

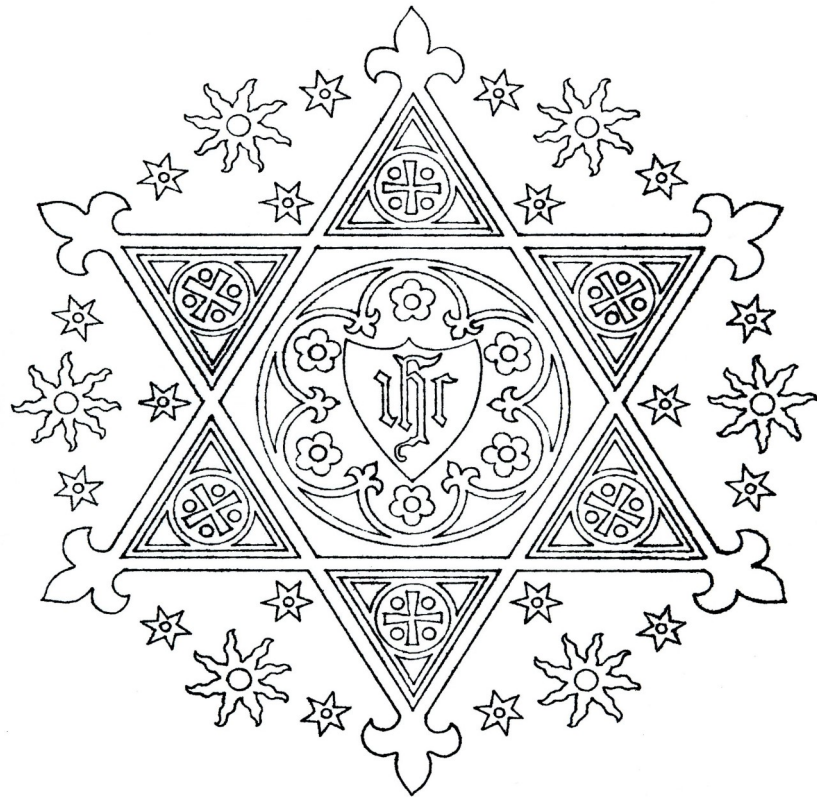
St. John's Episcopal Church

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT FOR 2019

Submitted at

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 26, 2020



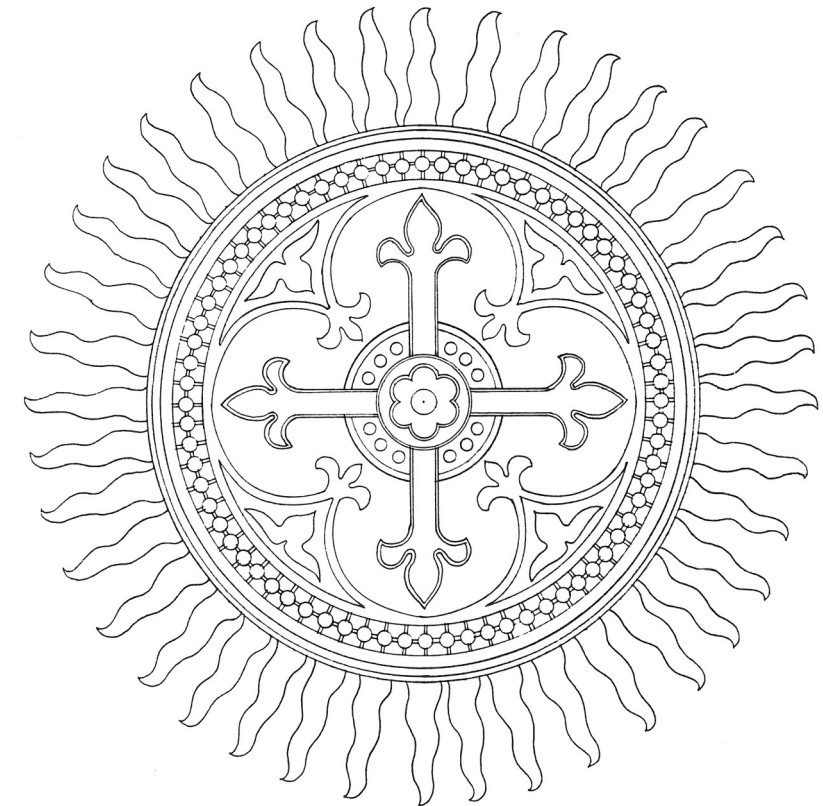
St. John's Episcopal Church

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

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	<i>MARKET VALUE 12/31/2019</i>
Endowment Fund	\$3,222,001.66
Cameron Trust	438,672.02
Murray Trust	1,941,998.16
Gallagher Trust	327,119.11
Maintenance & Upkeep	133,622.22
Baldwin Trust	266,039.05
Barrie Harmon Trust	39,631.28
McLemore Scholarship	172,629.00
Thomas Tyson Fund	147,738.68
Hill Fund	289,354.15
Rector's Discretionary Trust	259,286.77
George H. Jones, Jr. Trust	456,521.81
Paul Bently Jones Trust	27,163.63
Reeder Charitable Trust	46,013.39
Louise Meadows	283,475.66
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$8,051,265.99</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.

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

For the year ending December 31, 2019, the combined net return for the various trusts that we manage for the Church was 16.6%. We currently allocate 72% of our investments to equities/stocks and 28% to fixed income/bonds/cash. The 72% allocated to equity is further divided with approximately 80% invested in U.S. based companies and approximately 20% 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	25.34%	
S&P 500	31.49%	
MSCI EAFE	22.01%	
Barclays US Gov/Credit Intermediate	6.80%	

Below are the fund balances for the last four years.

	2019	2018	2017	2016
<i>Endowment Fund</i>	3,222,001.06	2,870,780.05	3,212,064.63	3,002,838.36
<i>Consolidated Fund</i>	2,448,594.75	2,224,341.71	2,404,543.27	2,170,393.22
<i>Murray Trust</i>	1,941,998.16	1,768,510.34	1,923,961.00	1,767,149.49
<i>Cameron Trust</i>	<u>438,672.02</u>	<u>395,445.41</u>	<u>435,787.33</u>	<u>401,811.03</u>
	8,051,265.99	7,259,077.51	7,976,356.23	7,342,192.10

St. John’s 2019 Trust Withdrawals

Withdrawals before end of year 2019:	<i>Endowment</i>	159,334.39
	<i>Gallagher</i>	15,908.86
	<i>Harmon</i>	2,028.58
	<i>Hill</i>	14,070.16
	<i>Maint. Upkeep</i>	6,497.57
	<i>Paul Jones</i>	1,321.04
	<i>George Jones</i>	22,202.09
	<i>Murray</i>	95,338.81
	<i>Rector's Discretionary</i>	12,608.13
	<i>Reeder</i>	2,237.44
	<i>Meadows</i>	<u>13,784.79</u>
	TOTAL	345,331.96

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RECTOR FOR THE YEAR 2019

As I make my 25th and final annual report to you, I am so very grateful for the extraordinary privilege of having been called to live among you. The opportunity to serve as the XV Rector of St. John’s is certainly the highest vocational honor I could ever imagine. As I have entertained various options over the years, no parish or diocesan position has excited me nearly as much as the opportunities and challenges of this particular place and time. I began here in 1995 with the vision of reminding you of the remarkable resources given to us by a loving God. As I prepare now to step away from leadership, I hold that same vision. This holy place exudes the grace of God like no other parish I have known. We are called to live into that holiness.

The year began with a bold decision by the Vestry to move the Jefferson Davis Pew and Plaque from our worship space to our Archives. Each year I do my best to look several years ahead and ask the Vestry to consider actions which will enable long-term growth. The past couple of years, St. John’s had begun to attract negative local and national attention because of these confederate symbols and their ties to white supremacy. Clearly these symbols carried meaning completely unintended by this parish and the decision, carefully considered, was the result of swift consensus among the Vestry. More than 90% of the parish has expressed understanding and support of that decision and embraced the wisdom of the Vestry. Some still are displeased with our decision, or the manner in which it was carried out and communicated. I grieve the pain some have suffered as I celebrate the success of a good and necessary decision for our parish. The Gospel of Jesus Christ and the mission of St. John’s are about a good deal more than any particular person or event in our history. We are now better able to step bravely into the future with the good name of this parish and the Gospel it proclaims more closely aligned.

In the spring, Fay Worrilow, our Parish Secretary for more than 25 years, retired. Joleen George has taken on the position and the role of Parish Communications Director in addition to her position of Director of Youth Ministries. We are so grateful for the long service Fay offered us all and the graceful mentoring she has provided for Joleen. The energy and excitement that Joleen brings to every endeavor is palpable. Our good fortune with talented support staff continues.

In July, I announced my intention to retire on September 1, 2020. More than a year before the announcement, the Bishop and I agreed on the timing of my retirement and developed a plan that would enable St. John’s to search for its next Rector during the final year of my tenure. The plan we are now carrying out is designed to eliminate some of the anxiety and stagnation associated with interims and greatly reduce the time it takes to issue a call.

With that announcement made in July, the Wardens acted quickly to appoint the committees that will lead us through the search process. As a result, the Parish Profile is now completed and being circulated to potential Rector candidates around the country. That instrument, the work of our Self-Study Committee chaired by Betsy Cannon, helps us take stock of our current atmosphere and forms the basis for interviews with priests attracted in our search process. The Discernment Committee, co-chaired by Charlie Harris and Margaret Ann Selman, will recruit and sort through applicants, and make a final recommendation to the Vestry early to mid-summer so that our next Rector can be in place by September 1.

In August final payments were made on our loan incurred for our building project begun in 2000 and completed in 2005. Construction centered around additional classroom and administrative space and the renovation of older fellowship and educational space. Also taken on at that time were roofing issues, installation of a newly designed pipe organ, parking, landscaping, and a labyrinth. Many years ago the parish had acquired the entire city block and this more recently completed project allowed for the development of the property. This investment, totaling more than \$15 million, builds on the wise actions of previous Vestries and provides us with facilities for the next generation. Several phases of fundraising were required to retire the debt but taking on construction in one phase saved hundreds of thousands of dollars.

St. John’s is known nation-wide for its talented staff and programs offered. Our excellent preaching/teaching, sacred music, Children’s Formation, and Youth Programs are among the very best in our diocese. All are made possible by resources dedicated to attracting professional and inspiring staff members.

In my remaining months as Rector, my job will center around making sure that things are well organized for the next Rector and that pastoral care matters requiring clergy attention are properly transferred to our Associates. Jamie Osborne, our full time Associate Rector, will take the primary lead in that transition and we are so very fortunate to have Deonna Neal as a part time Priest Associate. Both are qualified to serve major parishes and are well known and trusted.

My last Sunday here will likely be sometime late in July, coinciding with the announcement of our next Rector. Until then I will remain engaged as leader of our parish system. After that, my family and I will intentionally remove ourselves from the parish so that you may relate to your new priest without question as to my role. As you welcome that new leader and invest that person with the privileges of administering the sacraments and preaching and teaching the Word of God, you will remain close in my heart and prayers. While no longer a priest of the parish, a friend and supporter I will always be.

While I am sure I will be sad to disengage from this parish where I have been so fully invested, I find myself as excited about this next step in the life of St. John’s as I was when I accepted your invitation to move here with Mary Ward, Meg, and Rob in 1995. The last 25 years have been good ones for us all. There is every reason to expect even better things in the future. May God’s grace which has inspired so many transitions in our long history center us on the love of Christ, comfort us in our struggles, and equip us in our callings. I love you deeply and have been nurtured by your love for me and my family.

Yours faithfully,
Robert C. Wisniewski, Jr.
XV Rector

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1)

Jews, Christians, and Muslims each look to Abraham as the founding patriarch of their respective faiths, and this is striking to me because Abraham’s story begins by God calling him to journey to a place he doesn’t know. The three Abrahamic faiths take for granted that the spiritual life is a journey of following God through transitions. “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.”

I am reflecting on Abraham and the journey of faith with God through transitions because this past year has been one of transitions. Candice became the Rector of the Church of the Ascension in the fall of 2018, but I was still navigating the new reality of her transition in the beginning of 2019. Moving the Jefferson Davis pew and plaque from the nave to the church archives was a transition for the parish as a whole. Robert, Deonna, and I are a close-knit clergy team as a result of navigating the transition of going from four clergy on the team to three. Looking ahead to 2020, Robert’s retirement and the new rector search is another transition, and one we are already working through as a parish. Additionally, Bishop Sloan announced his own retirement last year and we will ordain the twelfth Bishop of Alabama this summer.

This sounds like a lot of transition and it is, but I don’t think this is unusual. It’s actually quite normal. We are experiencing transitions in our parish and in our diocese, but it’s equally true that each of us is experiencing transition in our own lives on a continual basis. Seasons change. Relationships change. We change. But the lovingkindness of God remains constant. Each of our lives is a series of transitions we navigate as we trust in the goodness of God to see us through the journey.

How do we make the journey of following God through this transitory life? We do it together. It’s by pulling together as fellow travelers on the way that we make the journey. When we lose those connections we become isolated. It’s easy to lose our bearings and get discouraged. It’s easy to hurt and not find relief. Continually finding ways to stay connected with our church family, this imperfect band of fellow travelers on the way, is vital in order to make the journey. Not just in times of pain and loss, but also in the joys and happiness and in the everydayness of our lives. The journey is made together.

Organization	Amount	Organization	Amount	Organization	Amount
Absolutions Counseling Center, Inc.	\$1,250	Food for Kids Backpack Program	\$2,000	Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless/Homeless Outreach Services	\$1,500
Aid to Inmate Mothers	\$3,000	Fountain of Renewal	\$1,000	Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA)	\$12,000
Alabama Writers Forum	\$2,000	Friendship Mission Inc.	\$4,000	Montgomery Christian School	\$1,000
AMBUCS	\$1,200	Girls on The Run	\$2,000	Montgomery County District Attorney's Office	\$1,000
Baptist Health Care Foundation / Camp Celebration	\$1,250	Habitat for Humanity	\$2,175	Montgomery Humane Society	\$3,000
Boys and Girls Club of The River Region	\$2,700	Hands-on River Region	\$2,000	Musician for Todos Santos	\$1,400
Brantwood Children's Home	\$3,000	Holy Comforter Episcopal Church Food Pantry	\$2,000	Neighbors in Christ	\$1,000
Camp McDowell Special Session	\$4,000	Hope Inspired Ministries	\$2,500	New Beginnings Educational Center	\$2,000
Cancer Wellness Foundation of Central Alabama	\$3,000	Hospice of Montgomery	\$2,500	Rebuilding Together Central Alabama	\$3,000
Capital Area Adult Literacy Council	\$600	Kelcie's Place	\$1,500	Renascence Re-Entry Community	\$5,000
Catholic Social Services	\$1,500	Kid One Transport	\$1,500	Respite Ministry at FUMC Montgomery	\$3,000
Child Protect	\$2,650	King's Canvas Gallery and Studio	\$1,000	Resurrection Catholic Missions	\$1,200
Children's Center of Montgomery	\$2,500	LEAD Academy Public Charter School	\$2,000	Salvation Army	\$2,500
Children's Harbor	\$1,500	Let God Arise Ministries	\$1,200	Samaritan Counseling Center	\$1,200
Common Ground Montgomery	\$4,000	Lunches for Learning, Inc	\$1,000	Sawyer ville Work Project / Day Camp	\$5,000
Family Guidance Center -Family Service & Resource Program	\$2,175	McDowell Farm School	\$1,000	Specialized Alternatives for Families & Youth (SAFY)	\$1,500
Family Sunshine Center	\$2,000	Medical Advocacy and Outreach	\$2,000	That's My Child Youth Organization	\$2,000
Family Support Center	\$1,000	Medical Outreach Ministries	\$2,500	Women of Refined Gold, Inc.	\$1,000
Total Outreach funds awarded in 2019 - \$122,500				YMCA of Greater Montgomery	\$1,000

REPORT OF THE OUTREACH GRANTS COMMITTEE

As I reflect back on approximately thirty years of being involved with the St. Johns Outreach Committee, much has changed but, as the saying goes, much has stayed the same. While committee members have rotated, and our budget increased from \$10,000 to \$122,500, our mission, from Mathew 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” remains our focus for all decisions.

The impact we continue to have in our community cannot be understated. In a Montgomery Humane Society Facebook post of 12/5/19, the following was included:

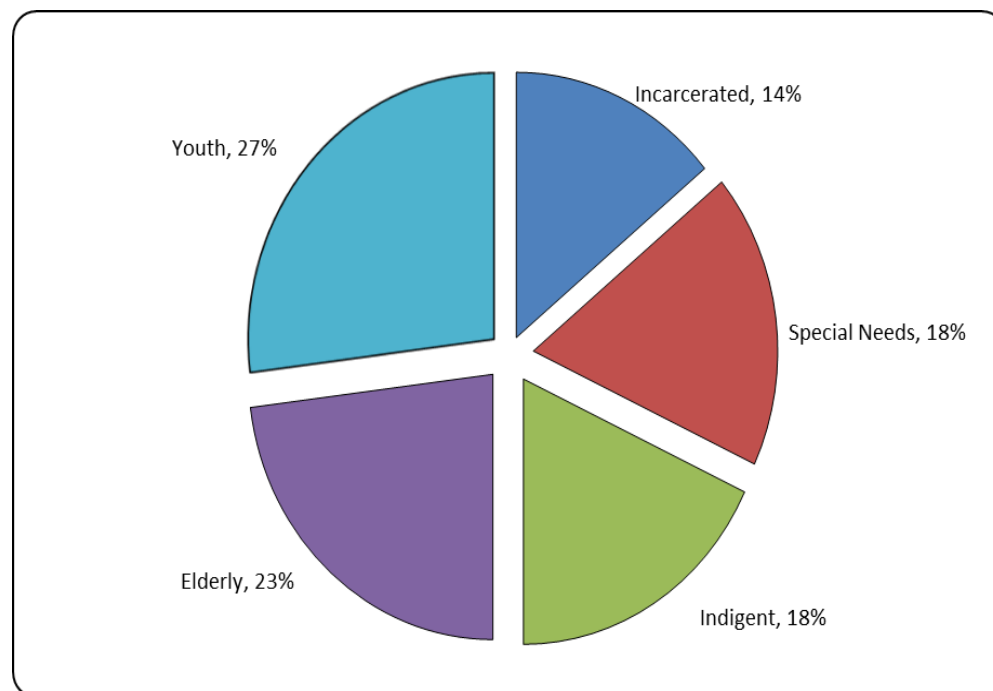
“Another important service offered by the program is the medical treatment of owned animals. Last year, 80 income qualifying families and their 105 pets received over \$25,000 in medical assistance thanks to generous funding from The Banfield Foundation, PetSmart Charities and St. John’s Episcopal Church. Broken bones were mended, tumors removed, and hookworms, urinary tract infections, upper respiratory infections, congestive heart failure, ear infections, and fleas were treated. Amputations were performed along with treatment of pets who had been hit by cars and involved in dog fights. A big thank you to St John’s Episcopal for not only renewing, but increasing their support of the program this year.”

To summarize this year, we had a total of 62 applicants and were able to fund 55. We had 7 new applicants and provided funding for 4. We are always looking for new deserving organizations as well as volunteers for the committee. We’ll get started again in early summer.

A list of all recipients is attached. As stated in past reports, none of this would be possible without your generous support of St. John’s thru your annual pledge.

Speaking for the committee, we remain grateful for your gifts, the unwavering support and strong leadership from Robert, and the unique gifts and talents of all our associate rectors. It is an honor and privilege to represent St. Johns.

***Thank you!
Peace,
Charlie Harris***



I know this isn’t a typical annual report. I haven’t given you a summary of activities from this past year, or of the many opportunities I had to partner with so many of you in your various ministries here at St John’s and beyond. But my report is this: we made it through the transitions of 2019 by the goodness of God and each other, and those two things will keep us on the journey in 2020.

We have so much to be thankful for here at St John’s. We have a great clergy team, staff, facilities, and faithful parishioners who love St John’s deeply. We have so many life-giving ministries that touch lives inside St John’s and beyond. And above all, we have the love of God and each other. This band of imperfect traveling companions is how we will follow God into the unknown places to which we are called. We have navigated the changes of the past and will navigate the changes of the future by working to stay connected with our church family, and by remembering the lovingkindness of God.

I give God thanks for this past year, and I am excited to see where God will lead us in this upcoming year. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

Jamie Osborne

REPORT OF THE PRIEST ASSOCIATE

I’ve enjoyed my first full year as a stipendiary priest associate. As a result of that new role, I transferred my canonical residency from the Diocese of Washington DC to the Diocese of Alabama in January 2019. I am grateful to be working with Robert and Jamie and the entire staff at St. John’s.

There are always a lot of great activities at St. John’s and some highlights this year for me were: the Enneagram workshop in January; speaking to the men’s groups at both Ascension and St. John’s throughout the year; and giving a talk about my spiritual journey to the Mary and Martha Guild. I also thought the Fall Wednesday evening series, “Tales from the South,” was a great success and it was fun to lead it together with Robert and Jamie. Family Promise, the Carver Backpack Program, Rise Against Hunger, weekday Eucharists and preparing for sermons are other activities that I also find very spiritually rewarding.

I continue to enjoy teaching Adult Sunday School classes. In the Spring, I taught a course called “How the Bible was put Together.” In the Fall, I taught a course on Rowan William’s book Being Disciples: The Essentials of the Christian Life. In that class, I asked attendees to commit to some reflective spiritual journaling and to enlist an accountability partner to encourage them in that practice as well. I was grateful that some new friendships formed as a result.

I was also glad to see that, by and large, St. John’s weathered the turbulence following the removal of the Jefferson Davis pew. It was a difficult experience for everyone, but I believe that the vestry made a good decision for the long-term future of the parish, and it will also increase the number of people who will make themselves available for the upcoming rector search.

My work with the Air Force in 2019 was also very productive. I enjoy leading a department of ten civilian and AF faculty. Lecturing regularly on the topic of Moral Injury continues to be gratifying. I had a book review published in the Air and Space Power Journal and was an invited speaker to an Air Force Chaplains Conference where I offered a 4-hour workshop titled, “On Giving Moral Advice to Senior Leaders.” As a member of the Air Force Profession of Arms Center of Excellence (PACE) ethics working group, I was asked to write a foundational article to anchor some new AF professional ethics curriculum. Finally, largely due to the vast amount of outreach activities that St. John’s has on offer and other volunteer activities that I participate in, I was selected as the 2019 Volunteer of the Year for Air Command and Staff College.

I continue to enjoy my life as a bi-vocational priest. It feels a bit schizophrenic at times, but the synergy that is created between working for St. John’s and for the Air Force helps me think creatively about my vocation in both spheres. I look forward to serving at St. John’s in 2020 and am confident that St. John’s will continue to flourish under the leadership of both our new bishop and our next rector, whoever they will be.

Yours Faithfully,
Deonna

REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN

It has been an honor 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 Jim Marshall, III, Jimmy McLemore and Radney Ramsey for their help and dedication to our Parish.

The Church is in sound financial condition. We have had several years of a successful Every Member Canvass and I am confident this year will be successful too. 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.

We have assembled two excellent committees to steer the search for our new rector. Betsy Cannon and the parish profile committee have been hard at work producing the parish profile. Charlie Harris, Margaret Ann Selman and the discernment committee will begin their work now in earnest. Please assist them if you are asked or have the opportunity to assist. I look forward to a bright future for our Parish.

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,
Bill Eskridge
Senior Warden

REPORT OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN

A few days ago, I was among your St. John's delegation attending the Walk About in Birmingham to meet the four candidates for Diocesan Bishop. It is not an accident that one-half of them are progenies of St. John's. Glenda Curry and I served on the vestry when she accepted a call to ministry. Evan Garner was a pup from seminary when he popped into our Bible class, checking us out while Robert checked him out. St. John's has made an indelible mark on their ministries. Hearing them at St. Luke's last weekend, we felt like proud mothers and fathers. As parents might say, "We did good, didn't we?"

And our children have something to say. Asked about a 17% decline in Sunday school attendance since 2008, Glenda said, "We don't adjust to a shrinking church." She urged the diocese to heal internal division, to unite and share our story and evangelize to the larger community. Likewise, Evan said, "we all know those people who are at church all the time, every time the doors are open, people on fire for Jesus." He urged us to model their discipleship, ministering both within the church and in the community. "Trust that discipleship leads to growth and attendance." Their counsel speaks to every parish.

Like the diocese, our annual budget is affected by smaller attendance. The canvass is 90% completed and while nearing \$1.3 million, is currently less than the projected increased budget. The median and the average of canvasses for the past several years have been just over \$1.3 million. Many have increased their pledge this year, helping to ensure the continuance of programs and opportunities to participate in robust discipleship.

Also like the diocese, we are in a search for our next head priest. Back in 1995 during Robert's visit with the search committee, he told us that the search process is a dance: Are both parties wanting to go in the same direction? If discipleship is the path to growth, St. John's has signaled that's where we go.

Many thanks to our incredible staff. Especially, thank you Bill Eskridge for your leadership these past two years. Evan Garner believes that the Episcopal Church is a charism – a gift – for the world. He pledges to live into that every day. May we, too, so live into each and every day.

Sincerely,
Jimmy McLemore
Junior Warden

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN FORMATION DIRECTOR FOR 2019

I am blessed to continue as Director of Children's Christian Formation. St. John's has a very special group of children and families, and I enjoy seeing them all grow to love Christ. They bring happiness to my Sunday mornings, and I look forward to every time we are together! In addition, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who help make this program successful. Their commitment and consistency has such an influence on our

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

2019 has been a fun and busy year for the St. John's Archives Committee. We meet every Thursday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30. We are tasked with maintaining and preserving all records and data pertaining to our church and its position within the Diocese of Alabama.

Our weekly, on-going tasks include collecting and filing Eagles, Bulletins, sermons, publications, biographical information, photographs, and guild, committee, and Vestry reports. We store all manner of historical artifacts, from retired Altar hangings to the architectural blueprints from construction projects. We keep files of memorial gifts made to the church, including information on each individual needlepoint kneeler. We scrap-book each year's significant events.

We continue to convert our paper files to a digital database. This project has taken on a more professional aspect, thanks to the many talents of one team member who excels in such work. Our soon-to-be finished index will be a comprehensive guide to everything in the room. This project has also entailed a re-labeling of all our collections, which should make the room easier to navigate and more user-friendly.

Our committee enjoys putting up rotating exhibits in the Sacristy Hall. This past year, we put up a permanent exhibit in the smaller of the two exhibit cases. It features many of the church's historic artifacts. We did two exhibits in 2019 in the larger of the two cases. These were an exhibit honoring Holy Cross School in its 20th anniversary year, and most recently, an exhibit on our ECW Bazaar. Stay tuned for a new exhibit featuring lovely artifacts St. John's now possesses from Holy Cross School, such as Eucharistic vessels, scrapbooks students have made, and important documents from the school's history.

The Archives Committee was pleased to host a visiting archivist from a large, downtown Atlanta church this past year. This man is establishing an Archives/Heritage Room at his church and had heard that our Archives was a good place to visit for tips on how to get started. We look forward to his return with his entire committee for a tour.

As always, we want to take this opportunity to thank all those who provide us with so much assistance and guidance: Mike, Myron, Judson, Joleen, Libby, and Fay. We could never do it without them!

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

REPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

ECW Picnic at Seibels Marshall's home (May)

Ladies' Night Gathering at Rebecca Miller's home (September)

Monthly meetings

Successful Bazaar with \$15,000 in proceeds to Aid to Inmate Mothers and \$15,000 in proceeds to Adullam House (November)

Ongoing project to produce ECW brochure/pamphlet that outlines all activities and programs that fall under ECW – to be used as a resource for prospective volunteers

Debbie Schremser to assume role as ECW President in 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Banister

REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD

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. We have one new member, I'm pleased to report; so there are now 19 of us who serve on the guild.

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.

I think it is important to mention that service with the Altar Guild is not restricted to women. It is also not restricted to old people — though some of us are at least what you'd call “mature.” It is an unpaid position, but we do offer maternity leave, family leave, vacation and other benefits. 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 or call 334-391-2640.

*Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Moore Altar Guild Chair*

REPORT OF THE FLOWER GUILD

For the past 30 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 Judson George 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.

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 Wisneski*

children. It is with much pleasure and gratefulness that I give this report.

On Sunday mornings, there are many activities for the children. The Toddlers continue to use the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd materials (Stories in a Box). Our Pre-Kindergarten class (3-4 year olds) use 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. We added Duplo Legos to the classroom this year, so they may reconstruct the lesson (during free play). Moreover, our Kindergarten through 2nd grade class are continuing to use *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. The 3rd-5th grade class is using the updated Lego curriculum titled “Building Faith Brick by Brick II.” This is an imaginative way to explore the Parables with God's people. Each week they study a different parable. Then, they are motivated to reconstruct the lesson using Lego bricks, figures and building plates. This is a very exciting and hands-on curriculum! Furthermore, the 6th grade actively participates in Confirmation class. This year they continue with the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama curriculum in preparing to join the church as adult members. Our Children's Chapel is continuing to grow! We have a large wooden sailboat where we sit together for worship and fun! Each week we participate in a Children's Liturgy, setup our prayer table for a place of worship and incorporate picture books/read aloud(s) into our chapel. I often use www.storypath.com and www.sermons4kids.com as resources for Bible connections. I am delighted to be a part of St. John's, and I look forward to even more exciting activities in 2020!

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

Children's Lenten Series- “Symbols of Lent”- Each week we focused on a different symbol of Lent. We created foods, crafts and interacted in fun games! We even released real butterflies on Easter morning!

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 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!

Presentation of Mite Boxes on Easter with proceeds going to the United Thank Offering (UTO)

Vacation Bible School- “Farm Fresh Faith”- This year St. John's hosted VBS. The curriculum was modified, and it focused around the life of Joseph. We related Joseph's life to that of a farmer. He had to be patient and put his trust in God. Each day, the children would take part in fun farm activities/crafts! In addition, our 5th-6th graders participated in various farm related outreach projects each day of VBS!

Christmas in July- We collected Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in July!

Children's Water & Art Camp- Children in grades K-5th met for 3 days in July to create crafts for the Bazaar. They also spent the second half of the day outside playing exciting water games (slip-n-slide, water inflatables and water balloons)! This was a huge success!

Kickoff Sunday- We had fun and fellowship kicking off the new Sunday school year with giant inflatable water slides, toddler play area and a 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 for the Humane Society.

Halloween Trunk-or-Treat- This was our fourth year for Trunk-or-Treat, and it was a hit! Our parking lot was full, and we even had a contest for the “best decorated trunk!” In addition, Abrakadoodle helped with face painting!

Children’s Fall Series- “Mysteries of the Bible”- Each week we focused on a different Bible mystery (the Trinity, Good Samaritan and Road to Emmaus). There was even a modified version in our Nursery for Toddlers through Pre-K.

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 through Christmas Clearinghouse.

Thank you to all who participated!

Annual Christmas Pageant

Common Grounds Christmas Store- intergenerational outreach- This was new for us this year! Families were invited to help parents shop for gifts, load and wrap items!

“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

Children & Youth Sunday

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 six qualified nursery workers who provide childcare on Sunday mornings and other events. We hold a meeting once a month to stay updated on our childcare needs. Our nursery staff is remarkable, and they make Sunday mornings so special for our young children and families!

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

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

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

2019 was the best year yet 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.

I am very proud of all the accomplishments we have achieved this past year. 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 affects 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 trampoline parks; and eating together on most Sunday nights.

St. John’s has a great group of youth. They are talented, unique, energetic, 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. This year has been the beginning of a new job for me, I appreciate everyone's love and patience with me as I learn my new role as communications director. I’d like to give a HUGE thank you to Ryan Branton for all of his work for the youth group.

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 staff singers from outside the congregation hired for their skill, training, and experience. The choir consists of a number ranging from 10 to 16. 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, supportive of the musical arts, and to be highly commended.

ORGAN
Repairs and maintenance to the organ and console expected in 2019 were deferred for the reason of finding a technician with the skill and experience necessary to handle the repairs. The repair issues are not major and are a result of the 2012 lightning strike. Despite the minor problems, the organ itself is in good condition and functioning as it should.

CHILDEN’S MUSIC
We have a small group of children between grades 1 and 6 who are participating in the children’s choir. The goal for this group is to set habits of worship participation and begin teaching musical participation and leadership.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Gregory