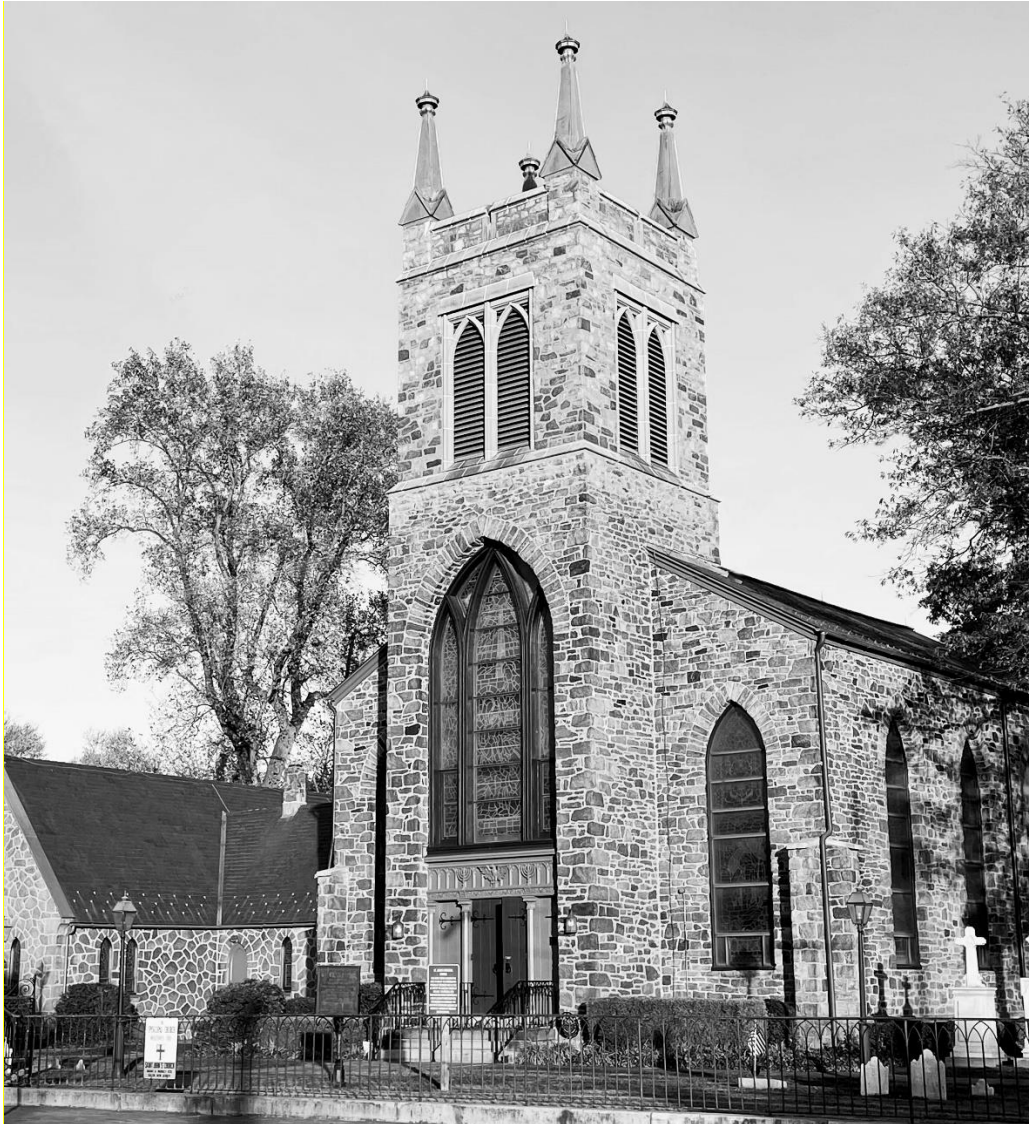


ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SALEM
An Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of New Jersey

76 Market Street
Salem, New Jersey 08079



ANNUAL MEETING
January 26, 2025
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SALEM
An Episcopal Parish in the Diocese of New Jersey

ANNUAL MEETING

January 26, 2025

AGENDA

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Meeting opens with prayer | | The Rev. Kimberly Reinholz |
| 2. Greetings | | Senior Warden, Ron Magill |
| 3. Approval of previous minutes | | Ron Magill |
| 4. Presentation of Slate for Open Vestry Positions | | Ron Magill |
| Election of Senior Warden | | |
| Election of Junior Warden | | |
| Nominations from the Floor | | |
| Convention Delegates and Representatives for Convocation | | |
| Opening of Polls | | |
| 5. Report of the Rector | By Title | The Rev. Kimberly Reinholz |
| 6. Report of the Deacon | By Title | The Rev. Dcn Sally Maurer |
| 7. Report of the Senior Warden | By Title | Ron Magill |
| 8. Report of the Junior Warden | By Title | Judy Almond |
| 9. Presentation from the Rector Search Committee | Co-chairs- | Bill Ronn and Christine Hoehn |
|
10. FINANCIAL REPORTS | | |
| Report of the Acting Treasurer | By Title | Ron Magill |
| 2025 Budget | | Finance Committee |
|
11. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS | | |
| Acolyte Guild | By Title | David Miller |
| Altar Guild | By Title | Mary Anne Clisham |
| Building and Grounds | Under Jr. Warden's Report | Judy Almond |
| Episcopal Church Women (ECW) | By Title | Eileen Miller |
| Minister of Music | By Title | Bill Clisham |
| Outreach | By Title | The Rev. Dcn Sally Maurer |
| Quilters | By Title | |
| Salem County Episcopalian | By Title | Eileen Miller |
| St. John's Parish Necrology | By Title | |
| Lighthouse Ministries | By Title | Beth Davenport |
| 12. Report of Elections | | The Rev. Kimberly Reinholz |
| 13. Adjournment | | The Rev. Kimberly Reinholz |
| 14. Dismissal | | The Rev. Dcn. Sally Maurer |
| 15. Meeting of New Vestry to confirm: Clerk, Treasurer, and Secretary | | |

Annual Meeting Minutes January 28, 2024

The annual meeting of St. John's Episcopal opened in prayer by our interim rector Mother Kim Reinholz in the church hall on January 28, 2024.

The bylaws were reviewed by Mother Kim- with the congregation reviewing who eligible voters are.

Per Ann Neff, Sr Warden, the congregation was advised that the official roles of the church were unable to be found. As such it was assumed that individuals who were listed in the church directory were considered members of St John's Episcopal Church for the purpose of voting. All eligible voters received ballots, an agenda, and our yearly report.

Sr. Warden Ann Neff extended a warm welcome to all.

The minutes for the 2023 annual meeting were approved.

The floor was open to any further nominations.

There was a nomination from the floor of Gwen Norton for the vacant seat in the class of 2025.

Mother Kim Reinholz delivered a rector's report that discussed her new role at the church, her availability, and her hopes for a wonderful year.

Deacon Sally Maurer presented the Deacon's Report. Deacon Sally discussed her ongoing medical treatment and is looking forward to being more active in the coming year as her health continues to improve.

Sr. Warden Ann Neff presented her Senior Warden report. Ann Neff discussed her term in taking over the Sr. Warden position for the last 6 months. She reflected on the many triumphs of the year including bringing Communion to shut in's and establishing a prayer chain.

Jr. Warden Ron Magill presented the Junior Warden report and financial report. Jr. Warden Ron Magill discussed the unexpected issues that had come up with the property over the last year. Two trees in the front of the church died and had to be removed. Removing these trees was a significant task due to their size and location. Sidewalk repairs had to be completed after the trees were removed.

The polls were opened and eligible congregants cast their votes. Ronald Ewen and Ann Neff and were elected unopposed to 3-year term Vestry seats for the class of 2027.

Eithan Longo was elected unopposed to a 2-year term for Vestry. Gwen Norton was elected unopposed to a 1-year term.

Delegates to the convention and convocation were selected by vote. Those with the highest votes became the delegates and the other candidates became the alternates.

The results are as follows:

Delegates to Convention

Christine Hoehn
Ron Magill
Jimmy Trinidad

Delegates to Convocation

Jimmy Trinidad
Ron Magill
Tatianna Trinidad

Alternates

Eileen Miller
Tatianna Trinidad
Ann Neff

Alternates

Christine Hoehn
Ann Neff
Eileen Miller

The Annual Meeting was adjourned, and the congregation dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph M Longo III

Interim Rector's Report

January 26, 2025

Greetings and God's Peace to You!

This year has been amazing. It is hard to believe I have been with you all for 12 months. I feel as though I am finally starting to understand how St John's works, and I am grateful that God has called me here for this season. Many thanks to the leadership, staff, and all of you for your hard work this year. I want to thank Deacon Sally for her devotion to St John's and St George's and her ministry and mission between these parishes. At the same time, she continues her battle with terminal cancer. I also thank Bill Clisham for his flexibility and ability to continue holding the music program to the standard expected at St John's. To Eileen Miller, thank you for your continued hard work at being the parish administrator in a year when there wasn't a Treasurer in place, when there were two diocesan conventions, and countless questions that I didn't know the answers to, you have been a faithful and dedicated member of staff, and the office wouldn't run without you. The Vestry and wardens have been stalwart and faithful leaders through this year of challenges, and they took on new positions with grace and patience; thank you for your service.

I want to summarize my year as your interim rector briefly. Brevity isn't my strong suit, so I am giving bullet points. Still, I am happy to expand if you'd like more information:

January - Epiphany

- Welcome
- Arrived at St John's
- Vestry meeting (first week)
- Annual meeting second week

February - Lent

- Pancake Supper and Welcome to the Reinholz Clan
- Ash Wednesday
- Began Interim Events
(Summary of interim events are on our website and in the parish hall on the bulletin board)

- March - Lent/ Holy Week/ Easter
- Deacon Sally Vacation
- Relaunching website

April - Easter

- Mutual Ministry Meeting with Vestry
- Creating Ministry Handbook
- Working with Vestry to establish "teams."
- Preparing for St John's Day Baptisms

May - Ascension/ Pentecost

- Spiritual Gifts Inventory
- Preparation for St John's Day
- Beginning work on Employee Handbook and Job Descriptions
- Attempting to renegotiate the contract with Comcast
- Diocesan Confirmation - 3 participants
- Evensong

June -	St John's Day - Worship and Picnic Baptisms Summer Schedule	October	Vacation Blessing Animals Sacred Ground Continues Trunk or Treat Created Funeral Planning Documents- Started meeting parishioners to pre-plan funerals
July -	Vacation Liturgical Planning Continued work on Employee Handbook Change in Jr. Warden	November	All Saints / All Souls Evensong Parish "Spruce" Day Diocesan Convention
August-	Shredding Event Vacation Meeting with the Worship Committee	December - Advent/ Christmas	Clergy Conference Yuletide Tour Parade Secret Santa Shoppe Lessons and Carols Retirement of Warren Bye
September-	Back to School /Back Pack Event Started Sacred Ground Circle Funeral		

As you can see, this year was full. It has been a roller coaster of worship, discussions, events, opportunities for celebration, and community building. I mentioned in my end-of-year letter that St John's motto could be "Where there's a will, there's a way,"—and while that remains true, I hope the new year will help us discern God's will for this community going forward.

The hard truth is that in 2025, St John's is struggling. However, unlike many of our neighboring mainline and other Episcopal Churches, money is not our primary issue. Thanks to the generous gift of Mr Eugene Rumsey and the trust established over the decades since his death, our doors will remain open for quite some time. We have the funds to maintain and improve the physical church plan for as long as people worship here.

Here lies the issue- our congregation is aging- looking in the pews, no one should be surprised by this. Although we baptized seven individuals this year, many of them were what I would call "legacy" baptisms. Most folks who have their babies baptized here are not active in the parish now. There are many reasons why families aren't coming to worship- from the economic necessity of two working parents, shifting schedules, getting out of the habit, never being in the habit, and many more. But if folks aren't having their children baptized at St John's to pursue active membership, what can we do to add to our membership?

There are three ways to define membership in the Church. First is that all people baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are members of the Body of Christ, the Church; this is the broadest definition of Church membership. Baptism is what makes a person a

Christian. Second, a person becomes a member by being confirmed, reaffirmed, or received (as an adult communicant in good standing) into The Episcopal Church. Finally, according to the by-laws of St John's Episcopal Church, an individual who is baptized, at least 16 years of age, of good moral character, Adherent to the Episcopal Church, Regularly attends services of the parish, and makes regular contributions to the current expenses of the parish (which must be able to be proved through Treasurer's records). How can we draw individuals into St John's who fit these descriptions?

When I arrived here last year, the church rolls were missing, so we did not have an accurate church membership record. We used the parish database/ directory as our record for the parochial report. The most recent church record volume has been found. Due to poor record keeping during transitions, I have attempted to update the records. In the previous rector's tenure, this has been slow going. Second, because there is no pledge/stewardship program at St John's, being known to the Treasurer, requires that an individual pay a pledge with a check or indicate their offering in some other way. If an individual drops cash in the offering plate without a record, they are unknown to the Treasurer. Membership defined in this way may seem pedantic. However, our church membership determines who can run for Vestry, who can serve as a warden, and who can vote at meetings like this one.

The issue of gaining members remains a hurdle. Culturally speaking, a generational shift is underway: regular worship attendance, financial support for institutions, and the desire to align oneself with a parish or denomination have all fallen out of favor. I say this not to discourage you but to caution against the belief that a "new rector" will solve the membership issue.

The truth is that no priest will be all things to all people. No priest will provide a permanent fix for bringing new people to a community. What will draw people to St John's is the love of God, the love of one another, and the love of our neighbor. What are the needs of the neighborhood as it stands now? What are the needs of the worshiping community now? What can we do to love and care for one another, as God has loved and cared for us? Now is the moment to look at all that God has given St John's and return those gifts to the Lord. Whatever the community of St John's decides to focus on as its primary ministry will light a beacon that will shine in Salem City, County, and beyond. That beacon will draw others to build a relationship with God and all of you at St John's.

Submitted Faithfully

The Rev. Kimberly Reinholz
Interim Priest
January 14, 2025

Deacon's Report January 26, 2025

It has been my honor to serve as Deacon at St John's Salem for the past twelve + years, I look forward to many more with you. A lot of pretty big things have occurred in 2024, not the least of which was my miraculous recovery after a horrible 2023 and my ability to resume my active functions as your Deacon and following our mandate of being Christ's people here in Salem and I am so mindful and thankful of all the generations ahead of us that worked to establish this presence here that we continue to enjoy. This year has not been without problems for me. I continue to deal with the diagnosis of Multiple Myeloma and the treatments that I have endured. As most of you know, in September, after a wonderful vacation in Hawaii with my son and his family, I had a PET scan and learned that the cancer had recurred with a vengeance. After an almost immediate hospital stay, a new treatment plan was initiated that has brought my numbers down very low and I am feeling much better. I also had to have 5 radiation treatments on my right upper arm for one of the lesions. Yet your prayers and your actions sustained me through this ordeal and helped me to get back on my feet again. It has been wonderful to be a part of all the exciting things happening at St. John's, I hope you also feel the excitement.

This is how we love one another – we rejoice with each other, we grieve with each other, we celebrate with each other, we bear up each other during times when the other's needs are greater. We support one another in all things. I am so aware that you walk beside me in everything that I go through and I hope you know that and hold that close to your heart.

Meanwhile, we did a lot of great things this year and we need to celebrate that as well. I'm going to detail this out in the Outreach report so as not to be repetitive but please know this Deacon is very fulfilled knowing that we are working very hard to be the hands and feet of God! Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit! Thanks be to God!!

Faithfully Submitted
The Rev. Deacon Sally Maurer

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT 2024

I am pleased and honored to have served once again as your Senior Warden. The year started a bit differently than most with no rector in the pulpit. However, to our great pleasure, The Reverend Kimberly Reinholz agreed to serve as our Interim Rector. This has proved a great blessing for our parish; a woman of many talents with a true focus on following God's lead, bringing organizational skills behind the scenes and evoking both laughter and tears with her excellent sermons.

Perhaps the biggest project of the parish in this past year was the complete refurbishment of the pipe organ in the main sanctuary. The current organ was installed over 90 years ago and is still serviced by the same firm of Jacob Gerger and Sons. Along the way there have been some organ upgrades, but this year's task completely disassembled and cleaned pipes and wind chests, made repairs and rewired the system. The parish and choir patiently did without organ from Easter until mid-September; thank goodness we have a wonderful Knabe piano.

It has been a pleasure to work with so many individuals within the parish and to watch the many projects come to fruition, while also supporting many organizations and individuals in the community. 2024 has been our third year of providing financial support toward The Lighthouse Ministry in Salem, and both Judy Almond and Ann Neff have served on their Board. In addition, Deacon Sally Maurer diligently continues to oversee outreach to the community and wider organizations.

I wish to thank Eileen Miller in the office as well as our cleaning staff, Laura Bye and Debbie Gross, and Sexton Warren Bye who has kept us running smoothly for 17 years. With Warren's retirement, he left BIG shoes to fill! Thanks also go to Brandon Burke who provides the technical support to broadcast services each week.

You will hear from others with specifics about their group or committee, but I would like to repeat what I have heard throughout this year. St. John's is a family, and we work together to make it all happen. That means YOU ALL, the parishioners, who come together as needed and make St. John's a good and loving parish with which I am proud to be associated.

Ronald E. Magill
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report Year 2024

BUILDING AND GROUNDS REPORT - September- December 2024. (Assigned as Jr. Warden)

- Kitchen was inspected and passed by the Salem County Health Inspector.
- The broken dishwasher will be replaced in 2025.
- Vineland Glass and Door came and fixed the first-floor ladies inside door.
- TBI fixed the smashed sprinkler valve and broken pipes which caused our very high water bill.
A cement barrier was placed to deter parking close to the area.
- J Boys is our new vendor for our lawn care, sprinkler system and snow removal.
- Feminine dispenser for downstairs women's bathroom needs to be installed.

CARE COMMITTEE REPORT - August

- Committee helped with Gail Boyd's funeral reception.
 - Helped with District ECW Conference at St. John's.
- Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Almond

FINANCIAL REPORTS

TREASURERS REPORT 2024

Actually, this should read “Acting” Treasurer's Report because in reality, during 2024, we did not have a Treasurer of the parish. At St. John's the Treasurer is appointed by the Vestry. It is not an elected position. However, when no one is clamoring to take on the role, things don't always slide down hill, instead, in this case the task slid up hill! Perhaps because I have been the parish treasurer in the past and know the current workings of the system, this responsibility slid onto my plate. I tried to keep the parish solvent and meet our financial obligations.

I am very thankful to Mary Anne Clisham who is my true sidekick for weekly counting and for Eileen Miller, our administrator, for picking up plenty of day-to-day responsibilities. Irv Chard, our accountant at Crouch and Company in Woodstown has ensured funds were correctly deposited and withdrawn from specific budget areas and donor designated gifts supported the specific requests of donors.

As I referenced in my Senior Warden Report, a big financial obligation in 2024 was the refurbishment of the pipe organ. This was not an insignificant project. However, in addition to many parishioners who gave funds towards this organ work, a sizable bequest from the estate of former parishioner, Phyllis Little, shouldered a significant portion of the cost.

My thanks to the following parishioners who served and attended the Finance Committee Meetings and helped put together the 2025 Operating and Maintenance (O & M) Budget: Ron Ewen, Joey Longo, and Scott Trull. The Committee met three times, first with our BNY Mellon investment representatives, again when an 11 month “Budget vs. Actual” report was available and then a third time to incorporate final tweaks early in January 2025, when the full 12 month “Budget vs. Actual” report was available. Please keep in mind that the Vestry approved 2025 Budget does not take into account capital projects or repairs. These are addressed by the Vestry as needs arise.

Ronald E. Magill
Acting Treasurer

St Johns Episcopal Church
2025 Approved Budget

	2024 Budget	12 Month Actual	2025 Budget
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NOTES

INCOME

402-00	INT/DIV INCOME				
	402-01 Bank Accounts Interest		3,666		
	402-02 Mellon Dividend Income StJ				
	402-03 Mellon Income-Rumsey Trust	285,742	285,743	278495	6.00%
	402-04 Mellon Interest Income StJ Mellon Income-St. Johns				
	402-06 Trust	139,845	139,845	231316	10.10%
	General Fund Reduction				
	Total INT/DIV INCOME	425,587	429,254	509,811	
	*INT/DIV Inc Realized Inc Bud to Act		425,587		
404-00	OFFERINGS				
	404-01 Holiday Offering	1,000	204		
	404-02 Initial Envelope	100	73	50	
	404-03 Loose Offering				
	404-04 Pledge Offering	50,000	45,251	50000	
	Total OFFERINGS	51,100	45,528	50050	
405-00	OTHER DONATIONS				
	405-01 Memorial Funds				
	405-02 Misc Donations	400	423	400	
	405-03 Parish Hall Use Donations	480	825	600	
	Total OTHER DONATIONS	880	1,248	1000	
	Total Income	477,567	476,030	560,861	
	**Total Income Bud to Act Only	477,567	476,030		

EXPENSE

		ADMINISTRATIVE			
502-00	502-01	Advertising & Promotion	1,000	2,752	2000
	502-03	Bank Charges	100	60	100
	502-05	Computers/Software	1,000	1,981	1500
	502-06	Conferences & Conventions	500	270	300
	502-07	Copy Machine Lease	3,000	3,270	3500
	502-09	Diocesan Contribution	70,976	73,214	74439
	502-11	Dues & Subscriptions	1,000	2,143	1500
	502-13	Insurance - Church	20,000	18,244	20000
	502-14	Interest Expense		22	
	502-15	Misc Expenses	500	42	500
	502-16	Office Equip Maintenance	200	113	200
	502-17	Office Supplies & Expenses	3,000	3,147	3000
	502-18	Postage	600	836	1000
	502-191	Auditor	6,000		6000
	502-192	CPA	5,400	5,400	5400
	502-20	Telephone/Cable/Internet	10,000	10,851	11000
	502-22	Parishioner Supplies	520	109	500
	502-22	Historic Conservation			
	502-24	Broadcast Communication (equip)	1,500		1000
		Total ADMINISTRATIVE	125,296	122,454	131,939
		BUILDINGS & GROUNDS			
503-00	503-01	Cemetery Expense	500	58	250
	503-02	Equipment Replacement	500		250
	503-03	Landscaping & Lawn Care	15,000	18,960	15000
	503-04	Maintenance & Cleaning Expense	0	5,957	2000
	503-05	Repairs	4,000	2,889	4000
	503-06	Security System	8,000	9,908	10000
	503-07	Special Projects	5,000		2000
	503-09	Unbudgeted capital Repairs			
	503-08	Snow Removal	1,000		3000
	503-10	COVID Expenses	200		
		Total BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	34,200	37,772	36,500

		FELLOWSHIP & WORSHIP			
504-00	504-01	Fellowship Supplies	2,000	2746	2000
	504-02	Supply Clergy	1,500	2409	3000
	504-03	Worship Supplies	1,000	3,084	2000
	504-04	Pastoral Care	500	687	2000
	504-05	Acolyte Expense	160		200
		Total FELLOWSHIP & WORSHIP	5,160	8,926	9,200
		MUSIC			
505-00	505-01	Choir Music	500		300
	505-02	Choir Robes			
	505-03	Contract Musicians	21,000	21,400	25500
	505-04	Handbell Repairs			
	505-061	Organ Repairs & Tuning	1,000		1200
	505-062	Unbudgeted Organ Repairs			
	505-07	Piano Tuning & Repairs	400	190	400
	505-08	Supply Organist	1,000	1,000	1200
	505-09	Hymnals			
		Total MUSIC	23,900	22,590	28600
		OUTREACH			
506-00	506-01	General Outreach Expenses	20,000	20,845	40000
	506-02	Rectors Discretionary Fund			
	506-03	St John's Quilters		90	
	506-04	Food Pantry			
	-05	Lighthouse Ministry Donation		34,000	
		Total OUTREACH	20,000	54,935	40,000
		RELIGIOUS EDUCATION			
507-00	507-01	Child Care Expenses			
	507-02	Literature-Adult Education	1,000	244	1000
	507-03	Sunday School Materials			
	507-04	Vacation Bible School			
		Total RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	1,000	244	1,000
		STAFF			
508-00	508-01	RECTOR			
		Benefits Medical			
	508-011	Dental	23,562	23,803	19220
	508-012	Benefits Pension	13,253	13,609	14000
		Cont Ed & Travel -			
	508-013	Rector	1,075		1075
	508-014	Housing Allowance	21,000	19,385	21,525
		Professional Exps -			
	508-015	Rector	4,500	653	4500

508-016	Rector Salary	47,396	43,951	48,581
	Rector SE Tax			
508-017	Payments	5,233	4,629	5500
	Discernment			
* 508-018	Expense	50,000	1,091	40000
508-019	Transition Expense			
508-020	Transition Supply Clergy			
508-021	Life Insurance	222		250
	Total RECTOR	166,241	107,121	154,651

508-02 SUPPORT STAFF

	Choirmaster/Organist			
508-021	Salary	43,000	44,654	44075
508-022	Housekeeping Parish	8,000	7,872	8488
	Church Cleaning (L.			
508-023	Bye)	6,000	4,720	6423
508-024	Secretary (E. Miller)	25,000	17,906	25625
508-025	Sexton	10,000	6,680	10400
	Medicare Tax			
508-026	Expense	1,371	1,288	1500
508-027	Soc Sec Tax Expense	5,859	5,508	6200
508-028	I T Tech	2,500	2,687	2600
508-029	Workmens Comp	3,000	9,686	5000
	Choirmaster - Cont			
508-030	Ed, Dues, Bks	0		
	Total SUPPORT STAFF	104,730	101,001	110,311
508-03	Deacon Salary	4,000	4,154	5000
	Deacon Pension	200		300
	Total STAFF	275,171	212,276	270,012

UTILITIES

510-00	510-01	Electric	18,000	16,901	18000
	510-02	Fuel	18,000	17,981	18000
	510-03	Trash Service	1,140	1,140	1140
	510-04	Water & Sewer	3,200	5,151	6220
		Total UTILITIES	40,340	41,173	43,360
	* Total Expense		527,677	500,370	560,861

FINAL ST. JOHN'S BUDGET

Vestry Approved 19 January 2025

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Acolyte Report

We are growing in members. Our acolytes faithfully serve the Lord's table each Sunday and on special feast days. If you are interested in becoming an acolyte, please see David Miller.

Acolytes:

David Miller Cameron Longo Cree Longo Eithan Longo Jimmy Trinidad

Respectfully submitted,
David Miller
Acolyte Master

Altar Guild

A few dedicated volunteers continue to prepare and clean up Communion for each Eucharist service, as well as change the altar hangings according to the Liturgical calendar and any special services as required. They consider it an honor to be entrusted with this responsibility.

Many thanks go to Jim Davis, who prepares the elements for services in both the Chapel and the Church, who cleans up after the Chapel services, and who makes sure that the candles are all in good order. Sue Harker faithfully "washes the dishes" after services in the Church and launders the Communion linens. Mary Anne Clisham is on hand to change the altar hangings based on the Liturgical calendar and any other special services, such as Baptisms and Funerals. Ron Magill and Mary Anne Clisham often help with the washing up when Sue is not available. Last but not least, Helen Acton does an excellent job of polishing the silver.

It is possible that these tasks may go unnoticed, but they are an integral part of our worship experience. As always, there is a need for more help. If you are interested in learning more about the ministry of the Altar Guild, please contact Eileen Miller in the church office or Deacon Sally Maurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anne Clisham

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

All the women of the church are part of the ECW of the church. . We continue to face challenges keeping ECW up to date and running. As of December 31, I have resigned as president. If anyone is interested in taking over this role and would like more information, please see me. We had several meetings over the course of the year to make decisions about funding various outreach projects. We have been able to participate in the outreach efforts that Deacon Sally proposes. We have supported I-Rise (refugee relief) in various ways. Earlier in the year, we purchased 3 teakettles to be given to families in the program. At Christmas, ECW purchased gift cards to be given to I-Rise for the families they are helping.

In January, we assisted with the Hanging of the winter gear.

In April, we donated \$250 to Hope House to assist in setting up a facility for women.

In August, we donated \$350 towards the cost of the shredding event.

In September, we hosted the Woodbury District ECW. We had a very informative talk by Ashley Henry from I-Rise.

In October, we assist with Trunk or Treat.

Every December, we host a Yule Tour Soup Lunch as a fundraiser for ECW. Many thanks to Julie Frieze and her group of helpers and cooks!

ECW provides a baptismal gift and confirmation gift to those who celebrate these milestones during the year. We also recognize our graduates each June, with a card and a gift for those graduating from high school and post high school.

We continue to host Fellowship Hour each Sunday after the 10:30 service. We have Birthday Sunday the first Sunday each month and Sandwich Sunday on the weeks that Vestry meetings are scheduled. We also host other fellowship activities through the year. We need more people to volunteer to host and clean up after Fellowship Hour each week.

We hope that 2025 sees a renewal of more in-person events for us to host and help with.

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Miller
President

Minister of Music

This year has been another surprising “experience!” at St. John’s. After having retired in 2019 and then having been called out of retirement in January of 2021, I found the liturgical ministry that I shared with Father Messer to be one of growth and support. It was as much a shock to me as to everyone else when he announced in June 2023 his sudden move to South Carolina. This past year (2024) has been a very pleasant, sometimes entertaining, surprisingly educational, and (I hope) mutually supportive collegial partnership in ministry with our Interim Priest, Mother Kimberly Reinholz.

CHOIR:

The choir has been “flexible” in numbers this year due not only to on-again-off-again Covid-19 restrictions, but other health issues as well. George & Ann Neff are in our prayers constantly. Flu has affected attendance far too often, especially Gwen Norton and Arielle Egan. It was a year of extremes. There have been occasions when we have had to seat singers in folding chairs behind the permanent choir pews near the organ console in the chancel. And then there were times that the choir managed not to fill even 6 places on one side of the chancel.

Our paid choristers / section leaders have been a faithful and talented group throughout this year. Kelly Freno and Arielle Egan (Sopranos), Gwen Norton (Alto), Shane Goddis (Tenor), and Don Layton (Bass) have all been a joy to work with and should be the envy of most—if not all—parishes in the Diocese. We have had several other guest musicians join us on occasion, some new regular - or irregular ~ familiar faces (Mary-Catherine Jenkins, Jerry Pinner, Greg Hammell, Glen Clisham, Paula White, and other new friends.) Our own volunteer choir singers have welcomed all of them graciously and gratefully.

The most important and impressive thing about the St. John’s Choir continues to be their weekly offerings of time and talent in service to Almighty God. I have *always* been impressed by the great sense of liturgical and theological purpose among the choir singers at St. John’s, more so than in many places I’ve served—and I’ve been at it since 1965. Because of their sense of commitment to the integrity of worship, the choir has done a marvelous job leading liturgies on Sunday mornings. But there is a GREAT NEED for additional volunteer choir singers. We’ve lost three sopranos, two tenors, and two basses over the past few years due to age, health, and/or relocation.

New singers are always welcome in St. John’s Choir. If you are interested in more information or know of someone who might be interested, please contact Bill Clisham either by e-mail or by phone (cell) 908-472-7597 or stop by the organ console after the Postlude. *We give free tune-ups!*

ST. JOHN’S ORGAN RESTORATION

Beginning on April 9, and continuing through November 10, our organ was silent as it saw an incredible amount of restoration work: complete re-leathering and re-wiring of 5000+ moving parts in the original 1937 chambers. Re-learning piano techniques and finding music for piano that seemed appropriate for our liturgy was indeed a challenge for an old man. Some interest from endowment funds and additional generous contributions from many parishioners enabled Peter Gerger (the third generation of Gergers) to refurbish our Kimbal/Gerger pipe organ, now in its 9th decade serving St. John’s Music and Worship Ministries. We have the largest and most versatile pipe

organ in Salem County. The total cost, over \$200,000 was a shock to many of us, *BUT* ... the replacement estimate—should you be interested—for our 1934/1969 Kimball/Gerger 30-rank pipe organ, provided to us through the generosity of our predecessors, would be well over \$500,000, and probably closer to 1 Million!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

We have been fortunate in the past to host the Salem “Music Around the County” committee. We have also hosted the opening concert in each of that group’s past twelve year’s schedule of events: “Tunes from the Crypt”. This was not possible in 2024 due to the extensive organ restoration work undertaken during that time frame.

Financial concerns have affected the usual two Evensongs per year. There has been concerns about this, and we hope to resume these events in the future, along with additional publicity to attract the outside community to the unique and high-quality music & liturgy offerings available at St. John’s Parish.

THE FUTURE (2025 & BEYOND):

In looking ahead to next year, it appears that some of the same **wish list** is in order as in the past. Here are a few areas on which it could be possible to spend additional energy and time, while continuing to provide musical leadership for weekly and special liturgies.

- **Special Music funds:** There are two pass-thru accounts, not part of the Annual Budget set by the Vestry. They carry over from year to year and do not revert to the general operating expense of the church at the end of the year.

One is the **Special Music Fund**, which is intended to provide funds for guest musicians such as a brass ensemble for Easter or a String ensemble to accompany the choir for a St, John’s Day season finale such as a Mozart *Missa Brevis*. This also provides funds for additional choristers for special and occasional festival services such as those.

The other is the **Organ Enhancement Fund**. This fund provides for special organ enhancements not covered by the Tuning and Maintenance line item in the Church Budget.

- **Handbell Ringers & Junior Choristers** have both been dormant since the beginning of the Covid-19 shut-downs and continuing due to limited available and interested participation. As soon as such an interest reaches a serviceable level, be assured that these opportunities will be revived.

Respectfully submitted,
In service to Christ and His Church,
Bill Clisham,
Minister of Music

OUTREACH

I presented a summary of our activities for 2024 in a format that I think represents our efforts more succinctly. I believe this is a better way to present this report for the Annual meeting as well.

International Support:

1. World Central Kitchen - \$2000 sent

State/National Support:

1. Donation to ECS-NJ in support of Diocesan Outreach Efforts
2. Donation to I-Rise in support of summer activities programs, multiple donations of household goods, clothing, and most recently multiple twin sheet sets and pillows as they resettle and set up homes for multiple families

Local Support:

1. Food Insecurity- supported 1st Baptist Church's Motor Lodge feeding ministry
2. Annual donations to local organizations - Meals on Wheels, Needlework Guild, Salem City Fire Department, Salem Area Ministerium Scholarship Fund
3. January - Scarf, Hat and Glove (and oh so much more) Hangout
4. August - Community Shredding Event
5. September - Middle School Backpack Project, with an additional 18 backpacks to Interfaith Rise
6. October - Trunk or Treat
7. Assistance to families in need - Gift cards for vetted families in need of help at Christmas and homeless accommodations.
8. Secret Santa Shoppe - staffed by both St. John's and St. George's with tons of stock for children to select presents for their family members
9. Throughout the year - numerous 'drives' to collect items needed by others - for example, hand warmers for Code Blue, Diapers for the Diaper Bank at Gateway, Kitchen Trash Cans loaded with cleaning supplies for IRise, Candy for Trunk or Treat

As you can see, Outreach here at St John's is complex and thorough. There is always more to do but we have so many activities that we are living out our mandate to be Christ to the world! St John's is deeply embedded in the community and deeply involved in meeting the needs of even the world community. Most gratifying to me as your humble servant are the many people who have 'stepped up' to lead these events when I could not because of my health and treatments.

Thanks be to God!
Deacon Sally Maurer

Quilters

The St. John Quilters continue to work on quilts for the Ronald McDonald House. This year, they are meeting the first and third Tuesday of each month from 9-11 am. If you are interested in helping with this outreach effort, please contact the office or just show up!. You do not have to know how to quilt-there are other tasks that need to be done, and we can teach you.

Salem County Episcopalian

The Salem County Episcopalian, a cooperative newsletter for the three Episcopal parishes in Salem County, turned 2 this month. Articles and information from each church is combined into the monthly edition of the newsletter. This gives us an opportunity to see what the other churches are doing and allows us to support the activities of all three. Information is always welcomed for publication. The due date for each month s always listed on the calendar,

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Miller
Editor

St. John's Parish Necrology 2023

Several long-time parish members died in 2024. May they rest in peace and rise in glory!



Gail Boyd
Ella Stone

Lighthouse Ministries

2024 Annual Report for St. John's

(Note: The full report is available for review in the church office)

Dear St. Johns' Parishioners,

In addition to the above 2024 Annual Report, we wanted to offer our immense gratitude for the partnership in ministry over the past three years! Several of our ministry opportunities have grown as made possible through the financial giving of St John's, and we would like to share them with you.

Among the visual and neighbor-friendly improvements to the Olive/Union Street block made possible by this partnership are:

- Beautiful patio walkway and seating area
- Benches and picnic tables
- Large ceramic planters
- Signage
- Pollinator garden

Our educational programs and fellowship groups have enjoyed the extended outdoor area. Innumerable people from beyond the neighborhood walk through the space and receive the benefits of improved walkway, beautiful environment, and signage (to be installed) giving written description of the purpose of the garden and garden house. (Below)

Olive Street Community Garden a

place for learning about

God and His love by enjoying and exploring the world He made, taking care of it for ourselves and our neighbors, and growing good food together.

You are welcome here!

The Garden House is an

indoor extension of the

Olive Street Community Garden.

Together in this place we are

learning about, caring for, and enjoying the world God has made.

You are welcome here!

Among the practical and functional repairs and additions needed to operate our community garden made possible by this partnership are:

- A majority of our 10 year old deteriorating cedar garden beds have received replacements of either metal beds (12) or eco-friendly sealed wood (12)
- Greenhouse wood and repairs
- Increased shed storage area added
- Garden house storage cabinets

Among the Project Restore (extended community outreach and service) enhancements made possible by this partnership are:

- Funding for a dedicated and highly skilled project manager overseeing the full scope of the Project Restore program, March-June (and this year through August), allowing more impactful home repairs, and freeing Beth and Chanda up to better manage other aspects of the program (3 years)
- Funds for Project Restore to purchase materials for larger scale home repairs in the community (3 years)
- In the summer of 2024, we exceeded our Project Restore budget (usually <\$10,000) by 4 times the amount due to the extreme needs of one of our homeowners requiring a full demo and rebuild of the two bathrooms on the back of the double house. The family has multiple physical disabilities and were living in unsafe and unhealthy conditions. The repairs made have provided them with a handicap accessible entry and safety features which have transformed aspects of the family's life. Additionally, the safety upgrades have made it possible for the family to consider better in-home medical care being provided to the daughter who has a permanent trach, receives daily dialysis, and has several associated medical conditions. The mother is the primary caregiver for her daughter and has a below knee amputation. The extent and quality of work done was only possible both by the faithful dedication of Project Restore adult volunteers and the resources given by St. Johns over the past three years.

Among the garden and programming assistants we were able to employ made possible by this partnership over three years are:

- Summer garden interns: high school graduates/college age (8)
- Graduate student helping with educational materials for current and future programs (1)
- Fall handyman for build and repair assistance (2)
- Project Restore project manager (as mentioned above- 3 years)

At the time of this report, I do not have final numbers from the accountant for this year's balance that will carry over completing the three-year donation commitment. Our records show that to date for this year, \$7000 was designated and used towards Project Restore (in addition to carry over funds from previous years totaling \$16,226.30 for Project Restore), \$21,882.95 plus payroll fees accounted for Project Restore manager, Interns, and staffing assistance, and an additional \$2700 was used for continuation of garden improvements and programs.

Although listed here on paper, it is difficult to communicate the extent of support and blessing that the monetary gifts from St. John's have truly been to us! Through your partnership, we have been able to implement new ideas and expand our scope of ministry that previously felt out of reach. The funding for a Project Restore project manager and college interns have had an especially significant impact, as the work and opportunities far exceed what we (Beth and Chanda) are able to accomplish on our own.

Thank you again for choosing Lighthouse Ministry to partner with as a way to celebrate your church's 300th anniversary and share God's love in Salem! We hope your congregation is encouraged, as we are, by your impact in this Kingdom work!

Gratefully,

Beth Davenport and Chanda Williams

January 26, 2025 Annual Meeting

BALLOT

Nominees

(Check (✓) your Choices)

Vestry

3-year terms - Class of 2028

(Vote for 2)

- Christine Hoehn
- Kelly Freno Kabana
- _____

Delegates to Convention

(Vote for 3)

- _____
- _____
- _____

2-year term-Class of 2027

(Vote for 2)

- Curt Harker
- _____

Delegates to Woodbury Convocation

(Vote for 3)

- _____
- _____
- _____

1-year term-Class of 2026

(Vote for 1)

- Ron Magill
- _____

Alternates to Convention

(Vote for 3)

- _____
- _____
- _____

1-year term-Senior Warden

(Vote for 1)

- Joseph Longo
- _____

Alternates to Woodbury Convocation

(Vote for 3)

- _____
- _____
- _____

1-year term-Junior Warden

(Vote for 1)

- William Ronn
- _____

All write-in candidates need to be nominated from the floor and accepted by the nominee. Any floor nominations/elections are provisional until membership is verified.

January 26, 2025
Annual Meeting
Results

Elected

Wardens:

- Senior Warden

- Junior Warden

Vestry:

3-year terms - Class of 2027

- -----
- -----

2-year terms - Class of 2026

- -----
- -----

1-year terms - Class of 2025

- -----

Delegates: (3 to Convention):

- -----
- -----
- -----

Alternates: (3 to Convention):

- -----
- -----
- -----

Delegates : (3 to Woodbury
Convocations:

- -----
- -----
- -----

Alternates: (3 to Convocation)

- -----
- -----
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