and clergy. Without all of the church's support the EYC would not have been as successful. Thank you to all the parents who provided dinner throughout the year. I'd also like to thank the EYC volunteers who have been supportive and willing to go the extra mile.

2018 was a great year for St. John's EYC. I am very proud of all the accomplishments we have achieved. As a group we have completed community service projects, enjoyed fellowship with one another, and we have grown deeper in our relationships with God. Learning how to study the Bible while also learning how to be more attentive to our friends and families was also accomplished.

On Sunday mornings, we started a new way of studying the Gospel. Having a group-wide discussion allows all the youth a chance to not only speak and ask questions, it also allows for learning and fellowship with peers. On Wednesdays the youth meets alongside the local EYC groups for Coffice at Café Louisa. This is a great opportunity for the youth to spend time with students who are at different schools and of different age groups.

This year the EYC hosted a huge intergenerational event called Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now.) As a church, we were successful in packaging 20,000 meals to feed people across the world. It was great to see people of all ages, children, teens, young and older adults work hard and bond together. Another community service event the youth participated in was writing and sending Christmas cards to veterans. Additionally, the EYC prepared meals to sell at the Bazaar. We adopted an angel from the Angel Tree and went shopping for gifts for the family. Providing dinner for Family Promise was a great learning experience for the youth to see hunger affect not only those in other countries, but also in the community in which they live. We also know how to have a great time and so much fun going ice skating; having a lock in; going to Escapology; and eating together on most Sunday nights.

St. John's has a great group of youth. They are talented, unique, energetic, enjoyable to be around, and an important part of the presence at St. John's.

Once again, I would like to say thank you all for the support that I have received over the past year. All of the events I hosted would not have happened without the amazing parish that is St. John's.

Peace,

Joleen George
Director of Youth Ministries

REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

The music program consists of four facets: The Adult Choir, The Instrumental Music, The Organ (state of the instrument) and Children's Music.

CHOIR

The choir functions primarily on a professional choir model staffed by a combination of volunteers from the church and singers from outside the congregation hired for their skill, training, and experience. The choir consists of a range from 14 to 20. The singers exhibit great attitudes and contribute to an overall healthy and productive environment of collegiality. The choir regularly sings the 10:30 am Sunday morning Eucharist weekly, the Christmas and Holy Week Services, and occasional Evensong services.

INSTRUMENTS

The instrumentalists continue to be a great group with whom to collaborate. The church's support of first rate instrumental music presented at communion is unusual and to be highly commended.

ORGAN

Minor repairs to the organ console are expected in 2019. Despite the minor console problems, the organ itself is in good condition and functioning as it should.

CHILDEN'S MUSIC

In 2018 we began a children's program that functioned from late spring and continues to function into 2019. There is a group of dedicated parent and children exhibiting the consistency in attendance necessary for beginning a quality children's music program. My goal is that this program be maintained and built upon over the next years.

CONCERTS

In 2018 the church presented Alexei Romanenko, Principal Cellist for the Jacksonville (FL) Symphony in concert over 2 consecutive evenings playing the Bach Cello Suites in their entirety.

Respectfully Submitted, Joel Gregory Organist and Choirmaster

REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD

I am pleased to report that the altar guild has grown by adding two members recently. One of our members has moved away, but we now have 18 active members who share the guild's work. For most of the year, each person serves one or two times each month. Though there is much to be done, it is spread upon many shoulders. A few more shoulders would, nevertheless, be welcome.

The Altar Guild of St. John's prepares the sanctuary for worship services. Their work is seen, but seldom observed; yet they perform it regularly and faithfully. We estimate there are over 260 celebrations of the Holy Eucharist in a year's time, and one or two of our members prepares the altar for that celebration and cleans vessels and linens after the service. Weddings and funerals add to the mix.

All of the brass inside the communion rail (the sanctuary) is cleaned and polished by members of the Altar Guild. Candles which must be changed every several weeks are cared for by the Altar Guild. Changing the "frontal" (the cloth which covers the front of the altar) to correspond with the liturgical season is the responsibility of the Altar Guild as is caring for those not in use.

The Altar Guild is also responsible for cleaning and polishing the Lay Eucharistic Visitor "kits" which are taken out for people unable to attend services at the church.

If you are interested in serving the church as part of this invisible ministry, I'd be glad to hear from you! Write me at: moore.cn@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted, *Chuck Moore*Altar Guild Chair

REPORT OF THE FLOWER GUILD

For the past 29 years the flower guild has been arranging altar flowers for St. John's Sunday services. The guild is made up of 28 active members and each member is part of a two to three person team. The team is responsible for picking up and arranging the altar flowers on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning for the following Sunday. The team members also help maintain the plants that are placed around the church, parish hall and offices. Once Sunday services are over the team dismantles the big arrangements and rearranges the flowers in smaller vases. These vases of flowers are delivered to parishioners who are shut in at home, a hospital, or a nursing home. The deliveries are made by the 16 member Flower Delivery Team which is chaired by Valerie Wilkerson.

Weekly Kitty Coleman or Catherine Woodson select and order the cut flowers for the altar. They communicate regarding favorite flowers and colors with the parishioner who is donating that week's flowers in memory of family members. If you wish to donate Sunday flowers please contact Fay Worrilow in the church office.

This year we have combined the Flower Guild and Flower Delivery schedules into one calendar. This allows the team members to know who they will be working with each week. Mary Ward Wisnewski and Jean Smyth are in charge of organizing the flower guild room and ordering supplies.

Sarah Spratling is in charge of planning and executing Christmas and Easter flowers and decorations. Sarah assigns various guild members to arrange flowers at different areas including the marble and brass angels, pulpit, font, brass doors, narthex, hallways and parish hall. Sarah, with the assistance of Laura McLemore, arranges the altar flowers. During Advent the guild members maintain the advent wreaths.

Mike Jarrell, Myron Smoke, and Faye Mitchell are a large part of the team effort for our Christmas and Easter decorating. As usual it would not happen without them. You do not have to be a member of the flower guild to help decorate the Church on Christmas or Easter. There are many tasks that need a willing or strong pair of hands. Remember there is no experience or training needed so consider being with us on these holidays.

Looking forward to 2019 Sarah Spratling is planning to conduct a training session on flower arranging on Saturday, March 16. This session is for new members as well as a brush-up for experienced members. If you are interested in joining the guild please plan to attend this training session.

The guild is always looking for new members. New members are given some training and are paired with more experienced members. The guild as such does not do flowers for weddings or funerals.

Faithfully, Sarah Spratling Fay Worrilow Jean Smyth Mary Ward Wisnewski

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

The Archives Committee has had a fun and productive 2018. We meet every Thursday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30. Although we are responsible for preserving all records, information, and data pertaining to St. John's Church, we find that our primary mission is enjoying each other's company and having a wonderful time together. Mission accomplished!

We are very pleased to welcome Deborah Cheatum to our team. She comes to us with great organizational skills and plenty of new, fresh ideas. She has jumped right in and taken on many projects.

We are currently putting the finishing touches on a huge project – namely, the re-labeling, organizing, and consolidating of all our records – with the goal of converting our index into a searchable computer database. Deborah Cheatum has spearheaded the creation of the database and we're grateful to her for her vast expertise in this area. Our Archives will be a user-friendly lending library, with all items cross-referenced and easily accessible.

We continue with the weekly housekeeping tasks of the Church Archives, including collecting sermons, Eagles, bulletins, committee minutes, publications, biographical information, and photographs, to name a few. We scrapbook each year's major events, significant happenings, and people in the news. We help church staff locate materials they might need for classes or research. We put up rotating exhibits in the display cases in the Sacristy Hall. 2018's displays included exhibits on Edgar Gardner Murphy, the Lenten Convocation of Area Churches, and the ECW's Annual Bazaar.

We would especially like to thank Fay, Libby, Mike, and Myron for their invaluable assistance throughout the year. We could never complete an exhibit without Fay's copier skills and creative ideas. She's an honorary Archives member. Libby keeps us straight on all budgetary matters and kindly orders supplies for us. Mike and Myron assist us in many ways by fixing every problem, great or small. Thank you, everyone!

Respectfully submitted, Sallie Millsap Melissa Carter Deborah Vogelgesang Jeanette Lynn Deborah Cheatum Betsy Cannon

REPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN 2017-2019

Our long-standing mission of the Episcopal Church Women at St. John's is to nurture and strengthen the spiritual lives and fellow-ship of women of the church.

In that regard we began our year in December, 2017 with a Christmas luncheon held in the parish hall. With 55 in attendance we had a festive gathering (and peppermint ice cream and hot fudge sauce for dessert) and a moment to enjoy each other away from the hectic holiday preparations that beset many of us at that time of the year.

In February, 2018 we prepared a Lenten Candlelight Evening in which we shared a light dinner in the parish hall decorated with lots of glowing candles and beautiful guitar music by Jon Dailey and Mark Waldo. Several members spoke who had been asked to choose a favorite meditation or passage from our Lenten meditation booklet and express what it meant to them. It was a truly spiritual evening.

Jane Barganier hosted us at her lovely home in May for our annual picnic. Each member was asked to bring a salad or dessert which we enjoyed with chicken tenders and tea provided by ECW. Mike, Myron and Faye helped set up our tables for the picnic which we greatly appreciated.

In August, we held a luncheon meeting at noon in the parish hall following our church services. A slideshow with listings of all the guilds and their members was played and all women of the church were thanked for their selfless service to the many functions of the church.

Another activity of ECW is our annual bazaar which we began planning in May. Our goals of this year's bazaar were to have fun, increase fellowship and raise money for Holy Cross Episcopal school. The board chose to do things a little differently this year by managing the bazaar directly with liaisons appointed to each area of the bazaar and they, in turn, chose the chairs of each area. This process seemed to work well. We had a delicious bazaar lunch thanks to chairs, Kitty Coleman and Debbie Wakefield and board liaison, Virginia Bannister and the tables were beautifully decorated by J.R. Marshall and the Mary and Martha guild. Betsy Cannon, chair of the pantry and her group did a masterful job cooking for the bazaar pantry with many tasty items to sell. Katie Keller and

Jean Smyth, chairs of Arts and Crafts, has a wide range of crafts available along with wonderful works by Catherine McLemore and Cam Armstrong. Michelle Shaw, chair of the Treasure Attic and Florence Tyson, chair of Fine Arts both added much to the bazaar as did Katherine Harris, chair of the silent auction. We also had a special item for sale which was the idea of Nancy Bradford-a calendar of the Windows of St. John's. Emily Wise photographed the windows and yours truly produced it. While the weather left much to be desired on the day of the bazaar we appreciated all those who braved the cold and rain to enjoy our bazaar.

In 2018 we gave \$1000 as our annual Parish ECW Giving Contribution, \$100 for the state ECW scholarship, \$50 to the state ECW Roll of Remembrance and our UTO offering was \$1,546.05.

Our 2019 ECW president will be Virginia Banister. We are looking forward to a wonderful year with Virginia and her board leading the way for our Episcopal Church Women.

Faithfully,

Catherine Woodson, president ECW

Board members: Florence Tyson, Caroline Lawson, Ashley Hamlett, Virginia Banister, Sarah Spratling, Jane Barganier, Debbie Schremser, Emily Wise

REPORT OF THE OUTREACH GRANTS COMMITTEE

2018 was another remarkable year for St Johns and the impact we continue to have in our community. Thanks to all of you, our budget was increased from \$110,000 to \$122,500. This year, we received over sixty requests from a wide range of groups and organizations. At the top of our grant's application is a passage from Matthew 25:

"for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

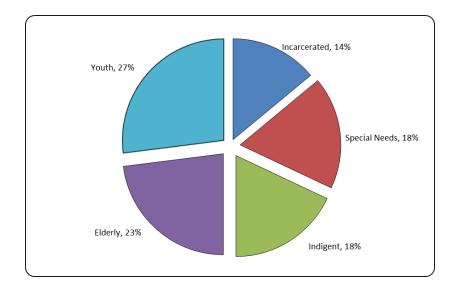
Through many ministries, I believe St Johns is striving to live into this. Speaking for the Outreach Committee, we continue to be grateful for your support and generosity. If you are interested in serving on the Committee, please let me know. It is an excellent way to learn more about what is going on in our community, discover volunteer opportunities, and also to work and enjoy fellowship with other parishioners.

Thank you again for your continued support for this vital ministry.

Peace,

Charlie Harris

Charlie Planis



Absolutions Counseling Center, Inc.	\$1,000	Family Sunshine Center	\$2,000	Medical Outreach Ministries	\$2,500
Aid to Inmate Mothers	\$3,000	Family Support Center	\$750	Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless / Homeless Outreach Ser- vices	\$1,500
Alabama Writers Forum	\$2,000	Floyd Food for Kids	\$1,000	Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA)	\$12,00 0
Baptist Health Care Foundation / Camp Cel-	\$1,000	Fountain of Renewal	\$1,000	Montgomery Christian School	\$1,000
Boys and Girls Club of The River Region	\$2,900	Friendship Mission Inc.	\$3,500	Montgomery County District Attorney's Office	\$800
Brantwood Children's Home	\$3,000	Girls on The Run	\$1,800	Montgomery Humane Society	\$2,000
Bridge Builders Ala- bama	\$1,500	Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000	New Beginnings Educational Center	\$2,000
Camp McDowell Special Session	\$5,000	Hands-on River Region	\$1,000	Rebuilding Together Central Alabama	\$3,000
Cancer Wellness Foundation of Central Ala-	\$3,000	Holy Comforter Episcopal Church Food Pantry	\$1,700	Renascence Re-Entry Community	\$5,000
Capital Area Adult Literacy Council	\$800	Holy Cross Episcopal School	\$10,000	Respite Ministry at FUMC Montgomery	\$3,000
Catholic Social Services	\$3,000	Hope Inspired Ministries	\$2,500	Resurrection Catholic Missions	\$1,200
Child Protect	\$2,700	Hospice of Montgomery	\$2,500	St. Margaret's Services	\$1,000
Children's Center of Montgomery	\$2,500	Kelcie's Place	\$1,500	Sawyerville Work Project / Day Camp	\$5,000
Children's Harbor	\$2,000	Kid One Transport	\$1,000	Special Session (A ministry of the Diocese of Alabama)	\$1,000
ClefWorks, Inc.	\$1,200	Let God Arise Ministries	\$1,200	Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth	\$1,500
Common Ground Mont- gomery	\$4,000	Lighthouse Counseling Center	\$2,500	That's My Child Youth Organization	\$1,000
Family Guidance Center -Family Service & Re- source Program	\$1,700	Medical Advocacy and Outreach	\$2,000	The Samaritan Counseling Center, Inc	\$1,500

Total Outreach funds awarded in 2018 - \$122,500

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

For the year ending December 31, 2018, the combined net return for the various trusts that we manage for the Church was -4.7%. We currently allocate 68% of our investments to equities/stocks and 32% to fixed income/bonds/cash. The 68% allocated to equity is further divided with approximately 75% invested is 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 2018 returns:

Indices Returns for 2018:

Dow Jones Industrial	- 3.48%
S&P 500	- 4.38%
MSCI EAFE	-13.79%
Barclays US Gov/Credit Intermediate	.88%

Below are the fund balances for the last four years.

	2018	2017	2016	2015
Endowment Fund	2,870,780.05	3,212,064.63	3,002,838.36	2,831,449.16
Consolidated Fund	2,224,341.71	2,404,543.27	2,170,393.22	2,129,092.20
Murray Trust	1,768,510.34	1,923,961.00	1,767,149.49	1,738,532.01
Cameron Trust	<u>395,445.41</u>	435,787.33	401,811.03	394,498.53
St. John's 2018 Trust Withdrawals	7,259,077.51	7,976,356.23	7,342,192.10	7,093,571.90
Withdrawals before end of year 2018:	Endowment		155,782.00	
	Gallagher		15,523.00	
	Harmon		1,991.00	
	Hill		13,727.00	
	Maint. Upkeep		6,340.00	
	Paul Jones		1,289.00	
	George Jones		21,663.00	
	Murray		93,644.00	
	Rector's Discretion	nary	12,301.00	
	Reeder		2,183.00	
	Meadows		13,452.00	
	TOTAL		337,895.00	

	MARKET VALUE 12/31/2018
Endowment Fund	\$2,870,780.05
Cameron Trust	395,445.41
Murray Trust	1,768,510.34
Gallagher Trust	296,488.70
Maintenance & Upkeep	121,110.24
Baldwin Trust	241,127.96
Barrie Harmon Trust	37,776.52
McLemore Scholarship	159,634.18
Thomas Tyson Fund	133,904.89
Hill Fund	262,259.91
Rector's Discretionary Trust	235,007.95
George H. Jones, Jr. Trust	413,774.51
Paul Bently Jones Trust	24,620.10
Reeder Charitable Trust	41,704.86
Louise Meadows	256,931.87
Total	<i>\$7,259,077.51</i>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The **RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY TRUST** (1995) consists of investment securities donated to the 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 UNITRUST** (2004) is a charitable remainder trust.

2018 REPORT OF THE TREASURER ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 27, 2019

The year 2018 was ultimately a successful one, although neither revenues nor expenses performed as expected, but various circumstances brought about overall good results. The year began with the Every Member Canvas, which yielded an increase of approximately 2.7% over the previous year, a nice increase but less than hoped for and originally budgeted. As a result, every item on the budget was reviewed, some desired spending increases were eliminated or reduced, and an adjusted balanced budget was approved by the Vestry.

The most disappointing development was that pledges collected in 2018 were almost \$23,000 less than pledges budgeted. Other parishioner giving was also lower than hoped for, including plate offerings and special offerings. Total parishioner giving was \$33,581 (2.2%) less than budget.

Expenses were extremely well controlled. Every major expense category was better than budget for the year. The only line item over budget by a significant amount was equipment repairs, which totaled almost \$35,000 for the year and are a continuing problem. There were major savings against budget realized due to changes in staff and clergy, including loss of a clergy member, replacement of a building employee at a lower cost, employment of less temporary building help than expected, the decision not to fill the planned part-time communications/media director, and the recruitment of fewer choir members than hoped, all of which taken together resulted in savings totaling more than \$55,000.

The net result was a budget surplus of \$36,445.

Cash balances in the General Fund were good at the beginning of the year and are even better at year-end due to the surplus for 2018. Cash in checking and money market accounts for the General Fund was \$255,116 at December 31, 2018. Additionally, \$500,000 is invested in Certificates of Deposit and held in the restricted accounts as a General Fund Operating Reserve, held as a protection against unexpected dire situations which interrupt the flow of income or cause unanticipated urgent cash needs. The reserve is adequate to provide approximately three months of operating expenses.

Pledging results for the coming year are discouraging in that they represent a decrease from last year of 4%. The 2019 budget was based upon a 5% increase, so the budget will be taken under advisement by the Vestry and adjusted for changes in staff and in income with a goal of producing a balanced budget based upon the pledges made.

There are two reports attached for your review which reflect the operation of the parish in 2018. The first report attached is a budget comparison labeled "St. John's Operations". It shows actual revenues and expenses of the General Fund for the year 2018 compared to budget and, as you will see, shows revenues of \$28,853 less than budgeted and expenses of \$65,298 less than budget, resulting in the surplus of revenues over expenses of \$36,445, approximately 2% of total budgeted income and expenses, which is a testament to good spending control.

The second report attached, the Cash Flow Statement, shows in a summary fashion the activity not only in the General Fund but also in all restricted funds. The first column shows our General Fund actual cash, receipts and expenditures for 2018.

All other columns show funds restricted for various purposes that do not fall within the General Fund 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, as well as beginning and ending cash balances for each segregated fund.

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 2018. During 2018, loan principal due was reduced by \$250,000, leaving a balance of \$100,000 of building debt outstanding. At December 31 there was cash in the Building Fund of \$27,317 which will be used with future gifts received, to pay principal and interest on the loan.

It is a great pleasure to report that in 2018 this parish made total gifts for community outreach of \$331,785, comprised of gifts from the General Fund budget (including awards by the outreach committee), the ECW, the Rector's and Associate Rector's Discretionary Funds, the Baldwin Trust, and the Honduras Mission. Of that amount, \$208,744 was paid from our General Fund budget, which is over 11% of budgeted funds. St. John's has long felt a responsibility and a desire to share our blessings by reaching outward to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our community and beyond.

The faith and trust represented by your gifts to St. John's is respected, appreciated and taken very seriously by the Clergy, Vestry and those administering funds. 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 a strong financial condition.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen C. Wills

Treasurer

St. John's Operations Statement of General Fund Revenue and Expenditures Year Ending 2018

REVENUES	Budget	Actual	Over/Under B	udget
Pledges Prepaid Prior Year	166839	166839		
Current Year Pledges	1265289	1242571		
Prior Yr Pledge Payments	10000	7965		
Special Offering	50000	44134		
Plate Offering	<u>19000</u>	<u>16038</u>		
Total Gifts by Parishioners	1511128	1477547	33581	Under
Other Receipts	26450	31178	-4728	Over
Income fromTrusts	337895	337895		
TOTAL REVENUE	1875473	1846620	28853	Under
x x				
1				
EXPENDITURES				
Administration	232815	230207	2608	Under
Clergy	456554	432752	23802	Under
Christian Formation	123942	118854	5088	Under
Evangelism and Hospitality	53998	42223	11775	Under
Worship	137216	123366	13850	Under
Maintenance	517944	511209	6735	Under
Outreach	353004	351564	1440	Under
			0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1875473	1810175	65298	Under
			0	
Excess (Deficit)			0	
Revenue vs. Expenditures	0	36445	(36445)	

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - 2018 CASH FLOW STATEMENT

RESTRICTED FUNDS

TOTALS	1217465	166839 1200466 7965 12976 16038 44134 90075 18091	465962 337895	2402546	230207 118854 42223 123366 511209 432752 142820 327328 194938 250000 2373697 3214
STAINED	24384			0	0 24384
BUILDING	6051	-112	282954	282842	11576 250000 5 261576
repaid 2019 PLEDGES	166839	90075		90075	166839 166839
DEPREC HONDURAS Prepaid 2019 RESERVE FUND PLEDGES	50942		44469	44469	41056 41056 54355
DEPREC H RESERVE	113050			0	113050
COLUMB	22280		4000	4000	1868 1868 24412
MISC COLUMB RESTRICT	67396		83263	83263	240 29288 1132 240 30420 882 120239
BALDWIN FUND F	2144		8978	8628	10240 10240 882 1
GEN FUND B RESERVE	200000		0	0	0 000009
FUND R	16056			0	16056
ECW 2	32867		42298	42298	38000 13523 51523
GENERAL 1 FUND	215456	166839 1200466 7965 13088 16038 44134 42105	337895	1846621	230207 118854 42223 123366 511209 432752 142820 208744 38000 208744 38000 3214 255116 23642
GENERAL OPERATING ACCOUNTS	BEGINNING CASH	Sources of Cash 2018 Prepaid 2018 Pledges 2018 Pledges Received Prior Yr Pledges Received Int, Music, Misc., Loss/Gain Sect Plate Offerings Special Offering Prepaid 2019 Breakfast, Bookstore, Misc. Local Use Pledges Prior Yr LU Pledges Rec	Restricted Accounts Income Distribution From Trusts	TOTAL SOURCES OF CASH	Uses of Cash 2018 Administration Christian Formation Evangelism and Hospitality Worship Building, Maintenance and Repc Clergy Diocesan Covenant Outreach ³ Other Restricted Expenditures Principal Payments to Loans TOTAL USES OF CASH Restricted moved to Gen ENDING CASH BALANCES

7

Unaudited & Preliminary January 16, 2019, not including all General Adjustments

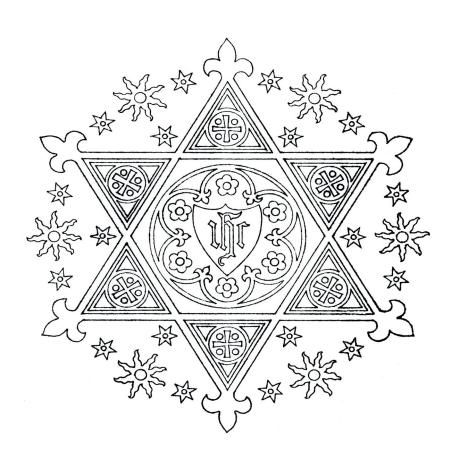
¹ Includes General Fund Checking and Money Market Account

² Includes Guilds and ECW Projects

³ Includes \$12,301 paid through the General Fund into the Rector and Asso. Rector I & II Discretionary Accounts which dispersed \$16,758 in 2018, largely for local Outreach. These accounts are audited annually but are strictly confidential.

⁴ Total Outreach expenditures, not including \$4,457 of the \$16,758 in Rector and Asso. Rectors Funds dispersed which did not flow through the budget.

⁵ Building Fund debt reduced by \$250,000; debt at Dec. 31, 2018 is \$100,000,000.



St. John's Episcopal Church

113 Madison Avenue Montgomery, AL 36104 334.262.1937

www.stjohnsmontgomery.org