

St. John's Church

1452 Stony Mill Rd, Danville, VA 24540

Thank you for your interest in St. John's Church. I've long been a part of this church. I began attending as a young child. As an adult living out-of-town, I still tried to attend service several times a year. My family was part of the church long before me.

Through the years, as one might expect, the church changed. Perhaps the biggest change came last year, 2023, when members of the church voted to disaffiliate from a large, global church. It was almost by an unfair stroke of a pen that the church that I knew for all those years, the faith that was lived by the people, the decades of lessons taught from the pulpit, the hard work and hard earned money donated to support a cause that had wide reach, the common hope of sharing the message of Jesus by combining resources, the love, the reverence, and everything that helped the church function was reduced to nothing more than a moment in history. The people, the church, were simply an inconsequential casualty of injudicious decisions made by a large organization. To them the little church and the little people didn't matter. To me, they did matter and continue to matter.

I received word in April 2023, that the church needed someone to serve as interim pastor until a future direction could be more clearly defined. I was asked to be that person. Despite not being formally qualified, I accepted the position, along with several other roles, on a volunteer basis. On June 18, 2023, I delivered my first message.

We are in a unique position. We have an opportunity to stand up and be the church that offers a world turning away from God an inspiration to turn back. We can be the people that demonstrate what it means to pursue truth without compromise while also showing a compassionate love. And, in our faith and obedience to Him, we can share the good news of Jesus in new, innovative ways.

I once read on a church marquee, "Preach the Gospel of Jesus. Use words if needed." This simple statement captures my philosophy in leading St. John's Church. I'm here to act—to do the work and make the sacrifices required to press forward. We do not plan to have a large social media presence. You will not see my face, name, or words plastered in your feeds. My priority is to humbly share the Gospel and serve the church through the work of my body, mind, heart, and, yes, words on Sunday morning!

We sincerely hope that you'll consider joining our efforts. This church will be an example of what it means to trust God and live faith. We anxiously await His direction and hope that you'll come and share your insight as we seek to learn from each other with the common goal of growing a relationship with Jesus.

Prayerfully yours,

Jason R. Austin
St. John's Church
Worship Leader/Treasurer