St. John’s Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
334.262.1937
www.stjohnsmontgomery.org

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Montgomery, Alabama
(334) 262-1937

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT FOR 2016
Submitted at
THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
January 22, 2017
# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016

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**Annual Report of the Rector for the Year 2016**

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-3)

In the oldest book of the New Testament, St. Paul gives thanks for the community of faith at Thessalonica and goes on to encourage them in their ongoing Christian pilgrimage. It was a community that had quickly embraced the message of the risen Christ and matured into a stable place of faith. There were struggles there, certainly, as there were with all the early Christian communities, yet the Thessalonians were a strong lot who continued to years for a deeper relationship with their Lord. Paul writes to them to thank them for the exercise of their faith which has sustained and encouraged him in his own walk. Not needing to correct their flaws, he writes to fan the flames of their faithful action and to exhort them to “do so more and more.” Those beloved to them that have died rest with God, Paul reminds them, and those who remain alive should live in hope.

When a community is strong and healthy, it becomes somewhat of a challenge to address them. There aren’t a lot of mistakes that need to be made. The message Paul shares with the Thessalonians is one appropriate for us as well: “Do what you are already doing, and do so more and more.”

This past fall I realized that, in my continual desire for improvement, I had failed to pause and give proper thanks for the blessing that this parish is in my life. Daily I see generosity, diligence, responsible behavior, prudence, and foresight practiced here. Regularly I am stirred in my faith and moved deeply by actions and attitudes I see exhibited among our parishioners and staff. My job is to envision where we could be in the future but acknowledging where this parish already is and what it has accomplished is humbling and inspiring. I’ll keep asking for more. But, as we take stock of things this year-end, I ask that you look around and recognize that things are very, very good here. Many have worked hard for many years. Those who have gone before us have handed us a healthy system and we continue to walk in their footsteps.

This fall, as we conducted our stewardship campaign, I attempted to name some areas of our common life together for which I am particularly grateful. Our worship, our financial health, our outreach, and our staff are things I would like to highlight in this report in the hopes that you will be moved to even more gratitude yourselves. While I like it that the very best is expected at St. John’s, the atmosphere here lends itself to taking the very best for granted. The good things here are blessings, pure and simple. Do not lose sight of that.

The Sunday morning worship experience at St. John’s is simply the best that can be found. The beautiful and historic space lends itself to traditional worship in a way that deeply engages people. There is no better music to be found in this region and, if you have done much traveling, you know that what we count on here Sunday-in and Sunday-out is equivalent to that of churches in the largest of cities. Joel Gregory provides us with world-class talent and his humble nature is quite remarkable. Our choir continues to grow and our congregational singing is vastly improved. The liturgy draws people into a deeper relationship with the Almighty. The sermons are thoughtful, well prepared, and are delivered in ways people can understand.

Due to the continued generosity of parishioners, our financial health is solid and stable. A growing number of families have embraced the giving of 10% of their resources to their church and, for that reason, we are well positioned for the future. Every year we ask for increased giving because we know that it leads to increased spiritual growth and because we want to accomplish more. If you have not adopted the tithe as your standard for giving, I urge you to join the ranks. It makes a huge difference in your lives and in the life of the church. Financial security is not guaranteed and so we are called to continued faithfulness.

St. John’s spends almost 20% of our income on ministries outside of the parish. That translates into $345,000 which is a remarkable figure. Of that $110,000 of that $345,000 is distributed in our community to ministries that greatly affect the lives of the poor and needy. But, the remaining $235,000 is used for our community of faith. There are many sharing the life of the church and, for that reason, we have given access to these resources to many others. This fall, we distributed $235,000 in support of those who remain alive should live in hope.

Your staff is the best in the diocese and we continue to attract talented people when we have openings. The expectation of all is that they show up here every day with lots of energy, creative ideas, a spirit of teamwork, and a playful sense of humor. It’s a fast moving, productive group that laughs a lot with each other and inspires each other. As I meet with colleagues who are rectors of similar historic, downtown churches, I count my blessings to be in this place with this group.

As we begin the year, there are some transitions on staff. Caitlin Lawlor left us as Director of Youth Ministries in September to pursue full-time work as an artist. Steve Frazer has generously served as Interim Director of Youth Ministries and we are most grateful for his experience and leadership. On February 1, Joleen George will join us as our new fulltime Director of Youth Ministries. 22 years old and a 2015 graduate of Huntingdon College, having grown up attending functions at Camp McDowell, Joleen is a longtime Episcopalian, full of energy and ideas, and we are excited about her coming to us. She is just the type of person who will succeed in this setting. Daniel Strandlund will be leaving us next summer as his spouse, Lucy, now pursues her call to ordination and begins seminary next fall. Daniel will be sorely missed, yet already we are excited about who will be our next Associate Rector. Stay tuned for that announcement in the coming weeks.

My own spiritual pilgrimage continues in this holy and inspiring place. Each week I find myself excited to share my thoughts and
myself with you as we all seek to worship God and become better disciples of Jesus Christ. Sometimes in ways that surprise me, I keep learning more and more about the life-changing love of our Savior. More and more I am discovering who I am as a child of God in your midst. I do give thanks to the Almighty God for your faith and for what we experience together.

May we continue to grow together. May we be faithful to the heritage of our faith and forebears. May we love each other and others radically and selflessly. May we risk more and more in the name of Jesus Christ.

Yours faithfully,

Robert C. Wisnewski, Jr.

XV Rector

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE RECTORS

Report of the Associate Rector, the Rev. Candice B. Frazer

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

As A Pastor

This past year has given me an opportunity to explore my vocation as a pastor both within St. John’s and the greater Montgomery community. St. John’s continues to offer opportunities for pastoral care by visiting shut-ins, the sick, and the hospitalized. Elizabeth Via Brown oversees our Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV’s), managing and scheduling the LEV’s as well as those they visit, in consultation with the clergy.

My opportunities for pastoral care extend beyond those who are sick or shut-in to those who visit St. John’s and wish to know more about our church. This past year the welcoming committee and I organized a Newcomer’s event at a Biscuit’s game. Every newcomer who turns in a visitor’s card is sent a newcomer packet that includes information about St. John’s as well as a letter from one of the clergy and a follow-up contact. The newcomer’s committee has also identified several parishioners to serve as “ambassadors” who make an intentional effort to greet and assist any visitors at St. John’s. This ministry is not limited to the ambassadors and I hope that we are always making every effort to reach out to those who come to worship with us. If you are interested in being involved with this ministry, please contact me.

This past fall I was offered the opportunity to participate in the current Leadership Montgomery class. My experience thus far has been positive and expanded my knowledge of all that Montgomery has to offer—both in the private and public sector. I have gained many friends through the class and enjoyed a variety of experiences. My experience with Public Safety through Leadership Montgomery opened the door for me to volunteer with Operation Good Shepherd through the Montgomery Police Department.

As A Priest

Since the loss of our youth minister, I have gotten to work more closely with the acolytes and acolyte captains in scheduling and participation in the service. Captains are selected and trained in order that they can assume the responsibilities of training and supervising their teams each week. Our captains and acolytes are an integral part of every Sunday service and we appreciate their dedication and willingness to assist in St. John’s worship.

Last January, I enjoyed getting to know some of our younger members better through a course designed to teach children a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Eucharist. Though the Eucharist remains shrouded in the mystery of Christ, our journey together helped us grow in love with Christ as well as one another and opened us up into a deeper joy of the worship. We concluded our time together with an Instructed Eucharist open to all of the church which was well attended and successful.

As A Teacher

Women’s Bible Study continues to grow in knowledge and fellowship. This year we are studying the Synoptic Gospels. There are two sections—one in the morning and one at night—that meet each Monday through the fall and spring. Teaching the Women’s Bible Study offers me an opportunity to engage in deep scriptural study as well. It is a joy to study scripture on such a deep level and then be able to discuss it with so many thoughtful women. In the summer, I offer a book study called SpiritLit. This past summer we read Learning to Walk In the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor, The Screwtape Letters by C. S. Lewis, and Harry Potter and
2016 REPORT OF THE TREASURER
ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 22, 2017

The year 2016 began with a disappointing pledge campaign result, a slight decline from the previous year, much less than was needed. Adjustments to the budget were made, but were inadequate to offset necessary expenses. Rather than reduce valued staff or cut back programs, a decision was made to have a budget deficit for the year. The decision was not lightly made, but was felt reasonable in view of very healthy cash balances.

By a stroke of good fortune brought about by a member of the parish trained in the utilities business, the church received a one-time refund from Alabama Power Company of $47,666, enough to essentially erase the expected deficit.

Year end results were even better. Parishioner giving was almost 1% better than budgeted. Although miscellaneous receipts other than the refund were somewhat under budget, total revenues exceeded budgeted revenues by $56,977. It should be noted, however, that without the windfall refund, revenues would have exceeded budget by only $9,164, 0.5% of budgeted revenues.

There was good news in expenses, as well. Savings of over $15,000 realized in the Christian Formation budget, most of which resulted from the fact that our full-time Youth Director was replaced with a part-time one for a portion of the year; $10,000 unspent by the Outreach Grants committee.

Other expense variations generally balanced out. Total expenses were more than $25,000 less than budget. Combined with the excess revenue, the result was a surplus for the year of $32,633.

Pledge results for the 2017 year are encouraging in that an increase of 3.4% has been pledged over the previous year, but the increase was far less than the needed 10% and not sufficient to cover the budgeted expenses. A proposal will be presented to the Vestry to further reduce budgeted expenses to produce a balanced budget.

The surplus from 2016 is added to an already strong cash balance, bringing our cash balance at year end 2016 to an extremely strong $749,919.

There are two reports attached for your review which reflect the operation of the parish in 2016. The first report attached shows actual revenues and expenses of the General Fund for the year 2016 compared to budget and, as you will see, shows revenues of $56,977 more than budgeted and expenses of $25,361 less than budget, resulting in an excess of revenue over expenses of $32,633.

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 cash, receipts and expenditures.

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. Cash on hand in the General Fund is at a very satisfactory level. It is expected that a portion of the cash reserve will be required to pay for extraordinary expenses.

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 fund from the last column and reflects transactions only during the year 2016. During 2016, loan principal due was reduced by $45,000, leaving a balance of $530,000 of building debt outstanding. Cash on hand at December 31, 2016 in the Building Fund is $68,175, which will be used for quarterly interest payments and further debt reduction.

The stewardship of this Church to the community has been an important part of its mission. In 2016 this parish made total gifts for community outreach of $329,606, including gifts from the General Fund budget, the ECW, the Rector’s and Associate Rector’s Discretionary Funds, the Baldwin Trust, and the Honduras Mission. Of that amount, $202,532 was paid from our General Fund budget comprising over 11% of budgeted funds. St. John’s has long felt a responsibility and a desire to share our blessings reaching outward to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the less fortunate in our community and beyond.

St. John’s has a commitment to sound financial management. This is made possible by your generous gifts and careful expense control by the staff, and, this year, an unusual one-time receipt. St. John’s continues to be in strong financial condition.

Respectfully submitted,

the Cursed Child. I also get to teach Sunday School at various times throughout the year. This past year I’ve taught classes on the apostles as well as growing one’s prayer life.

Sharing in the Councils of the Church
Currently, I am a member of the Standing Committee for the Diocese of Alabama. The Standing Committee meets throughout the year in Birmingham. We serve to give council to the Bishop, assure the diocese follows the Canons and Constitution of The Episcopal Church (TEC), to consent the election of bishops throughout TEC, and approve those in our diocese seeking ordination.

I continue to find blessing and growth in my ministry here at St. John’s. Thank you for walking this journey with me, growing in Christ together, and partnering with God to do his work of redemption in this world.

Light and Life,
The Rev. Candice R. Frazier

Report of Associate Rector, the Rev. Daniel P. Strandlund
January 2017

In addition to regular preaching, leading and planning services, pastoral care, teaching, and generally sharing in the life of the parish, my primary areas of responsibility are Young Adults, Outreach, Men’s Group, and some specific Christian Formation programs. I have ordered my report accordingly. But first, a more personal update.

This has been an eventful year for Lucy and me. After tearing my ACL and meniscus in Honduras, and then rupturing a disk in my back several weeks later. I spent much of the fall having or recovering from surgery. I am pleased to say I am finished with PT and am (mostly) back to normal. Thanks for your prayers and support!

Our other big news is that, after much prayer and conversation and discernment with Robert, Lucy has been approved as a postulant for holy orders. This means she and I will be heading back to seminary in the fall where Lucy will pursue her M.Div. We’ll be praying for her the entire fall and summer. We are currently discerning where to go to school and will keep everyone posted as we make more. Thank you all so, so much for being such a loving parish, and for being the first community in which I’ve tried to figure out how best to go about this priest business. I’ve learned much from you, and I hope it has in some small way been a two-way street. Thank you again. Now, to business.

Young Adults

Our Young Adults Group is for anyone in the St. John’s community who is in their 20s and 30s, or whose spouse is in their 20s and 30s. Our youngest regular is 20, and our oldest—who shall remain nameless—has just turned 40 (which is why I’ve amended our membership criteria to “anyone in their 20s and 30s, or whose spouse is in their 20s and 30s”). Our primary gathering is our Supper Club, which meets at a different Young Adult household each month. This year our food-party themes have varied from Italian to Memorial Day Cookout to Tacky Texas Christmas. In the spring, we averaged 18 participants at each Supper Club. This fall, attendance has been a bit lower, partly due to folks moving, and partly because so many of our young adult families have having babies! (Five born July through December of this year.)

Our Young Adults group provides a community of fun, friendship and support for our young adult members. Many in our age demographic move frequently. (Just amongst our Supper Club regulars, three moved out of Montgomery for work this past year and another has moved to town.) Our good friends St. John’s Young Adults group provides a kind of instant friend group for folks who are new to town and looking to meet friends. This network of friendships occasionally reaches beyond the walls of St. John’s: two of our regulars are members at Holy Comforter! Finally, a few of our Supper Club regulars are up for vestry this year, which has not happened in several years.

Outreach

Our primary “hands on” outreach focus is Hope Inspired Ministries (HIM). HIM is a Christian mission whose goal is to train people living in chronic poverty to enter the work force, thereby gaining not only material security, but also self-confidence and emotional well-being. HIM’s motto is “We teach people to fish,” and their program thrives on intensive support for a small group of students at a time and includes a high level of both relational commitment and personal accountability. St. John’s parishioners provide lunch there once a month, and I am proud to say that St. John’s is a favorite of the HIM staff and students for two reasons: first, our food is always homemade, and second, unlike many of HIM’s lunch providers, we never drop and go. We always stay, eat, and visit with the students. Furthermore, in the spring I and five parishioners served as mentors for HIM’s students, meeting with them for lunch once a week for nine weeks to offer support and friendship.

Each month St. John’s does an “in-gathering” of donations supporting various ministries. To name a few, this year included: a variety of donations for Sawyerville Day Camp, purses and toiletries in support of Aid to Inmate Mothers, over 400 pairs of shoes in support of Soles4Souls, dozens of coats for Friendship Mission, and mounds upon mounds of canned food donations in support of...
Floyd Elementary’s Backpack program (a ministry led by St. John’s parishioners).

Men’s Group

St. John’s Men’s Group is a shady group of miscreants who gather for high-stakes poker every Friday at midnight in the smoky recesses of Sous la Terre.

Nah, just making sure you were still reading

St. John’s Men’s Group focuses primarily on conversation, study, and prayer. I select readings for each week and distribute them. While Men’s Group is not a bible study, all readings are rooted in the Christian tradition. Topics range from current moral issues to poetry, from St. Augustine and William Law to Rowan Williams and Denise Levertov. Since Men’s Group began in January of 2016, we have averaged 30 participants on a given week, which is user friendly and can be repeated in the future, especially now that the group was a mix of St. John’s folks and St. Michael and All Angels’ folks from over 70. There has been some energy around having Suzanne back to do a “part two” event. She is booked until early 2018.

Ian Morgan Cron. We had around 70 participants, with half or more from outside St. John’s and with an age range of mid 20s to mid 60s. Almost everyone who came for the first week kept coming back!

This fall, Lucy and I also co-led (though Lucy did by far the lion’s share of leading) an Enneagram small group using Suzanne Enneagram DVD curriculum. The group was a mix of St. John’s folks and St. Michael and All Angels’ folks form Millbrook, St. John’s owns the curriculum, which is user friendly and can be repeated in the future, especially now that there are some parishioners here who have been through it!

Respectfully Submitted,

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

For the year ending December 31, 2016, the combined net return for the various trusts that we manage for the church was 7.2%. We currently allocate 75% of our investments to equities/stocks and 25% to fixed income/bonds. The 75% allocated to equity is further divided with approximately 75% invested in U.S. based companies and approximately 25% in non-U.S. based companies.

Our objective is to achieve favorable long-term risk-adjusted returns compared to the appropriate indices to which we are exposed. Our exposure is best represented in the following indices with 2016 returns:

Indices Returns for 2016:

- Dow Jones Industrial: 16.50%
- S&P 500: 11.96%
- MSCI EAFE: 1.51%
- Barclays US Gov/Credit Intermediate: 2.08%

Below are the fund balances for the last four years.

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<td>7,342,192.10</td>
<td>7,093,571.90</td>
<td>7,653,658.81</td>
<td>7,631,171.11</td>
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During 2016 the following were paid out of respective trusts:

- Endowment: $146,129.00
- Gallagher: $15,394.00
- Harmon: $1,992.00
- Hill: $13,612.00
- Maint. Upkeep: $6,286.00
- Paul Jones: $1,278.00
- George Jones: $21,484.00
- Murray: $89,220.00
- Rector’s Discretionary: $12,198.00
- Reeder: $2,164.00
- Meadows: $13,342.00
- TOTAL: $323,099.00

REPORT OF THE SENIOR WARDEN

As this is the final year of my three-year term on the St. John’s Vestry, I feel it has been one of the most memorable years of my church life. It has been an honor and a personal blessing to have served as your Senior Warden. I would like to thank all of the Vestry members for their dedication and love for St. John’s. I would especially like to thank Mark Harris, who has been a great Junior Warden to work with. I ask that we all support Mark and Jim Marshall, our new Junior Warden, as they endeavor to lead our Vestry into the New Year.

Working with our Clergy has been a true pleasure, their leadership is top-notch. Thank you, Robert, Candace and Daniel for keeping our growth upbeat and providing us with excellent sermons and spiritual guidance.

St. John’s has so much to offer with Christian education, Youth ministries, worship, outreach and community fellowship. We are also blessed to have a dedicated staff. Mike, Myron, Mary, Sara, Joel, Anne, Faye, and Libby do an unbelievable job in keeping all departments and the church running so smoothly. We are truly blessed and fortunate to have them. Thank you for all you do!

St. John’s is a special place for all of us. It always amazes me that through tough times and good times, our church stands strong!

Again, I say thank you for such a wonderful and meaningful opportunity.

Respectfully,

Lawrence B. Hughes
Senior Warden

REPORT OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Junior Warden this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with such a strong vestry. Never doubt that this group is passionate about its job of making sure that the best interests of St. John’s are served every day. They are ready and eager to serve whether on Sunday mornings on the door, monthly Vestry meetings, or funerals for our families; my thanks and gratitude to each vestry member.

Finanically we are solid, as Helen will detail in her report. We are fortunate to have the resources that we have and with Helen, Libby, Robert and your Trustees, the financial footing should remain strong for the future.

We had a very encouraging canvass this year. The Vestry answered the call for a 10% increase in pledges and it appears that the congregation will come very close to meeting our goal. I pledge to you that we will be careful stewards of your gifts and that we will operate at a balanced budget. Thanks to everyone that participated in the canvass and, more importantly, a huge thanks to everyone who made or raised their pledge. St. John’s is a special, Holy place that does critical work every day. As we are all aware, none of this is possible without the gifts from each of us. Again, thanks for giving so freely.

I wanted to share a story from one recent Sunday on the door. I greeted a man that I had watched cross Madison Avenue from the Doubletree Hotel. He shared with me that he had fled Orlando due to an approaching storm that had gained hurricane status. Though they could not risk the hurricane hitting Central Florida and not having medical care in Orlando, they drove all night, the baby came into the Nave, said a prayer, sang a hymn, listened to the sermon and then returned to see his newly born grandchild. What a respite our community provided.

My report would be incomplete without offering my gratitude to our Clergy. I am continually amazed at their ability to combine words through articles and sermons that have such meaning to me; these are talented folks. We will miss Daniel, his youthful exuberance is infectious. If you were curious about the baby from Orlando, it was a girl, Julia MONTGOMERY Morgan. Thanks again for allowing me to serve and I look forward to another year.

The year 2016 has been such a magnificent year for St. John’s! I am beyond delighted to continue as Director of Children’s Christian Formation. Each child at St. John’s is so very special, and I enjoy watching them grow in love with Christ. I look forward to seeing each sweet face on Sunday mornings. Moreover, I would like to thank all of the volunteers who help make this program successful. Their dedication and time has such an impact on our children at St. John’s. Thank you for sharing your sweet children with all of us! It is with much 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). The pre-kindergarten class has merged with the Kindergarten through 1st grade class. All children (Prek-5th grade) continue to use Weaving God’s Promises. However, this fall they are using a new and updated version of this 3 year curriculum. 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. Moreover, 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 is changing! We use a weekly prayer wall, have a LEGO themed chapel (use Legos to summarize Bible stories/lessons), and participate in a Children’s Liturgy. I am excited about even more activities that will go on in the year 2017! St. John’s is such an amazing 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 - “Mind Games”- Games can unite and inspire us all! The children enjoyed coming together for lots of fun, and they related different Bible points along the way.
- Palm Sunday & Children’s Procession with Donkey
- Children’s Easter Egg Hunt- This year the Easter egg hunt took place in the Sunday school classrooms due to weather.
- 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: “Group EGYPY- Joseph’s Journey from prison to palace”- This year The Church of the Ascension hosted VBS. It was set up as an Egyptian marketplace, and the children enjoyed visiting shops each day! Shop leaders shared different stories about Joseph’s life, and the children enjoyed making things such as toys, jewelry, hieroglyphics, pottery and much more! They even were able to visit a real camel, donkey, snake and chinchilla!
- Christmas in July- This year we collected Operation Christmas Child boxes in July! This is a great time to collect for Advent. We collected about 50 shoeboxes filled with toys, toiletries, crafts etc. for children in need!
- Children’s Art Camp- Children in grades K-6th grade made crafts for the Bazaar. It was a huge success! We made nativities, snow globes, ornaments, chalkboard chargers, handprint napkins and much more! All crafts were for sale at our annual Bazaar.
- Kickoff Sunday- We had fun and fellowship kicking off the New Year with games, hot dog lunch and inflatable water slides.
- 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 wet food donations to the Human Society.
- October Wednesday Night Series- Palmer Smith and Cissy Johnson helped lead this series while Sarah Collier was on maternity leave. The children were read different Bible stories, and they had to relate them to their lives. It was a discussion based series that the adults were participating in. However, it was re-written on the children’s level.
- Halloween Trunk-or-Treat- This was our first year for Trunk-or-Treat, and boy was it fun! We decided to take a break from having the traditional carnival games, and each family decorated their car trunks with Halloween themed decor! The children visited each car in the back parking lot for various candies and goodies! It was a huge success! Moreover, we also enjoyed face painting from Glitterbug the clown, and we had fun with inflatables!

Respectfully,
Mark Harris
Junior Warden

Outreach Grants Committee, continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absolutes Counseling Center, Inc.</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Ground Montgomery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Let God Arise Ministries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aid to Inmate Mothers</td>
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<td>Compassion 21, Inner City Ministry</td>
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<td>Alabama Appleseed Center for Law &amp; Justice</td>
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<td>Dream Court, Inc</td>
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<td>Medical AIDS Outreach of Alabama</td>
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<td>Alabama Writers Forum</td>
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<td>Family Guidance Center- Family Service &amp; Resource Program</td>
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<td>Kelsie's Place</td>
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<td>The Samaritan Counseling Center, Inc.</td>
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Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie Harris
Similar to prior years, the Outreach Committee met in the spring to review, investigate, and make recommendations to the Vestry for distribution of the funds budgeted for Outreach.

Once again, we had over 50 applicants with a total amount requested exceeding $212,000. Our budget of $110,000 remained flat from 2015.

In reviewing the list of recipients, you can see the impact St. John's is having in our community and beyond. The Outreach Committee works hard to insure we are good stewards of your generous gifts.

As we move into a new year and the excitement and challenges before us, there are several ways you can improve our efforts:
- Encourage new groups/organizations to make requests.
- Volunteer to be a part of our committee.
- Remember the impact St. John's is having this fall when making your financial commitment to St. John's.

As members of the Outreach Committee, we have the privilege of representing St. John's and meeting with these very deserving groups. We are grateful for your continued support.

**2016 Report of the Outreach Grants Committee**

- All Saint’s Procession
- Advent Wreath Making
- Families lighting the Advent Wreath at the 10:30 service
- Las Posadas- Mary & Joseph visit with families during Advent
- Christmas Angel Tree Outreach
- Annual Christmas Pageant
- “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

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 are using Instagram. All of these include information and photos of our children at St. John’s.

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

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

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

**Report of the Interim Director of Youth Ministries**

I would like to give a great big thank you to the EYC Advisors and Clergy. So here it is:

THANK YOU to Lawrence Hughes, Mary Martin Mitchell, Scott Mitchell, Sam Collier, Joleen George, Jonathan Ross, Cam Hughes, Robert Wisnewski, Daniel Strandlund, and Candice Frazer for your help. Also, THANK YOU to all of the parents who provided meals.

2016 was a transition year for St. John’s EYC. After three years, Caitlin Lollar resigned in August to pursue her art. At that time, I was given the longest job title ever -- Interim Part Time Director of Youth Ministries. This transition continues into 2017, but more on this later.

Rather than go over the highlights of the year (yes, we did spiritual, mission oriented, and fun stuff), I want to talk about the youth. St. John’s has a great group of youth. They are talented, unique, energetic, enjoyable to be around, and a part of the present church here at St. John’s. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the Youth of St. John’s. They have helped reenergize me with the church. If you don’t know them, I encourage you to get to know them.

As I mentioned earlier, the transition continues into 2017. I am excited that on February 1st, Joleen George will start as St. John’s Youth Minister. After working with her this fall, I am confident that she is the right person for the Youth.

Again, I have enjoyed working with the Youth of St. John’s. It has been my pleasure.

Peace,
Steve Frazer
Interim Part-time Director of Youth Ministries
REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

For 2016, the music area has functioned smoothly.

CHOIR

The choir functions primarily on a professional choir model staffed by a combination of volunteers from the church and trained singers hired for their skill, training, and experience. This model has worked during the past year in what I consider to be a successful and efficient manner. The choir consists of around 18 singers and has been relatively stable with regard to personnel. It truly is an honor to work with these singers who exhibit great attitudes and contribute to an overall healthy and productive environment of collegiality. The choir regularly sings during 10:30 am Sunday morning Eucharist weekly, two Evensong services per year, the Advent vesper service, the Good Friday and Easter Vigil liturgies. In addition to adorning the Eucharist musically in an appropriate and beautiful manner, it is the goal that the choral music maintain the rich tradition of the Anglican Communion, both handed down to us over many centuries and continuing to grow throughout the world. The aspects of this tradition are seen in the Hymns, Anthems, and Psalms presented in services of worship.

INSTRUMENTS

The instrumentalists used in the services are ones of tremendous professionalism and skill. Steps have been taken this year to improve the ways these instrumentalists are used, match the music used during communion to the liturgical attitude of the season, and expand the flexibility of repertoire and instrumentalists collaborating in the services.

ORGAN

The organ is in good shape having been repaired this year from the 2015 lightening strike.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel Gregory

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.

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 responsible for cleaning and polishing the Lay Eucharistic Visitor “kits” which are taken out for people unable to attend services at the church.

As you can see, we stay busy! While 17 people is enough to get the work done, it does not leave much room for sickness or vacations. So, if you are inclined to get involved in this ministry, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Moore
Altar Guild Acting Chair

REPORT OF THE FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild has been arranging flowers for the altar for the past twenty-seven years. We have thirty-three active members and welcome new members at any time. Each member’s commitment consists of arranging the flowers for Sunday services on preceding Friday or Saturday. Then the members dismantle and rearrange in vases that are delivered to parishioners who are shut at home or are in a nursing home or hospital after Sunday services. Each three member team rotates by the schedule every two and a half months. Except for the Sunday’s following a wedding the Flower Guild provides altar flowers year round.

Kitty Coleman and Catherine Woodson select and order the cut flowers each week. Fay Worrierle arranges the schedule. Mary Ward Wiesewski is in charge of organizing and ordering supplies. Sarah Spratling coordinates the Easter and Christmas decorations, with the Flower Guild members arranging flowers, wreaths, and greensery in the church, parish house, hallways, and on doors. Sarah, with assistance from members, arranged the altar flowers. The Flower Guild members maintained the advent wreaths in the church and the chapel. You do not have to be a member of the Flower Guild to help with the decoration of the church on Christmas and Easter. There are many tasks where a strong pair of hands are needed. Consider being with us on these holidays, no experience is necessary.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
Flower Guild

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

2016 has been a busy year for St. John’s Archives Committee. We have concentrated on several major, long-term projects this year. We have worked on updating and editing our computer inventory in an attempt to make our Archives user-friendly and our materials easy to locate and reference. This project has included reorganizing files and cataloging all materials. Another on-going, long-term project is our work on the memorials file. We are not only updating and organizing, but also making sure every entry has been photographed.

We have also enjoyed preparing exhibits on different topics for the display cases in the sacristy hall. We strive to rotate the exhibits quarterly, focusing on an historical topic in the larger display case and more of a current event in the smaller case. Most recently, we featured an exhibit on St. John’s Sunday School program for young people, past and present. Be sure to check for updates and new exhibits.

And as always, we continue to file, work on scrapbooks, and collect Eagles, bulletins, sermons, letters, and all types of church information. Most importantly, we truly enjoy the love and fellowship we share with each other every Thursday afternoon!

Respectfully submitted,
Sallie Millup
Deborah Vogelgesang
Jeanette Lynn
Melissa Carter