



The Signs of St. John's

December, 2022

Dear Disciples at St. John's,

We are now completing our 2023 Budget process. Here are some of the details:

- The vestry members submitted their goals and line item dollar figures for the new budget.
- At the recent Annual Meeting you saw a very preliminary budget of those submissions.
- We have held a meaningful and helpful stewardship campaign, and have received a number of pledge cards for 2023.

In December, the vestry will vote on a budget submitted by our wardens and based on our mission and the goals of our ministries, with the expectation that it will be made available to you.

All of this is done under the umbrella of mission and ministry. This is what drive us as disciples gathered in this place: God's mission for us to embrace and lived out through our ministries. Each task we do, each ministry we lift up, each dollar we receive are to fulfill the goals we make toward the vision God has for us.

If you have not pledged yet, please consider doing so to enable St. John's to grow in fulfilling our mission and meet the increased opportunities now ahead of us. We are very happy to receive them so we can have a fuller picture of where we will be in 2023. Please place yours in the offering plate, mail to the church or bring them to the church office. Also consider where you wish to serve. Announcement pages, e-signs, this newsletter and our vestry who chair the ministries are wonderful places for you, disciples at St. John's, to learn how to share your talents, energies and time and voice your desire to participate. See and listen, then prayerfully ask.

Always there are questions about our commitment to the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. Where is the money going? Why don't we feel like we receive back as much as we give to the diocese? Our gift to the diocese each year are determined by several factors, including attendance, membership and offerings. This is to consider the circumstances of every parish.

How is the gift to the diocese used? Yes, for the support of our parish. So much comes to us from our diocese in terms of information, spiritual awakening and physical support (as we experienced in our bishop's visit to us on December 13 and still receive from Canon Roy Hoffman in this time of transition). I encourage you to log onto the diocese's website and take a look.

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December Highlights

<i>December 6</i>	<i>Prayerful Crafters</i>
<i>December 10</i>	<i>Altar Guild</i>
<i>December 15</i>	<i>Vestry Meeting</i>
<i>December 18</i>	<i>Lessons and Carols</i>
<i>December 20</i>	<i>Prayerful Crafters</i>
<i>December 24</i>	<i>Christmas Eve Services</i>
<i>December 25</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>



Father Eric

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Do we receive back the 100% of our dollars given? No. And that is a good thing. Because just as an individual disciple cannot to “all things for all people,” neither can a parish. So we rely upon the diocese and the national church to be and do in areas and ministries we cannot reach. Again, I encourage you to look at the diocese’s website, or send a note to Bishop Haynes to find out some of those ministries.

I hope this helps you as you think about our church’s mission, our budgeting for and giving to that mission, and our partnership with the diocese, so vital to the vision of sharing Jesus and his love to each other and our neighbors.

*Peace and Joy,
Father Eric*



Congratulations to the newly confirmed: (l-r) Steve Canada, Kathy Canada, Aspen Heggie, Leshem Peiris, Trinity Horner, Elisha Peiris, August Heggie

**December Birthdays**

8–Jackie Colonna, Alex Heggie; 10–Ivan Mueller; 11–Trinity Horner; 12–Carlton Smith, Thea Shoop; 15–Rebecca Phoenix, Clay Heath, Peter Smith; 16–Jim Robinson; 19–Martin P. Fideli; 22–Henry Gibbons; 28–Doug Blake; 29–Teresa Duncan, Ella McBrearty; 31–Dick Pitman.

If your name should be included here, but is not, please call the Church Office so your record can be updated.

Articles and information for *The Signs of St. John's* should be submitted to Alex Heggie, aheggie@comcast.net, by the day after the Vestry Meeting or the 23rd of each month, whichever is later. Photographs or other illustrations may also be submitted.

Parish Life

As I sit down to write this post, I realized that this would be my last official entry for *The Signs* as I am going off the Vestry. I want to thank all the wonderful people of St. John's for their support in all the events that have taken place this year. I could not have gotten anything done without your help.

To close out November, The Oyster Roast was a huge success. Around 136 tickets were sold. The weather was nice and warm and the food was as advertised. Hard to beat good BBQ, oysters fixed three ways by Chris Mueller and his crew. Plenty of sides and deserts were catered. There were flower baskets and a few pork butts given as door prizes. Thanks to all who helped setup, serve and clean up.

Next up was the Bishop's reception. There were about 94 in attendance. This following a beautiful service confirming 2 adults and 5 children. Thanks to all who supplied food and helped set up, serve and clean up.

And now for December. Coffee hour this month as I know it thus far: Dec. 4, Birthday Sunday hosted by Mary Smith; Dec. 11, hosted by Daughters of the King; Dec. 18, no coffee hour as there will be a champagne reception hosted by the choir after the evening service of Lessons and Carols; Dec. 25, no coffee hour. Merry Christmas!

Lastly, I want to thank the Vestry for putting up with my sometimes sarcastic and contrary comments during my tenure. I wish the oncoming members the best of luck with their prospective assignments.

God bless you all.

Billy Gibbons



Looking Ahead
January

Outreach

As I reflect on my time serving on the Vestry for two years as the Liaison to the Outreach Committee, one thing is very clear to me. There is a very dedicated and passionate group of parishioners who serve St. John's Church by giving freely of their time, talents and often donate their own funds. Their purpose is quite simply stated "to help others."

We have had a very busy year as the world has reopened after the Pandemic and revealed so many more needs. A lot of people have found themselves in dire circumstances needing food, housing and recovery from nature's disasters this year. We responded to so many demands through our support of other well established charities as well as direct donations of items, services and monetary funds to our local partners in outreach to the community.

It is not an understatement to say that our committee members step forward when they are called. **Teresa Duncan** has a special place in her heart for the CARITAS program in Richmond. In January she headed the effort to provide backpacks with notebooks and pens for participants of a back-to-work program offered by CARITAS. Again in July, Teresa saw a solicitation for another essential need and only Teresa would shop for boxers for the men in need! Now that is dedication!

Sue Whiteman and **Susan Kalanges** work together to recognize our local Chesterfield County Police Officers during Appreciation Week in May each year. Sue also collects clean towels and blankets for the County Animal shelter to make their stay in their pens a bit more comfortable. Another project she engages in is the collection of aluminum can pop tops for the Richmond Ronald McDonald House. They turn in the metal and use the funds to support family's needs while their children are being treated at VCU Medical Center.

Another recipient of a great deal of support is Beulah Elementary School. There is a long standing connection between this school and our church from a prior parishioner. **Llewellyn Slayton** has graciously picked up the mantle and keeps in close contact with the staff and administration to identify

ways in which we can assist the children with their educational goals. She heads up a school supply drive and collects paper rolls, boxes and tops for the STEAM program. Additionally, this year we donated for a child whose family suffered a house fire and lost everything. Llewellyn keeps in close touch with the teachers and the Principal at Beulah who express their appreciation often.

Nancy Fast wears many hats at St. John's. Before Covid 19, she used to attend graduation at Jackson-Feild School in Jarrett, Va and presented the Madeline Mumfort Scholarship to the recipient in person. Nancy holds a special interest in the two Mumford awarded scholarships. The second one goes to the Boys Home of Virginia in Covington. Another Outreach project that she leads is the Baby Bottle Fund Drive for the Chesterfield Pregnancy Center. She also puts in volunteer hours there when her busy schedule permits.

The Chesterfield Food Bank has continued to stretch their resources this year. **Thea Shoop** volunteers at the Food Bank and sees up close the needs of the families in our community. She is passionate and lets the Committee know any time she feels we need to deliver more support. This past summer, she ran a dry food drive and the congregation responded generously. We donate funds regularly rather than to run a food pantry or develop a food program of our own.

Pat Robinson was the project leader for a community health program held in the St. John's Parish Hall in July. Lifeline Screened 57 patients which is a good exposure for St. John's to the community. It was well organized and very well publicized. Pat also did a great job on the USO at the RIC Airport toiletry/gift card project. In April we delivered new toilet articles to the USO for the troops who come through the airport. The generosity of the parish was greatly appreciated by the USO staff.



We participate annually in well established community programs that benefit the underprivileged. **Tamara Evans** lead the effort with help from **Chris Day** to provide 25

Thanksgiving meal bags to CHHASM this year. As the members of the congregation know, we shopped at the store and packed bags of food to be given to families for their Thanksgiving dinner. It is a true act of sharing to provide a meal to another family. Thank you to everyone who shopped and to everyone who wrote a check so we could finish out our obligation of bags and gift cards for fresh items!

Christmas Mother was such a big success under the direction of **JoAnn Maher** last year, she decided to undertake it again this year! She has two elf helpers, **Susan Kalanges** and her daughter **Susie Kalanges**. They have decorated a tree with



the names of the recipients of the gifts. As the gifts are purchased and turned in, the Committee will wrap the gifts and JoAnn and Larry will deliver them. JoAnn has retired from her job this year, but has been very busy helping out in so many ways. She designed and ordered the signs for the Blessing of the Animals service. She decorated and manned the Outreach table at the Stewardship Fair. She lends a hand whenever asked and always comes to Outreach meetings to offer her valuable input.

Some of our Outreach Committee members also do other things at St. John's like **Valerie Paredes**. In addition to being a valued member of Outreach, Valerie is active on the Altar Guild and assists with Parish Life. This year she volunteered to revamp the bookcase in the Parish Hall. She reviewed the books, made new signs and generally improved the appearance of the bookcase. It had been neglected since the Parish Hall had been closed due to Covid. The proceeds from the sale of the books go to Alzheimer's Research.

We are excited to have a new member of the Committee. We welcome **Robin Eckman** and hope to discover her passions for projects in the coming year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to anyone interested in joining us to help with the Committee's work. I anticipate that we will continue many of our traditional projects, but

would appreciate new suggestions or exploring opportunities for additional projects. Please join us on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Armstrong Room.

I have enjoyed my time working with all of the members of the Outreach Committee. Thank you for your time and dedication to make a difference in the lives of others. You epitomize what it means to "Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices." *Hebrews 13:16*

Liz McCauley



The Altar Guild of St. John's is in need of additional members. Current member welcome inquires about our duties. We will mentor all new members until they feel comfortable working. Come to a meeting anytime or stop one of us to chat.

Donna Horner

Our Dearest Disciples of St. John's,

During this time of Advent, as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child in the manger at Bethlehem and in our hearts each and every day, we are mindful of just how you touch our lives in so many ways. We are very thankful for your prayers, quiet words and actions of kindness for Donna and me in these days. And we are ever joyous of how you have made us welcomed and so a part of the mission and ministry of St. John's this year. Just as Mary "treasured all that took place," we treasure you and our time with you in our hearts.

A meaningful Advent and a blessed Christmas to you.

*Peace and joy,
Father Eric and Donna*

Stewardship

A huge Thank You to each of those who have returned their pledge cards. As of the writing of this article, approximately half of those cards distributed have been received and the amount pledged for 2023 is close to \$175,000. If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider your contributions for next year in order that St. John's may continue to fund its normal budgetary items while also paying the salary of a full time Rector in the near future.

Nancy Fast

Christmas Designated Offering

One of the resolutions voted on by the vestry as part of the 2022 Budget was one related to St. John's Designated Offerings. The vestry chose to split this year's Christmas Designated Offering between the Chesterfield Food Bank and CARITAS. Thank you in advance for your generosity during this Christmas season. To insure that your gift is applied correctly, please note Christmas Offering on the memo line of your check.

Liz Pectal

St. John's Financial Summary—October, 2022

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
Income			
DCF Fund	\$ 3,534.48	\$ 3,375.00	\$ 4,500.00
Prop. Rental	10,500.00	10,500.00	12,600.00
Memorials	1,455.00		
Other	1,453.47	830.00	1,000.00
Plate Offering	1,388.00	830.00	1,000.00
Pledges—CY	151,066.00	147,316.00	175,180.00
Pledges—PY	1,660.00	500.00	500.00
Env.—No Pledge	7,875.00	5,350.00	6,420.00
Total Income	\$178,931.95	\$168,701.00	\$201,200.00
Expense			
Office	11,917.28	11,400.00	13,350.00
DSV Pledge	17,220.00	17,220.00	20,664.00
Property	82,102.51	52,736.00	61,460.00
Salaries	57,885.75	54,340.00	65,108.00
Special Funds	10,132.73	6,359.00	7,425.00
Total Expense	\$179,258.27	\$142,055.00	\$168,007.00
Net Income	\$ -326.32	26,646.00	\$ 33,193.00



Thank You

We would like to thank St. John's for all the prayers and congratulatory wishes for the birth of our daughter Josephine Beth, born October 15, a month early at 8 pounds, 9 ounces! Many thanks also to the Prayful Crafters for Josie's prayer shawl and beanie. They are perfect for our cold Massachusetts winters!

Ryan and Katy Wood

Communication / Evangelism

It is such a blessing to be a member of St. John's. Our congregation is so caring, thoughtful and supportive of each other and the community. Father Eric has guided us back into a vibrant church with Baptisms, confirmations, special services and welcoming new families. Recent events including the Picnic, Oyster Roast, the Bishop's Reception, weekly Coffee Hours show how members come together in fellowship and to help make the events successful. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Mary Smith

Resurrected to new life in Christ

Robert Howard Johnson
Marie Roma

Rest eternal grant to these, O Lord: let light perpetual shine upon them. May their soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Each Sunday:
Coffee Hour following the
10 o'clock Worship Service

St. John's Episcopal Church DECEMBER 2022

Each Monday:
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts meet in the Scout Cabin
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts meet in the Parish Hall
Each Tuesday and Thursday
7:00 p.m. AA meet in the Parish Hall

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 3:30 p.m. Gibbons Get together	5	6 10:00 a.m. Prayerful Crafters 10:00 a.m. Ikebana Flower Design	7 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	8	9	10 10:00 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting at Donna's house
11 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	12	13	14 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	15 6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	16	17
18 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 4:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols	19	20 10:00 a.m. Prayerful Crafters	21 9:00 a.m. Chester Garden Club 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	22	23	24 4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
25 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	26	27	28 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	29	30 Signs Deadline	31

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Chester, VA 23831-8471
(804) 748-2182

December 18—Lessons and Carols

St. John's Episcopal Church

Fr. Eric Moehring, Interim Rector

Elizabeth Pectal, Treasurer
Aubrey Lindsey, Music Director

Hazel Sloane, Register
Donna Thibault, Office Administrator

Vestry Members

Kathy Canada—Senior Warden.....mamakats54@att.net.....(804) 241-2811
Hank Dvorak—Junior Warden henry.dvorak@aol.com.....(804) 240-4362
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Liz McCauley—Outreach horsefan@live.com.....(804) 304-0152
Mary Smith—Communication/ Evangelism.....smithmaryg51@gmail.com.....(804) 337-3132

OUR MISSION:

To promote God in the midst of life and life in the midst of God.

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