



St John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH + DECATUR, ALABAMA

2024 Annual Report

Presented at the Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025

Rector's Report

The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman

Dear People of St. John's,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

This year, we celebrate the 135th anniversary of St. John's Episcopal Church in Decatur, Alabama—a milestone that fills me with awe and gratitude. When the founding members of our parish first gathered in the Tavern Hotel in 1890, I wonder if they could have imagined the vibrant community we would become in 2025. Over the decades, St. John's has stood witness to remarkable events: wars, protests, moon landings, civil rights movements, assassinations, elections, pandemics, and times of great upheaval. The world outside our church walls has transformed dramatically, yet the mission and ministry of St. John's have remained steadfast.

Through the years, St. John's has continued to baptize, confirm, marry, and lay to rest countless parishioners. Our sacred mission to restore all people to unity with God and one another in Christ has never wavered. While our congregation today may look very different from that of 1890, I firmly believe we now reflect the Body of Christ more fully and faithfully than ever before.

St. John's is engaged in so many ways to spread the Kingdom of God that I couldn't possibly list them all. You'll find a wonderful overview of this work in the accompanying report. Yet more than the number of Eucharist services, flower arrangements, meals provided, or minds nurtured, what makes me most proud—and I hope you too—is that everything we've done this past year has been for one purpose: to make Christ known in the world.

We are not simply a food pantry, a social service provider, or a community organization—though our work often overlaps with theirs. Instead, we are the Body of Christ, called to serve others, especially those whom society overlooks. In serving them, we serve Christ himself. This calling is what sets us apart and what makes me so proud to be your Rector.

As we step into 2025, we do so with renewed purpose and excitement. We are poised to grow our ministries, expand our programs, and embrace new opportunities to share God's love. Our physical church home is in its best condition in years, and we are beginning to dream of ways to make our

continues

space even more effective for generations to come. None of this would be possible without your prayers, your support, and the extraordinary dedication of the best church staff I've ever worked with. Their commitment to our shared mission inspires me every day, and I am deeply grateful to them.

I pray that God's presence will continue to be known and felt in your lives and in the lives of those we serve, whether they pass through our big red doors or not. It is an absolute honor and privilege to be your Rector, and I eagerly look forward to seeing how God will use us in the coming year to share God's love with all.

In Christ,

Chase+

Associate Rector's Report

The Rev. Sarah E. DiCarlo-Watts

Annual Ministry Update

What a wonderful year it has been at St. John's! I am deeply grateful to continue our ministry together, discovering ways to live into our calling of reconciliation and restoring all people to God through Christ. Here are some highlights from this past year:

Sacred Ground

This year, we continued our Sacred Ground Spaghetti Suppers on a monthly basis. Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. These monthly gatherings have brought 30–40 participants together for meaningful discussions. We've completed 7 of 11 sessions and plan to explore additional resources from The Episcopal Church to further address the injustices of race and racism.

Deep Dive Dinners

Our monthly Deep Dive Dinners have grown, prompting a move to the church to accommodate more participants. Each month a group of about 15 people meet to have dinner together and discuss a complex and difficult issue presenting the church and the world today. Set within the framework of prayer and the intention to deepen understanding of and compassion for our neighbors, these conversations not only provide participants the chance to explore certain issues in more depth, but they will also provide the space for participants to put their theology in conversation with the issues. In the past year, we have discussed separation of church and state, the process of reconciliation, and the conflict between Israel and Palestine, Artificial Intelligence among other things. I continue to find these dinners to be a holy space where my heart and my mind are opened more broadly with every conversation.

LGBTQ+ Ministries

Our LGBTQ+ ministries flourished, with our first diocesan retreat last March and a second planned for 2025. In addition, we were able to get a speaker to come and talk about Creating Communion Across Difference in Birmingham and we had a great showing from St. John's and the North Alabama area. Locally, we hosted monthly gatherings, including Coming Out Stories Night, Friendsgiving, Advent celebrations, and storytelling events. Upcoming plans include Coloring Night, a Dinner, Movie, and Discussion Night, a Hike, a trip to the Soccer Game, a Pride Service, and a Pool Party. Our gatherings have continued to provide a safe space for people in the LGBTQ+ to gather and deepen in faith.

Community Engagement

- **Calhoun Community College ESL Program:** our partnerships with Calhoun Community College's ESL program remains strong. We have a new teacher, Mr. Michael Bayne, and the class is now meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30am-12:30pm. Attendance has remained consistent despite the changes in leadership and scheduling which is a huge blessing.
- **3rd Fridays:** We maintained a strong presence, offering face painting and hospitality. A 2025 committee will explore new ways to engage our community.

Pastoral Care & Assistance to the Larger Community

We did a holiday gift bag drop to parishioners who are homebound, sick, or recovering from surgery for the 2nd time and it was a hit. Included in the bags were Daily Devotionals, bread made by Ann Stewart and Melba Middleton, and some other candy and treats! It was wonderful to get to connect with people who we don't always get to see during the holidays. Next year, I hope to have a small army of "elves" to help prepare bread, pack and deliver bags. In terms of care for those outside of our community, we have revamped our assistance offerings to those in our community who need a bit of extra care. In addition to offering \$50 every six months for utilities, Driver's License, rent, or other approved items, we also have a whole host of resources that can equip people to gain the support and community they need to ensure a more successful outcome

New Website

Given the fact that our contract through the diocese with Digital Faith will be coming to an end and that we wanted to explore other web platforms, with the wonderful and generous help of parishioner Alex Adams, we have the basic bones of a new website. We're using Wordpress (and Bluehost and Yootheme) and I'm in the process of updating each page, getting current and highquality images and videos up. Its slow going, but it will be worth it in the end! Special thanks to Alex Adams for help getting us started! And, if you see me in the background taking photos or videos, now you know what its for!

Life at St. John's is busy but filled with God's love and work. Thank you for sharing in this ministry.

Respectfully,

Sarah+

Warden's Report

Steve Price Senior Warden
Brian White, Junior Warden

Greetings to all of you wonderful members of St. John's! Twenty twenty-four was a great year for our parish. Thanks to so many of you who helped make our parish function so well with all the special events throughout the year.

At our annual meeting in January we welcomed five new members to the vestry, and we all gathered at Camp McDowell for the Vestry retreat. The group was split up into various committees so that each committee could discuss its responsibilities and goals for 2024. We were also able to socialize with one another, and the weekend ended with a delicious shrimp boil that was complemented by a ton of snacks and other goodies prepared by the Vestry.

At the annual meeting, because of the generosity of our St. John's family, we were able to approve a very healthy budget for the year, which included \$50,000 for our outreach programs.

In the spring we were blessed to have our own Sam Burcham ordained as a deacon. Sam is not only in charge of our youth program, but he has also taken over our children's ministries. As if that wasn't enough, he also coordinates our beans and rice program and our backpack ministry, which provides for needy children. So if you have a little spare time on your hands, Sam could really use some help!

This year was filled with many delicious meals at St. John's, including potluck lunches after church, the parish picnic, and Wednesday night dinners, which provided many inspirational topics. My personal favorites were the stewardship programs, especially the trivia contest and the very entertaining talent show. Who knew we had so many talented parishioners at St. John's? Also, Mother Sarah has led the Deep Dive dinners and Sacred Ground spaghetti suppers, which provided opportunities to discuss thought-provoking topics. Thank you, Melba and Paul, our new sexton, for all your help with these and other events.

Thank you, St. John's, for allowing me to be your Senior Warden. It has been an honor. My job was made much easier because of the other 14 members of the Vestry. Each one of them worked extremely hard to make our church a better place. My job was also made easier thanks to Mary and Vickie in the church office. They were always very helpful in assisting me when needed. A special thank you for all the help and guidance from our wonderful clergy. Thank you, Father Chase, Mother Sarah, and Deacon Sam, for everything you have done for me and St. John's this past year.

God's Peace,

Steve

Director of Family Ministries Report

The Rev. Sam E. Burcham

While this is the first time - since I've been at St. John's, at least - that "Family Ministries" has appeared as the title of any Annual Report, I'm convinced that "family ministry" is all St. John's has ever really done.

But let me explain.

You see, I've witnessed you take the Prayers and Thanksgivings in our Prayer Book seriously. As such, you understand that we are called - by virtue of the Baptismal Covenant whereby we vow to "seek and serve

Christ in all persons” - to participate in God’s work to unite the *whole human family* in bonds of love (BCP, 815). In which case, if all humanity is a family? All of our ministries are “family ministries.”

In other words: Every person you interact with both inside *and* outside of our church’s walls is part of the family. And to be in relationship with them (in whatever form), is to be in family ministry with them. So, thank you. You’re a family minister, just like me!

Of course, such a sentiment does not an Annual Report make. But it’s a pretty good starting point. I hope it will account for any exclusions which will inevitably be part of this report; there are simply too many family ministries at play to name them all!

Since I began in this position last September, so many people have prioritized the support of the children’s, youth, and family programs we offer at St. John’s. For the purposes of readability, I provide a concise report for each of these segments below.

Children’s Ministries

Nursery

During our Nursery Lead’s maternity leave (congratulations, Sam & Keith!) last semester, our littlest saints were served by a rotating group of dedicated and fun volunteers. Specifically, Lucy McCain agreed to be present for almost *every* Sunday morning. Additionally, we have hired another nursery attendant to aid Sam downstairs. Callie Melick began on Sunday, January 12 (Welcome, Callie!). Since her return, Sam has been helping us rethink the way we do the nursery. Suggesting programmatic and spatial changes so as to better meet the needs of our children and their parents, with her help we are creating a more welcoming and nurturing nursery.

Godly Play

Before I even began, a wonderful team came together (graciously inviting me to the meeting, too!) to discern how we would provide meaningful opportunities & spaces for our children to encounter God. Because of their work, the room by the Little Lamb’s Library has once more become a space dedicated to serving our children through Godly Play! A dedicated group of Storytellers and Doorkeepers invite our children to wonder with them about narratives in the Bible on a weekly basis. Furthermore, I get to see its impact first-hand: Maisie and Milly know so much more about the stories of the Bible than I did at their age because of this program.

Children’s Chapel

Since September, our Children’s Chapel (which takes place during the sermon at our 10:30 am service) has been led by Kristen Propst and some wonderful volunteers. Of special note is Lucy Haughaboo, a member of the youth! Each chapel includes a song (with hand motions) which Lucy leads. We’ve also implemented having one clergy person join the children in the chapel on a rotating basis. Mother Sarah’s idea, this new feature serves two purposes: 1) it allows clergy to spend time with important members of our church whom they might not be able to engage with at length due to their other (and considerable!) responsibilities, and 2) it breaks down the stigma, or *distance*, that can make clergy persons seem inaccessible or unrelatable to children. We love the new format!

Youth Ministries

Last October, after 11 of our young people created scarecrows (built to look like saints in our tradition) - and as I was speaking with two of our students’ parents - I wondered with them how they *do it all* (i.e., maintain such busy schedules); I asked: when do their young people just get to be. To which one parent responded: now. At youth group and St. John’s, she noted. That is when they get to be...without expectation that they produce, do, and be anything other than a beloved of God.

While our young people are still very busy, our youth ministry team continues to engage with our 20 young

people in myriad ways. While it is still very difficult to get all 20 onsite at once (some participating in ways other than “youth group” time), more of our young people are engaged in ministry with us. As I noted in last year’s report, one reason the nature of our youth group began to change has to do with adults in our parish, the adults in our who have invested in young people’s lives. Jen DiCarlo-Watts joined us last year as a regular leader, and the youth LOVE her (as I did last year, I still maintain that she is magic). This year, we’ve had other magicians join us: Cheryl Cornman-Blaesing, Holly Burcham, and Jennifer Jackson have not only joined our group on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, but have joined us on ski trips, mission trips (i.e., Operation Coin-Op), at Trunk or Treat, the Galaxy of Lights, and more! They’ve thought about our youth all year, prayed for them, reached out to them, and cared for them in ways that can’t be summed up in a report such as this. I am so thoroughly grateful to each of them.

This, then, is the nature of our youth group. It is growing and changing through the nurture of a wide array of adults in our parish. And while I’m still early into my tenure working with the children of St. John’s, the same thing appears to be happening within that ministry area!

Family Ministries

From family movie nights and parish picnics to Advent wreath making and a trip to the Galaxy of Lights, St. John’s has hosted events that bring parents and children together in a loving and supporting faith-based environment (thank you so much to the Family Life Committee for all of their work!). And we’ve provided programming, too. Advent in Narnia, for example, invited families of all ages and sizes to step through C.S. Lewis’ wardrobe and exercise their spiritual imaginations. Even beyond the church, we’ve endeavored to nurture the spiritual lives of parents and their children via Fall Faith and Fun Take-Home Bags (including Halloween candy, All Saints Day and Thanksgiving Day prayers and activities and more), Advent Take-Home Kits (including build-it-yourself nativity scenes and prayer cards), and Epiphany Door Chalking Kits! As we move into a new year of ministry, I am excited to work with our children’s ministry leadership to create even more opportunities to help families explore faith together!

Respectfully submitted

Sam Burcham

Director of Communications Report

Mary Coe

In twenty twenty-four, communications worked diligently and joyfully to be in touch regularly with each parishioner, keeping them informed, connected, and engaged. Communications also seeks to connect with our neighbors to inform them about outreach and to invite them into our community.

Communication happens in lots of ways, large and small, from weekly service bulletins and streamed services to email newsletters and real-mail postcards. The weekly *View from St. John’s* newsletter is opened by 65% of recipients. According to our newsletter service, the average open rate is 29%. That’s remarkable! And it demonstrates that parishioners are seeking engagement with their church.

Working with ministries and groups within the church is a big—and fun—part of communications. We circulate information about church happening of any size or shape. We are also here to help individuals with miscommunications, such as disappearing emails and non-responsive links.

Going forward, communications is working to improve our online presence, to both better connect with the parish and engage with the community. We also aim to continue sharpening all our communication tools to keep everyone in the loop about worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth opportunities.

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

Outreach Report

Grant Thompson

Love God, love your neighbor, love yourself. No exceptions.

St. John's has a rich history of serving in our community and recognizing where we can meet the growing needs of our neighbors. As you may know, our parish deploys a good portion of our outreach support in the form of a grant application process, where area non-profits and ministries within the parish submit online applications that are evaluated by a committee of parishioners. Area nonprofits and ministries submit a request for funding (typically no more than \$5,000) that supports an initiative or operations within their organization that impact Morgan County and reflect the reconciling love of Christ in the Gospels.

In spring 2024, the committee approved grants for 19 non-profits and parish ministries in the amount of \$58,500.00, which was approximately 6.2% of our parish operating budget. Our entire outreach budget—which includes our diocesan contribution, Sawyerville, and Episcopal Center expenses—totaled 17.8% of our overall budget.

Our evaluation committee features the three members of the Vestry's outreach subcommittee, six at-large parishioners who have expressed interest in serving and are willing to commit to a rotating three-year term, a clergy representative, and a committee chair. The goal of rotating members is to utilize the experience and diversity of our parish, providing more people the chance to serve and building new lay leaders in our church. This structure has and will continue to strengthen the process for years to come.

The parish received applications from 19 organizations in the fall of 2024, and the committee is in the final review process of developing our recommendations for distributions. Once that service is complete, the committee will share the results of our work and where our resources are meeting needs in our community.

Doing parish outreach work honors the blessings God has given us, and we can, in so many ways, fulfill Paul's image of being the hands and feet of the Body of Christ. St. John's gives us opportunities to do that, humbly tell our story of being instruments of love, and encouraging others to join us.

If you have questions and ideas about outreach at St. John's, please reach out at (256) 783-4420 or grant.h.thompson@gmail.com.

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, 15 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.*

Thinking of You/St. Anne's Bereavement Guild Report

Melba Middleton

Members of the Thinking of You Committee continue to cook and deliver meals, deliver flowers, send cards or call parishioners during times of illness, or when a new parishioner has lost a family member who is not a member of St. John's. There are twelve teams with 4 people on each team and each team is responsible for one month per year.

St. Anne's Bereavement Guild will prepare and serve a meal for the family (maximum of 25 people) on the day of the funeral of a loved one that is held at St. John's. If the funeral is not held at St. John's, the committee will prepare a bereavement meal if the deceased is a member of our church or is a parishioner's spouse, child or parent so long as the deceased is not a member of another Decatur area church. The meal will be served at St. John's or at the home of a family member or friend of the deceased. Coffee and ice water can also be provided during visitation.

Both these ministries are very important to our church family. A recent Thank You note sums it up best:: "I've always known that St. John's provides a meal for a church family following a funeral. But, I never knew until now what a blessing it is."

Please consider becoming a part of one or both of these important ministries. For more information, please contact Melba Middleton at 256-651-1058.

Family Life Committee Report

Kristen Propst and Bunny Edwards

The Family Life Committee provides fellowship opportunities for St. John's parish family. In 2024 the committee sponsored the Pentecost lunch, Rally Day lunch, Annual Parish Picnic, Chili/Cornbread Cookoff, Advent Wreath Workshop & Supper and the Roadrunners Christmas Party. In June we coordinated participating in "Faith Night at the Trash Pandas." St. John's had more members attending than any other church so Chase and Jonathan were invited to pitch the first Ball! In addition, the Family Life Committee hosted a St. John's Women luncheon and a Senior Graduation breakfast in May. The men's newly organized grilling group, the Holy Smokers, debuted by grilling hamburgers for the Rally Day lunch in August and cooked fish and hushpuppies for the Parish Picnic in October. St. John's Women organized the Simply Divine Bake Sale in November and the Holy Smokers cooked pork loins for that.

Members of the Family Life Committee are Amy Calame, Ann Stewart, Annie Cornell, 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, Marlene Eads, Marthalyne Biles, Mary McKimmon, Melba Middleton, Menine Rice, Nancy Turbyfill, Nell Standridge, Nick Roth, Pat Price, Rachel Wiley, Sally Bibb, Sally Quinn, Sara Reed Thompson, Steve Price, and Victoria Hughes.

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

To join the Holy Smokers contact Joe Propst (256) 227-3815 at lawyerpropst@aol.com.

Guild of the Christ Child Report

Samantha Hogwood

The Guild of the Christ Child's mission is to celebrate the birth and adoption of children into families in our congregation. To celebrate the new addition the Guild gives a prepared basket full of thoughtful gifts including a cradle cross. Upon baptism the Baby is given a baby Bible.

Music Report

Lauren Cantrell, Choirmaster

We've had another great year in St. John's Choir! We welcomed a few new members, as well as Joseph Fleetwood as Associate Organist. We continued our tradition of Lessons and Carols with the Church of the Ascension and Good Shepherd. Some of our favorite new pieces this year were LL Fleming's "Give Me Jesus," Z. Randall Stroope's "How Can I Keep From Singing," and Elizabeth Poston's "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree." We rehearse 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!

Cursillo

Erika Hueber

In 2024, Luke Slaton had the honor of being the Lay Rector for Cursillo #234, which was also staffed by Betty Weaver and Emily and Brian White, who joined the music staff. Parishioner Carolyn Jenke attended Cursillo #235, which was staffed by Erika (her daughter). During the summer, St. John's hosted a Cursillo Staff Training, which was attended by people from all over Alabama. All those who attend Cursillo ("Cursillistas") are eligible to staff a Cursillo after training.

In addition, Cursillistas are welcome to attend St. John's Ultreya meetings, which are periodic gatherings for fellowship and a way to renew the spirit of the Cursillo weekend. In 2024, our Ultreya organized an "Ultreya Sunday" with music from Alleluia III led by Rob Getman and a Stewardship Wednesday night program, organized by June Hall with food donated by Riverside Senior Living and music by the Arnold Street Band from Grace Church Cullman. During that program, we also learned about Kairos, a prison ministry similar to Cursillo, in which several members of St. John's participate.

In addition to Ultreya, the Cursillistas of St. John's have several Reunion Groups that meet to live out the "Fourth Day." Want to know what that is? Just ask anyone who has attended Cursillo, and they will be happy to tell you all about it!

There will be 3 Cursillo weekends in 2025: April 3-6; June 5-8; and October 9-12. All are welcome to learn more about Cursillo by contacting Erika Huber, St. John's Parish Lay Rector, at ehuber4404@gmail.com or 256-425-1877.

Finally—a note to St. John's Cursillistas: if you aren't getting the Ultreya newsletter in your email, please let Erika know. Our newsletter has been newly designed by Mary Coe, who is also sending it out from St. John's. Thank you, Mary!! We hope this will better facilitate communication in 2025!

Grounds Committee Report

Bill Briscoe

Our landscape company continues to do a good job on most aspects around our campus. The Jackson Street area was well cared for by Carol Chenault and Sally Quinn and we thank them very much. Also thanks to the yoga group for caring for the flower pots in the garden. We have a few trees that are under care of an arborist to try to help them recover from several issues mostly drought. The teak refinishing process in the McKimmon Garden has taken a different approach and the hope is we can get the pieces to hold the process better long term

Common Ground Community Garden Report

Ellis Chenault
Julia Chenault
Carol Hancock

We had a good number of volunteers in 2024 which made the workload so much easier. Thanks to all: Marilyn and Pat Volonino, Rhonda Buckley, Jason Meares, Tory and Stefani Smith and their children, Kim McCain, Kathy Landis, Sally Quinn, Danny Morgan, Carol Hancock, Ellis Chenault, and Julia Chenault.

We replaced the welcome sign on the west side of the garden using a grant from the Trowlers Garden Club. We planted new plants, watered, mulched, trimmed, and weeded. Lost a few plants and watched others flourish. We cleaned out the closet and still have some tomato cages looking for a new home. We also added a bit more irrigation that was needed.

We applied for and received a grant from the Diocese to replace the old wooden table with a live-edge slab table but had to push this project into 2025.

The garden was full of pollinators the whole season. We expect many are now at rest under the leaves, in the hollow stems, and under the remains of the fig tree stump which we left for that very purpose next to one of the big bur oak trees.

Goals for 2025

1. Expand our team with hopes of building continuous leadership for this important ministry. A good many members from last year have moved or unable to continue.
2. Continue to use posts in The View and social media to spread our mission of hospitality and sustainable gardening practices.
3. Encourage use of the garden for parish events including age-appropriate activities for our children.
4. Continue to add native plants.
5. Replace table.
6. Sandblast and repaint our metal butterfly.

Please like our page on Facebook, [Common Ground: Community Garden at St. John's](#), and share our posts frequently to broaden community support for sustainable practices.

2025 Vestry Nominees

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



Bynum Kirby



Ed Land



Ann Stewart



Suzanne Thompson



Victoria Tumbleson

Trustees Report

<u>Trust Funds</u>	Starting Balance (01/01/2024)	Renovation Monies Returned	Annual Distribution Received	Other Changes in Investment Value	Ending Balance (12/31/2024)
Charles H. Eyster General Fund <i>supports outreach & care of properties</i>	\$145,920.67	\$373.17	(\$7,296.03)	\$16,708.56	\$155,706.37
Charles H. Eyster Choir Fund <i>supports music programs</i>	\$160,224.94	\$373.17	-0-	\$18,905.12	\$179,503.23
Margaret A. Hoff Memorial Fund <i>supports outreach & care of properties</i>	\$224,323.36	\$559.77	(\$11,216.17)	\$25,685.53	\$239,352.49
St. John's Endowment Fund <i>supports outreach & care of properties</i>	\$97,544.79	\$298.79	(\$4,877.24)	\$11,171.04	\$104,137.38
Total	\$628,013.76	\$1,604.90	(\$23,389.44)	\$72,470.25	\$678,699.47

Stewardship Report

2025 Pledge Increase— .45% over 2024

17 New Pledges

70 Same Amount as in 2024

21 Decreased Their Pledge

43 Increased Their Pledge

23 Stopped Their Pledge

48 Made No Pledge

222 Total Pledging Units

2025 Average Pledge \$5,639.54 vs. \$5,445.66 in 2024

Total Budget Income is increased by 1.59%

2024 - \$942,218

2025 - \$957,170

2024 Treasurer's Report

John Thornton

St. John's financial position is strong.

We ended 2024 with a relatively small deficit (expenses exceeded revenues) of \$5,347. As background, each year the Finance Committee presents to the Vestry and then to the Parish members, a budget that allocates every dollar expected to be received in the coming year from pledges, plate offerings, etc. so that there is a zero-balance projected for year-end. This year in fact revenues nearly matched expenses, but that does not present the whole picture.

In the 2024 budget there was \$143,400 allocated for building maintenance expenses but the total for that category at year-end was \$159,941 primarily due to the following unforeseen expenditures, each approved by the Vestry:

Ice maker	\$5,400
Parish Hall chairs	4,300
Additional video cameras	6,200
A/C compressor (Flower Guild room)	3,600
Floor scrubber	<u>6,500</u>
	\$26,000

The total so far for the 2025 stewardship campaign is \$851,570, a 0.45% increase over 2024. That amount added to other expected receipts has resulted in the total 2025 budget revenue amount of \$957,170, a very impressive number for a parish our size. As in previous years, the total amount of receipts has been allocated for all the various expenses we expect to incur for the year resulting in a projected break-even total.

However, the 2025 budget was not constructed without making some hard decisions regarding expenditures. The initial budget draft indicated a deficit of just over \$100,000. The final draft of the 2025 Budget as approved by the Finance Committee is in balance. A few explanations, St. John's, the Diocese of Alabama and the national church operate under a policy that each parish and Diocese is required to cover 100% of the health insurance premiums (single or family coverage) of all full-time clergy and staff members. In 2025, there will be three additional St. John's employees who have opted for full family coverage resulting in an increase in health insurance premiums of approximately \$50,000. To balance the 2025 budget, there were several expense line items that were reduced including a reduction of our Diocesan contribution from 10% in previous years down to 8%, a savings of almost \$20,000, a reduction in employee salary cost of living increases along with several other less drastic reductions were also approved.

In conclusion, I want to again thank the clergy, staff and Vestry who are such good stewards of the generosity of Parish members. This is my last report as your Treasurer, and it has been an honor to serve St. John's in this role. As in past years I want to thank Ms. Vickie Reed, Financial Administrator, for her diligence and hard work.

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2024

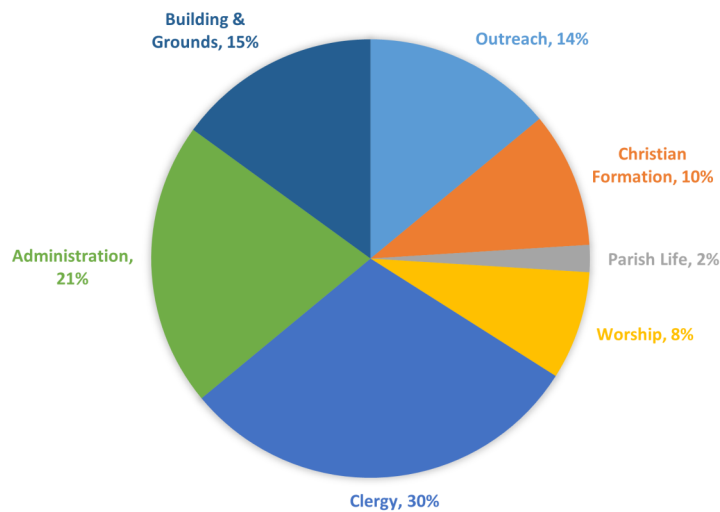
Assets	
Bank Independent (Checking + Money Market)	\$456,674
Clergy Discretionary Funds	7,267
Endowment	678,700
Petty Cash	200
Accounts Receivable	5,005
Total Current Assets	\$1,147,846
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$3,976
Payroll Taxes & Elective Deductions	6,946
Restricted Funds	1,069,661
Equity	67,263
Total Liabilities	\$1,147,846

2024 Operations Income/Expense Summary

Income	
Pledge Income	\$830,709
Non-Pledge & Other Income	93,811
Trust Distribution	23,390
Total Operations Income	\$947,910
Expense	
Outreach	\$158,374
Programs	457,450
Administration, Properties, Debt Service	337,433
Total Operations Expense	\$953,257

2024 Designated Income/Expense Summary

Designated Income	\$340,120
Designated Expense	277,590
Total Designated Net Income	\$62,530



St. John's 2025 Budget (Proposed)

Income	
Pledge	\$851,570
Plate	12,000
Non-Pledge	49,000
Endowment Distribution	32,000
Interest Income	10,000
Breakfast & Dinner	2,600
Communion Wine Dedications	0
Total Income	\$957,170

For expense breakdown, see chart below.

Total Expense \$957,170

Area of Ministry	2025 Budget	% of Budget	2024 Budget	2024 Actual
Outreach	\$137,976	14%	\$168,312	\$158,374
Christian Formation	100,338	10%	86,482	86,297
Parish Life	18,009	2%	20,809	18,308
Worship	72,565	8%	78,732	75,913
Clergy	285,091	30%	275,395	276,932
Administration	198,366	21%	169,088	177,492
Building & Grounds	144,825	15%	143,400	159,941
Total	\$957,170	100%	\$942,218	\$953,257

We give gratitude and thanks to our outgoing Vestry Class of 2024:
Sandy Barr, Mike Burnthall, Steve Price, (Senior Warden), Kristen Propst,
Karen Sawyer and to Treasurer, John Thornton.

In 2025, the Wardens of St. John's will be Brian White (Senior Warden)
and Julie Leavitt (Junior Warden)

The Vestry

Class of 2025: Tony Bolan, Ellis Chenault, Lisa Dye, Brian White (Senior
Warden), Rachel Wiley

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

Stuart Tubb	<i>Treasurer</i>
Stan Evans	<i>Assistant Treasurer</i>
Carol Sartain	<i>Clerk</i>
Ken Schuppert	<i>Chancellor</i>

The Parish Staff

The Rev. Chase Ackerman, <i>Rector</i>	chase@stjohnsdecatur.org
The Rev. Sarah DiCarlo-Watts, <i>Associate Rector</i>	sarah@stjohnsdecatur.org
The Rev. Sam Burcham, <i>Deacon, Outreach & Family Ministries</i>	sam@stjohnsdecatur.org
Vickie Reed, <i>Financial Administrator</i>	vickie@stjohnsdecatur.org
Mary Coe, <i>Director of Communications</i>	mary@stjohnsdecatur.org

Lauren Cantrell	<i>Choirmaster</i>
Foster Bailey	<i>Organist</i>
Joseph Fleetwood	<i>Assistant Organist</i>
Melba Middleton	<i>Food & Hospitality</i>
Paul Montgomery	<i>Sexton</i>
Sam Hogwood	<i>Nursery Attendant</i>
Callie Melick	<i>Nursery Attendant</i>

St. John's Episcopal Church

202 Gordon Drive SE
Decatur, Alabama 35601
Church Office 256-353-9615
After-hours Pastoral Emergency: 256-280-3792
Monday -Thursday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm; closed Friday

