

ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

2023 | SAINT-JOHN.ORG



MESSAGE FROM THE Parish Rector

Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is a vision for the appointed time." Habakkuk 2:2-3a

Dear St. John's,

You are in for a treat as you thumb through the pages of this Annual Report. You will, of course, find all the usual elements. Facts and figures. Numbers and narratives. Programs, projects, and answered prayers. But there's more. Embedded within this Annual Report is the story of a church filled to the brim—and overflowing—with love.

St. John's stands today as a bastion of unconditional love and welcome, a safe and joyful home for all who seek to know and follow a loving God. We believe in goodness and grace at a time when the world holds such things in short supply. As the stories in this report indicate, we are here for a reason.

To that end, it is time to begin discerning our vision for the years ahead. What is St. John's purpose in the coming years? What impact do we wish to have on the world? Who is God calling us to be?

Discerning that vision will not be quick work, but it will be joyful, faithful, and often exciting. And if the pages of this Annual Report tell us anything, love will be the guiding star for whatever vision we discern.

Grace and peace,

Lornie Lacy
The Rev. Lornie Lacy





LEADERSHIP Reports



LEADERSHIP REPORTS

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S REPORT

The Rev. Leslie Roraback

We have known and have believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who remain in love remain in God and God remains in them. John 1:16

Serving at St. John's is a true joy and welcome adventure.

In the areas of pastoral care, outreach, parish life, and youth, children, and family ministries I encounter the breadth of the St. John's family. I am privileged to witness the many ways you encourage and love one another and as such, minister to one another in creative and loving ways.

Together we have focused on welcome and hospitality. Adding the Joy and Wonder Station and rocking chairs to the sanctuary provides both engagement and comfort, the pop up Welcome Center Kiosk and enhanced Coffee and Connection Hour offer clarity and belonging. All important to visitors, new members, and our church family.

The Vestry and members of Integrity joined in efforts to refresh our website welcome statement which now reflects the affirming and inclusive church that is St. John's.

We are taking steps to strengthen our pastoral care team and this Lent we will offer Phoenix Support Groups for caregivers of loved ones with dementia, for divorce recovery, and for those caring for aging parents.

Our days together are so much more than a checklist of the things we do each calendar year. Devoted together, our time is filled with hope and love. May the Lord continue to be with us and may our adventure together continue to take us from strength to strength laden with joy, love, and peace.



LEADERSHIP REPORTS

DEACONS' REPORT

*The Rev. Deacons Joe Bakker,
Linda Liebert-Hall, and Mike Hall*

In January 2023, Deacons Mike Hall and Linda Liebert-Hall joined our diaconal ministry team at St. John's. They expanded our ministries to include the St. Francis Ministry with the mission of celebrating God's creatures through education, fun, and love while supporting ministries which transform our community. They facilitated the annual Blessing of the Animals event at Cascades Park this year where the entire clergy team came together to bless 100 pets. Pet food and supplies were collected and donated to Elder Care and Be the Solution thrift store.

Our spiritual and material support for the sick, poor, needy, prison inmates, and ex-offenders in our community continued in 2023, generously supported and encouraged by the St. John's family. Cameron Jackson and Winifred Williams were especially helpful volunteers in these efforts.

We are grateful for the opportunity to share St. John's love of Christ with our neighbors.



79

*Bible study classes led at
area correctional facilities*

100

*pets blessed during the
Blessing of the Animals*



LEADERSHIP REPORTS

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Mahaska Whitley, Senior Warden



As I look back on 2023, I realize how blessed we are as a parish. Our Diocese certainly had its ups and downs, but St. John's has remained steadfast and strong at its core. We are thankful to have a Diocesan Standing Committee that is committed to a positive outcome as our Diocese continues the process of healing and forward movement.

St. John's is also extremely fortunate to be led by a capable and charismatic Rector, Fr. Lonnie Lacy. This year, we were also able to bring on a talented and enthusiastic Associate Rector, Mtr. Leslie Roraback, to help expand our ministry.

2023 saw many exciting new endeavors. The St. John's Choir School is up and running, and thriving in our parish and beyond, under the direction of Marissa Hall. Invite Welcome Connect has breathed new life and a renewed sense of hospitality into our coffee hour following Sunday worship.

St. John's remains faithfully committed to our companion parish and partnering ministries in Cuba and Ecuador. We were proud to send teams to both countries again this year. Our Outreach efforts closer to home were bolstered by another successful St. John's Market this Thanksgiving, resulting in 15 market grants awarded to local organizations!

"The Year of the Bible" at St. John's has brought joy and unity to all. We have delved into the stories in this ancient text as a parish family, while simultaneously sharing the beauty of the Saint John's Bible with our community. Together, we are strengthening our own knowledge and beliefs through this year of study.

It has been my great pleasure to serve as your Senior Warden these past two years, as the past 50 years at St. John's has shown me the power of God's love.



LEADERSHIP REPORTS

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Stephen Peters, Junior Warden

2023 certainly brought St. John's some challenges! I have enjoyed working closely with our Parish Administrator, Mark Ascani.



Major decisions were made in 2023 around our HVAC system as well implementing much needed improvements around our property. It has been my pleasure to serve as your Junior Warden. Here are some important improvements made in 2023.

PROPERTY COMMISSION

*Charley Redding and Lisbeth Childs,
Co-Chairs*

The primary focus in 2023 has been the HVAC/Chiller project. The new 160-ton chiller and other needed improvements will provide air conditioning and dehumidified circulated air to the church and the other campus buildings. The project requires a fundraising effort, which started early 2024 thanks to the thorough work and approval of the Finance Committee and Vestry. The overall cost ceiling for the approved projects is \$1.5 million.

Listed below are the various building and property projects addressed and being considered by the Property Commission in 2023.

- HVAC/Chiller project
- Church Security: Security cameras installed in the Calhoun St. entrance lobby and office hallway
- Cemetery: Authorized removal of overgrown sago palms and repair of the fence line. A sizeable donation was received for both cemetery projects and general church needs. Currently considering placing simple gravestones on a few of the unmarked grave sites.



LEADERSHIP REPORTS

(continued from previous page)

- Kitchen: A new cooler unit for the walk-in refrigerator will be installed for the kitchen in 2024.
- The Marshall House: A new 1-2 year lease was implemented with our tenant, The Oasis Center.
- South transept entrance to the Messer Garden: Termite detection and mitigation with additional mitigation in other campus locations
- Memorials Committee: Restarted work on an historic marker for the church building in conjunction with the State of Florida. This work will continue in mid-late 2024.



THE ST. JOHN'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY SJHS

This committee formed in February 2023 with the mission to research, preserve, and promote the history of St. John's Episcopal Church. The SJHS has 18 members. The SJHS is enthusiastic about preserving and promoting the history of St. John's.

We have updated the self-guided tour pamphlet, added docents for the church and the Saint John's Bible, began taking oral histories of parishioners, and are working with staff to expand the "history" link on the church website to include the SJHS. Longer term, our goal is to research, write, and publish *God Willing II from 1980-2029*.

We are now in the process of creating a three-person board.

ST. JOHN'S FOUNDATION



St. John's Foundation

Sarah Ball Miller,

Chair of the Foundation Board

The St. John's Foundation works to grow and protect its endowment, an endowment whose purpose is to support St. John's in its mission for years to come. At the end of 2023, the total funds under management by the Foundation are \$2.132 million. These funds represent two endowments, an unrestricted (\$1.995 million) and a restricted Bertha Munks fund (\$139,140).

Each year, in accordance with the Foundation's Spending Policy, the Foundation spends a maximum of 4% of its endowment. This percentage is based on a 20-quarter rolling average, which accounts for fluctuations in the market. The monies given from the unrestricted endowment are provided to the church to fund specific needs and activities identified by the Vestry. The restricted endowment specifies that its funds be used for outreach efforts, primarily Episcopal Relief and Development.

Because contributions given to the church from the Foundation's endowment are based on the endowment's value, the larger the endowment grows, the more dollars the Foundation is able to contribute to the church each year. For example, in 2019, the Foundation was able to provide \$23,300 to support church projects, whereas in 2024, the Foundation is able to provide \$56,457. That is because, in 5 years the funds managed by the Foundation have grown from \$1.331 million to \$1.995 million. **Based on our investment history, a gift of \$25,000 in 2004 would be worth approximately \$100,000 today, and your bequest would be providing money to the church each year to support Vestry-named projects.** So even after your death, you are financially supporting the great ministries of St. John's.

Projects partially funded by SJF in 2023:

- Landscape and lighting
- Outreach
- Cuba ministry
- Grace Mission
- Stephen Ministry
- Walking the Mourners Path
- Diocesan Convention
- Youth & Adult Confirmation
- Summer Choir Camp
- Front Porch
- Episcopal University Center (Ruge Hall)
- Children's Special Events
- Youth Scholarships
- Youth Trip Chaperone
- Handbell Maintenance
- Advent Lessons & Carols
- Ministry Scheduler

106

*members of the
1829 Legacy Society*

*Please remember the
Foundation in your will or trust.
No amount is too big or small.
We ask that you let us know if
you have done so, but it is not
necessary to let us know the
amount you plan to give.*

ST. JOHN'S FOUNDATION

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1829 LEGACY SOCIETY

So as not to interfere with the annual fund or a capital campaign, the Foundation strives to increase its endowment through after-death dollars (e.g. naming the Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance policy). The Foundation's 1829 Legacy Society was created in 2016 to encourage and celebrate parishioners who have decided to provide a planned gift to the Foundation, thereby assuring the long-term health and progress of our church. Such bequests cause the endowment, and therefore annual dollars given by the Foundation for church projects, to increase. By the end of 2023, our Legacy Society had grown to 106 members! Our goal is to reach 200 members by the church's 200th birthday in 2029. For those of you who are one of the 106 Legacy Society members, thank you so very much! To those of you who are not yet a member, we hope you will consider joining us. There is no age too young or old, and no amount too big or small, as it all makes an impact. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sarah Ball Miller or to parishioner Ben Bowersox, an Advisor at Capital City Trust Company who serves as a consultant to the Foundation. He is available to talk you through the gift giving process at no cost to the parishioner.



PARISH FINANCES

BALANCE SHEET – December 31, 2023

Leslie Redding, Vestry Finance Chair
Cindy Sessions, Treasurer

Assets				
	Cash and petty cash			\$ 1,257,481
Total Assets				\$ 1,257,481
Liabilities				
	Accounts Payable			\$ 177
Total Liabilities				\$ 177
Fund Principal				
	Unrestricted capital from previous years			\$ 509,840
	Unrestricted capital from current year			\$ 38,947
Total unrestricted capital				\$ 548,786
Restricted Funds				
	Total Temporarily Restricted funds			\$ 708,517
	Cemetery		\$ 42,739	
	Chapel		\$ 15,411	
	Clergy Discretionary		\$ 13,340	
	Compass Rose		\$ 15,926	
	Flowers		\$ 5,504	
	Gifts of Grace		\$ 13,864	
	Global Philanthropy Leaders		\$ 6,376	
	HVAC Project		\$ 331,090	
	Music Ministry & Choir School		\$ 92,788	
	St. Francis Ministry		\$ 656	
	St. John's Historical Society		\$ 925	
	St. Mary's General Fund		\$ 8,368	
	St. Mary's Scholarship Fund		\$ 7,333	
	Needlepoint		\$ 751	
	Capital Campaign		\$ 461	
	Children's Ministry		\$ 10,124	
	Memorial Garden		\$ 105,496	
	Property		\$ 26,908	
	Youth		\$ 10,457	
Total Liabilities, Unrestricted capital & Restricted Funds				\$ 1,257,481

PARISH FINANCES

COMMON MINISTRY BUDGET

Income	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<i>Pledge Income</i>	\$ 1,349,750	\$ 1,298,389	\$ 1,361,750
<i>Non Pledge Income</i>	\$ 165,000	\$ 164,446	\$ 168,000
<i>Food/Café Income</i>	\$ 270,000	\$ 306,213	\$ 291,600
<i>Parking Lot Rentals</i>	\$ 4,644	\$ 3,419	\$ 3,096
<i>Marshall House Lease</i>	\$ 1,360	\$ -	\$ 8,160
<i>Interest/Trust Income</i>	\$ 52,760	\$ 81,891	\$ 64,760
<i>Miscellaneous Income</i>	\$ 9,200	\$ 10,795	\$ 15,150
<i>Market Income</i>	\$ 35,000	\$ 27,500	\$ 30,000
<i>Rental Income</i>	\$ 12,250	\$ 14,445	\$ 12,250
<i>Release from Restriction</i>	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
<i>St. John's Foundation Support</i>	\$ 54,294	\$ 54,294	\$ 56,457
Total Income	\$ 1,969,258	\$ 1,961,391	\$ 2,026,223
Expenses	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<i>Diocesan</i>	\$ 161,154	\$ 160,604	\$ 155,314
<i>Worship</i>	\$ 6,042	\$ 4,648	\$ 5,435
<i>Music</i>	\$ 20,471	\$ 21,790	\$ 34,748
<i>Children Ministry</i>	\$ 11,614	\$ 5,744	\$ 12,536
<i>Youth Ministry</i>	\$ 20,680	\$ 11,220	\$ 19,385
<i>Adult Education Ministry</i>	\$ 10,900	\$ 6,473	\$ 8,300
<i>Pastoral Care Ministry</i>	\$ 3,600	\$ 1,201	\$ 6,750
<i>Outreach Ministry</i>	\$ 93,532	\$ 95,380	\$ 91,700
<i>Parish Life Ministry</i>	\$ 192,750	\$ 222,251	\$ 213,642
<i>Communications</i>	\$ 44,862	\$ 39,116	\$ 46,592
<i>Clergy Compensation</i>	\$ 271,885	\$ 260,890	\$ 294,298
<i>Lay Compensation</i>	\$ 740,875	\$ 723,006	\$ 733,084
<i>Lay Insurance</i>	\$ 94,741	\$ 88,221	\$ 98,172
<i>Property Management</i>	\$ 268,464	\$ 257,899	\$ 278,440
<i>Other Expenses</i>	\$ 25,206	\$ 24,003	\$ 25,227
Total Expenses	\$ 1,966,778	\$ 1,922,445	\$ 2,023,623
Income Over/Under Expenses	\$ 2,480	\$ 38,947	\$ 2,600

2023 PLEDGING HOUSEHOLDS

We thank and celebrate the households that pledged in 2023.

Maggie Abney
Gene & Susan Adams
Grace Albritton
Caroline & John Allen
Frank & Peggy Allen
Stephanie & Frank Amidon
Hays & Trish Amos
Anne Anderson
Elyzabeth Anderson
Paul & Pam Anderson
Laura Arnold
Claude & Shari Arrington
Brian & Valerie Arsenault
Mark Ascani
Andy & Katherine Ashler
Phil & Betty Ashler
Alan & Nancy Asker
Jeff & Lisa Askins
Allison & Josh Aubuchon
Daniel & Shelby Augustyniak
John & Jane Aurell
Ed Babcock
Earl & Jane Bacon
Joe & Cheryl Bakker
Sam & Nicole Ballas
Lynn & Michael Bannister
Tom & Mary Ellen Bateman
Nancy Bechard
Bettie Bedell
Margaret Bennett
Bob Benton
Lo & Peggy Bielby
Tom & Cathy Bishop
Craig & Kakki Bissell
JoAnn Bixler
Adam & Jenny Blalock
Liz Blount
Margaret Boeth
Alex Boler
Ben & Sarah Bowersox
Noreen & John Boynton
Nancy Brand & Lon Sweat
Jim & Maureen Briede
Clydie Brown
Peter & Bette-Lou Brown
Rebecca & Joe Brown
Steve & Mary Bryan
Bill & Marianne Bryant
Bill Burlison
Ray & Kathy Bye
Byron & Kitty Camp
David Campbell
Carlos & Kim Campo
Melanie Carr
Chris & Lucy Carter
Frances Carter
Linda Carter
Susan Cassedy
David & Lizbeth Childs
Jane Clarkson
Jim & Anne Clendinen
Chuck & Natalie Collins
Mary Gail Compton
Catherine Connor
Clydie Lu Conway
Marcia Cook
Richard & Lynne Corbett
Jack Corry
Sam Coskey
Jeff & Janine Couch
Gloria Crittenden
Tim & Sue Cross
Elizabeth Crowe
Judy Culbreath
Peggy Daffin
Barbara Davidson & Anne Davis
Jean Davis
John & Teresa Dean
Callie Dehaven
Melissa Devereaux

Joseph & Alison Dillehay
Adrian & Bethann Dillon
Dan Dobbins
Claire Catherine Dodd
Frank Douglas
LiAnne Douglas
Tom & Fran Doxsee
Mike & Beth DuMond
Ashley Edwards & Kim Hinckley
Jody Elliott
Grady Enlow & June Dollar
James & Wendy Ernst
Anne Fairchild
Bob & Marjorie Feagin
Mike Fields
Bev Fogarty-Pagel
Helen Follis
David and Debby Fonvielle
Allyson Foster
Skip & Dina Foster
Hilda Frazier
Cathy Gaber
Patricia Garner
Jen & Emily Garretson
Pat Garrett
Evie Gathright
Hester Gehrm
Marie Genece
Beverly Gibson
Ruth Godfrey-Sigler Godfrey
Cheryl Goodson
Jamie & Teresa Goodson
Bob & Carolyn Gosselin
Mary Anne Gray
Marjorie Greene
Kyle & Kristen Griffis
David Grimes
Barbara Gustafson
Jimmy & Josie Gustafson
Jennifer Guy-Hudson & Matthew Hudson
George & Susan Gwynn
Helen Haines
Kathy & Rick Hall
Marissa E. Hall
Christine Hansen
Martha Lindsay Hardy
Evan & Sue Harms
Emily Harrison
Laura Harrison
Frances Hart
Frederick & Lois Hawkes
George & Gwen Henderson
Jen & Chuck Hinson
Doc & Helen Horton
Louis Hubener
Marcus Richartz & Whitney Hults-Richartz
Charles Ingram & Chris Lavery
Mary Irvine
Cameron & Teresa Jackson
Jonathan Jackson & Greg Springer
Betty Lou Joanos
Leslie Johnson
Susan Johnson
J. Page Jolly
Judy Jolly
Susan Jones
Betty Kane
Lucinda Keesey
Grace Kelly
Sandra Kendall
Brooke Kennerly
Keith & Lorna Kibbey
Paula Kiger
Kate & Brad Kile
Kim & Lyla King
Rip & Kelly Kirby
Marty Kiser
Peter & Michelle Klekamp
Jill Kowalski
Joseph Kraus

Pete Kreis
Louella Krog
Lonnie & Jay Lacy
Lance & Cary Langston
Randy & Ann Langston
John Larson
Martha Larson
Steve & Vicki Lastowski
Wilma Lauder
Karen Leavesley
Laurel Lemley
John Lemons & Tanya Peres-Lemons
Trilly Lester
Regina & Thomas Lewis
Linda Liebert-Hall & Mike Hall
Jerrie Lindsey
John & Jewel Linney
Mimi Livingston
Glenn & Terry MacGraw
John & Phoebe Mackie
Joan Macmillan
Tyler & Jill Macmillan
Kerry Maddox
Danny & Allison Manausa
Doug & Cricket Mannheimer
George & Michelle Mannheimer
Pat Martin
Mike & Nancy Mattimore
James & Susan Mau
Mike Mauterer
Jo Ann McAdams
Beauvais McCaddon
Shawn Robert McCauley
Jerry & Nora McDaniel
Charles McElroy
Debby & Patti McNamara
Pamela McWilliams
Steve & Jane Menton
Jeff & Sara Merrill
Jim & Laurye Messer
Lee Metcalf
Rollins & Sarah Ball Miller
Melanie Mobley
Edward & Victoria Montanaro
Bill & Mary Moor
Kathleen & Thomas Moore
Stephen Mozier
Marcy Muldrow Sanders
Boyd & Margaret Murphree
Susanne Murphy
Kristi Myers
Gayle Nelson
Katie Nielsen-Nunez & Jorge Nunez
Kristina Nilsson
Michael Rial Norris
David O'Bryan
Jim Ogorek & Carol Newman
Gary Parsons
Dustin & Helen Paulson
SK Pepper
Earle & Virginia Perkins
John & Christa Perkins
Steve & Pat Peters
Mary Petrandis
Russ Pfof & Michael Hargrave
Wendy Plant
Virginia Ponder
Bob & Jan Porter
Susan Pourciau
Hollis & Janice Powers
Collins & Katie Proctor
David & Helen Proctor
Julian & Betty Proctor
Lesley Proctor & Rob proctor
Martin & Susan Proctor
Palmer & Mary Call Proctor
Tim & Audra Proctor
Martha Ray-Brooks
Charley & Leslie Redding
Ann Redmond

Kathy Reeves
Phil Reeves
Rodney Reeves
Sally Roberts
Mary Lee Robertson
Becton Roddenberry
Sharon & Tom Rolfes
Bob & Patty Romig
Ashley Roseborough
Lamar & Anne Rowe
Roger & Dorothy Rumenik
JR & Ken Saginario
Erik & Melanie Salsgiver
Stephen Sansom
Paul & Jonette Sawyer
Dennis & Mandy Schnittker
Chris & Alli Schoonover
Justin & Stephanie Senior
Doug & Cindy Sessions
Mary Shannahan
Dayne & Susan Shelton
Chuck & Pamela Shields
Bo & Sara Beth Shippen
Kimberly Simpkins
Ramsay & Mary Byrd Sims
Holly Sinco
Benson Skelton
Susan Skelton
Ryan & Kelly Smith
Ginny Smoller
Rob & Ashley Sniffen
Lynn Solomon
Sam Solomon
Lauren & Israel Soto
Michael & Hella Spellman
Lauren & Steve Squillacote
Enmanuel & Michael Stewart-Meza
David & Kathy Stich
Dean Stoddart & Anna Burnley
Melanie & Anthony Storch
Wayne & Corinna Strayer
Sully & Kathy Sullivan
Beth Sylvester
Erin Sylvester Philpot & Thomas Philpot
Pete & Celeste Tanzy
Chris & Mark Taul
Blan Teagle & Lili Quintiliani
John & Kay Thomas
Bruce & Mary Topp
Quinn Townsend
Bill & Karla Trexler
Sarah Michael Trupiano
Cynthia & Charles Tunnicliff
Ralph Turner
Roger & Carolyn Turner
Donna Virnelson
Francine Walker
Georgette Walterson
Jay & Susan Walton
Stephen Waltz
Margie Watkins
Adam & Melanie Watson
David & Judy Watson
Helen West
Debra Westerman
David Thomas Wheeler
Tom & Mahaska Whitley
Martha Gene Wigginton
Ash & Jan Williams
Bud & Frances Williams
Candy & Barbara Jo Williams
Winifred Williams
Elizabeth Woodsmall
Gail Wray
Angie Wylie
Ilse Yost
Karen Young
Don & Taska Zorn



VESTRY COMMISSION Reports





27

families hosted
the Posada

230

backpack tags distributed
at St. John's annual
"Bach to School" service

9

infants, children
and adults baptized
this year



CHILDREN & FAMILIES

*Rebecca Brown and Chris Schoonover,
Vestry Co-Chairs*

The Children and Families Ministry had a successful 2023, considering how COVID dealt the ministry challenging times in 2022. We saw an increase in participation by the children and families at St. John's.

Under the coordination of Kristen Griffis and loving service of our Sunday School teachers, Sunday School lessons were based on the weekly chapter of The Story to coincide with St. John's Year of the Bible. A very "Fruitful Faith" VBS was held in June. There were 34 students and 25 volunteers. Dinner was provided to attendees, and lots of fun was had! A new Joy and Wonder station was added to the sanctuary to provide children with activities during church. They have been a remarkable way for children to keep their hands busy during worship while being present and immersed.

August's Bach to School saw backpacks blessed and tags were distributed to children, parents, teachers, and even a few college students!

Club 45 for our 4th and 5th graders met on the 4th Sunday of each month. Our group went on a Civil Rights Heritage Walk, carved pumpkins, and learned about God's love for us and our neighbors. And we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt in April.

On October 29th, St. John's hosted its first ever Trunk R Treat in the parking lot behind the bookstore. It was a huge success! We had 20 plus cars decorated and stocked to give out candy to St. John's children. We also invited kids from Riley Elementary and Grace Mission.

Advent saw several families making wreaths, hosting Mary and Joseph in their homes for Posada, and joined other St. John's parishioners for Christmas caroling.



FAITH FORMATION

*Janine Couch and Erik Salsgiver,
Vestry Co-Chairs*

Our focus is to walk alongside parishioners of all ages as they grow in their relationship and understanding of God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, and their own faith. Understanding that there are many ways to experience God, we strive to offer programming that meets all who enter our doors, wherever they are on their spiritual journey.

We began 2023 with Growing in Grace, a 5-week series described as “Episcopal 101.” After Easter, we hosted (in person and online) Sunday forums for adults with a variety of presentations and conversations. During June & July, we took a 9-week journey with our clergy team reading and discussing Christine Pohl’s book *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*.

Beginning in Fall 2023, we embarked on an ambitious “St. John’s Year of the Bible” kicking off the program year with Miqra, a 72-hour livestreamed public reading of the entire Bible. Parishioners of all ages took turns reading for one hour at the altar with the final chapters of Revelation read by the entire congregation during Sunday worship. It was a powerful and profound experience for the entire parish. Additionally, we are reading the entire Bible (or the abridged version *The Story*) replacing the first and second readings of the lectionary this year with pre-selected verses from each book of the Bible. Weekly Sunday School for adults is led by clergy and lay leaders, both in person and virtually.



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Lastly, thanks to the generosity of several anonymous donors, our parish has on loan for the academic year Volume 6 (Gospels & Acts) of the Saint John's Bible, Heritage Edition. A dedicated team of volunteer leaders has recruited and trained over 40 docents who share this masterpiece with folks both within and outside of our walls. It has been a remarkable gift to have the Saint John's Bible in worship, classes, workshops, and events.

As in years past, we offer three sessions of EfM (Education for Ministry - Sewanee's School of Theology 4-yr course). The fruit of our last strategic plan, The Front Porch: A Spiritual Life Center offers several weekly/monthly classes and groups including: Centering Prayer, Meditation, Contemplative Lunch, and Second Sunday Soup Supper. In 2023, we hosted several special events including Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop, Breathing Under Water (by Fr. Richard Rohr) book study, Lenten Prayer Beads Workshop, Introduction to Nonviolent Communication, Saint John's Bible Painting Workshop, Labyrinth Walk, and even a Sound Bath!



MUSIC & WORSHIP

Debby McNamara, Vestry Chair

The Music and Worship Commission would like to thank all who participated in music and worship ministries this year. In 2023, we enjoyed the talents of four interim organists at our 10:00 AM service: Michael Corzine, Kim King, Joe Kraus, and Frank Kuhny. As we enter 2024, we are excited to welcome Dr. Frank Kuhny to our music staff as organist. Betsy Calhoun, Marissa Hall, and Mike Norris, along with our staff singers, volunteers, and guest musicians continue to fill worship services with traditional hymns, glorious choral anthems, and beautiful instrumental pieces.

Members of the St. John's Tower Bell Guild ring faithfully during Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and other special occasions.

The Tallahassee Bach Parley and String Academy held four concerts in 2023. The February concert was part of the American Musicological Society's annual meeting in Canterbury Episcopal Chapel at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Concerts at St. John's in June and November had record breaking attendance. The String Academy students and faculty played for Bach to School in August. The Academy has 29 students with 14 percent receiving need-based financial aid. "Bach's Lunch" concerts in Carter Chapel on Fridays were held in October and December and will continue in 2024.

All aspects of our Worship ministries grew in 2023. The Altar and Flower Guilds continue to craft a beautiful space to worship each Sunday, enhanced by new altar linens made by the newly formed sewing group and blessed in November. New vergers, eucharistic ministers, acolytes, and youth lectors were trained in 2023. We are grateful for all who volunteer their time to these important ministries and welcome all who wish to join in the new year.



25

*new acolytes and
eucharistic ministers*

10

Tower Bell Tuesdays

7

Weddings in 2023

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR SCHOOL

*Marissa Hall,
Assistant Director of Music*

After several years of preparation and planning, the St. John's Choir School launched on August 20, 2023. This initiative out of the 2019-2023 Fruits of the Vineyard strategic plan was created to offer the gift of music to all children and youth in the Tallahassee community, including those already at St. John's, by way of free after school music education. The Choir School stands on the shoulders of the almost century-long tradition of children's and youth choirs at St. John's, and is made up of two distinct groups: the Joyful Noisemakers (ages 5-7) and the Choristers (ages 8-18). The Joyful Noisemakers meet once weekly to learn basics of music: note-reading, rhythms, using the voice, and exploring different instruments. The Choristers meet a minimum of 3 times per week for music theory, vocal coaching, peer and intergenerational choral rehearsals, optional keyboard lessons, and leading worship on Sunday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings.

34

*students enrolled in
Choir School
(12 from the larger
Tallahassee community)*

28

Choir School volunteers





80

area senior citizens who received Christmas gifts from the ECS Elder Elf program

104

Bun Runs in 2023

400

dinners served at the Kearney Center on Tue & Thurs in 2023



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

*Lucy Carter and Susan Walton,
Vestry Co-Chairs*

The Outreach Ministry at St. John's is a longstanding commission filled with a diverse amount of opportunities to help within our immediate community and outside the state and even country lines. Whether it is serving lunches twice a week at the Kearney Center, delivering bread and pastries on the Bun Run, delivering gifts with Elder Elf, supporting Big Bend Hospice, or donating much-needed clothing and supplies to Grace Mission, St. John's listened to the needs of our local community and showed up!

A Full Summer worked with Second Harvest for the 11th year in a row. This year, over 250 volunteers assembled 7,000 nutritious snacks for children in Godby High School's cafeteria. Two big groups of St. John's volunteers attended.

The Capital Area Justice Ministry continued its justice work with over 20 local faith organizations to collaborate with our city and county politicians to bring attention to and find solutions for the critical issues of affordable housing and gun violence.

We celebrated our 10th year of working with Riley Elementary School. Susan Walton was awarded Outstanding Volunteer of the Year in the Senior category by Riley Elementary at the Annual 2022-23 Leon County Schools Volunteer, Partner, and Mentor Recognition Event. St. John's donated 3 carloads and \$1,600 in cash donations for school supplies during our School Supply Run.

Through the donation boxes at St. John's, Grace Mission has continued to see a steady stream of generosity in activity items, bedding, clothing, food, and shoes. Literally, these boxes run over with good things! And the donations from St. John's come not only in the form of material goods, but also through the hearts and hands who originate from St. John's.



ECUADOR

*John and Caroline Allen,
our missionaries in Ecuador*

Most of what we do is based on relationships, and therefore can't be captured in statistics. However this year (2023) we received 17 mission teams! This involves recruiting, coordinating logistics, planning a schedule, shepherding the team while on the ground, translating, and facilitating their mission work. We also mentored nine college-aged interns, five of whom were from the U.S. and four from Ecuador, for a 2.5-month period during the summer.



In July, the St. John's mission team visited, and it felt like one big family reunion. The team helped the local church create a camping experience for the kids of their neighborhood. We were able to spend some good quality time with the team, making butterflies out of coffee filters, hiking, and playing lots of four-square volleyball. We've said it once and we'll say it again: the Kingdom of God looks a little something like this. Thanks for loving the people we love. Thanks for being our people. We are inexpressibly grateful.

CUBA

Two 2023 Mission Teams

Two missions teams visited Zorilla, Cuba in 2023. Both teams were touched by the generosity of spirit and love they met from our brothers and sisters at San Pedro Apóstol.

During both visits, our teams worshipped and celebrated with the community. Based on the very generous donations from St. John's, food, clothes, medicines, hygiene products, and necessary repairs to the Living Waters filtration system were made and delivered. In November, workshops and classes were held, not to mention fun games of dominoes, singing, and dancing, as well as celebrating the 10 year anniversary of Living Waters.

Despite many challenges, the San Pedro congregation is thriving with 70+ children participating in Bible study, music and dance classes. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to visit San Pedro Apóstol.





ST. JOHN'S MARKET

*Allison Manausa and Holly Sinco,
Co-Chairs*

St. John's Market has been a ministry for our church since the late 1800s, and the support our volunteers gave this year was amazing. This event has deep roots in the St. John's community, and with the proper nurture and care, its branches have room to grow wide and high. The institutional memory runs deep, and everyone was very willing to "do their part" for a successful event. In fact, several booths sold out by noon on Saturday. After the market concluded, all the remaining items were donated to Habitat for Humanity.

We're so grateful to all our set-up and breakdown teams, and especially Joe Dillehay for the provision of a moving van to get everything in place for the day.

The 2023 St. John's Market took in \$27.5K after expenses, which enabled us to award \$14.5K in grants to local organizations. The remaining \$12.9K will help support St. John's mission, programs, and ministries.

Congratulations to our 2023 Market Grant Recipients!

Alzheimer's Project, Inc.
America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend
Big Bend AFTER Reentry Coalition
Big Bend Hospice, Inc.
Boys Town of North Florida
Goodwood Museum of Gardens
Havana Magnet School
Holocaust Education Resource Council
Lutheran Social Services of North Florida, Inc.
Oasis Center for Women and Girls
Raa Middle School
St. Francis Wildlife Association
Tallahassee Animal Shelter Foundation
Tallahassee Bach Parley String Academy
Tallahassee Bail Fund



PARISH LIFE

Susan Gwynn and Mahaska Whitley, Vestry Co-Chairs

In 2023, St. John's had an abundance of opportunities to celebrate, come together in gratitude, and build relationships. This entire Annual Report is filled to the brim with smiles, conversation, and love for one another within our immediate circles and the wider Tallahassee community.

We held receptions for numerous wonderful sacramental milestones like the Great Vigil of Easter, Easter Sunday, Festal Eucharist, Pentecost and Confirmation with the Bishop in attendance, Advent Lessons & Carols, and so many more.

St. John's came together in close, communal ways through SPUDS (St. John's Parishioners United for Dining and Spirit) gatherings, SALT (Senior Adults Living Triumphantly) luncheons, and St. Mary's Circle breakfasts. These longstanding groups met multiple times throughout the year in fellowship and learning opportunities. We're so grateful for their commitment to creating space for all to join.

We also cannot forget the amount of just plain fun we had in 2023! Whether it was celebrating the St. John's Choir School Open House, Jazz Music Sunday, Bach to School, or Parish Game Night, St. John's found ways to put a smile on peoples' faces.

Invite Welcome Connect held new member retreats throughout the year as well as created pathways to help visitors become members. We also introduced our Coffee & Connection Hour on Sundays following the 10 Am service. People have used this time and space to cultivate friendships, hold meetings, showcase their ministries, as well as grab a warm beverage before Sunday School. We cannot thank our "baristas" enough for being there every Sunday and serving our parish.

We look forward to strengthening our community with even more hospitality and warmth in 2024.



30

New Members welcomed

over 2000

*cups of coffees served during
Coffee & Connection*

PASTORAL CARE

Marcy Muldrow Sanders, Vestry Chair

The Pastoral Care Commission was blessed this year with Mtr. Leslie. She has a heart for this work and has provided endless support.

Walking the Mourner's Path (WTMP) held two cohorts in 2023. WTMP is a six- to eight-week grief support program that is grounded in prayer. This was the first time we held the workshop with Holy Comforter Episcopal Church and both parishes look forward to working together again soon.

Stephen Ministers remained robust and available to the flock in 2023. Stephen Ministry hosted the Service of Comfort and Healing in December, including a luncheon that followed with 54 attendees. Our Eucharistic Visitors currently serve parishioners regularly by visiting hospitals, private homes, and assisted living facilities.

Fr. Jim May graciously performs a weekly service at Westminster Oaks. Averaging 10-15 attendees each week, and a total of 49 services held in 2023. This service remains a steady source of comfort and is ably assisted by Phil Ashler, Page Jolly, Donna Virnelson, Dorothy Rumenik, and Winifred Williams.

The Angel Food Ministry provides meals to those in need and we have a committed group of volunteers who are fulfilled by fulfilling a need. Personal flower deliveries continue as altar flowers are made available to our beloveds in need of some extra TLC. The flowers are so warmly welcomed and appreciated by the recipients!

New ministries are being envisioned for 2024 that will allow parishioners to meet in a group setting to discuss and grow through their specific care need, such as caregivers and grief support.



50

flower deliveries

7

*participants in
Walking the Mourner's Path*



STEWARDSHIP

JR Saginario, Vestry Chair

Your Stewardship Generosity Ambassadors continue to work to ensure resources are in place for 2024, but we pause to give thanks for your faithful generosity in 2023, which makes all things possible at St. John's. We felt the Holy Spirit moving among us in church this past year! We centered our annual campaign in the scripture found in Acts 2:42 : "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

Thanks to your 2023 pledges and contributions, we were able to welcome Mtr. Leslie as our parish Associate Rector and a renewed focus on how we can share our gifts with the world. Our Stewardship team is optimistic about the coming year. We set a goal of 400 pledging households, though we maintained 335. As pledges are returned, we are pleased to see an improvement in total contributions from 2021 to 2022 to 2023.

We continue to do justice and provide engaging curricula that includes Bible study, personal finance and micro-lending to others in the US and abroad to HS-aged youth through Global Philanthropy Leaders (GPL). Along with the "Year 1" focus on general philanthropy, economic education, and micro-lending, we are again offering "Year 2" about the economics of racial disparities in US history and "Year 3" about environmental issues and sustainability (creation care). This joint ministry with youth and stewardship currently has 28 student participants and eight adult mentors.

Be on the lookout in 2024 for another opportunity for adults to diver deeper into our history with a special session of GPL for Grownups offered in conjunction with St. Michael's and All Angels, that will include a civil rights pilgrimage of both parishes, adults and youth to Montgomery, AL.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

*Steve Rogers and Corinna Strayer,
Vestry Co-Chairs*

The Youth Commission celebrates a successful year. Many fundraising events and activities took place throughout the year for our youth. The biggest youth fundraising activity of the year, "Take Stock in Youth" for the Ecuador mission, was a success. This fundraiser culminated with the annual Shareholder's Dinner, where the youth shared their experiences in Ecuador.

Other fundraisers, events and activities the youth were able to participate in and enjoy included the annual Chili Cookoff fundraiser, parking lot fundraisers, First and Third Sunday Youth group, Baccalaureate Sunday, Youth Confirmations, a Miqra Lock-In to kick off St. John's Year of the Bible, as well as other service opportunities.

St. John's Year of the Bible Youth Sunday School kicked off this fall and will continue into the next calendar year. Parishioners are signing up to lead the St. John youth in lessons from the stories of the Bible. This new offering for the youth has helped guide them through the deeper meaning and context of the Bible's text. This offering not only offers guidance to youth, but also to the adult leaders who are teaching.

The St. John's Youth Commission looks forward to another successful year and growing the Youth Ministry through our relationships, services, and other activities.



14

*youth traveled to
Quito, Ecuador*

7

youth confirmands in 2023

18

*pots of chili entered into the
2023 Chili Cook-Off*



LIVELY CAFÉ REPORT



Corinna Strayer, Vestry Chair

It's hard to believe, but the Lively Café has served the Tallahassee community for 25 years! In September, the cafe featured special menu items and weekly customer drawings, marking the special milestone of this thriving outreach ministry. We also honored past and present volunteers during worship in September and celebrated our amazing Culinary Director, Fran Doxsee, at a party in October, surrounded by family and friends.



The Lively Café continues to serve four different rotating menus and the team expanded with an additional employee.

Holiday Catering was successful again, providing delicious sides and desserts to our holiday tables. The Lively Cafe continues to grow in popularity with convenient online ordering and counter service.



Top sellers:

Grilled Turkey & Bacon Sandwich

Santa Fe Crab Cake Salad
Carrot Cake

1295

*orders of pita chips
sold in 2023*

576

*small chocolate chip cookies
sold in 2023*





The Rev. Lonnie Lacy
Rector

The Rev. Leslie Roraback
Associate Rector

The Rev. Deacon Joseph H. Bakker
The Rev. Deacon Linda Liebert-Hall
The Rev. Deacon Michael Hall
Deacons

Mahaska Whitley
Senior Warden

Stephen Peters
Junior Warden

Cindy Sessions
Treasurer

Leslie Redding
Finance Chairperson

Brooke Kennerly
Secretary

George Gwynn
Chancellor

TERM ENDING 2024

Rebecca Brown
JR Saginario
Marcy Muldrow Sanders
Chris Schoonover
Susan Walton

TERM ENDING 2025

Lucy Carter
Janine Couch
Susan Gwynn
Stephen Peters
Mahaska Whitley

TERM ENDING 2026

Debby McNamara
Leslie Redding
Steve Rogers
Erik Salsgiver
Corinna Strayer

