



# SAINT JOHN'S CHURCH

LAFAYETTE SQUARE  
WASHINGTON, DC

# ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2022

Rector's Report

Wardens' Report

Reports of  
Parish Organizations

*St. John's is a church for people of all races,  
ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations,  
and viewpoints grounded in love.  
Whoever you are, we welcome you.*

FEBRUARY 2023



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*St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community, and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.*

# RECTOR'S REPORT

## St. John's Annual Report, February 2023

Dear Members of St. John's,

After nearly two years of challenging events and reduced staffing, the year 2022 was one of rebuilding, reconfiguring, and solidifying for St. John's. Notably, during the year we improved our online offerings while simultaneously returning to full in-person worship, fellowship, and service. As traffic, tourists, and office workers have continued to return to our neighborhood, we happily brought back our Wednesday lunchtime Eucharist, and the church is now open to visitors Monday through Thursday each week.

Music at St. John's continues to be one of our signature ministries. As planned, partway through the year we elevated Brent Erstad to full time in his role as Director of Music. This means he no longer needs a second job, and he can now focus his full energy, creativity, and talents in service to St. John's. This change has already begun to render wonderful results, galvanizing the St. John's music program as one of the finest of any church of any size in our local area.

Other exciting changes last year include the arrival of the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell in February, and the arrival of the Rev. Shawn Evelyn in September. They are both seasoned clergy who have been able to hit the ground running. I feel enormously blessed to work with them both, as well as the Rev. Will Morris. Our clergy team brings diversity in many ways, yet all of us share in a love of the Lord and a love for serving all the people of God. I am thrilled for the year ahead, especially knowing that Shawn and Sarah begin the year already established in their ministries here.

A year ago we brought on another new member of the team, Anne Stone, who creates our bulletins and other publications, including our e-newsletter, *The Word*. She is a church publications professional who serves a number of churches our size and larger. Working with her has given us the opportunity to improve and streamline our liturgical planning and publications systems.

A bittersweet note this past year was the transition of Kaye Edwards, who retired from the staff after serving here for many years. (Her preferred term is that she "evolved," rather than "retired"!) We gave her a loving send-off in October, and since then we have allocated many of her responsibilities to current staff members, including the new clergy and our incredible Program Associate Lisa Koehler. Happily, Kaye is staying very involved in the life of the community, and is volunteering in the office regularly.

Less visible from the outside, we have been actively improving systems for the running of the church and making them well suited to the times and in line with church management best practices. These improvements will bear fruit in the years to come in areas such as scheduling lay servers in our liturgies, managing human resources, record keeping, and financial accounting. We rewrote our employee handbook, restructured the operations of our Outreach Committee, embarked on a rebidding process with our investment advisors, and drafted the first revisions to our church bylaws in 20 years, which we hope to pass at this year's annual meeting.

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Early last year we brought in an outside consultant who volunteered his time and led the Vestry in discerning new guiding objectives with measurable outcomes that we will focus on as a church and staff in the near future. The objectives include boosting ministry to children and youth; creating more engagement in hands-on outreach opportunities; going further in our work to fight racism and build beloved community while supporting the increasing diversity of our parish; and taking important steps to sustain our church financially.

Since before my arrival, the church has hoped to restore our historic bell tower, which is visibly deteriorating. We also have to replace the slate roof over the sanctuary. Fortunately, we began last year with the energizing news that we were awarded a grant for \$100,000 from the National Fund for Sacred Places. I have assembled a committee, chaired by Julia Koster, to plan and execute the needed repairs and to raise the funds that will be required. The committee has two parts—one to focus on the building itself, chaired by Chase Rynd, and the other to focus on raising the funds, chaired by David Gallalee. Even though we are still only in the quiet phase, we have already received donations and pledges for roughly half of the amount we anticipate will be needed, including numerous gifts from both within and outside of our parish community.

Even with our projected modest increase in stewardship giving, the year ahead will be tighter than usual. This is in part because of the net increase in spending on staff with having Sarah remain on staff at half time and with bringing Brent up to full time. There are savings from how other staff roles are being reconfigured, but the resulting net is a modest uptick. Added to this is the general increase in the cost of doing business across the board. Investing in our excellent staff is a modest leap of faith for us, and I believe that doing so, together with our efforts to improve how we do business, will bear good fruit in terms of both spiritual and numeric growth for St. John's in the months and years ahead.

Going forward, for the sake of financial sustainability, we are laying the groundwork to take advantage of new opportunities for bringing revenue to the church. For instance, we are planning to host more events in our magnificent Togo West Parlor space; make it easier for guests to contribute electronically with PayPal; and establish a separate foundation to help us fund the preservation of our buildings. We are also looking at every line of expense and redoubling our cost-conscious efforts in all of our activities. Every year I have been at St. John's, we have ended with a budget surplus, including 2022. For 2023 we will invest accumulated past surpluses to make our budget, while also planning to actively decrease the need to rely on surpluses in future budgets. There is no doubt we are a very fortunate church to be coming out of the pandemic with the resources, strength, and incredible staff that we have at St. John's.

I cannot tell you how grateful I am to serve as your Rector and to work with each of the gifted and faithful staff and lay leaders of St. John's—especially Senior Warden Clark Ervin, Junior Warden Nora Rigby, and Director of Operations Kim Carlson, who have all made heroic efforts this past year, serving with wisdom, generosity, and good humor.

St. John's has been a blessing to our neighborhood, nation, and world for more than two centuries. Our story continues to evolve, and I am excited to live further into the ways that God intends for us to serve God's children near and far, shining as a beacon of God's grace.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Rob Fisher

# WARDENS' REPORT

Dear Parishioners:

As detailed below, 2022 was a very busy and productive year for the Vestry.

**Adopted Strategic Objectives.** As previewed in last year's report, we held a strategic retreat in February to guide us for the next 3-5 years. As you no doubt have already seen and heard, we adopted four objectives:

- (1) Sustain St. John's as a "place of grace" in the DC community and beyond for centuries to come;
- (2) Attract additional families to St. John's by making it a more welcoming and vibrant environment for children, teenagers, and families;
- (3) Devote more of St. John's time and talent to outreach so that we expand our role as a spiritual and material resource to those in need in Washington and beyond; and
- (4) Highlight and increase the diversity of St. John's.

To meet these strategic objectives, we agreed to take a number of concrete tactical steps or "key results," by specified deadlines. We Wardens have assumed responsibility for ensuring that the strategic plan is implemented, and we will track progress toward that end at every Vestry meeting. Going forward, we will report on our progress to the parish in writing on a quarterly basis. Happily, we can report now that work is already underway on all four objectives, and, indeed, some of the key results have already been achieved.

**Hired Two Associate Priests and a Full-Time Music Director.** To help achieve these strategic objectives, we are fortunate to have added to our already superb clergy team of Rob and Will Morris two new priests, Sarah Akes-Cardwell, Associate for Children & Families, who is part-time, and Shawn Evelyn, Associate for Parish Life, who is full-time. After many years of having only one Associate, we are now blessed to have four priests (for the price of 2½!) to minister to the needs of our busy parish. We have also brought Brent Erstad on as full-time Music Director, after his serving us ably part-time for several years.

**Revised Outreach Committee Policies and Procedures.** We revised our policies and procedures for outreach, including establishing transparent criteria for funding outside organizations and encouraging more hands-on activities that meet the material needs of the underserved among us. We expect these hands-on activities to complement the generous financial contributions that we continue to make to various deserving organizations.

**Proposed Bylaw Amendments.** It has been quite some time (20 years, in fact) since we last reviewed and revised our bylaws. We have now done so and hope that our proposed amendments are adopted at this annual meeting. In addition to updating them in certain places to be in line with the times, we have also made some changes intended to conform to church canons.

**Revised Employee Handbook.** Likewise, it has been some time since we last reviewed and revised our employee handbook, and we have now done so in order to modernize it and align with legal requirements and best practices.

**Reconstituted an Audit Committee.** As we continue to work to get our financial records in order and to prepare for prior-year audits, we are reconstituting the Audit Committee, which had been dormant for several years.

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**Adopted a Welcome Statement.** We crafted and adopted a welcome statement (“St. John’s is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you”) to proclaim and underscore our commitment to diversity and inclusion.

**Considering a New Investment Advisor.** After many years with the same investment advisor managing our endowment, we have issued an RFP to recompetethe contract. We are now reviewing written proposals and finalizing the list of firms that will be invited to make an oral presentation to the Investment Committee in the next few weeks.

**Launched Bell Tower Restoration Campaign.** The Bell Tower restoration project is moving apace, and we are working closely with the committees that have been charged with helping to raise the necessary funds and to oversee the work.

**Exploring Events Revenue.** We are also moving forward on the plan to be more intentional about the use of our facilities for events that can produce meaningful revenue to support our operating budget.

**Balanced Budget.** Finally, with regard to the budget, we are pleased to report that we ended 2022 with a small surplus. Combining that surplus with accumulated funds from prior-year surpluses will allow us to meet this year’s budget without cutting expenses, an outcome that was very much in doubt at this time last year. To ensure that St. John’s remains on firm financial footing in the years ahead, we will, of course, continue to keep a close eye on expenses, while also doing everything practicable to increase revenue and grow our endowment.

With heartfelt thanks for their innumerable contributions and selfless commitment over the years, we bid farewell to departing Vestry members Desirée Stolar, Lauren Edwards, and Alfred Thesmar (who is standing for election to a full term, after having been appointed to complete Nora’s term when she assumed the position of Junior Warden), and to our departing Treasurer, Casey Evans, who will be succeeded by Sara McGanity.

It has been a blessing and a joy to serve as the Wardens this year, and we will look forward to serving you in this new year.

- ♦ Clark Ervin, *Senior Warden*
- ♦ Nora Rigby, *Junior Warden*



# REPORTS OF PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

## Adult Forum Committee

### *Speaker Series*

The following speakers were featured during 2022:

#### **Annual Three-Week Presidential Series: The Presidency of Harry S. Truman**

**Kurt Graham**, Director of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum

**Mark Adams**, Education Director, Harry S. Truman Library and Museum

**Allan Lichtman**, Distinguished Professor of History, American University

**Kevin Butterfield**, Executive Director of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon, on the Marquis de Lafayette.

**Ronald Hurst**, Chief Curator at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, on Colonial Williamsburg.

**Robert Heaney**, Professor of Theology and Mission, Virginia Theological Seminary, on “Life in a Growing Anglican Communion.”

**Scott Berg**, author, journalist, and Associate Professor of Nonfiction Writing at George Mason University, on his book *Grand Avenues: The Story of Pierre Charles L’Enfant, the French Visionary Who Designed Washington, D.C.*

**Richard Cheetham**, Bishop of Kingston, United Kingdom, on Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science (ECLAS).

**Chip Reid**, former CBS News and NBC News correspondent, on “From Politics to War to Cuddling Goats: The Many Faces of a TV Journalist.”

**Andrew O’Shaughnessy**, Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello and Professor of History at the University of Virginia, on his book *The Illimitable Freedom of the Human Mind: Thomas Jefferson’s Idea of a University*.

**Brent Erstad**, Director of Music and Organist, St. John’s, Lafayette Square, on Bach’s motet “Sing to the Lord a New Song.”

**Susan Frank**, Curator, The Phillips Collection, on the exhibition of paintings from Picasso’s “Blue Period.”

#### **An Afghan Family Reflects on Settling in the United States**

**Michael Molina**, Head of School, Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys, on the Bishop Walker School.

**Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)** representatives Sidra Siddiqui, Mark Rodeffer, Barbara Briggs, and Sarah Wood, on WIN’s Clean and Health Buildings Campaign.

**Jake Flack**, Deputy Director of Education, Ford’s Theatre, on Ford’s Theatre.

**Nina Zannieri**, Executive Director of the Paul Revere Memorial Association, on Paul Revere and the family bell business.

♦ Clark Ervin, *Coordinator*

# Adult Inquirers' Classes

The Rector's 2022 Fall Adult Inquirers' Class was held on October 1 and October 8. Seven adults, most of them newcomers to St. John's, attended the class, which is a two-day experience of exploring our faith, the history and tradition of the Church, and the spiritual life of the Episcopal Church and of St. John's.

The class is designed for newcomers to St. John's; for adults seeking baptism, confirmation, or reception into the Episcopal Church; and for anyone, newcomer or longtime member, who is interested in learning more about St. John's and the Episcopal Church.

Four members of the fall class took part in the Service of Confirmation and Reception at Washington National Cathedral on October 15, 2022.

We are eternally grateful to Kaye Edwards for her 20-plus years of shepherding new members into the life of our parish. While Kaye officially retired in October, we are blessed to have her presence and guidance as we move into 2023 and beyond.

- ♦ The Rev. Shawn Evelyn, *Associate for Parish Life*
- ♦ Lisa Koehler, *Program Associate and Executive Assistant to the Rector*

# Bell Tower Committee

As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the installation of the Revere Bell, St. John's is embarking on a much-needed restoration project for the bell tower and to install a new church roof. Restoring the bell tower will preserve a key feature in the skyline of the President's neighborhood, and re-roofing the church will safeguard one of our nation's most historic structures.

Chase Rynd is leading the project's building committee. We have retained a firm to guide us through the historic preservation review process and scope out the design and engineering work to prepare us to seek bids this winter, providing clarity on costs. The bell tower has not been restored in over 50 years and is in visibly poor condition, with significant exterior weathering and warping and cracks that let in the elements and birds. It is critical to complete this work now to prevent further deterioration of the tower and to safeguard structural elements. Many external components of the bell tower will be restored or replaced, recreating extensive detailing, and using high-quality, durable, and appropriate materials. The project also includes replacement of the existing slate roof over the sanctuary, using more durable and historically sensitive materials to last for generations to come. As a historic structure and a prominent, central element in the White House viewshed, all work receives intense scrutiny and review, adding complexity to the process. In addition, a structural scaffolding solution is required, adding substantial cost.

David Gallalee is guiding the project's fundraising committee. For this one-time campaign, we are mapping out potential donors with current and past connections to our church, and with interests in historic preservation, history, sacred and civic spaces, and bells. Having already secured a grant from the Partnership for Sacred Spaces, the committee is exploring a range of other funding opportunities. A campaign will launch early in 2023, and we will seek to engage the full congregation in supporting this project. Through a variety of events, including a speaker on Paul Revere, parish lunch, and a collaborative music program with the National Bell Festival, we are raising awareness of the bell tower and this restoration effort.

- ♦ Julia Koster, *Chair*

# Book Group

During 2022, the St. John's Book Group met 11 times on the first Thursday of the month to share in fellowship with thought-provoking reading. Twenty participants join meetings on a regular basis, while 40 individuals are on the mailing list. We voted to continue meeting on Zoom instead of in person to allow full participation of our colleagues.

In the spring and fall of 2022, we democratically selected our reading list for the next six months. The 2022 selections reflected a wide range of cultural, historic, and spiritual topics, both nonfiction and fiction. From April 24 to May 8, the Book Group helped organize the clothing drive of men's, women's, and children's gently-used clothing to benefit the clients of area non-profits. St. John's donated items to more than five local charities, including refugee support groups in Washington, all of which expressed appreciation for our assistance.

One of the many side benefits of being a part of the Book Group is the opportunity to develop personal relationships and form support groups. Last year, the Book Group came together to offer moral support and help to several members during the pandemic when they faced challenging times, including recovery from health problems.

If you are interested in our reading lists or joining the group, please contact Janet Edmond.

♦ Janet Edmond, *Chair*

# Care of Creation Ministry

The Care of Creation ministry seeks to be a forum at St. John's for conversation, study, and engagement around the biblical command to love all God's creation, with particular attention to environmental justice and sustainability.

In 2022, the Rev. Shawn Evelyn joined us as our clergy sponsor. Shawn's credentials include his service in the past on the Episcopal Church's Executive Council for Science, Technology, and Faith. We also welcomed Cal Trepagnier as the new co-chair of our committee. We mourned the death of John More, a leader in our work, as well as in the parish, the diocese, and within the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN). Many members of this group are active in our various communities in a range of ways outside St. John's and offer encouragement, resources, and support to one another.

Four of us devoted time and attention in 2022 to the Diocese of Washington's Creation Care Task Force (constituted in 2021). We surveyed parish activities throughout the diocese, and defined a twofold focus on encouraging liturgical practices that recognize our responsibilities to the Earth, and supporting opportunities to install solar power on facilities that will save parishes money and help incentivize communities. In 2022, at least five diocesan parishes and one school undertook solar projects ([edow.org/ministries-programs/equity-and-justice/creation-care](https://edow.org/ministries-programs/equity-and-justice/creation-care)).

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Zoe Fisher helped start a chapter of the Sunrise Movement—a youth program to stop climate change—at her high school. Sarah Wood organized an adult forum panel from WIN to educate us on the problems of methane and home appliances and greener energy alternatives, a topic that is receiving widespread attention in the news. WIN's Beyond Gas campaign is seeking to help underserved communities replace gas appliances with electric ones that will reduce childhood asthma rates.

In partnership with the Rock Creek Conservancy, 14 parishioners participated in a clean-up of Rock Creek Park on MLK Day 2023, with plans for future hikes in the works. Attention in 2023 will also turn to opportunities for St. John's and other parishes to participate in the Anglican Communion Forest ([www.comunionforest.org](http://www.comunionforest.org)) initiative by recognizing special life and spiritual events (births, baptisms, weddings, etc.) through the planting of trees. Abbott McCartney helped draft a resolution on this topic that will be taken up at the Diocesan Convention January 28, 2023.

The group looks forward to hosting both education and fellowship activities in 2023 that will help us all be better stewards of God's gifts to us. Newsletters on creation care are issued by the national church and by our diocese. If you'd like to receive either, please be in touch with Joanne or Cal.

- ♦ Joanne Hutton, *Chair*
- ♦ Cal Trepagnier, *Co-Chair*

Laurie Adams, Sigi Block, Yung Chang, Andrea Charters, Janet Edmonds, Kaye Edwards, Zoe Fisher, Kay Gilley, Tammi Hoback, Joanne and Powell Hutton, Abbott McCartney, Livy More, Alma Paty, Richard Price, Cal Trepagnier, Susan Welch, and Sarah Wood, *Members*

## Christian Education

### CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

It has been a joy and blessing to begin my ministry with St. John's in February 2022. As I transitioned from Interim Associate Priest to Associate for Children and Family Ministries, my focus shifted to specifically support families with children from birth through elementary school. We have expanded both our Sunday morning offerings for children and our family-friendly seasonal offerings, and have started more intentionally to engage families who have children baptized at St. John's. My ministry is only possible thanks to the dedication of lay volunteers, the support of our St. John's staff, and the commitment of families to deepen the faith lives of our youngest members.

#### Children's Ministries (Pre-K through Grade 5)

In the fall of 2022 we were able to expand our Church School offerings from one class to two. Pre-K and 1st graders continue to use the Godly Play curriculum, while those in 2nd through 5th grades started using a curriculum called Spark Lectionary. Thanks to the help of our dedicated team of volunteer teachers and doorkeepers, we have been able to maintain these important in-person offerings weekly. Between the two classes, we have an average of six children on Sundays.

Exploration Sundays and Ministry Visits are new semi-regular Sunday offerings for children. During the program year, monthly Ministry Visits give kids an opportunity to learn more about their parish community and find ways to get involved. The Greeters, Stewardship Committee, and Ushers each took a turn hosting children to show them what their ministries involve. The occasional Exploration Sunday takes kids on mini-field trips to often-overlooked parts of the church. “What’s in the basement?!” led by GeeGee Bryant was a particular highlight.

Children’s Chapel resumed during the 11 a.m. service in September 2022. We have an average of eight children each week. Children leave after the reading of the Gospel and return at the Peace. During their time together, they talk about the Gospel for the day, pray together, and often sing. It has been encouraging to see more consistent attendance and families re-engaging in Sunday morning offerings. We expect and hope that will only continue to increase in 2023.

## **Family Ministries**

In addition to our annual Christmas Pageant and Advent Wreath Making, we saw the introduction of several new offerings for families, including:

- Holy Week at Home kits distributed on Palm Sunday 2022
- Pentecost Sunday: Celebratory reception, complete with kid-friendly activities, for a festive end to the program year
- Summer Faith Passports for Families
- July: Family Prayer Stations set up in Togo West Parlor
- August: Monthly Children and Families Newsletter launched
- October: All Souls’ Day Movie Night for Kids
- December: Advent Party with kid-friendly activities

We are especially grateful for Katherine Raab (Director) and Laura Herzog (Costume Coordinator) for their leadership of the Christmas Pageant. Many thanks to the parents who made it possible for their children and youth to participate in the pageant and our other family offerings.

The fall of 2022 also saw the beginnings of a more intentional approach to preparing families for the baptism of their children and following up with them in the year after the baptism. In 2023, our first gathering for families with recently baptized children will be held as another way to keep young families grounded in their baptismal identity and engaged at St. John’s.

♦ The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, *Associate for Children and Family Ministries*

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

The goal of the youth program at St. John's is to equip our young members in grades 6 through 12 to develop a deeper relationship with God and their church community. As we began the new program year, our vision included the promise to regather in person in the fall. The members of the youth group also made a mature decision to profess their faith to the world and to do so in community with God. As a result, six of our youth prepared for and participated in the Sacrament of Confirmation and were confirmed in services at Washington National Cathedral.

When St. John's kicked off a special new year in September, a newly formed youth program became a part of that celebration. The program seeks to cultivate the faith and formation of our youth, while also having fun. Our youth take part in the three Rs—rhythm, routine, and ritual. We have established a regular rhythm as we meet each week, a regular routine that allows us to check in on one another, and regular rituals that include prayer and Biblical education.

Meeting each week at 10 a.m. during the church's formation hour, our youth gather as a community and learn about the church, scripture, and themselves. Since September we have held a fall event off-site and also celebrated with a party at the end of the year. We established Youth Sunday as a regular practice that allows our youth to take a prominent role in leading worship during the 11 a.m. service on "fifth Sundays" in months where these occur. Since establishing our new youth group, every member serves in at least one parish-wide Sunday morning ministry.

We look forward to a new year in which the youth group continues to flourish with renewed vigor and excitement.

♦ The Rev. Shawn Evelyn, *Associate for Parish Life*

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study meets on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. In 2022, we completed our third year, now using a hybrid approach with both in-person and Zoom participants. This adult formation offering seeks to address the following two goals: to increase affinity groups within the congregation, and to address the interest in Bible study options. Retired minister and St. John's parishioner Jack Reiffer leads the class. Twenty-seven members of the group receive the weekly study materials. Several can no longer attend on Sundays but have asked to receive the materials and reports of class discussions. Average Sunday attendance is seven. In 2022 the group discussed the structure, audience, and themes of the Gospel of Luke and the history of the early church in the Mediterranean world. In December the class studied an introduction to the Gospel of Matthew and the birth narratives in that gospel. Matthew is the lead gospel for Liturgical Year A (2023). On most Sundays our discussion includes the assigned gospel lesson for that day, so our class conversation also includes a discussion of at least part of the sermon.

♦ Jack Reiffer, *Coordinator*



# Education for Ministry

On May 21, 2023, Education for Ministry (EfM) participants Lacy Broemel, Lauren Edwards, Ted Graves, Jessica Sanchez, and Courtney Thomerson, will join the ranks of 69 people who have completed EfM at St. John's since the program first began more than 20 years ago. Four years after embarking on the journey that is EfM, those five current participants will graduate, each receiving a handsome, hand-lettered certificate from the University of the South, an Episcopal school in Sewanee, TN, where EfM is based.

Nine participants are pursuing their study and exploration virtually on Monday evenings throughout the school year. The program is currently led by mentor Carolyn Crouch.

EfM sets itself apart from other courses of Bible study through its combination of stimulating graduate-level theological studies and a thorough exploration of our call to live out our baptismal covenants through the many and varied ministries we exercise on a daily basis.

Prayer, study, worship, conversation, theological reflection, and laughter are among the joys discovered anew along the way. In our time together we learn to put together and lead worship services; we develop a vocabulary with which to describe our faith and beliefs; we share personal stories and discover their universal dimensions; we spend time with the big questions, reflecting theologically. We approach each year through the lens of an overarching theme, such as living faithfully in a multicultural world, developing a mature spirituality, and our journey to God.

Learners register for one year of study at a time. The first year investigates Hebrew scriptures, the second takes up the New Testament, the third broadly covers Church history, and a fourth year focuses on theological questions and developing one's personal theology. Contact Carolyn Crouch for more information or visit the EfM website ([efm.sewanee.edu](http://efm.sewanee.edu)) to read excerpts from the curriculum.

♦ Carolyn Crouch, *Leader*

## Flower Guild

Members of the Flower Guild take the responsibility for arranging flowers very seriously. Working with a creative and loving process, each member seeks to elevate the experience of parishioners as they spend their Sunday mornings in this beautiful holy space that we call St. John's.

The guild provides flowers for Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, funerals and memorial services, and special occasions. They observe Lent and Advent by the exclusive use of green foliage. The arranging process is usually a four- to six-hour time commitment, excluding planning and ordering the flowers.

In addition to Sunday flowers, members also arranged for four funeral or memorial services and seven weddings in 2022, creating expressions of great sorrow or immense joy. Guild members honor parishioners' and loved ones' requests regarding color and flower choice on these important occasions.

Christmas and Easter, the church's most celebrated holy days, are met with full exuberance and excitement, an abundance of flowers, and many busy hands taking part.

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## Weddings

Anne Harrington continues to serve as our ever-delightful wedding coordinator, communicating the color and flower preferences of the happy couple to the assigned guild members.

## Making a Contribution

Each week parishioners have the opportunity to honor loved ones by making a donation to the flower fund. Contributors can sponsor the main altar or the narthex or all of the church's arrangements for a given Sunday. The names of designated loved ones appear in the church bulletin along with a dedication, which can be in memory of, in celebration of, or in thanksgiving for a person or event.

## Consider Joining the Flower Guild

We invite all interested parishioners to join the Flower Guild. Whether by acquiring a new skill or expanding on existing talent, being a member of the guild is a rewarding way to volunteer at St. John's. Newcomers are paired with experienced members who mentor them until they are fully fledged, confident flower arrangers. It is a wonderful ministry with the added benefit of newfound friendships. Please contact Flower Guild Chair Katherine Kyle if you would like additional information.

## Thanks to the Sextons

All members of the Flower Guild enthusiastically extend heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated sextons: Thank you to Victor Obregon, Glynnis "GeeGee" Bryant, and David Gamboa.

## Flower Guild Members

Emily Louise Able	Anne Harrington	Allie Raether
Sarah Agnew	Susan Heil	Laurie Rossbach
Paul Barkett	Amanda Claire Hoover	Adelle Simmons
Autumn Brown	Joanne Hutton	Susan Valaskovic
Barbara Bulla Brown	Nicole Kleman	Pamela Farrell Venzke
Becca Brown	Julia Koster	
Jamie Finch	Elizabeth Lewis	

♦ Katherine Kyle, *Chair*

♦ Pat Dalby, *Co-Chair*

## Greeters Guild

The role of the greeter is to make everyone who comes to our worship services feel welcomed. Greeters stand outside the church offering St. John's literature, answering questions, and giving directions. We say hello to everyone who comes in and introduce ourselves to the people we do not know.

We invite visitors to tell us about themselves—for example, where they are from and how they found St. John's. We answer any questions they have about our church and its history.

We encourage everyone to wear a name tag to make it easier to get to know others and to assist in welcoming visitors by name. This is a work in progress, and we continue to urge parishioners and visitors to wear them. We want visitors to feel welcome, and name tags would assist in this endeavor.



We want people to know St. John's as a welcoming community for all, and this ministry provides visitors and potential new members a first glance at St. John's. It is a genuinely fun ministry that gives those of us who are greeters the opportunity to get to know more people. We would love to have more volunteers and more ideas for warmly welcoming all. We strive to demonstrate that all are welcome!

We now have 23 greeters and can always use more friendly faces. We try to have two greeters at both the 9 and 11 a.m. services, so the more the merrier. Contact either Peter or Eleanor if you are interested.

♦ Peter and Eleanor Odom, *Head Greeters*

## Investment Committee

The Investment Committee's charge is to help the Vestry in carrying out its duty to provide oversight and management of the church's endowment. The members of the committee in 2022, in alphabetical order, consisted of: Virginia Bader, Justin Dean, Clark Ervin, Casey Evans, the Rev. Rob Fisher, Lisa Kirchenbauer, Sara McGanity, Richard Metzger, and Nora Rigby.

Brown Advisory was retained by the church in 2011 to manage the day-to-day investment portfolio. The Investment Committee relies on the expertise and guidance of Brown Advisory to increase the value of the church's portfolio over time through capital appreciation and dividend and interest payments. The church's endowment is a crucial asset as it provides an annual income stream to support the church's operating expenses, at a historical cash equivalent of approximately 5% of the endowment's total value. In 2022, the church drew down \$852,892 from investment accounts to fund operations.

### Important Changes in 2022

Discussions began in 2021 about two important areas of the church's investment strategy that had not been evaluated for many years: (1) updating the church's investment policy and (2) bidding out the investment advisor role. After receiving recommendations from the Investment Committee about potential options, the Vestry instructed the committee to adopt The Episcopal Church's investment policy to guide St. John's decisions. The Vestry also directed the committee to undertake the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the purpose of soliciting firms to apply to serve as the church's investment advisor.

By the end of calendar year 2022, the committee completed the initial steps in the selection process. As of December, six proposals had been submitted, and two additional submissions were expected in early 2023. The Investment Committee is currently interviewing candidates and plans to provide the Vestry with its recommendations in February 2023.

### Investment Committee Meetings

The Investment Committee met twice with Brown Advisory during 2022 to review the church's endowment performance and discuss global and domestic economic trends that could affect it. Brown Advisory also briefed the Vestry in November 2022 about the status of the church's investments and answered questions regarding the outlook for the funds.

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The committee met many times during the year as it developed and executed the RFP and agreed to the process for selecting the church's investment advisor. It also met with the national church's finance staff to discuss the possibility of co-investing with them in lieu of seeking an independent advisor.

## **Market Conditions and Portfolio Performance**

The year 2022 proved to be challenging for both the bond and stock markets, due to a combination of an historically swift increase in interest rates, inflationary pressures across the globe, and evidence of a slowdown in GDP growth. Efforts were made to insulate the St. John's portfolios in three major ways: (1) larger investments in short-duration U.S. Treasuries, (2) infrastructure investments to aid cash flows, and (3) pre-funding the annual distributions from the sale of highly valued stocks early in the year. Despite these mitigation strategies, by year's end the St. John's endowment (\$6,476,565) and Quinby fund (\$9,122,786) portfolios had declined in value by 15.5% and 15.7% respectively.

The Vestry also concluded during 2022 that the outstanding balance of the promissory note that covered a portion of the funds that the endowment provided to finance the renovation of the Parish House was unlikely to be repaid since the period for fulfilling Capital Campaign pledges had expired. That decision resulted in a downward adjustment to the church's endowment of \$492,000.

The headwinds experienced in 2022 are likely to persist into 2023. Nevertheless, the encouraging improvement in returns in the 4th quarter of 2022, together with the ongoing allocation rebalancing, should enhance the endowment's ability to provide the necessary support for the 2023 operating budget.

♦ Virginia Bader, *Chair*

## **Latrobe Fellowship for Young Adults**

The Latrobe Fellowship is an active, energetic, joy-filled group of young adults at St. John's. Latrobers are single and married adults in their 20s and 30s who find themselves at different places in their lives and on their spiritual journeys. Developing and deepening relationships with God and other young adults is very important to us. We typically gather on the First Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. for a joyful celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by dinner, fellowship, and an opportunity to learn about faith, food, the Episcopal Church, and more.

Latrobers also participate in the larger life of St. John's Church by serving on Sunday mornings as ushers, greeters, readers, chalice bearers, musicians, Sunday school teachers, and in many other ways. Additionally, several serve on Vestry, as delegates to Diocesan Convention, and in other parish leadership roles. Young adults have worked on many different outreach projects, including the Christmas toy drive and Grace's Table. We are active and engaged in the good work being done in this church and community.

The Latrobe Fellowship experienced a resurgence in the past year, with many new opportunities for growth and community, from virtual events to in-person gatherings. We are grateful for the leadership of our new clergy: The Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell, who stepped in as an interim leader, and the Rev. Shawn Evelyn, who arrived at summer's end, in time for the beginning of the 2022–2023 program year.

In 2022 the Latrobe Fellowship sponsored the following events:

- January 19—Eucharist Service (No fellowship due to omicron variant spike)
- February 9—Eucharist & Discussion of “Walter Pierce and the Story of Community Park West”
- March 9—Eucharist at St. John’s & Theology on Tap!
- April 6—Eucharist at St. John’s & Refugee Committee
- May 4—Eucharist at St. John’s & Farewell to Winnie Smith, Seminarian for 20s/30s ministries
- June 12—Sunday Brunch after Church
- July 10—Sunday Brunch after Church
- August 14—Sunday Brunch after Church
- September 7—Eucharist at St. John’s & Welcome to the Rev. Shawn Evelyn, Associate Rector
- October 5—Eucharist at St. John’s & Oktoberfest Celebration
- November 2—Eucharist at St. John’s & Día de los Muertos Celebration
- December 7—Eucharist at St. John’s & White Elephant Holiday Gathering

We are especially grateful to Latrobe Steering Committee members John Derrick, Matthew Taylor, Cal Trepagnier, and Anna Wieger, and to Kate Benner and Carl Ward, who co-chaired for the year.

♦ Kate Seifert, Claire Kim, and Jess Unger, *Co-Chairs*

## Livestream Ministry

Our Livestream Ministry began in March of 2020 as the pandemic caused the cancellation of most in-person worship in our area. Those early months featured pre-recorded videos of cheery greeters, virtual choir, rooftop readers, and wind-infused outdoor sermons. Once live services returned, parishioners could witness volunteers fussing with tripods, iPhones, cables, and laptops. Those who continued to watch online sometimes experienced technical issues due to an unreliable wireless connection.

We are thankful that by March 2022, the installation of hard-wired, and therefore reliable, professional livestream equipment and cameras was complete, solving numerous technical issues. With much less effort, a member of our livestream team needs about 15 minutes to set up the equipment and start the livestream, reliably offering our weekly services to viewers near and far.

We are grateful to Jeremy Skog, Matthew Taylor, Ryan Wagner, and our new recruit, Zoe Fisher, for their tireless dedication and willingness to dive in and learn the capabilities of our new equipment. We are also thankful for Music Director Brent Erstad and parishioners Amanda Hunt, Katherine McClintic, and Courtney Thomerson for their creativity and persistence during those early days.

We are always looking for new recruits and eager to teach you the ropes!

♦ Lisa Koehler, *Program Associate and Executive Assistant to the Rector*

# Music Ministry

Now in its second season, our monthly service of Choral Evensong has become an important part of our worship and outreach offerings. Held on the third Wednesday of each month, Evensong has created a new opportunity to experience the beauty of holiness in the Anglican tradition. We are pleased to see an increasing number of tourists and folks who work in the neighborhood attending. This year we began hosting a modest reception in the parlor following each service, which has allowed us to connect with newcomers while providing an opportunity for hospitality and fellowship.

The fall was enriched with two new events that enhanced our worship life. In October we held our first Bach Sunday, consisting of a speaker series presentation followed by a performance of J.S. Bach's epic motet "Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied." In November we marked All Souls' Day with a concert performance of H.H. Parry's "Songs of Farewell" paired with other works featuring themes of heaven and the afterlife. Both new efforts were well received.

In December, we resumed our annual Advent Party in the parlor after three years of online and outdoor alternatives. Parishioners packed the parlors for food, festivities, and caroling led by members of the St. John's Choir. For the first time this year, we held our annual service of Lessons and Carols on the evening of the fourth Sunday of Advent. This allowed us to gather in a candlelit church to officially kick off our celebration of Christmas without sacrificing one of our important Advent liturgies.

Audiences for our monthly noontime concert series are gradually returning after a slow start following the pandemic. We have worked to improve the marketing for these programs, which seems to be paying off. So far this season we have welcomed the Army Chorus, the Air Force Strings, and mounted an in-house performance of Victoria's *Requiem* for six voices on All Souls' Day.

It should be noted that many of these expanded musical offerings were possible due to the decision by our Rector and vestry to return the Director of Music position to full-time status for the first time since 2008. I'm grateful for their leadership. I'm also grateful to Dr. Lyn Loewi, who accepted the call to become our Associate Organist in February after serving in an interim capacity at the end of 2021. Her musicianship is true gift to everyone who enters our sanctuary. While Lisa Koehler has shifted to a new full-time administrative role at the church, she continues to provide invaluable support for our music ministry.

Of course, our two fantastic choirs stand firmly at the heart of all that we do as a music ministry. Their indefatigable efforts through the ever-evolving challenges of the past few years have been truly remarkable. I'm grateful for the many ways that each of the singers listed below contributes to this robust and growing music ministry.

## The Saint John's Choir

<i>Sopranos</i>	Elissa Edwards, Kerry Holahan, and Tory Wood
<i>Altos</i>	Lisa Koehler, Charlotte Stewart, and Louisa Waycott
<i>Tenors</i>	David Evans, Derrick Miller, and Andrew Sauvageau
<i>Basses</i>	Nathan Lofton, Justin Dean, and Christopher Jones

## The Parish Choir

<i>Sopranos</i>	Annette Anfinrud, Whitley Herndon, Kerry Holahan, Christina Wilson, and Tory Wood
<i>Altos</i>	Alison Adkins, Thea Crouch, Wendy J. Fibison, Sara Josey, Lisa Koehler, Lauren McLane, LaFleur Paysour, Charlotte Stewart, Louisa Waycott, and Margo Wiegenstein
<i>Tenors</i>	Philip Anfinrud, Craig Burkhardt, David Evans, Derrick Miller, Andrew Sauvageau, and Tom Wade
<i>Basses</i>	Samuel Berbano, Jeffrey Bozman, Justin Dean, Christopher Jones, Nathan Lofton, and Bill Josey

♦ Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

## Outreach Committee

As Christians, we are called at Baptism to “seek and serve Christ in all persons.” At St. John’s, our outreach ministries are focused on partnerships to serve others, both in our community and around the world. In 2022, the Outreach Committee continued to build many of our long-standing partnerships, meeting needs while beginning to emerge into a post-pandemic world. A subcommittee of the Vestry led an effort to improve the process for allocating money, in order to free up the focus of the committee for supporting collective outreach work itself. This resulted in the development of new funding guidelines and internal committee process guidelines. These documents formalize much of what the committee had already been doing, while building in transparency and structure.

Dozens of parishioners and friends were involved in outreach during 2022, and we supported and served a variety of communities in Washington, DC, South Africa, and Jerusalem. The Outreach Committee utilized a budget of \$99,750 during 2022, and the committee is grateful to the Vestry for this generous allotment. Our resources were allocated as follows:

### EDUCATION: \$40,000

- Communities in Schools of the Nation’s Capital —\$20,000
- Bishop Walker School—\$20,000

St. John’s provided significant support to **Communities in Schools of the Nation’s Capital (CISNCAP)** through funding for the general operations of the organization and through the time and talent of its parishioners as volunteers in DC’s public schools. St. John’s parishioners were among the founding members of the local CIS affiliate and served for several years on the Board of Directors. CISNCAP’s mission is to surround public school students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. To do that, CISNCAP places a site coordinator in each of its partner schools to focus on case management, targeted interventions, whole school prevention services, and parent engagement. The generous contribution from St. John’s was used to support site coordinator positions in the partner schools and help fund emergency supply closets of food, clothing, shoes, winter coats, hats, gloves, and hygiene products.

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**Bishop Walker School**, born of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, is a tuition-free elementary school for boys in kindergarten through 5th grade. St. John's provides a variety of support for the school, including financial support and giving books to students as part of our annual Christmas toy drive. The school currently serves 83 students from families and neighborhoods with limited access to high-quality education. Teachers instill a love of learning, build a foundation of character development, and prepare students for success in their continued education, careers, and involvement in their communities. In 2022, graduates of BWS were accepted into St. Andrew's Episcopal School, Cardigan Mountain Boarding School, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Episcopal School, St. Thomas More Catholic Academy, Sandy Springs Friends School, Statesmen Public Charter School, and Washington Jesuit Academy.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### *Washington, DC*

- Grace's Table—\$6,500
- All Girls Boy Scout Troop Washington, DC—\$1,250

### *South Africa*

- Kwasu Centre, South Africa—\$15,000
- Clergy Education—\$2,500

### *Diocese of Jerusalem*

- St. Paul's Shafr'Amr—\$1,000
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)—\$1,000
- Princess Basma Centre —\$1,500

This year the Outreach Committee continued to build our partnership with **Grace's Table**, an outreach ministry of Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. This fellowship prepares and shares a meal at 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays for persons who are unhoused or at the risk of losing housing. Starting in September 2013, we have committed to providing volunteers to host Grace's Table on the third Saturday of each month. This year, Grace's Table transitioned from the COVID "box lunch" model back to the more hands-on approach of home-cooked meals prepared for guests. Teams of three to five volunteers prepare the food, and then gather with guests to eat and socialize together. The number of guests has varied from about 50 to 70, in addition to volunteers. St. John's funds are used to cover the cost of supplies for Grace's Table, such as coffee and tea, eating utensils, paper products, and food items like salad dressing, sugar, and creamer. In addition, Grace Episcopal has used some of the funds to pay a small salary to a widowed immigrant, who prepares a hot meal for guests on one Saturday a month when St. John's parishioners are not volunteering. This wonderful local partnership enables St. John's parishioners to make an impact close to home and build relationships within our community.



**The South African Companion Group** partners with the Kwasa Centre (also known as Kwasa College) in the Diocese of the Highveld to provide education and other services to children living in an informal settlement near Johannesburg. The funds St. John's sent to Kwasa this year were critically important to continue helping Kwasa respond to the lasting impacts of COVID. They enabled Kwasa to provide classroom instruction and student feeding programs despite food shortages and high unemployment among parents due to the pandemic. The funds for clergy development provided important tuition support for a seminarian from the Diocese of the Highveld, Teboho Molefe, at the only Anglican seminary in South Africa, the College of the Transfiguration

St. John's continues to partner with the **Diocese of Jerusalem**. We continued donations to our partners at St. Paul's Shafr'Amr and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ). A group of pilgrims from St. John's visited the Holy Land in February 2018, and a second group visited in January 2019. The pilgrims from the 2018 and 2019 groups have hosted several events, including parish lunch and Latrobe Fellowships, to discuss their journeys.

We also continued a relationship with the **All Girls Boy Scout Troop of Washington, DC**, which is led by a parishioner at St. John's, Craig Burkhardt.

## **HOUSING: \$9,000**

- Rebuilding Together—\$9,000

St. John's continued to support **Rebuilding Together** this year.

## **EVENTS: \$1,000**

- Annual Gift Drive—\$1,000

The annual **Christmas Gift Drive** collected hundreds of books, clothing, and other gifts. We partnered with Advocates for Justice and Education, Bishop Walker School, Cardozo Educational Campus, Southeast White House, and St. John's Community Services to bring joy to children and Washingtonians in need during the holiday season.

## **IMMIGRATION: \$5,000**

In 2022, St. John's took a leap of faith and partnered with two local Episcopal parishes—All Souls, Woodley Park, and St. Mary's, Arlington—to form a "Sponsor Circle" to sponsor an Afghan refugee family. The Sponsor Circle program is facilitated by the Department of State, and we worked with Episcopal Migration ministries as our "Umbrella Organization" throughout the process. Our work this past year supporting a family from Afghanistan included furnishing their home, paying rent, providing legal services, purchasing a car, supporting job searching, and building transformational relationships. This type of work, which we will continue in 2023, stems from the biblical imperative to love our neighbors. The committee's work with immigrant communities is focused on building a Beloved Community where all are welcomed.

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## DONATIONS: \$16,000

- Downtown Cluster of Congregations—\$7,000
- Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington—\$2,000
- Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)—\$6,500 (for more about WIN, see page 37)
- Seabury Resources for Aging—\$500

In 2022, the Outreach Committee continued our partnership with: (1) **Downtown Cluster**, which is an ecumenical group of Washington churches that cooperatively uses member resources to meet critical community needs, prioritizing homeless safety, seniors, and youth; (2) **Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington**, a faith-based community partnership serving the greater Washington, DC, area that brings our neighbors who face poverty, challenges obtaining housing, or other debilitating obstacles together with partner leaders, donors, volunteers, and staff in a shared ministry that improves the lives of all throughout the Washington area; (3) **Seabury Resources for Aging**, which provides personalized, affordable services and housing options to help older adults in the greater Washington, DC, area live with independence and dignity; and (4) **Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)**, which aims to create a more just DC through interfaith community organizing and building power to effect positive, equitable change with respect to climate, health, public housing, public safety, public lands, and Black home ownership.

## MOVING FORWARD

The Outreach Committee, under the guidance of the Rev. Shawn Evelyn, looks forward to continuing our work in the community and with our partnership organizations throughout 2023.

♦ Jess Sanchez, *Outreach Committee Chair*

## Parish Lunch and Community-Building Potlucks

Sunday Parish Lunch is a wonderful and important fellowship opportunity at St. John's, which was restarted in the fall of 2022. Community-building potluck suppers and other events outside church and in parishioners' homes have also been very popular. Last summer Martha Ellison (Arlington) hosted a potluck at which 18 parishioners enjoyed a wonderful meal and fellowship. A meet-the-clergy potluck for the Rev. Shawn Evelyn, his wife Anna, and daughter Yara was held at the home of Holly and John Sukenik and attended by 17 parishioners eager for fellowship and casual time with Shawn and his family.

We are now trying to regain momentum and recreate the consistency the Parish Lunch program needs. To encourage and help the effort, a "Parish Lunch 101 Refresher" was held September 18. A group gathered in the kitchen between services for a tour, a review of logistics, and sharing of experiences and menu ideas. Parish Lunch kicked off October 2 with a "Lab Practicum," an opportunity for all who were interested to participate in a supervised experience preparing and serving Parish Lunch.

Beginning in October individuals and parish committees and groups started signing up. Special appreciation is extended to the following individuals and groups who organized, cooked, and hosted these events, during which more than 400 parishioners enjoyed fellowship: Elizabeth Morrison, the Vestry, Friends of Bishop Walker School, the Stewardship Committee, and the Bell Tower Committee.

♦ Holly Sukenik, *Parish Lunch Coordinator*



# Parish Register for 2022

## Transfers into the Parish

Finley Virginia Buchanan—from St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Greenville, SC  
Susan P. Cardwell—from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga, TN  
Thomas Andrew McKinnon—from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA  
Devin Michael Urness—from Christ Church Cathedral, Nashville, TN  
Vice Admiral Frank D. and Amy Whitworth—from Grace Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA  
JoAnn Zuercher and Glenn Reichardt—from St. John's Church, Georgetown, Washington, DC

## Transfers out of the Parish

Susan and Peter Carlson—to Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Southern Pines, NC  
Allen Edward Dennis—to Christ Church, Raleigh, NC  
Eric Nicholas Alexandre Generous—to The Church of the Holy Faith, Santa Fe, NM  
Alice G. Haase (inactive)—to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria, VA  
Janet Martin (inactive)—to St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Kenedy, TX  
The Pappas Family (Alex, Nancy, Mae, and Katherine)—to St. Luke's, Alexandria, VA  
Charles Baskerville Robson, Jr. (inactive)—to Christ Episcopal Church, Charlotte, NC  
Brenda and William Wolter—to St. Boniface Episcopal Church, Sarasota, FL

## Baptisms

Justin Sebastian Bouma  
William Ehret Hague  
John Morgan Highsmith, Jr.  
Gustavus Cresap Johnson  
Robert Seth Johnston, Jr.  
John Francis Kozlowski  
Daniel Baird Kroese  
Rita Louise Leonelli  
Mila Elizabeth McGregor  
Emma Grace Neville  
Margaret Blanche Northcutt  
Isaac Emrys Ornstein  
Charles Harker Rhodes V  
Joseph Leo Ward  
Bennett Reed Yeomans

## Blessing of a Baptism

Ezra Lagera George

## Confirmations

Autumn Nicole Brown, *adult*  
Gloria Burkhardt  
Walker Perry Crochet  
Zoe Fisher  
Caleb Jonathan Hays, *adult*  
Haliburton Powe Rigby III  
Alfred Cooper Thesmar  
Althea Kate Ulin, *adult*  
Lily Venzke

## Receptions

James Patrick Reilly

## Reaffirmations

None

## Rite of Renaming

Amanda Graham Hunt

## **Weddings**

Stephanie Lynn DeLong & Joseph Wesley Creech  
Kristin Faith Gavaza & Carl Alfred Ward  
Molly Abigail Sarratt Giammarco & Matthew John Ford  
Haleigh Angelique Hildebrand & John Lawrence Goheen III  
Christine Margaret Kennedy & Matthew Senor McMurray  
Elizabeth Wynne Oblinger & William Wendell Mackey  
Maria Claudia Bueno Persico & Michael Murphy McGregor  
Ellen Massey Tabler & Michael Ray Underwood

## **Renewal of Wedding Vows**

Krista Rimple Bradley & Richard Lawrence Bradley  
Elizabeth Johnson Kosobucki & Jonathan Paul Kosobucki

## **Blessing of a Civil Marriage**

Susan Jess Hallberg & Budd Jaye Hallberg

## **Burials, Funerals, and Memorial Services**

Laura Michele Branker  
Julian Kulski  
James R. Lowe, Jr.  
Nancy Henneberger Matthews  
John Herron More

# Pastoral Care Ministry

The Pastoral Care Ministry at St. John's complements and supplements the work of our priests by contacting, visiting, and praying for members of the congregation. Ministry team members also pray regularly for all those listed in the weekly list of prayer requests. We hope it gives comfort and encouragement to know that every day of the week there is someone from our team praying for all those who have requested prayers.

For most of the year, in-person visits continued to be limited due to COVID protocols. Beginning in the fall, opportunities to visit in person have improved.

The Pastoral Care Ministry writes notes and delivers flowers at Easter (lily plants) and Christmas (poinsettia plants) for members of St. John's who have experienced a death in their immediate family and for those in rehabilitation programs or confined to home or medical facilities. A good number of worshippers lend their help in these deliveries. The committee also assists the clergy and staff with weekly delivery of bouquets to parishioners who are unable to be at church. It is gratifying to hear from so many members how much they have appreciated these gestures from the congregation.

## Leadership changes

We are grateful for the staff support of Kaye Edwards, especially in the past several years with so many challenges around COVID and staff changes. We were thrilled with the wonderful celebration of Kaye's years on staff when she moved out of these official roles.

The Rev. Shawn Evelyn, Associate for Parish Life, has taken over the lead clergy role with this ministry. We are busy getting to know each other and planning orientation meetings toward the fresh beginning that is part of his first year with us.

Current Pastoral Care Ministry members include Laurie Adams, Wendy Fibison, Ann Gardner, Kristie Hansen, Anne Harrington, Joanne Hutton, Richard Price, Jack Reiffer (chair), Diane Spaulding, and Margaret Wiegenstein. Joining this ministry for 2023 are Krista Bradley and Sarah Wood.

♦ Jack Reiffer, *Chair*

## Planned Giving Committee

As of the end of 2022, there were 49 existing members of our parish who have committed to providing a legacy to St. John's through their estate planning bequests as part of the 1816 Society, and additionally, another nine parishioners who indicated on their stewardship cards that they have added St. John's to their estate plans. We are grateful for this outpouring of both interest and action. Unfortunately, one of our members died in 2022, and as a result, their estate will be making a bequest to St. John's in 2023. We are entering a time where intentional estate planning and charitable gifting are essential for the life of the church for our parishioners' personal financial planning. In the coming year, we will work on financial education and better sense of planning for the future around planned gifts efforts.

♦ Lisa A.K. Kirchenbauer, *Chair*

# Properties Committee

The Properties Committee is responsible for issues involving the condition and operations of the church's buildings and grounds. It provides oversight and support to the administrative staff in the area of property management. The committee works directly with Kim Carlson, Director of Operations, to implement its recommendations. The committee's members are Rick Busch, Joanne Hutton, Patricia Leslie, and Richard Grimmatt, Chair.

During 2022, the last three of the historic stained-glass windows of St. John's needing restoration were installed in the church. One of these, produced by the Lorin firm of Chartres, France, is in the North Gallery on the north (AFL/CIO) side of the church: the Presidents W. H. Harrison, Tyler, and Taylor memorial window, located on the door adjacent to the large demi-lune Bishop's window. The other two historic windows are the Swords and Shields windows, designed by architect James Renwick, installed in 1885, and located at the lower level of the stairs leading to the gallery: one on the H Street side of the church, and the other on the north side. All three of these stained-glass windows needed long-deferred restoration work. That restoration work was completed by Shenandoah Glass of Front Royal, Virginia, our long-time contractor for these critical restoration efforts. The installation of these windows completes the more-than-decades-long project of the Properties Committee to restore all of the stained-glass windows in St. John's Church.

Future potential projects in 2023 that the committee may undertake will be determined by the needs of the church and appropriate funding.

♦ Richard F. Grimmatt, *Chair*

# Sacred Ground

In 2022 we finished our second year of participation in the Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground program, a year-long journey to explore issues of race and faith and what these mean for us as a gathered community. More than 60 members of St. John's had participated in the program in 2020–21, and in 2021–22 we had more than 20 new participants. The program was updated for 2022 with new materials and a new session.

In October 2022, 25 of the members of the first and second cohorts got together for a Saturday afternoon to discuss their experience, what had been learned, and where we might go from here. It was a full and rich discussion, and while we have not offered Sacred Ground in 2022–23, we plan to offer it again in 2023–24.

♦ The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest for Engaging Local Communities*

# Science and Faith Discussion Group

A science and theology study group met virtually last spring with facilitator Dr. Tony Tambasco using the text *Science and Faith: A New Introduction* by Dr. Jack Haught. Dr. Haught was able to join the group for a very interesting evening. We continued our discussions in the fall, studying *The Cosmic Vision of Teilhard de Chardin*. One of our participants, Frank Frost, has produced a professional documentary about Teilhard's life, which we will watch and review in spring 2023 as we finish discussing that book. Newcomers are always welcome to join online.

♦ Joanne Hutton, *Coordinator*

## Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee's focus continues to be on annual giving. Receipts from pledges account for nearly half of the total budget at St. John's. Here is the record of pledge amounts received over the past few years:

Year	Pledged	Units
2016	\$1,025,960	427
2017	\$1,020,000	371
2018	\$1,035,765	375
2019	\$933,468	368
2020	\$940,383	336
2021	\$1,016,726	367
2022	\$1,084,393	367

As of January 24, 2023, we have received pledges from 294 units totaling \$1,023,258 (as compared with 309 units totaling \$973,121 last January 20). We've seen at least 28 new and/or reinstated pledges as of December 31 (as compared with 50 last year) and 129 increased pledges (as compared with 93 at the same time last year). The average increased pledge was nearly 24% higher than in the previous year.

Typically, parishioners continue to submit pledges for several months into each calendar year, as new members join our church or members reevaluate their charitable giving plans. **To those members of our parish family who have not yet pledged for 2023, we ask you carefully and prayerfully to consider making a pledge. Any pledge, no matter the size, makes a difference!** For those who are in a financial situation allowing you to increase your pledge, this can really help us face the increased costs of our inflationary environment.

We continue to tweak the website to make both pledging and donating more straightforward. If you have any suggestions for continued improvements, please send them our way! Membership of this year's Stewardship Committee includes Tony Anikeeff, Bill Birdseye, Matt Bode, Will Duthe, David Gallalee, Powell Hutton, David Kieve, Richard Metzger, Eleanor and Peter Odom, Richard Price, Alfred Thesmar, Emma Wilson, and Richard Young. We were pleased once again to benefit from wonderful stewardship testimonials—this year from Tony Anikeeff, Wendy J. Fibison, Sara McGanity, and Carl Ward.

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We especially want to recognize the outstanding support that the St. John's office staff has provided in facilitating our stewardship work. Kim Carlson not only joined our regular Stewardship Committee calls but also worked closely with Rob and me through additional planning sessions—and dealt with my many (many!) email questions with grace. Charley Griffin has also been instrumental to the logistics of the process, and Kaye Edwards brought to bear her longstanding relationships with and knowledge of so many parishioners up until and after she officially stepped down; we are happy to have help from Lisa Koehler now, too. Preston Cherouny maintains records and makes the necessary financial reports to the appropriate church committees and the Vestry, while also fielding many questions with diligence. We continue to be blessed as a result of their hard work.

The Rev. Rob Fisher deserves special singling out for his deep commitment to stewardship, his willingness to speak about it early and often during services, and his ability to carve out time for this committee during a year when so many other urgent matters needed his attention. We're planning to continue meeting through 2023 and will more regularly discuss stewardship with the parish community, while seeking to begin this fall's efforts earlier than last year.

♦ Toby Stock and Carter Keithley, *Co-Chairs*

# Sunday Liturgical Ministries

Worship at St. John's would not be possible without the faithful commitment of our acolytes, chalice bearers, crucifers, and readers. On Sunday mornings, at funerals, Evensongs, and a host of other worship occasions, these dedicated lay leaders add so much to our community. Two things are especially worth celebrating in the past year: the return of youth acolytes to the 11 a.m. Sunday worship service beginning in the spring of 2022, and the addition of new members to each of the ministries listed below. It is encouraging to see participation in these ministries extend across multiple generations, and among both newcomers and longtime members. Our thoughtful leaders of these liturgical ministries continue to help parishioners grow in their confidence and skill in facilitating meaningful worship through their teaching and mentorship.

♦ The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell, *Associate for Children and Family Ministries*

## Crucifers

Crucifers carry the cross, leading the procession of choir and clergy at the beginning and conclusion of worship services. In addition, they carry the Gospel book in the Gospel procession, receive the offering from the ushers and the flagon of wine and box of wafers from the element bearers, and take the trays of individual cups filled with wine from the sextons. Crucifers also assist in replenishing the wine when the chalice bearers run low during communion.

Our regular and occasional crucifers in 2022 were Paul Barkett, Matt Bode, Autumn Brown, Finley Buchanan, James Doyle, Wendy J. Fibison, Amanda Hunt, Stewart Jeffries, Kenny Kraft, Paul Mandelson, Michelle Mangrum, Brandon Montgomery, Greg Morrison, Felicia Owunwanne, Eric Peters, Jack Reiffer, Dax Tejera, David Vaughn, and Carl Ward.

We are always looking for new talent, so please consider taking part in this important ministry.

♦ Kenny Kraft, *Coordinator*

## Chalice Bearers

Twenty parishioners assist clergy with the administration of Eucharist on a regular basis. In 2022 a document was drawn up with the Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell's help to guide those who are new to this ministry in understanding how the liturgy is administered. If you are interested in sharing sacramentally the blood of Christ with others during services, please speak to clergy or contact the lay coordinator of chalice bearers, Joanne Hutton, to find out more.

♦ Joanne Hutton, *Coordinator*

## Readers / Lectors

Our dedicated group of 65 lectors and readers continued to assist in proclaiming the Word with excellence during each worship service. Whether reading Old Testament scripture passages, Epistle texts, or leading the psalms, our readers continued the vital leadership in opening our hearts and minds and listening to God's Word. Their ability to lead us in the prayers of the people helped us to respond to God's Word, lifting our praises, thanks, and intercessions to God.

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At the 2022 Fall Ministry Fair, seven parishioners signed up to join the group and attended tutorials in the nave between the Sunday services. The Rev. Sarah Akes-Cardwell and Martha Ellison commented with positive feedback and suggestions for improvement. We will continue trainings to help lectors develop and refine their skills for this important role in the Ministry of the Word.

♦ Martha Ellison, *Coordinator*

## Youth Acolytes

In the spring of 2022, the Youth Acolyte program resumed after being on hiatus during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have a core group of 10 middle and high schoolers who serve on Sundays during the 11 a.m. service. It has been wonderful to have our young people serving in this role, in ways both traditional and new to St. John's. For example, in addition to their regular duties as torch bearers, acolytes are taking on the role of assisting priests in setting the altar for communion and accompanying clergy for Children's Chapel. The reinvigoration of this ministry is only possible thanks to the foundation Debby Hailey built in her leadership of it for many years. After being on pause for more than two years because of the pandemic, it is a blessing to be part of this ministry as it grows.

♦ Nora Haugh, *Coordinator*

## Tour Guide Guild

After a break of two years because of COVID and its variants, which caused St. John's tour guides to stand down from offering regularly scheduled talks following 11 a.m. Sunday services, our group is now back meeting visitors and sharing its knowledge and love of our historic church. Ad hoc tours had continued during the pandemic, but by mid-2022 it became clear that COVID conditions were such to allow us to restart Sunday talks. Our group is lean—James Longley, Richard Price, Diane Spaulding, and yours truly, Richard Busch. We continue to seek additional members.

During the short time that we've been offering tours again, we've welcomed 40 members of the Richmond Museum of Fine Arts, with Powell Hutton serving as the lead tour guide; seven docents from the Smithsonian American Art Museum; an Intern from the White House Historical Association; 10 visitors from the Council on World Affairs of Greater Houston; and other visitors from California, Connecticut, Florida, Texas, and Wisconsin.

Our thanks to Lisa Koehler, Program Associate and Executive Assistant to the Rector, for her excellent notices about tours in the Sunday bulletin.

♦ Richard "Rick" Busch, *Head Tour Guide*



# Treasurer's Report

## 2022 Highlights

Despite the market and inflation challenges, as well as increased operational expenses, St. John's continues to be a financially sound church with substantial resources.

St. John's received more pledges than budgeted in 2022; however, as of December 31, 2022, the volume of unpaid pledges was 9.45%. It is typical to receive prior year pledge payments into the following year, so we expect to continue receiving 2022 pledge dollars into 2023 and to reach our budgeted goal. St. John's also collects revenue through non-pledge contributions, offerings, program/event income, and transfers from our endowment. (To learn more about St. John's investments, please see the Investment Committee report.)

St. John's program expenses increased in 2022 due to resuming annual operations in full. This is compared to a partial year of full operations in 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions. In 2022, St. John's also added one half-time clergy and a short-term Communications Director, as well as shifted Director of Music from part time to full time. While the staffing and clergy positions were only partially annualized in 2022, these costs are fully realized in the 2023 budget. In 2022, formation activities were under budget, allowing the church to realize some savings, in light of increases elsewhere.

Overall, the church ended 2022 with a surplus of \$9,306. This assumes that we will reach our budgeted goal for pledge payments..

## Income

St. John's continued to operate on a modified accrual basis, which has enhanced the accuracy of our financial reports and improved our financial reporting procedures.

Total pledges in 2022 (\$1,084,393) exceeded the budgeted amount by approximately \$34,393. The number of pledging households was comparable to 2021 (367), though notably, more than 100 households increased their pledge commitment for 2022. Also, more than 75 households were new or returning pledges, contributing to an increase in the average pledge from \$2,770 to \$2,955.

Non-pledge contributions (\$38,537), program/event income (\$40,952), and offerings (\$124,305) all lagged for the year, reaching 82%, 86%, and 78% of their targeted revenues, respectively. While both non-pledge and program/event income were above budget last year, offerings have been underperforming since 2020, a trend we have been closely monitoring.

## Disbursements

The majority of St. John's 2022 program expenses (\$1,335,830) fell into four categories: clergy, music, outreach, and program support. Other operating expenses include formation, parish life, administrative, repairs and maintenance, unpaid pledges, and utility costs.

Overall, program expenses were 3% under budget in 2022. However, extra music-related costs were incurred due to unrealized budgeted savings and additional music offerings. While there were unexpected costs, St. John's remained able to fully maintain its diocesan pledge and outreach commitments.

St. John's continued its ongoing schedule of repairs and security updates across our building and grounds.

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## 2023 Budget

The Vestry approved an operating budget of \$2,355,954 for 2023, based on an anticipated \$1,125,000 in income from pledges; revenue from offerings, gifts, and event income; as well as a transfer from our endowment. Additionally, the 2023 budget includes the investment of operating surpluses from the past three years and \$50,000 of past surpluses to fund the church's projected 2023 growth. There are plans to eliminate the use of existing surpluses in future years.

The following are the principal budgetary assumptions for expenses and revenues:

- \$1,125,000: anticipated pledge income;
- 5% draw from endowment, based on a rolling 12-quarter fund average;
- \$112,500 for outreach, 10% of net pledge revenue;
- \$135,000 diocesan pledge;
- Fully annualized full-time Associate Rector and Director of Music;
- 4% salary increase for staff and clergy;
- 5% in reserves for unpaid pledge balances;
- Audits for 2-year period (2018 and 2019); and
- \$15,000 in event income for use of the church's space.

♦ Casey Evans, *Parish Treasurer*

♦ Sara McGanity, *Assistant Parish Treasurer*

# Usher Guild

For the past 136 years, ushers have had an integral role at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, more than 200 years after the placement of its cornerstone on September 14, 1815. Over 70 years after services began on October 27, 1816, the Vestry approved the hiring of ushers from the local community to seat growing numbers of visitors and parishioners. In 1894, volunteer male members of the congregation were given the opportunity to serve as ushers to offer service to the church and on committees and the Vestry. In 1941, the Usher Guild was formed. In the 1970s, volunteer female members of the congregation began to serve on the Vestry and in the 1980s as ushers. In 2003, female parishioners assumed roles as Assistant Head Ushers.\*

Today's volunteer ushers are members of that legacy Usher Guild, and warmly greet and assist parishioners and visitors as they attend services at St. John's Church. Ushers help with seating so as not to disrupt the worship of others, and participate during the offertory and administration of the Holy Eucharist. Ushers serve in small teams once a month at each of its Sunday services. They may also volunteer to serve as ushers for funeral and memorial services, and other special events during the week. Members of the Usher Guild have sponsored one of the splendid festival music programs, including that featured at the Easter Sunday services, for the past 18 years.

Ushers strive to ensure that appropriate decorum and the integrity of personal security of worshipers are maintained. Wearing white carnation lapel arrangements, they are easy to identify as they assist worshipers in the event of emergency situations that may occur during church services. As first responders, many Assistant Head Ushers and ushers have been certified in use of emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) techniques and automated external defibrillator (AED) equipment.

During 2022, over 50 parishioners volunteered as ushers. The teams of ushers were led by Assistant Head Ushers Jeff Agnew, Matt Bode, George Diliberto, Jill Dowell, Bud Harrell, Richard Metzger, John More (deceased), Anthony Pegues, Nora Rigby, and Alfred Thesmar. Church growth continued to increase during the year despite lower in-person attendance in the continuing aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic health situation. The Christmas Eve Pageant and Easter Sunday services continue to be the most highly attended regular services held at St. John's.

Ushers look forward each Sunday to serve the entire St. John's parish and surrounding community. I invite you to consider being part of this exciting and dedicated ministry. If you would like some additional information, please contact me at any time.

♦ James H. Czerwonky, *Head Usher*

\* Information was sourced, in part, from Green, *The Church on Lafayette Square*; Harper, *Years of Change*; and Grimmer, *St. John's Church, Lafayette Square*.

# Vestry Nominating Committee

Under the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Vestry of St. John's, Lafayette Square is responsible for the economic health of the parish and for the support of the ministry of the clergy. The Vestry consists of the Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and 12 members of the Vestry elected by the parish. The Vestry is assisted by the parish officers—the Parish Counsel, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. Officers are appointed by the Vestry annually.

The Senior and Junior Wardens serve one-year terms while the 12 members of the Vestry serve staggered terms of four years. Each year, the terms of three members of the Vestry expire. This year the departing members of the Vestry are Lauren Edwards, Desirée Davis Stolar, and Alfred Thesmar. (Note: Alfred served one year of a departing member's term and was eligible to run for a full four-year term.)

The Vestry Nominating Committee met to consider potential nominees to fill the vacancies. Based on the committee's recommendations, the following parishioners have agreed to stand for election to the Vestry:

*Senior Warden*—Clark Ervin

*Junior Warden*—Nora Rigby

*Vestry Members (three to be elected):*

Kate Benner

Janet Edmond

Sylvia Martin Estes

Dr. Fruzsina Harsanyi

Matthew Taylor

Alfred Thesmar

On Sunday, January 29, 2023, the candidates were introduced during the Speaker Series, and each candidate gave a presentation. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2023, and the results should be announced at the end of the meeting.

♦ Desirée Davis Stolar, *Chair*

# Washington Interfaith Network

In 2022, Washington Interfaith Network, Inc. (WIN) was able to take advantage of the diminishing restrictions of COVID-19 to hold more of its lifeblood relational meetings, organizing, training, and actions in person again, or in a hybrid online/in-person format. WIN achieved significant victories in the areas of Black equity through homeownership, DC budget priorities, affordable housing, public lands use for housing, and climate and environmental justice.

## **Housing: Black Equity Through Homeownership**

During the DC FY 23 budget process in spring 2022, WIN pushed for \$25 million per year for four years to be allocated toward Black homeownership and increased funding for down payment subsidies. WIN and its partners galvanized community support, conducted email petitions, drew 2,000 citizens to a hybrid online/in-person candidate forum that lifted the importance of District funding for Black homeownership, and met with DC Council members to ensure that money was allocated in the budget for Black homeownership programs.

The DC Mayor and Council approved a budget that includes a historic \$10 million Black homeownership fund and increased first-time homebuyer down payment subsidies to \$202,000. WIN board member Anne Ford represented WIN on a Black homeownership strike force that was created to help distribute the funding.

## **Affordable Housing and Public Lands**

### **Spring Road / Old Hebrew Home—COMPLETED / OPEN!**

185 housing units of which 149 are affordable. WIN brought the idea to the District during the Fenty administration when Mayor Bowser was the Ward 4 Councilmember. WIN leaders organized through the RFP process, funding process, and every step of the way.

### **Temple Courts—PHASE ONE COMPLETED / OPEN!**

When completed, Temple Courts will include 504 units priced at 60% or less of Average Monthly Income (AMI) out of 750 units total. Half of the affordable units are priced at 30% or less of AMI. WIN leaders organized with former residents of Temple Courts, torn down in 2009, to push for the parking lot to become housing. WIN organized every step of the development process, from RFP, to choice of developer, to funding. WIN is organizing to ensure former residents know about and get the right to return. Some have moved back already. WIN will continue to organize and monitor the next phase of construction.

### **Reservation 13 Progress**

WIN believes that there is a potential for 5,000 units of affordable housing to be constructed at the Reservation 13 site, which encompasses 67 acres alone, and more than 200 acres when combined with the RFK site. During the most recent phase, WIN organized around affordability in the development and improved the affordability standards outlined in the Request for Proposals (RFP). The DC government adopted WIN's 1/3 1/3 1/3 language for the development of affordable housing: 1/3 deeply affordable, 1/3 middle income affordable, 1/3 market rate, and a priority for low-income homeownership units.

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## Public Housing

Over the past 18 months, WIN and partnering local residents have held 11 actions with DCHA leadership around immediate issues and long-term vision. As a result, some emergency repairs were made at Benning Terrace, Judiciary House, and Langston.

## Climate and Environmental Justice

In 2022, WIN's Green Healthy Affordable Buildings team, with the involvement of St. John's parishioners John More, Sarah Wood, and Robin Pennington:

- Engaged 500+ residents acting on the intersection of climate, housing, and racial equity;
- Completed and publicized a Citizen Science Study mapping 400+ active methane gas leaks across all eight Wards;
- Started a new Citizen Science Study aimed at (1) educating the public about the health and climate risks of gas stoves and (2) gathering data on gas stove pollution in the DMV to be used to secure funding for equitable access to building electrification and electric stoves; and
- Worked with allies to win the passage of the DC Climate Commitment Act and the Clean Energy DC Building Code Amendment Act.

\* \* \* \* \*

WIN is a broad-based, multi-racial, multi-faith, strictly non-partisan, District-wide citizens' power organization, rooted in local congregations and associations. WIN is committed to training neighborhood leaders, addressing community issues, and holding elected and corporate officials accountable in order to create a more just Washington, DC. WIN's 50 dues-paying members, including St. John's, represent more than 25,000 families in every section of the District and reflect its theological, racial, geographic, and economic diversity.

St. John's has been a member of WIN since its inception in 1996. Following the death of WIN founding leader and St. John's parishioner John More in September 2022, St. John's involvement in WIN has been led by parishioners Sarah Wood and Robin Pennington.

♦ Sarah Wood, *Coordinator*



# WELCOME!

**At St. John's Church, we believe** Christ is calling us to be a renewed church in a changing world. Empowered by the Spirit of God, we respond to Jesus' call as we deepen our bond with Christ through worship, become a community where all are accepted, and work together as laity and clergy to do God's work in the world.

**St. John's was organized in 1815** to serve as a parish church for Episcopalians residing in the neighborhoods in the west end of the District of Columbia. Its cornerstone was laid on September 14, 1815, and it was consecrated on December 27, 1816. Beginning with James Madison, every person who has held the office of President of the United States has attended a service at the church. Several Presidents have been communicants. Thus, St. John's is often referred to as the "Church of the Presidents." Pew 54 is the President's Pew. The architect of the church was Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who assisted in the rebuilding of the U.S. Capitol and the White House after the War of 1812. Twenty-five of the stained glass windows in St. John's were designed and executed by artisans of the noted Lorin firm of Chartres, France.

**If you are visiting**, please fill out the visitor information card found at the end of each pew to enable us to welcome you personally into the life of our parish.

**St. John's website ([www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org))** has up-to-date information about the church including the Sunday service schedule, Speaker Series speakers and topics, and newsworthy events.

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## Vestry

Clark Ervin, *Senior Warden*

Nora Rigby, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Tony Anikeeff, Krista Rimple Bradley, Lauren Edwards, Casey Evans, Wendy J. Fibison, David Gallalee, Ucheora Onwuamaegbu, Anthony Pegues, Desirée Stolar, Alfred Thesmar, and Carl Ward, *Members*

Casey Evans, *Treasurer*

Sara McGanity, *Assistant Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

## Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

## Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

## Head Greeters

Eleanor and Peter Odom

## Worship and Program Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

The Rev. Sarah Akers-Cardwell, *Associate for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Shawn Evelyn, *Associate for Parish Life*

The Rev. William Morris, *Assisting Priest for Engaging Local Communities*

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

## Staff

Kim Carlson, *Director for Operations*

Preston Cherouny, *Financial Secretary*

Charley Griffin, *Operations Assistant*

Lisa Koehler, *Program Associate and Executive Assistant to the Rector*

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa,

*Assistant Sextons*

Anne Stone, *Publications*

## ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

St. John's shines as a beacon of God's love through faith, worship, care, and community, and offers a place of grace at our historic corner in the nation's capital.

## Parish House

1525 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005-1005

(202) 347-8766 ♦ [www.stjohns-dc.org](http://www.stjohns-dc.org)