



St John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH ✝ DECATUR, ALABAMA

2025 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual Meeting

February 1, 2026

Rector's Report

The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman

Dear Beloved in Christ,

As we look back on 2025 and give thanks for all that God has done in and through St. John's, I am filled with deep gratitude for this parish and for each of you. While we have experienced profound losses within our parish family, this past year has also been one of faithful steadiness, meaningful growth, and renewed confidence in who God is calling us to be in this time and place.

At the heart of our common life remains worship. Week after week, we have gathered around Word and Sacrament, bringing our joys and sorrows, our questions and hopes, to the altar. Our liturgies continue to be offered with reverence and beauty, thanks to the dedication of our musicians, altar guild, acolytes, lectors, ushers, and clergy. In baptism, marriage, burial, and the regular rhythm of the Eucharist, we have marked the sacred moments of our lives together, trusting that God is present and at work among us.

Formation and fellowship have also been signs of life this year. From children and youth learning the stories of faith, to adults engaging Scripture, theology, and prayer, St. John's remains a place where questions are welcomed and faith is nurtured. Our gatherings—whether for study, service, or simply sharing a meal—continue to strengthen the bonds that make us not just a congregation, but a community.

We have also remained committed to serving Christ in the wider world. Through outreach ministries, financial support of community partners, and countless quiet acts of compassion, St. John's has continued to bear witness to the love of God beyond our walls. These ministries are not extras; they are central to our identity as followers of Jesus, who calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Behind the scenes, much faithful work has taken place. I am deeply thankful for our vestry, wardens, treasurer, staff, and the many volunteers who give generously of their time and gifts. Their leadership, wisdom, and care help ensure that the day-to-day life of the parish is strong and sustainable, allowing us to focus on our shared mission.

I cannot express enough how grateful I am to work alongside such a dedicated and gifted clergy team. Mother Sarah and Deacon Sam have brought so much to our shared life, and I know you join me in wishing the DiCarlo-Wattses all the best as Sarah transitions to her new call in Huntsville.

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As we look ahead, we do so with hope. The challenges facing the Church and the world are real, but so is God's faithfulness. I am confident that, rooted in prayer, guided by the Holy Spirit, and grounded in our shared life in Christ, St. John's is well equipped for the work God has prepared for us.

Thank you for your faith, your generosity, and your love for this parish. It is a joy and an honor to serve as your rector.

Faithfully,

Chase+

Associate Rector's Report

The Rev. Sarah E. DiCarlo-Watts

What a wonderful year it has been at St. John's. As Jen and I prepare to step into our next chapter, I find myself filled with deep gratitude not only for this past year, but for the entirety of our ministry together. Looking back, I am struck by the many ways this community has continued to live out its faith with courage, compassion, curiosity, and love. Here are some highlights for the past year:

Sacred Ground

After nearly two program years, we completed our journey through the Sacred Ground Curriculum, a film and readings based dialogue series on race produced by The Episcopal Church. Month after month, 20 to 30 participants gathered to engage in thoughtful, prayerful conversation. These gatherings invited us to listen deeply, to tell the truth about our history, and to wrestle faithfully with the realities of race and racism. The trust, vulnerability, and commitment shown throughout this process were a powerful witness to what it means to be the Church together.

Deep Dive Dinners

That same spirit of faithful curiosity carried into our monthly Deep Dive Dinners. About 15 people gathered each month around a shared meal to explore complex and often difficult issues facing the Church and the world today. Rooted in prayer and guided by a desire to grow in understanding and compassion for our neighbors, these evenings allowed us to put our theology in conversation with real world concerns. Personally, these dinners were a gift. I came to know participants more deeply, and through them, I learned more about the Church, the world, and the work God is doing among us.

Young Adults

At the beginning of 2025, we decided to reboot our Young Adults gatherings simply to see what might happen. To my delight, the group met faithfully each month, taking a break during the summer, and over time grew into a beautiful community. By providing both dinner and childcare at each gathering, we created space not only to learn together, but also to build relationships and share life with one another. Throughout the year, our time together included a crash course on the Bible, learning about the sacraments, participating in an instructed Eucharist, playing trivia, and exploring the theology and practice of icon writing, among many other activities. Each gathering offered a mix of learning, laughter, and meaningful conversation. This ministry has been a true blessing to me, and I am deeply grateful for the many parishioners who are not young adults themselves but who made it possible by cooking meals and caring for children. Their quiet faithfulness helped nurture a space where this community could grow and flourish.

LGBTQ+ Ministries

Our LGBTQ+ ministries continued to flourish this year, growing both in depth and visibility. We hosted our second diocesan retreat last March, with a third planned for March 2026, and were awarded a grant to help bring in a guest speaker. Locally, we gathered monthly in many forms. We were present at Rocket City Pride Fest, hosted a game and swag night, celebrated our annual All Souls' Fire, helped ensure the Little Free Pantry was built, and participated together in a Zentangle workshop. Looking ahead, plans include a Holy Hike and a book study. These gatherings continue to offer a safe, faithful, and joyful space for LGBTQ+ folks and allies to gather, deepen their faith, and build community.

Community Engagement

Our partnerships beyond the parish walls also remain strong. We continue to host Calhoun Community College's ESL program, led by Mr. Michael Bayne. His class of 12 to 20 students meets in our building on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and it has been a joy to share our space in support of learning, hospitality, and mutual respect.

Pastoral Care and Care for the Wider Community

Pastoral care remained a central focus of our shared life. For the third year in a row, we organized holiday gift bag deliveries to parishioners who are homebound, sick, or recovering from surgery. Each bag included daily devotionals, homemade treats, and a small ornament. With the help of a small army of elves, we delivered gifts to more than 20 parishioners, offering connection, presence, and love to those we do not always get to see during the holidays.

We are also in the process of reinvigorating the Thinking of You ministry and St. Anne's Guild, working toward sustainable practices of care.

Beyond our parish, we continued to offer practical assistance to those in need through our revamped assistance program. In addition to providing hotel stays during inclement weather, and funds for utilities, driver's licenses, rent, or other approved needs, we have expanded access to resources that help people connect with broader systems of support and community. We have also been able to print and distribute Know Your Rights materials, offering timely and tangible care to our neighbors.

New Website

This year also brought an exciting new chapter in how we share our story. Thanks to the generous time and talent of parishioner Alex Adams, we launched a new website last winter. This has become an important tool for sharing the welcome, love, and grace of St. John's far beyond our walls.

A Word of Gratitude

Finally, I want to thank you truly and deeply for the love and support you have shown me and Jen during these years at St. John's. When people ask how life is going, I cannot help but beam with gratitude for the blessing it has been to belong to this church family. You have shaped us, supported us, and loved us well. While saying goodbye is not easy, I will carry this community with me always. I will miss you more than words can say.

With love and gratitude,
Sarah+

Junior Warden's Report

Julie Leavitt, Junior Warden

As Jr Warden, I am a member of the Properties Committee, and it has been a very busy year at St. John's! Many maintenance projects were completed, and some are in the initial research phase.

- The church received a quote for the restoration of the stained-glass windows in 2023 and after many delays they were finally completed.
- Two parish workdays with one in May and one during December.
- The Rosebud Company in Atlanta works specifically with wood floors in historic buildings. They have looked at St. John's and made recommendations regarding several issues.
- Numerous areas throughout the church needed painted and repaired – parish hall, sacristy, acolyte room, hallway and nursery, and that was completed.
- Sacristy had a new water heater installed
- New plans for Jackson Street Garden completed
- Spoke with a company that reupholsters and repairs church pews and they sent a quote.
- Adaptors installed to accommodate LED lighting in Nave.
- HVACs repaired
- The bells had to have repair work and that was completed.
- The organ has been having issues and Colby Organs did an assessment and gave a report on optional enhancements we have depending on investment.

It has taken the effort of everyone on the properties committee to address and complete these issues. It has been a very good year, and I look forward to what the new year has in store, as your senior warden.

Deacon's Report

The Rev'd Sam Burcham

Deacons are those whom we should see *through*.

After all, in a report to the 1985 General Convention, the office of the deacon is referred to as an "icon" which exists "only to point beyond itself to the diakonia of Christ" and "to the ministry of servanthood to which *all members of the laos* (i.e., the whole people of God) are called." As such, this report is going to focus on the ways in which you have exercised *your* diaconal calling.

While the Outreach report has focused on the ways in which we have given of our resources to benefit those in need, we are here concerned with the ways you have been present *with*, attending to, our neighbors beyond the parish.

Beans and Rice

This year, you hand-packed 1600 bags of rice, 1,600 bags of beans, and 4,800 tide pods. You have bagged 3,200 onions, 1,600 carrots, 1,600 potatoes, 1,600 apples (not to mention the seasonal extras which we provided at Thanksgiving and Christmas!), and have served an average of 73 families who just need a little something extra to see them through the end of the month.

And you have not done this as disconnected others, far-removed from those whom we wish to serve. In fact, 15/20 volunteers (not including many of our youth!) faithfully provide, pack, and distribute these bags on a monthly basis. You meet our neighbors with smiles, genuine care, and kind conversations. You even attempt to speak languages that are not your own--month in and month out, *without fail*. As such, you have been, in the ancient sense of the order, "sacred attendants" to those beyond our walls.

Backpack Ministry

Though we began 2025 serving 66 children at two Decatur schools, the temporary suspension of SNAP benefits--coupled with new federal legislation introducing stricter eligibility requirements that will cut off benefits for some vulnerable groups this year--we have concluded the year with 80 children and a new school partner: Austin High School.

Roughly 25 volunteers in our parish make it possible for 80 children to have breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks each weekend when they might not otherwise have access to food while away from school.

To put it differently--you have provided 20,640 meals and 13,760 snacks to children this year alone.

Other Observations

Outside of our largest diaconal ministries, in 2025 you hosted a ministry fair which brought together 10 of our ministry partners and collected and provided items to support 13 different community organizations. You have volunteered at the CCC, NCC, Hands Across Decatur, the Salvation Army, and Habitat for Humanity. You have packed and distributed over 250 Thanksgiving meals with the NCC and Meals on Wheels in November *and* issued free school supplies to children of all ages at the DCS/DYS Back-to-School Jam and Family Engagement Summit in July.

And these are just some of the things that I have *seen*--so much more remains unseen.

It would seem, then, that when the dismissal and sending forth are given each week at Holy Eucharist, you have, as the young people say, "understood the assignment." You see that there is a hurting world beyond our parish walls and that--despite the chasm that often exists between the two spaces--a bridge must be built between them.

And yours is quite a strong bridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam

Director of Family Ministries Report

The Rev'd Sam Burcham

Until roughly 50/60 years ago, there was no such thing as family, youth, or children's ministry. Okay, okay --obviously, clergy and churches engaged *in* ministry with each of these segments. But ministry to children and youth - the family unit, even - wasn't considered something different. There was simply *ministry*. It was perhaps (though, not likely!) a simpler time. And yet, with the emergence of dual-career households, as well as the relocations that commitments to careers sometimes necessitate - the idea of the family unit changed (in many ways, for the better!). Churches began to notice, recognizing the need to engage with and support families who arrived in their communities. Sometimes this was easy. A family of Episcopalians, for example, moved to a new city and logically began attending a local parish (as is meet and right, so to do!). But family ministry quickly and increasingly became harder. New places prompted "fresh starts" with reference to many facets of families' identities - *including one's religious affiliation*. It was this, then - coupled with the perceived need to "rescue" youth from sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll, as well as changing perceptions of children's needs - that created a whole new area of ministry emphasis. But comparatively, family, youth, and children's ministries is *still* a new experiment. And as a combined area of emphasis at St. John's, it's only 1 ½ years old!

So, let's see how the experiment is going, shall we?

Children's Ministries

Nursery

As of this month, Callie Melick has been with us in the Nursery for one year! A kind, caring, and joyous individual, Callie doesn't simply count St. John's as an employer - she's been confirmed in our parish and her son, Robert, was baptized here last year! Additionally, the delightful Becky Bailey joined our nursery staff in October. Together, they create a safe and caring environment for our five littlest saints (i.e., non-school age children). Finally, before stepping down from the Nursery, Sam Hogwood helped us redesign our nursery with new paint, toys, lesson plans, and spatial designs in effort to create a more welcoming environment. Thank you, Sam!

Formation

Godly Play and Children's Chapel continue to engage our children with our Tradition in developmentally-appropriate and engaging ways. While these offerings have remained mostly unchanged during 2025, our incredible children's ministry volunteers were joined by a new Children's Ministry Assistant, Natalie Huber, in September! Floating between the Nursery, Godly Play, Chapel - and *literally* every other children's ministry offering - Natalie has had a profound impact on our children's ministry programming in ways that cannot be quantified on paper. Natalie has jumped right in and has loved, cared for, and aided all of our volunteers in making top-notch children's ministry happen in our parish.

Events

Finally, I want to highlight some of this year's children's-specific events...

During the week of June 22-27 St. John's hosted *Camp Kindness VBS*! We kicked things off with a "Wild Robot" movie night at The Princess Theatre, before 31 adult volunteers hosted 62 children for a week of fun in which we learned that "kindness can be a survival skill." Partnering with the 3rd Street Boys and Girls Club and the wider community, children who may never otherwise come to our church now know that God loves them, no exceptions.

Our 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat served over 250 children in partnership with PACT and the Community Free Clinic, becoming the largest means of outreach to our community's children!

The 2025 Children's Pageant had more of our children and youth participate than in the previous four years, with 10 children and 4 youth presenting the Nativity story to our parish once more.

Youth

Youth ministry is a tenuous thing. Not only are young people so *busy* (with good things, I might add!), but we are, admittedly, preparing them to leave us from the moment they join the youth group. After all, most will go to school far away; they will move for work; they will move into adulthood. Despite the fact that this is the nature of a church youth group, however, our group continues to grow - in fact, we welcomed three new regular participants in 2025! And, in addition to regular youth group gatherings, this is what our growing and increasingly engaged community did last year:

- Began a monthly Rite 13 groups with an average of 11 students participating

- Gone on trips to Stars & Strikes, an Escape Room, Six Flags, and Top Golf

- Built a Lego cathedral during Lent

- Hosted/participated in Happening #86

- Hosted Youth Sunday

- Engaged in an epic downtown-wide team-based Scavenger Hunt

- Helped the NCC prep over 300 Thanksgiving Meals

- Decorated/Sponsored a Christmas tree for our community's Enchanted Forest event

- ...and so much MORE!

Thank you to Jen DiCarlo-Watts, Cheryl Corman, Jennifer Jackson, and ALL who make youth ministry happen here at St. John's!

Family Ministries

St. John's continued its tradition of meaningful engagement with families this year via the work of the Family Life Committee (thank you!). In the Christian Education/Formation world, we endeavored to support families at home with seasonal (i.e., Fall Faith & Fun, Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Lenten) take home kits, offered parents nights out, and hosted an ongoing Music Together class for parents and Pre-K children throughout the year. Additionally, our new Family Ministries/Children's newsletter regularly spotlighted materials, resources, and tips for doing faith at home as a family. I'm excited to discover even more ways that we can help families explore faith together when our Christian Ed/Family Formation committee meets later this month!

Respectfully Submitted,

Sam

Communications Report

Mary Coe

In twenty twenty-five, communications sought to connect with parishioners and the wider community with clear, helpful information across several platforms. This year, with Mother Sarah's leadership, our website and weekly service bulletins were given sizable redesigns, improving the user experience.

St. John's quartet of digital content—the refreshed website, e-newsletters, streamed services, and social media—offers 24/7 connection for all. The refreshed website has an enhanced look and feel, and updated navigation and information, making it easy to browse.

The Media Ministry team are the wizards behind the curtain of St. John's streaming program. Services are streamed to the website and Facebook, making it possible for anyone to join a service in the way that is best for them. The bank of streamed services is also a great way to view a missed service or relisten to a sermon. A member of the streaming team is at all regular Sunday services and irregular services—Thanksgiving Eve, Ash Wednesday, etc.—throughout the year. Many thanks to Jen DiCarlo-Watts, Ezra Lokken, Patrick Lokken, Ann Stewart and Kevin Wilson for their dedicated work.

This year's updated service bulletins use considerably less paper, saving trees and dollars. And we are using our beloved Episcopal resources, the Book of Common Prayer and 1982 Hymnal, from the pews. The one page Announcements insert is there for you to take home and put on the fridge.

Also in 2025, we were pleased to receive coverage from *The Decatur Daily*. Their coverage on our Beans and Rice Ministry and the Simply Divine Bake Sale helped share our message with the broader Decatur community.

It has been wonderful to serve the St. John's community this year. Thanks be to God!

Music Report

Lauren Cantrell Riddell, Choirmaster

We've had another great year in St. John's Choir! We had the opportunity to perform "Rest" by Ken Burton at the Diocesan Convention at the Princess Theatre, and worked on several new pieces like "Easter Rejoicing" by Jonathan Wilcocks and "Ave Maria" by Anton Bruckner. We also continued our tradition of Lessons and Carols with The Church of the Ascension. St. John's Choir rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the church, so join us any time! We have a great time, and would love to have you sing with us!

Flower Guild Report

Altar Flowers, Sue Hennessy

Rearrangers & Delivery, Ann Stewart

St. John's Flower Guild mission is to bring the beauty of God's world into our worship space, while giving members of the congregation a meaningful way to remember loved ones or to celebrate special events with flowers. The Guild takes full advantage of the glorious natural flowers and greenery that our God given environment provides.

Currently, 16 members actively arrange altar flowers for Sunday mornings, special events, and receptions. The Flower Guild is open to anyone interested in helping arrange flowers—all levels of skills are welcomed. *If you would like to learn more about how to arrange the altar flowers, please call Sue Hennessy 256-318-2064.*

The Flower Rearrangers are a group of men and women who help after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service to rearrange the altar flowers into small containers for the delivery team.

The Flower Delivery volunteers are a group of men and women, families, and individuals, who help distribute small arrangements on a rotating schedule to those who are homebound, have recently experienced an illness or surgery, or to those who are in the hospital. *For more information about rearranging and delivering, please reach out to Ann Stewart, 256-303-9758.*

Parish Life Committee Report

Bunny Edwards and Kristen Propst

The Parish Life Committee provides fellowship opportunities for St. John's parish family. In 2025 the committee coordinated the Pentecost lunch, Pancake Breakfast, Rally Day lunch, Annual Parish Picnic, Chili/Cornbread Cookoff, Advent Wreath Workshop & Breakfast, a trip to a Trash Pandas game, Ladies' Night Out, and a St. John's Ladies Luncheon.

Led by Joe Propst, the Holy Smokers men's group grilled for the Annual Parish Meeting, the Back to School Bash and for Rally Day. They fried fish and hush puppies for the Parish Picnic. For the Bake Sale the group cooked 36 pork tenderloins. The tenderloins were a sell out! To join the Holy Smokers contact Joe Propst (256) 227-3815, lawyerpropst@aol.com

Members of the Parish Life Committee are Amy Calame, Ann Stewart, Annie Cornell, Beth Douthit, Betty Weaver, Bingham Edwards, Bunny Edwards, Carol Sandlin, Catherine Bogdon, Dana Baggette, Dashiell McKay, David Bibb, David Rice, D Hall, Dodie Hall, Faye Pyatt, Huey Hall, Jackie Joiner, Janet Morgan, Jennifer Jackson, Joe Propst, Julia Roth, June Hall, Kathy Stoner, Kerry Standridge, Kristen Propst, Laura Ritch, Lee Martin-Sloan, Lori Pressnell, Lou Greene, Lyla Peebles, Margaret King, Marlene Eads, Martha Lou Nance, Marthalyn Biles, Mary McKimmon, Melba Middleton, Menine Rice, Nancy Turbyfill, Nell Standridge, Nick Roth, Pat Price, Rachel Wiley, Rebecca Self, Rip Nance, Sally Bibb, Sally Quinn, Sara Reed Thompson, Steve Price, Suzanne Thompson, and Victoria Hughes.

We would love for you to be part of the Parish Life Committee. To join contact Kristen Propst (256) 654-2991, kristenpropst@aol.com, or Bunny Edwards (256) 227-3760, edwards.bunny46@gmail.com.

Cursillo

Rob Getman

Erika Huber handed off the role of Parish Lay Rector to Rob Getman in June of 2025. She has continued to work with Rob to provide support to the PLR role and St. John's Cursillo folk.

St. John's Cursillistas (folks who have attended a Cursillo) may attend a reunion group of 3-10 persons where they share their ongoing spiritual life, study, and action with one another. These reunions offer the chance to develop friendships that help support your Christian walk. If you have been to Cursillo and are interested in attending a reunion group, please contact Rob Getman (robertgetman@proton.me).

Our Cursillistas are also invited to attend Ultreyas which are gatherings of St. John's Cursillistas. Folks bring snacks to share. These meetings which happen every month or two are usually at someone's home. We sing songs, share our ongoing spiritual life, study, and actions, then eat. Occasionally we have a guest speaker. The Ultreyas are announced via email. If you have been to Cursillo and are not getting these emails, please contact Mary Coe (mary@stjohnsdecatur.org) in the church office. In 2025 there were four Ultreyas. We plan to have more Ultreyas in 2026.

Our Cursillistas organized a "Cursillo Sunday" in September. Music was from Alleluia III, and all the various volunteer tasks during the service were handled by our Cursillo folks including the sermon. There was a Cursillo booth at the ministry fair after the service.

Folks from St. John's Cursillo community participated in Stewardship Wednesday night; speakers were Betty Weaver, Brian White and Rob Getman. During that program, we had question and answer session about Cursillo weekends. We also learned about Kairos, a prison ministry similar to Cursillo, in which several members of St. John's participate.

Paul Montgomery, a member of St. John's and also the church sexton, attended Cursillo #238 in October at Camp McDowell.

St. John's Cursillo folk have made a donation to the Diocese of Alabama Cursillo which will sponsor the cost of a pilgrim in 2026.

There will be three Cursillo weekends in 2026: April 9-12; May 28-31; and October 8-11. All are welcome to learn more about Cursillo by contacting Rob Getman, St. John's Parish Lay Rector, at robertgetman@proton.me or 256-652-8465.

Grounds Committee Report

Bill Briscoe

Our landscape company continues to do a nice job on most aspects of our campus. Several trees on the Jackson Street side were removed that were deemed beyond their lifespan. The garden on Jackson Street is in transition, and we expect something beautiful will emerge soon. Thanks to the yoga group for continuing to care for the flowerpots in the garden.

Common Ground Community Native Garden

Co Chairs: Julia Chenault and Carol Hancock

2025 brought a quieter year to our native garden. This was in large part due to the loss of our valuable Co Chairperson, Ellis Chenault. Ellis was an enthusiastic and active leader with the ability to accomplish a multitude of projects. We will always be grateful for his leadership, especially in the transformation of our garden from vegetable production to support of native plants and animals dedicated to stewardship of earth.

- ☀ In 2025, we continued maintenance of the plants we had and the addition of more native plants was the focus of our committee's weekly rotational duties. We added beautiful grey headed coneflowers, another variety of mountain mint, two red winterberry shrubs more native asters, columbines and ferns. Our in ground watering system was essential to maintenance with increasingly dry and hot spells last summer.
 - ☀ Ann Ness organized an Earth Day celebration for church and community at the garden. Hopefully this will become a yearly tradition.
 - ☀ Our first project in 2026 will be the arrival of 3 cubic yards of high quality compost in order to enrich our soils. Get shovels ready!
 - ☀ Thanks to our 2025 committee members for their dedication. We also are so glad to welcome new members Karen Allen-Thomas and Zacc Weldon.
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Creation Care Committee

Anne Ness

In 2025, St. John's Creation Care committee hosted an Earth Day event for the first time in many years. The event took place on Saturday, April 26, between 2 and 3 pm. The activities included an opening prayer, then participants made seed bombs, created pinecone and peanut butter bird feeders, went on a scavenger hunt, saw a demonstration of an enviroscape showing how we affect substances going into the watershed, and planted zinnia seeds in the Common Ground garden. The story of Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, was shared. We then enjoyed delicious earth-decorated cookies, and received packets of zinnia seeds to plant at home.

The 2026 Earth Day celebration is scheduled for Saturday, April 18th. We hope you will join us.

2025 Vestry Nominees

Congratulations to these six individuals for their nomination and willingness to serve on the Vestry.



Alex Adams



Rob Getman



Erika Huber



Luke Slaton



Emily White



Jackie Joiner
(Two-year term)

Trustees Report

<u>Trust Funds</u>	Starting Balance (01/01/2025)	Annual Distribution Received	Other Changes in Investment Value	Ending Balance (12/31/2025)
Charles H. Eyster General Fund <i>supports outreach & care of properties</i>	\$155,706.37	(\$7,785.32)	\$22,080.92	\$170,001.97
Charles H. Eyster Choir Fund <i>supports music programs</i>	\$179,503.23	(\$8,000.00)	\$25,572.81	\$197,076.04
Margaret A. Hoff Memorial Fund <i>supports outreach & care of properties</i>	\$239,352.49	(\$11,967.62)	\$33,942.85	\$261,327.72
St. John's Endowment Fund <i>supports outreach & care of properties</i>	\$104,137.38	(\$5,206.87)	\$14,767.82	\$113,698.33
Total	\$678,699.47	(\$32,959.81)	\$96,364.40	\$742,104.06

Stewardship Report

2026 Pledge Increase— 4.6% over 2025	Total Budget Income is increased by 11.7%
12 New Pledges	2025 - \$957,170
62 Same Amount as in 2025	2026 - \$1,084,405
25 Decreased Their Pledge	
50 Increased Their Pledge	
15 Stopped Their Pledge	
66 Made No Pledge	
230 Total Pledging Units	
2026 Average Pledge \$5,993.17 vs. \$5,639.54 in 2025	

2025 Financial Results and 2026 Budget Overview

2025 Financial Results

In 2025, the parish adopted a balanced budget, however the year ended with a small net loss of approximately (\$39,000).

The important thing to understand is that this loss was not caused by a decline in giving. The small loss was primarily driven by inflationary pressures, maintenance costs and the rising cost of benefits, not discretionary overspending.

- Total income exceeded budget, driven by strong pledge donations and increased non-pledge giving. Income was 1.0% above budget for the year or \$9,315.
- Expenses, however, rose faster than anticipated, particularly in areas that were either unavoidable (building expense) or mission-critical (clergy benefits). Expenses exceeded budget by 5.0% for the year or \$48,189.

The primary drivers for net loss were:

- Higher-than-budgeted building maintenance and utilities, including several repairs (**several A/C repairs, Episcopal Center repairs**). Higher utility costs alone account for over 20% of the total deficit for the year.
- Increased health insurance and benefit costs across staff and clergy

2026 Balanced Budget

The Vestry and Finance Committee present a balanced 2026 budget, with total income and expenses of \$1.08 million.

Key features of the 2026 budget include:

- Expense planning, especially for facilities, utilities, and insurance
- Continued commitment to staff, worship, and formation
- A strengthened outreach commitment, representing over 16% of total expenses driven by our Diocesan contribution, increasing from 8% to 10% in 2026

Income Growth in 2026

Total income for 2026 represents an increase of over 11% compared to 2025 actuals.

This growth is driven by:

- Increased annual pledges, reflecting strong congregational engagement and stewardship (2.8%)
- A long-term gift plan
- Conservative budgeting assumptions for variable income sources

This income growth allows the parish to fully fund its mission while maintaining a balanced budget.

Looking Ahead

The parish enters 2026 with a balanced financial plan, strong congregational support and a clear understanding of the cost of operating and maintaining our ministries and facilities. A special shoutout to Vickie Reed for her expertise and support throughout the year. She makes managing the parish finances feel almost effortless!

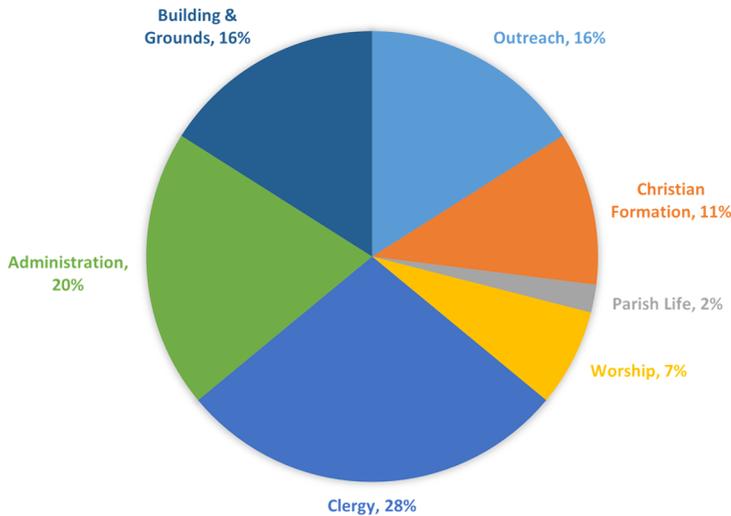
St. John's congregation's generosity continues to make our worship, outreach, and formation possible. The Vestry remains committed to transparent, responsible stewardship as we move forward together.

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2025	
Assets	
Bank Independent (Checking + Money Market)	\$384,495
Clergy Discretionary Funds	5,398
Endowment	742,104
Petty Cash	200
Accounts Receivable	1,327
Total Current Assets	\$1,133,524
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$14,617
Payroll Taxes & Elective Deductions	5,572
Restricted Funds	1,084,946
Equity	28,389
Total Liabilities	\$1,133,524

2025 Operations Income/Expense Summary	
Income	
Pledge Income	\$842,885
Non-Pledge & Other Income	90,640
Trust Distribution	32,960
Total Operations Income	\$966,485
Expense	
Outreach	\$141,970
Programs	481,546
Administration, Properties, Debt Service	381,843
Total Operations Expense	\$1,005,359
2025 Designated Income/Expense Summary	
Designated Income	\$206,874
Designated Expense	253,124
Total Designated Net Income	(\$46,250)

St. John's 2026 Budget (Proposed)



Income	
Pledge	\$892,905
Plate	10,000
Non-Pledge	40,000
Endowment Distribution	32,000
Interest Income	7,500
Breakfast & Dinner	2,000
Ten Year Gift (ending 2036)	100,000
Total Income	\$1,084,405
For expense breakdown, see chart below	
Total Expense	\$1,084,405

Area of Ministry	2026 Budget	% of Budget	2025 Budget	2025 Actual
Outreach	\$175,291	16%	\$137,976	\$141,970
Christian Formation	121,149	11%	100,338	105,030
Parish Life	19,203	2%	18,009	16,472
Worship	78,598	7%	72,565	72,557
Clergy	308,037	28%	285,091	287,487
Administration	214,754	20%	198,366	204,925
Building & Grounds	167,373	16%	144,825	176,918
Total	\$1,084,405	100%	\$957,170	\$1,005,359

We give gratitude and thanks to our outgoing Vestry Class of 2025: Tony Bolan, Lisa Dye, Brian White (Senior Warden), and Rachel Wiley.

In 2026, the Wardens of St. John's will be Julie Leavitt (Senior Warden) and Ann Stewart (Junior Warden).

VESTRY

Class of 2026: Nora Hall, Sue Hennessy, Julie Leavitt (Senior Warden), Lyla Peebles, Kevin Wilson

Class of 2027: Bynum Kirby, Ann Stewart (Junior Warden), Suzanne Thompson, Victoria Tumbleson

Stuart Tubb *Treasurer*

Stan Evans *Assistant Treasurer*

Carol Sartain *Clerk*

Ken Schuppert *Chancellor*

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Chase Ackerman, *Rector*

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The Rev. Sarah DiCarlo-Watts, *Associate Rector*

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The Rev. Sam Burcham, *Deacon, Outreach and Family Ministries*

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Vickie Reed, *Financial Administrator*

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Mary Coe, *Director of Communications*

mary@stjohnsdecatour.org

Lauren Cantrell Riddell *Choirmaster*

Foster Bailey *Organist*

Julia Sanford *Seminarian*

Natalie Huber *Children's Ministry Assistant*

Callie Melick *Nursery Attendant*

Rebecca Bailey *Nursery Attendant*

Melba Middleton *Food and Hospitality*

Paul Montgomery *Sexton*



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

202 Gordon Drive SE | Decatur, Alabama 35601

Church Office 256-353-9615 | churchoffice@stjohnsdecatour.org

After-hours Pastoral Emergency: 256-280-3792

Monday - Thursday | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm | closed Friday

stjohnsdecatour.org