Saint John's Episcopal Church 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

576 Concord Road Glen Mills, PA 19342 SaintJohnsConcord.com

Founded 1702 Celebrating 322 Years of Worship



The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel – Rector The Rev. Terry Dinovo – Priest Associate

Mission of Saint John's: To be a welcoming community committed to seeking, serving, and growing in Christ.

Episcopalians believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God. St. John's welcomes all to our diverse, inclusive, and affirming community.

Our vision is to grow with intent. We will maintain intimacy by gathering in groups; reach all generations through fellowship; advance our mission through a vital program of outreach; nurture spiritual growth through worship, music, education and pastoral care; encourage commitment to effective ministry; and support the church through stewardship.

Saint John's Church, Concord

Annual Parish Meeting February 2, 2025



AGENDA

Invocation The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel

Approval of Minutes from Feb 4, 2024

Reports:

A. Rector's Report

The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel

B. Wardens' Reports Danielle Yoch and Bill Calhoun

C. Finance Reports & 2024 Budget

D. Ministry Highlights:
Green Team and Pastoral Care Ministry

Introductions: Staff, New Members, Others . . .

Recognition of our Unsung Heroes

Presentation & Election of Nominees for Vestry

Election of Delegates to Diocesan Convention

The Necrology

Closing Prayer The Rev. Terry Dinovo

Burt Blackburn

Sandy McKinley

The Rev. Terry Dinovo

The Rev. Jill LaRoche Wikel

Glenn Wikel

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Presented for Approval St. John's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting Minutes February 4, 2024

INVOCATION

The meeting began at 9:20 AM with prayer offered by Rev. Jill.

APPROVAL OF LAST YEAR'S MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the annual meeting held February 5, 2023, was made by Ted Stipa and seconded by Nancy McKean. Unanimously approved.

REPORTS (Refer to meeting booklet for full written reports)

- A. <u>Rector</u>. Rev Jill's report was sent via email, shared at the meeting, and is on file for all to review. Rev. Jill used the saying "See how they love each other" as she was reflecting on the past year. This is the basis in all we do at St. John's and is reflected in our seeking, serving and growing. We are excited to see 8-10 new families attending in the past year along with many other signs of strength and growth listed in her report. God is good!
- B. <u>Rector's Warden</u>. Danielle lifted up the fact that so many people are working behind the scenes to keep things running and showing the world how we love each other. This is also a credit to Rev. Jill's leadership. She reminded everyone they are always open to new ideas, if you have any feel free to contact her.
- C. <u>Finance Report and Budget</u>. Burt has definitely felt the love at St. John's personally with his hard time for his family the past year. The parish finances continue to remain strong due, primarily to the support of the entire congregation. We closed last year out with \$8,000 surplus and he is very optimistic going into the new year. Vestry has approved the 2024 budget and they were recently able to establish a contingency fund in case of any surprises. You can read all the details in the annual report.
- D. <u>Pastoral Care</u>. Rev Terry Dinovo gave a brief update on this ministry including prayer shawls, birthday/ anniversary cards, the newly started Parkinson's Support Group, and healing/anointing after the late service.

E. Two New Ministries:

<u>Safety Committee</u> - Carla Durdan – Carla gave an update on this newly formed Team. It is a long process that includes many safety organizations on various levels so seeing actual outcomes may take a bit. The Team wants to keep parishioners, staff, and the community attending events here safe. Everything they decide on will be approved by Vestry before implementation. Please see Carla with any concerns you may have in this area. (Report included in Annual Report).

<u>Green Team</u> – Glenn Wikel – A group of parishioners (of all ages) who are dedicated to being good stewards of the land and taking intentional steps to be sustainable formed this newest ministry. Recently the GT sent out a survey of initiatives for parishioners to rate. Using these outcomes, the GT will decide what to focus on

first. They plan to have many events throughout the year with several coming up for Earth Day. Feel free to join us at our meetings or events; contact Glenn with any ideas or questions.

INTRODUCTIONS: STAFF, NEW MEMBERS, OTHERS

Rev. Jill introduced a few of the new families that joined the past year: Lauren May & Nathan Torok, and children Liam and Finn; Bob & Sandy Johnson; Jan Myers-Knight. If you don't remember the names of our new members, feel free to ask.

RECOGNITION OF 2024 UNSUNG HEREOS

Rev. Jill recognized Tech Team members Phil Thompsen, Gerry Tierney, Will Durdan, Ron Hammer, Evan Willoughby, Patti Doyle, and Glenn Wikel who keep our Live-Stream going each and every week with LOTS of behind the scenes work.

PRESENTATION & ELECTION OF VESTRY NOMINEES

A slate was nominated. Second 2-year Term: Ron Hammer, Ann McGonigal, Gerry Tierney & Dick Constable. Nominated for first 2-year term: Carla Durdan. (They recognized Diane Carlin who is retiring from Vestry after serving 6 years.)

When no nominations were received from the floor, a motion was made by Ted Stipa and seconded by Charlie Smith for the slate of five persons be accepted as presented and elected. The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION (3 delegates, 1 alternate)

Nominated as Delegate: Philip Thompsen, Sue Hammer, and Glenn Wikel.

Nomination from floor for Mary Pat Lynam as an alternate. Motion made that nominees be accepted as presented and elected by Phil Carrango and Seconded by Mary Alice Peeling. Motion passed unanimously.

THE NECROLOGY

Sandy McKinley spoke and Rev. Jill read a moving poem (*Gone From My Sight*) for those who passed away in 2023.

CLOSING

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM with Rev. Jill leading us in closing prayer. Respectfully submitted by Jen Troutman, Parish Associate and Vestry Secretary.







RECTOR'S REPORT: Let your light shine!

In his Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus told his followers, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

As I reflect on the 322nd year of St. John's being God's presence in Glen Mills, I remember all the ways that our community has shone God's love and light into the world.

There are several bright shining highlights in the life of our parish this year. After a couple of years of relationship building, hundreds of pancakes flipped, many baked goods sold, our Youth Group went on their first Mission Trip since the pandemic when they traveled to Wise County, Virginia with the Appalachian Service Project. Eight youth and five adults formed two work crews and spent a hot, tiring, Christ-filled week in the town of Appalachia. Our youth worked hard at difficult tasks, learned patience when projects didn't go as planned, and ultimately felt what it is to be Christ's compassionate hands in this world.

Many of these same youth took their commitment to Christ to the next level in the fall when they completed the requirements for Confirmation. I am so humbled by the deep faith of these young people who made their mature affirmation of faith, recommitting themselves to their Baptismal vows at the visitation of Bishop Gutiérrez in November. Along with twelve youth, we also had two adult Confirmands, two adults who were Received into the Episcopal Church, and one adult baptism on this joyous day!

We let our light shine through our deepening relationship with Chester Eastside INC. This year, we had twelve parishioners who volunteered with CEI, many who made commitments to volunteer monthly and even weekly.

Our Pastoral Care Team has also been a beacon of light. From the prayer shawls our parishioners send to loved ones, to the healing prayers offered on Sunday, to cards sent out on birthdays and anniversaries, the ways we lift and support each other is another way we are light to this world.

I am so deeply grateful for the commitment each parishioner makes to our parish family. On Sundays, our Choir leads the congregation in music, ushers, Chalicists, and lectors participate in worship, members of the Altar Guild ensure that our sanctuary is ready for worship. We've had dozens of parishioners who've given much time and even sweat to caring for our property: weeding and watering, planting trees and bulbs, making minor repairs to our physical plant. The 'time and talent' given to our parish shines! You all have blessed us with your 'treasure,' too: with successful stewardship campaigns and our Giving Train, we are financially secure which allows our parish, without hesitancy, to shine brightly.

Managing well these resources, we are able to share the abundance God has gifted to us, fully paying our pledge to the Diocese for the work of the wider Church. We support two partners in Chester, St. Mary's Food Cupboard and Chester Eastside, and never forget our brothers and sisters in Guatemala, lifting up our sister parish in prayer and financial support.

As we move forward into our next year, let us all commit to actively 'let our light shine' by reaching out to those in need in our community, and being a beacon of love and welcome to this world.

Faithfully, The Rev Jill LaRoche Wikel, Rector

RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT

As we joyfully enter our 323rd year as a parish community at St. John's I again want to thank all of you for your dedication and commitment to our heart-centered church.

If you witnessed me tearing up during a service this year it's because I've seen Reverend Jill's vision for a thriving, growing, vibrant, Jesus-centered community come to fruition right in front of my eyes. New and experienced members worship and work side by side to create the sense of connectedness we all feel when we walk into the parish hall. A feeling that has been magnified by the addition of our very popular magnetic name tags. Thanks to Rev Jill and Jen Troutman for making St John's a place "where everybody knows your name". Write your name on the list if you need one and it will magically appear next week!

We sent 13 youth on a mission trip where the work was hard but they all came back smiling and ready to go again. We confirmed/received 16 youth and adults when the Bishop visited in November. We had our most successful (and fun) Giving Train event ever thanks to your generosity. Looking forward, I'm excited to continue expanding our opportunities for fellowship and to growing our outreach by working closely with Chester Eastside and using our hands and feet to do Jesus's work by serving meals there monthly.

I continue to be grateful to serve as Rector's Warden at our beautiful church on the hill and grateful for all of you. I'll see you on Sunday.

Yours in Christ, Danielle Yoch, Rector's Warden

VESTRY WARDEN REPORT

The Vestry of St. John's is made up of devoted and faithful parishioners. They have shown their dedication to both the people and the mission of St. John's through their service to our community, working together to ensure a strong future for our parish. We are truly blessed to have such committed leaders.

It has been an honor to serve St. John's for the past four years as Vestry Warden, working closely with Rev Jill and Danielle Yoch, we have been a good team and balancing each other out. I am grateful to have served on our Vestry.

Yours in Christ, Bill Calhoun, Vestry Warden







SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

Annual Financial Report 2024

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2024 Summary

As in the past two years, we have closed the 2024 financial year in a positive position. This due to the continued generosity and commitment of our congregation who continue to bless and support the parish community of Saint John's.

2024 revenue:

\$384,571.86

2024 expenses:

\$337,687.78

Net Balance

\$ 46,884.08

- Our revenue for the 2024 increased by \$58,997.81 over 2023 revenue.
- Our total Pledge income for the year was \$223,664.13, our budgeted amount was \$215,000.
- Our expenses for 2024 were \$22,186.99 which is less than the budgeted amount of \$359,874.77 thereby contributing to the elimination of the 2024 budget deficit of \$19,399.77.
- Our Giving Train for 2024 continued its successful journey generating over \$38,000 to fund a number
 of parish projects including outreach to Chester Eastside and San Andreas Guatemala; Youth Group;
 Sunday School; our music program; a new St. John's sign and the general operating fund.
- When reviewing the 2024 budget, you will notice a deficit of \$14,042. Some of the contributing
 factors include cost of living salary increases, an increase in our diocesan parish assessment,
 anticipated increases in our utilities and other fixed expenses. The good news is our surplus funds
 from 2024 will help eliminate a possible 2025 deficit.
- * Special Note: When reviewing last year's revenue, you will notice we did have an unanticipated increase in our net revenue partly due to an additional church foundation payment of over \$24,000 which was received in December. Normally, we receive four payments a year but this year we received five. Our 4th quarter payment (usually received in January) was earlier than normal which inflated our income for the end of the year.

Included with this report:

- 2025 Vestry approved budget
- Analysis of Revenues and Expenses for 2024

Thank you,

Respectfully Submitted, Burt Blackburn, Treasurer

Analysis of Revenue and Expenses for 2024

Date: 01/20/2025 Time: 8:00:35 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Detail

January to Closing Month 2024

Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)
Operating Revenues Pledge Income 1752-001 - Prior Year Pledge Income 1752-002 - Current Year Pledge Income Total Pledge Income Plate Income 1751-001 - Unrestricted Plate Offering 2761-001 - Special Offerings Total Plate Income Investment Income-Operating 1755-001 - Unrestricted Church Fdn Income 1755-002 - Interest Total Investment Income-Operating Other Income 1756-001 - Hall Rent 1756-011 - Church Auction 1756-013 - Miscellaneous Income Total Other Income Total Operating Revenues	\$5,000.00 \$215,000.00 \$220,000.00 \$3,000.00 \$500.00 \$3,500.00 \$93,519.00 \$4,000.00 \$97,519.00 \$7,000.00 \$11,875.00 \$100.00 \$18,975.00 \$339,994.00	\$6,457.00 \$223,664.13 \$230,121.13 \$4,837.00 \$220.00 \$5,057.00 \$132,763.41 \$7,744.32 \$140,507.73 \$8,720.00 \$0.00 \$166.00 \$8,886.00 \$384,571.86

Date: 01/20/2025 Time: 8:00:35 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Detail January to Closing Month 2024 Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)
Operating Expenses		
Business Expenses		
Insurance		
1867-081 - Master Insurance Policy	612 000 00	040 570 00
1867-082 - Workers' Compensation	\$12,000.00	\$12,579.00
Total Insurance	\$1,300.00 \$13,300.00	\$1,140.00
Utilities	φ13,300.00	\$13,719.00
1867-091 - Heating Oil - Church - 2418540	\$2,250.00	\$2.064.60
1867-094 - Electric - Church&Hall-58589-01104	\$6,400.00	\$2,061.69 \$6,056.28
1867-095 - Water	\$800.00	\$864.45
1867-096 - Gas - School and Hall	\$5,000.00	\$3,573.63
1867-131 - Heating Oil - Rectory - 2418582	\$2,500.00	\$2,152.42
1867-132 - Electric - Rectory-	\$2,400.00	\$2,199.12
1867-133 - Propane-Rectory	\$300.00	\$240.00
1867-161 - Telephone - Office	\$3,100.00	\$2,995.20
1867-162 - Telephone Allowance - Rector	\$400.00	\$384.00
Total Utilities Office	\$23,150.00	\$20,526.79
1867-101 - Copy Machines	\$9,300.00	20 740 50
1867-102 - Postage	\$700.00	\$8,719.59 \$595.90
1867-103 - Advertising	\$400.00	\$242.13
1867-104 - General Office Expense	\$2,000.00	\$1,996.51
1867-106 - Computer Support	\$5,500.00	\$6,045.62
Total Office	\$17,900.00	\$17,599.75
Altar Supplies	¥11,000.00	411,000.10
1867-171 - Altar Supplies	\$400.00	\$195.99
Total Altar Supplies	\$400.00	\$195.99
Property and Equipment	5400.00	\$190.99
1867-210 - Repairs and Maintenance	\$20,000.00	\$16,008.38
1867-213 - Organ Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$680.04
1867-215 - Maintenance - Rectory	\$3,000.00	\$3,195.00
1867-241 - Housekeeping Supplies	\$700.00	\$917.99
1867-243 - General Grounds Care	\$1,000.00	\$998.17
1867-244 - Trash Pickup	\$3,500.00	\$3,274.10
1867-245 - Snow Plowing	\$3,000.00	\$2,922.00
1867-246 - Cemetery Grass Cutting	\$13,300.00	\$12,755.00
1867-247 - Tree Care	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
1867-248 - Sewer Service	\$600.00	\$731.50
1867-249 - Cleaning Services	\$12,000.00	\$12,084.50
Total Property and Equipment Taxes on Property	\$59,100.00	\$55,066.68
1867-221 - School Tax	\$1,600.00	\$1,473.91
1867-222 - Township Tax	\$225.00	\$80.01
1867-223 - County Tax	\$275.00	\$268.24
Total Taxes on Property	\$2,100.00	\$1,822.16
Total Business Expenses	\$115,950.00	The second secon
Outside Giving	\$115,850.00	\$108,930.37
Diocesan Giving		
1864-001 - Assessment	\$29,657.00	\$29,657.00
Total Diocesan Giving	\$29,657.00	\$29,657.00
Other Giving Outside Parish 1866-001 - Deanery		025363
Total Other Giving Outside Parish	\$125.00	\$0.00
Total Other Giving Outside Parish	\$125.00	\$0.00

Date: 01/20/2025 Time: 8:00:35 PM

St. John's Episcopal Church Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Detail January to Closing Month 2024 Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts		YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)
Total Outside Giving		\$29,782.00	\$29,657.00
Church Programs		φ29,702.00	\$29,007.00
1867-510 - Adult Education		\$300.00	\$354.66
1867-511 - Pastoral Care		\$100.00	\$0.00
1867-512 - Sunday School		\$300.00	\$193.68
1867-513 - Fellowship		\$2,000.00	\$387.65
1867-514 - Worship		\$1,500.00	\$842.29
1867-515 - Music (printed)		\$250.00	\$481.66
1867-517 - Other Education Supplies		\$350.00	\$394.45
1867-518 - Stewardship		\$475.00	\$394.97
1867-519 - Newcomers		\$200.00	\$0.00
1867-521 - Rector's Discretionery Fund		\$0.00	\$2,609.26
1867-522 - Rector's Professional Development		\$0.00	\$1,574.95
1867-526 - Dir of Music Ministry Profess Devel		\$200.00	\$0.00
1867-531 - Other		\$1,200.00	\$143.66
Total Church Programs		\$6,875.00	\$7,377.23
Remuneration			
1867-011 - Rector's Salary		\$77,661.77	\$77,564.54
1867-013 - Rector's Relief		\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
1867-021 - Sexton's Salary		\$4,854.00	\$4,775.75
1867-031 - Organist/Choir Director's Salary		\$22,000.00	\$14,300.00
1867-032 - Organist's Relief		\$2,400.00	\$1,000.00
1867-041 - Parish Secretary Salary		\$21,228.00	\$21,230.42
1867-042 - Other compensation		\$0.00	\$200.00
1867-051 - Director of Religious Ed Salary		\$13,276.00	\$13,258.73
1867-054 - Bonuses		\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
1867-055 - Choir Stipend		\$4,000.00	\$2,750.00
1867-061 - Social Security and Medicare		\$4,200.00	\$3,365.03
1867-062 - SECA Reimbursement-Rector 1867-071 - Rector's Pension Premium		\$7,360.00	\$7,351.58
		\$24,288.00	\$21,861.72
1867-072 - Rector's Housing Allowance		\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
1867-083 - Rector's Health Insurance		\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
1867-084 - Rector's Life Insurance		\$1,000.00	\$0.00
1867-121 - Rector's Mileage		\$400.00	\$0.00
1867-151 - Mileage - Other		\$600.00	\$0.00
Total Remuneration Other Expenses		\$203,867.77	\$188,257.77
1867-301 - Bank Charges		*****	
1867-302 - Miscellaneous		\$500.00	\$955.16
Total Other Expenses		\$2,900.00	\$2,510.25
Total Operating Expenses		\$3,400.00	\$3,465.41
3		\$359,874.77	\$337,687.78
	Net Total	(\$19,880.77)	\$46,884.08

Vestry Approved 2025 Budget

2024 Actual	2025 Budget	
		_
		_
\$6,457.00	\$5,000,00	_
		_
\$4,837.00	\$4,800.00	_
\$220.00	\$220.00	_
		_
		_
\$132,763.41	\$100,000.00	_
\$7,744.32	\$7,500.00	
-		_
\$166.00	\$100.00	_
\$384,571.86	\$349,605,00	_
	2010,000.00	_
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\$12,579.00	\$13,000.00	
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\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
	\$1,500.00 \$850.00 \$12,000.00	_
	\$6,457.00 \$223,664.13 \$4,837.00 \$220.00 \$132,763.41 \$7,744.32 \$8,720.00 0 \$166.00 \$1,140.00 \$1,140.00 \$2,061.69 \$6,056.28 \$864.45 \$3,573.63 \$2,152.42 \$2,199.12 \$240.00 \$2,995.20 \$384.00 \$2,995.20 \$384.00 \$1,995.51 \$6,045.62 \$195.99 \$16,008.38 \$680.04 \$3,195.00 \$917.99 \$998.17 \$3,274.10	\$6,457.00 \$5,000.00 \$223,664.13 \$220,000.00 \$2200.00 \$220

St. John's Episcopal Church -2025 Vestry Approved Budget

Headings and Account	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
1867-221 - School Tax	\$1,473.91	
1867-222 - Township Tax	\$80.01	\$200.00
1867-223 - County Tax	\$268.24	\$375.00
	7200.27	3373.00
Outside Giving .		
Diocesan Giving		
1864-001 - Assessment	\$29,657.00	\$30,237.00
Other Giving Outside Parish		
1866-001 - Deanery	0	\$150.00
Church Programs		
1867-510 - Adult Education	0054.00	0.400.00
1867-511 - Pastoral Care	\$354.66	\$400.00
1867-511 - Pastoral Care 1867-512 - Sunday School	6103.60	\$100.00
1867-513 - Fellowship	\$193.68	\$300.00
1867-514 - Worship	\$387.65	\$500.00
1867-515 - Music (printed)	\$842.29	\$1,000.00
1867-517 - Other Education Supplies	\$481.66	\$500.00
1867-518 - Stewardship	\$394.45	\$500.00
1867-519 - Newcomers	\$394.97	\$400.00
1867-521 - Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$0.00	\$200.00
1867-522 - Rector's Professional Development	\$2,609.26	\$0.00
1867-526 - Dir of Music Ministry Profess Devel	\$1,574.95	\$1,500.00
1867-531 - Other	\$143.66	\$200.00
Remuneration		
1867-011 - Rector's Salary	\$77,564.54	\$79,900.00
1867-013 - Rector's Relief	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
1867-021 - Sexton's Salary	\$4,775.75	\$4,920.00
1867-031 - Organist/Choir Director's Salary	\$14,300	\$22,000.00
1867-032 - Organist's Relief	\$1,000.00	\$2,400.00
1867-041 - Parish Secretary Salary	\$21,230.42	\$21,900.00
1867-042 - Other compensation	\$200.00	\$200.00
1867-051 - Director of Religious Ed Salary	\$13,258.73	\$13,675.00
1867-054 - Bonuses	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
1867-055 - Choir Stipend	\$2,750.00	\$3,000.00
1867-061 - Social Security and Medicare	\$3,365.03	\$4,560.00
1867-062 - SECA Reimbursement-Rector	\$7,351.58	\$7,580.00
1867-071 - Rector's Pension Premium	\$21,861.72	\$24,000.00
1867-072 - Rector's Housing Allowance	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
1867-083 - Rector's Health Insurance	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
1867-084 - Rector's Life Insurance	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
1867-121 - Rector's Mileage	\$0.00	\$400.00
1867-151 - Mileage - Other	\$0.00	\$800.00
1967-301 Bar-1-51		
1867-301 - Bank Charges	\$955.16	\$1,000.00
1867-302 - Miscellaneous	\$2,510.25	\$2,500.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$337,687.78	\$363,647.00
let Total	\$46,884.08	-\$14,042.00
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATIVE

Our Parish Administrator, Jen Troutman, continues to effortlessly manage the daily operations of the office. We are grateful for the continued service of our two volunteers, Maureen Thompson and Miriam Stanton. Jen continues to oversee our website, expand our digital presence, and decrease our paper intake. She also manages the rental agreements with outside groups who use the Parish Hall. This year, we reduced our weekly bulletin, adding a prayer card in the pews, and continue to encourage the use of a digital bulletin. The office runs smoothly thanks to Jen's organization and management.

Respectfully submitted by Jacqui Dunn

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Your cemeterians have laid out four graves in 2024. In addition, we are available to address requests for information regarding purchases of plots and genealogy questions.

Barry Ersek, John Pachkowski, and Roger Readinger, Co-Cemeterians

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT: Sunday School

We created a program for Sunday School called "Sacred Scaffolding". The idea is to help our children build their relationship with their Creator and their community one block at a time in a way that is supported and safe.

We begin our Sunday school time with the Gospel lesson which mirrors what the adults are learning in "Big Church" and then tell about ourselves and things that we have done during the week. We incorporate science, where the laws of the physical universe also reflect the surety God's love for us. Popular experiments involve water that does not spill when the glass is upside down and variations on Newton's Cradle. The important thing is that the children are able to do the experiments themselves and encourage each other to keep trying.

Storytelling with puppets and other props reinforces the lesson and exposes the children to other cultures. A good example of this is the Babushka story at Christmas. Babushka is a Russian tale that teaches that God is present in and for everyone; every human reflects the face of God. We also had the Ukrainian Spider tale to tell us that kindness comes back and even the smallest being can help another. We honored those who have come before is with our Day of the Dead stories and offerings and the children were excited to be part of the altar in the Parish Hall – it made them feel part of the bigger picture.

Crafts reinforce most of the lessons. They are chosen to help refine small motor skills and problem solving ability; areas of development which had been interrupted by Covid and are still a bit of a struggle for many children. We also grew a vegetable garden and will do more work with planting things, making them grow and caring for our planet.

We have an overall theme of building, with Sunday School and the Church providing the support our children need in order to build a faith that is vibrant, loving, questioning, and alive. We are the scaffolding; they are the structure.

Our goal is to help our children see the beauty in all of creation and to recognize the Holy Spirit in everyone around them. We still have a mirror on the wall at the bottom of the stairs leading to Sunday School. Everyone has a handprint on the wall and we high five ourselves and say "I'm awesome" "God loves me " when we come down the stairs. It's a great reminder that we are loved by God and we can reflect that love every day.

Respectfully submitted by Margie Hatcher

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Youth Group

2024 was an exciting year for our Youth Group! Twelve of our youth, along with four adults were confirmed and received by the Bishop on November 24th. These youth have been together for several years, some coming together right after the pandemic. They have regularly attended Youth, volunteered, and attended Confirmation classes. Some of our confirmation recipients were part of the service trip our Youth Group took this summer.

The Youth Group realized their goal and went on a mission trip this summer. Eight youth and five adult volunteers spent a week in Appalachia, Virginia, assisting the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) with home projects for residents in need. What a week it was! We stayed in an old high school, slept in the gym with about 80 other people, and showered in outdoor showers (think hose). The Youth worked on two projects; they built a ramp at a home for an elderly couple and nearly completed an underpinning project for a home. What an amazing experience for all of us. The youth spent the week working hard, meeting new people, going on a hike, and even barn dancing. Perhaps most importantly, the Youth saw what they are capable of when they put their minds to it. The group returned exhausted but filled with joy.

Respectfully submitted by Jacqui Dunn

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Christian Formation includes those events that deepen a person's faith through discussion & teaching; the learning component is the main reason for gathering.

Throughout 2024 Saint John's offered many such opportunities. Sunday mornings included Bible studies as well as discussions of current topics during Coffee Hour. Seasonal Series discussions were available during Lent and Advent: the Lenten evening program based on Season 1 of the show *The Chosen* was very well attended; people enjoyed the Advent series on hymns. In the Fall, Rev Jill taught a 6 week series *We Believe: Exploring our Episcopal Faith*, which was open to all in the parish and required for those who were Confirmed and Received by the Bishop in November. The service of Compline was offered on various Thursday evenings. The twice monthly Thursday morning Coffee Café continues to be embraced as conversations and relationships are deepened.

In non-formal ways such as the simple visits enjoyed at Sunday Coffee Hour, in the church parking lot and outreach to one another in more private ways our church family learns from one another, deepens their faith, and strengthens Saint John's.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Pat Lynam

COMMUNICATIONS

We continue to ensure that our members stay updated with the information needed for them to have a satisfying and enjoyable church experience. By consistently keeping the website current and sending timely email updates with our e-news we have ensured that our membership feels connected to the parish community and aware upcoming events. Our digital presence has created a way to get our message to everyone eager to build their relationship with the St John's community and continue on their journey to gain a deeper spiritual understanding. A big thank you to our Parish Administrator, Jen Troutman, who continues to amaze us with her tech savvy skills that have been become increasingly more and more in demand.

Progress continues to be made to meet the technological challenges required to provide a streaming service for church worship services. This has created the ability for members to stay involved even when not physically able to travel and for non-members to visit and informally get to know us. We achieved our goal this year of trouble shooting a weak streaming service signal. The addition of an additional WiFi antenna has boosted our signal in the Church and eliminated video streaming glitches caused by signal loss. We also owe a big thank you to the video team volunteers that ensure someone is always available to control the cameras and video streaming every Sunday and when needed for special events.

We have been blessed with both volunteers and staff that have risen to the challenge of maintaining and enhancing our communication efforts.

Respectfully Submitted by Ron Hammer

FELLOWSHIP

Saint John's has and continues offering many Fellowship opportunities. We have had Holy Hikes, book clubs, fireside fun, Thursday Morning Cafe's, Men's Breakfast, Woman's Dinners, WWJB (What Would Jesus Brew), Cookies and Carols, Live Giving Train, Parish Picnic to kick off our Summer schedule, Karaoke Potluck to ward off the winter blues...and anything else we can make an excuse to gather together.

Coffee Hours continue at 9 AM between the 8 AM and the 10 AM services, till our summer schedule starts, then it will be after our 1 Sunday service. This is a great way to meet and greet fellow parishioners and newcomers looking for a church home. Please Sign up, in the parish hall, to host Coffee Hour. Host with your family or grab a friend and host together...It's easy!!! We even have Ron, our sexton, to clean up after. Easy peasey.

Respectfully submitted by Tracey Payne, Vestry Fellowship Chair

2024 LIVE GIVING TRAIN

On Saturday, November 9th the Giving Train arrived at St. John's Station! Parishioners enjoyed dancing to the live music from the awesome Crooked Rose Band, and ate delectable food from Tone's Spot Food Truck. What an amazingly fun evening celebrating all that St. John's is about!

We also raised over \$38,000 for mission, ministry, and needed projects at our parish.

Station #1: Music Program, Protection of Penn Oak, and Water Bottle Station

\$6210 (goal: \$6000)

Station #2: Outreach to Chester Eastside and San Andreas, Guatemala

\$3800 (goal: \$4000)

Station #3: Youth Group Mission Trip & Sunday School

\$4745 (goal: \$4000)

Station #4: New Sign for Concord Rd **assisted by a MATCH from a parishioner!**

\$19,500 (goal: \$10,000)

Station #5: General St. John's fund

\$4485 (goal: \$6000)

TOTAL: \$38,740

Respectfully Submitted by Tracey Payne, Danielle Yoch, and Rev Jill

THE GREEN TEAM

In November, 2023, a small group of very energetic and passionate people got together to start a ministry devoted to caring for the environment and resources God has entrusted us with. The "Green Team" was born, and we continue to meet in the Battin Room on the second Sunday of each month.

In about a year's time, we have made great strides in promoting care and stewardship of our property and natural resources, while in the process keeping a focus on education and fun for our entire parish family. All that was done was due directly to the generosity of the Green Team members, who funded all events without impacting the church budget!

Some accomplishments from this past year include:

- Development of our purpose statement
- Planting several trees around the campus (12 in field area, 2 in front) to increase the canopy.
- Planting numerous perennial flowers
 - Over 1,000 crocus bulbs leading the eye from Concord Road to the church door
 - Another 1,000 will be planted this coming fall
 - o About 230 daffodil bulbs on the bank beside the driveway
 - o Prioritization of flowering perennials in our gardens
- Collaboration with Property Committee, for example Penn Oak path and canopy improvements
- Beginnings of a master property plan, including considerations for erecting a pavilion and addition of solar power
 - o Another grand vision of utilizing solar energy: pricy, may come back to this
- Giving Train stop to support installation of a water bottle filling station (over \$1,400 donated)
- Development of a "Memorial Tree" process and agreement to clearly delineate responsibilities and encourage donations for purchase and care.
- Reduction of our use of disposable dishware and cups (new kid size cups were donated)
- Increase in emphasis on recycling
- Seven monthly workshops offered by Debbie and Bernie Miller (Earth Day tree planting, bulbs, peonies, Black Eyed Susans, vegetables, succulents)
- An Earth Day celebration with 6 planned activities (herb workshop, tree planting, 2 property walks, recycling table, Green Team table)
- Establishment of a road cleanup day in October (and in the spring); 15 parishioners gave their time to this effort to show our community our care for the Earth
- Peony garden Sip and Stroll tour at the lovely home of the Millers. Funds generated supported Green Team projects.

And we're only getting started! Keep on the lookout for many of these events again in 2025, along with some additional projects:

- Installation of the water bottle filling station, complete with St. John's water bottles
- Identification of a walking/meditation/prayer path
- Conversion of part of the field into unmowed areas, expanding habitat for birds, insects, and small wildlife
- Erection of bird and bat houses, in collaboration with our youth and scout groups
- Development of a schedule for care of St. John's gardens (weeding, watering, care of new plants)

Please consider joining us for any of these activities, or to help the Green Team have a strong second year. See Glenn Wikel, Bernie Miller, or any of the Green Team to learn more.

Submitted on behalf of the Green Team members: Glenn Wikel, Bernie and Debbie Miller, Peggy Long, James Yoch, Katharine Dunlevy, Kathleen Smith, Mary Alice Peeling, Martha Pearlman, Bob and Linda Fertig, Bill and Lynne Bertolet, and Burt Blackburn.

Respectfully submitted, Glenn Wikel

MEMBERSHIP

New Members in 2024
Christian and Katie Bean and daughter Amelia
Margaret Calogero
Ron Cirillo
Victoria Daughen
Meghan and Brian Fedullo and children Juliet and Robby
Gary and Linda Gaster
Jan Myers Knight
Greg and Carol Moore
Elizabeth Olhson
Diane Stover

Respectfully Submitted, Carla Durdan

MISSION AND OUTREACH

In 2024, the Mission and Outreach Committee again had a positive impact through several projects and commitments. The continued generosity of our parish community is a blessing to those we were able to assist.

Saint Mary's Food Cupboard

We continued to help Saint Mary's with a monthly \$100 donation from our Outreach funds for a total of \$1,200 as well as our weekly food delivery of food and supplies donated by parish members. We are still receiving resources donated by Costco which are also delivered by John Keenan, Ronni Liberi, Darree Clark, Debbie Miller & Maria Warlow.

Chester Eastside Ministries

We supported Chester Eastside Ministries in several ways:

Summer Camp Phoenix – This year we donated \$500 for the Chester Eastside summer camp.

Thanksgiving -We continue to support their Thanksgiving food drive. We contributed 17 turkeys as well as canned vegetables, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, instant mashed potatoes & stuffing. The Youth Group helped pack Thanksgiving dinner bags & distribute those bags.

Christmas Gift Cards - This year Chester Eastside again requested we provide gift cards instead of gifts allowing parents to purchase items for their families. Parishioners generously provided over \$1150 of requested gift cards to Target & Walmart.

Interfaith Council of Delaware County

School Supplies - We collected school supplies and backpacks for the Interfaith Council of Delaware County. We provided needed school items and supplies to assist Chester E& Upper Darby students as they began their school year. We filled Burt Blackburn's Jeep again this year and know these items will make a real difference in the lives of children in the community.

Guatemala and San Andreas Companion Parish

Our support of our Companion Parish in San Andrea Itzapa, Guatemala continues. To ensure the congregation of San Andreas has a place of worship, a meeting spot for educational opportunities and youth group activities, we continue to send rent money of \$225 per month.

Lenten Offerings – This year we asked for donations for the Chicken Ministry in Guatemala. Chickens provide a source of eggs and meat for the family & a source of income when they sell eggs. We sent a \$500 check shortly after Easter. We received the following message from Fr. Miguel: We already have the offering for the chicken program in our hands, we are very happy to start this ministry once again, thank you for your offerings.

Respectively Submitted, Mary Alice Peeling

MUSIC

Music Ministry is an important ingredient for worshipping at St. John's. Our faithful choir robes throughout the liturgical year on most Sundays. This year we looked to hire 2 permanent positions. In June, Laura Seidelmann - who had been a long-term sub - came on board as our Organist. In the Fall, we hired a Choir Director which gave us all hope for a strong musical end to the year; unfortunately, he resigned in November. Our choir, nevertheless, lead the parish is much wonderful music!

Our faithful choir consists of Carol Angus, Bill Angus, Sherry Thompsen, Philip Thompsen, Maureen Thompson, Dottie Collman, Mariann Shirk and Steve Shirk (who left for a different choir commitment in the fall). We welcomed one new choir member, Carol Moore. We would LOVE to welcome more in the coming months.

The choir did fulfill their musical commitment singing anthems for pre-Lent, Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, fall anthems with Dwayne Morris, Confirmation, Advent, Blue Christmas and two Christmas Eve Services! Rehearsals were held before service and weekly after service.

We supplemented the choir for Bishop Gutierrez's visit in November. A huge thank you to Rev. Terry, Joy Embree, Claire Wilson and Ella Levasseur who sang for that event. Rev. Terry, Joy and Claire were back for our Christmas Eve commitment. They are owed a HUGE thank you.

Respectfully Submitted, Carol Angus, Choir Facilitator/Director

PASTORAL CARE

- The Pastoral Care Committee's Prayer Shawl/Blanket Ministry has been thriving since 2023 after several years of being dormant. When it was brought back to life in 2023 there were numerous lovingly crocheted or knitted blankets/shawls in storage ready for gifting. In 2024 several parishioners offered their time and talents in creating additional blankets/shawls to add to the supply. In 2024, 4 blankets were gifted for baptisms and at least 4 blankets were gifted for comfort to individuals. All shawls/blankets are blessed by Reverend Jill prior to giving. Items are available in the entrance to the church hall as well as in the vestibule of the church. They are hanging with hangar signs denoting the ministry and free for the taking for anyone in need. Please sign the form near the supply indicating that a blanket/shawl has been gifted. Recipient names not necessary to maintain confidentiality. If anyone is interested in donating handmade items to this ministry, please contact Carla Durdan at carladarla@msn.com.
- A dedicated group of volunteers continues to send birthday and anniversary cards to parish families.
- PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

We began this group earlier in 2024 to help people living with Parkinson's to have a place to talk and share about how they are living with Parkinson's. It is also for their caretakers, family members and friends to find new ideas and ways for them to work together in their journey. To explore all information, seek new ideas, and share what has worked well for them that might help others. Parkinson's effects each person differently, and sharing their story may be comforting to someone else.

So far we have had some excellent sharing sessions that have proved comforting and informative. We had a wonderful speaker in December from the Dan Aaron Parkinson's Rehabilitation Center at Pennsylvania Hospital who presented a wealth of information about the disease and many resources for extended help. Everyone seemed excited to learn something new they didn't know.

We plan to have open sharing meetings one month then a speaker the next and so on. We meet at St. John's on the first Wednesday of the month from 1:30 to 3. It is free and open to the public. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

Support Group leaders are Rev. Terry, Bonnie Stufflet, Darree Clark

Respectfully Submitted by various members of our Pastoral Care Team

PROPERTY/GROUNDS

This last year has been an active year for the Property Committee with numerous planned and unplanned repair and upgrade projects for the Buildings and Grounds.

The Property Committee of St. John's would like to submit the following list of accomplished projects in 2024. This list reflects the hard work of all the committee members on behalf of our church.

Buildings:

• 2024 was a significantly difficult and expensive year for repairs to our HVAC system. In addition to the replacement of the Mitsubishi split unit in the Parish Hall and replacing the main boiler for the Parish Hall, we had equipment failure in 2 of the Carrier AC/Heating units in the Parish Hall, one of the split-units in the Archive Room and the AC in the 2nd floor of the Rectory.

We have also installed an electrical panel surge protector to hopefully reduce the likelihood of another master controller failure in the split unit in the Archive Room. For now, we are going to be operating the unit in the Nursery on AC only as we do not believe the failed heating system is needed and the cost to repair is significant.

Altogether we had almost \$20,000 in repair costs but thankfully we did receive \$7,150 back from our insurance to help offset the Mitsubishi replacement as the fire that caused the failure was a result of a mouse eating the wires. We also were able to get some parts under warranty for the boiler replacement.

With the large number of HVAC units in our facilities (5 boilers, 8 central AC/AC-heating units, and 10 split units) and as they age, we need to expect more repairs and identify where more preventive maintenance would cost effective.

- Working with the Audio-Visual Team, we were able to identify and install a cost effective (<\$450) external extension of our existing WiFi mesh system which increased the data upload speed in the Church by 10X which should give us a more stable and capable system.
- We continued to have some issues with gutter/drainage in our building. The overflow on the South Side of the Parish Hall was solved by installation of a diverter which spread out the water in the roof valley and the upper gutter in the Rectory was repaired. We installed gutter guards on the rest of the Rectory and on the Sacristy to eliminate the stoppage/overflow issues.

We still have an issue with the underground drain leading from the Parking Lot entrance to the Parish Hall which can be overwhelmed in very hard rains. We will be getting the pipes scoped and cleaned this year.

• We have been working to get quotes and design options for the new LED Sign and the bottle filler projects that were funded by the Giving Train. We have identified most likely supplier and are finalizing the design options for installation in the first half of 2025.

Grounds:

- A large Pine Tree was removed near the Rectory as it was diseased and was at risk of causing Property Damage. We also had a number of limbs trimmed that were at risk of causing Property Damage.
- As part of the project to improve/protect the Darlington Oak (Penn Oak), 4 acorns from the Oak were germinated and sapling have been planted along the edge of the field by the pathway to the Oak. A fence has been installed along the tree line in front of the Oak to place a visual barrier to reduce foot traffic near the Oak. The wood chips in the Parking Lot will be used to improve the pathway down to the Oak and the area by the Memorial Bench. The pathway from the Cemetery to the Oak Area will be reopened to give a less steep option down to the tree.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Pearlman, Chair, and the Property Committee

SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Safety Committee continues to meet to discuss the needs of Saint John's Church to ensure a safe place of worship for parishioners and a safe location for community members to utilize space for various activities.

Communication has been underway with the fire department regarding the installation of an outside mounted safe that will hold building master keys that will be accessible by fire and police personnel in the event of an emergency in the church or church hall. On October 24 - 25, following an application and a lengthy waiting period, a formal Risk and Vulnerability Assessment was conducted of the church and the church hall by the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). These assessments are available to places of worship, schools, and various community organizations and gathering places.

The purpose of seeking this assessment was to:

- Assess the physical facilities and operational procedures of Saint John's Church
- Identify vulnerabilities in the church, church hall and grounds
- Obtain recommendations to mitigate identified vulnerabilities

These assessments are free of charge and are very comprehensive. Not only do the assessments offer ways to provide a more secure environment to the church, the parishioners and visitors, it also provides suggestions on how to streamline emergency services calls to the property for faster and more effective interventions. Lastly, often-times for organizations to qualify for various Federal, State and local grant funding, a formal PSP Risk and Vulnerability Assessment is required for applications for funding to be considered.

After much anticipation, the final report was received on January 14, 2025. The Safety Committee will review the final report in detail and determine what changes and additions will be brought to the attention of the Vestry for consideration and implementation.

If you have any questions about the Safety Committee please contact Dick Constable, Carla Durdan, Ron Hammer or Paul Pearlman.

Respectfully submitted, Carla Durdan

STEWARDSHIP

So what is over 800 to 1000 person hours spent by individuals and groups supporting our numerous outreach activities, staffing of programs for all our coffee hours, education programs, Pastoral care activities, property care and management and many, many church functions that allow St. John's to continue to be a vibrant growing community? What is the financial support that permits the funding of our operations and programs of over \$200,000? It is called Stewardship and you are all excellent Stewards of St. John's. Your volunteer work and financial pledges all assist St. John's to be a welcoming and active church in our community.

Our 2024 Pledge campaign was very successful. Our budget for financial pledges was \$220,000. Due to your individual generosity we received \$230,121 and exceeded our goal.

We are moving forward with our 2025 campaign we have received pledges of \$216,850 so far towards our goal of \$220,000. If you have not had the opportunity to pledge for 2025, we ask you pray on this and consider submitting a pledge for the upcoming year.

Thank you all for the time, talent and treasure you have provided to support St. John's.

Respectfully submitted, Gerry Tierney, Vestry Stewardship Chair

THE 1702 SOCIETY

St. John's 1702 Society was established by the Vestry in 2014 to honor individuals and families who make financial gifts to St. John's through direct bequeaths upon their passing. Planned Giving through your will and estate will establish your legacy with St. John's and will provide a lasting benefit to the church so it can continue to serve our families and continue our outreach missions.

In 2024 we welcomed Dexter Armistead to the 1702 Society. Mr. Armistead made a generous contribution to St. John's upon his passing.

If you have questions about planned giving, please contact Gerry Tierney through the office.

Respectfully submitted, Gerry Tierney

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

To expand our liturgical traditions, from time-to-time, our 10:00 am service has used material such Enriching Our Worship.

Although the hiring a full-time organist had been challenging, Rev. Jill succeeded with the hiring of Laura Seidelmann as St. John's official organist in June of 2024.

Also, special thanks to Carol Angus for taking the lead in getting the choir ready for each Sunday.

Finally, special thanks to:

- Tech team (Philip Thompsen, Gerry Tierney, Patti Doyle, Evan Willoughby, and Will Durdan) for running, continually improving upon quality of St. John's livestreaming; and Ron Hammer for installing the new Eero mesh transponder
- Tracey Payne and Melody Calhoun and all the members of the Altar Guild.
- Carol Angus and her team for getting the church ready for Christmas and Easter.

Respectfully submitted by John M. Pachkowski – Worship Committee









Vital Statistics from the Church Office

BAPTISMS

Amelia Annemarie Bean Juliet Ann Fedullo Robert Alexander Fedullo Gary W. Gaster Theodore Samuels Hodges Henry Isaac Pearlman

CONFIRMATIONS

Nicholas Albano
Benjamin Denworth
Jameson Denworth
Brayden Diehl
Nathan Diehl
Cameron Douglass
Colby Douglass
Sean Doyle
Ella Dunn
Juliana Gonzalez
Kaitlyn Osgood
Meghan Ann Shields-Fedullo
Diane Stover
Evan Willoughby

RECEPTIONS

Margaret Calogero Linda Gaster

MARRIAGES

Theodore Hodges and Timothy Wilcox

DEATHS & BURIALS

Norma Jean Carliss+
Edward Carter
Lawrence Dunbar+
Helen Gumbert+
Robert Gumbert+
Harriet Imbierowicz
Barbara Kvech+
Florence "Barrie" Parker
JoAnn Pascal+
Charles Petzold
Fred Wood+
+ indicates buried at St. John's

Virtual ONLY Sundays = 0
Average Sunday Attendance = 93
Does not include our online attendance

2025 Ballot

Vote for Five Vestry Members (2 year terms)

	Debbie Miller, first 2-year term
	Diane Stover, first 2-year term
	Philip Thompsen, first 2-year term
	Tracey Payne, third 2-year term
Non	ninations from the floor:
	Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Three Delegates & One Alternate
_	Diane Stover
	Diane Stover Philip Thompsen
_	Philip Thompsen
	Philip Thompsen Glenn Wikel
	Philip Thompsen Glenn Wikel (Alternate)