

St. John's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Decatur, Alabama

2017 Annual Report

Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting—January 21, 2018

Rector's Report

The Rev. Evan D. Garner

As I enter my seventh year as your Rector, I continue to marvel at the deep, faith-filled commitment that the people of this parish have to what God is doing in and through St. John's. I continue to see new faces in church on Sunday morning, and the procession of children who walk down the aisle on their way to children's church is getting longer and longer. The money and time we devote to outreach partnerships is growing. Our facility is being renovated and expanded. And I feel that we are doing as good a job as we ever have taking care of one another. Last year (2017) was a great year for St. John's, and 2018 looks to be even better.

Despite new faces in worship and overall growth in our parish roll, our average Sunday attendance declined slightly in 2017 (from 209 to 206). During the year, we only recorded two Sunday morning services with over 200 people. I suspect that some of our long-time members have gotten out of the habit of weekly church attendance, and I hope parishioners will join me in reminding each other why being together in worship is important for all of us. For the second year in a row, attendance at our weekday services also declined (from 2,660 to 2,423). Perhaps the clergy should consider reallocating their time away from midweek services and toward another ministry.

Our weekday offerings felt particularly rich this year. Despite the construction work, we enjoyed a robust fall series in home groups, and we plan to replicate that during Lent. Bible studies, yoga classes, and our centering prayer group continued to meet throughout the year even though some had to relocate. In the fall of 2017, we committed to offering a lay-led Sunday-morning class, and Harry Moore has successfully recruited several volunteers to help him teach and administer that program. Our children and youth programs are steady, and I am grateful both to Sally Marsh and Tim Callahan as well as to the many volunteers who make those programs a success. Despite all of our success, it feels like St. John's may be hungry for that next big opportunity, and I hope that the completion of the capital improvement project will open the door for a new class.

Although still in its early stages, the "Front Door, Back Door Committee," which Seth Olson has been overseeing, has begun to make connections throughout the life-cycle of a parishioner. Newcomers are being connected with ministry chairpersons. Those who have drifted away are being checked on by others. We still have work to do to refine this process, but, as we seek to grow not only in number but also in commitment to God, this group appears poised to help us with that growth.

Throughout 2017, pledge income stayed ahead of our budget, and we finished the year having collected 99.4% of the amount pledged to the parish. That is a remarkable testament to our faithfulness. Also, because of some unanticipated generosity and remarkably efficient use of funds by our staff and ministry chairpersons, the Vestry was able to set aside an extra \$63,000 for local outreach and the capital improvement project. As another sign of our financial health, despite a robust capital fundraising campaign in 2016, our stewardship for 2018 grew by 5.5%.

I have the privilege and pleasure of working alongside a talented and dedicated staff. In addition to the aforementioned members, Ann Stewart does an outstanding job with all of our publications and social media presence as our Director of Communications, and Vickie Reed expertly manages our finances and day-to-day operations as our Financial Administrator. Our office staff, our music staff, and our many, many generous volunteers help make St. John's a vibrant parish community that seeks to love God and our neighbors. We finished a strong year in 2017, and we are in a position to continue to grow for years to come.

Associate Rector's Report

The Rev. J. Seth Olson

Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ~ Galatians 6:9

The dull hum of a compressor rings outside my window. A trio of workers pound trestles in place above what will be the new kitchen. A foreman looks on with diligent care. If we do not grow weary from the commotion of construction we may just see what God invites us to reap in 2018. And, looking back over the last twelve months I find a wide array of seeds being planted for a good harvest now and into the future.

Front Door-Back Door Committee

Working with this committee who welcomes newcomers, cares for absent members, and plugs in members hungry to participate in our various ministries has provided much fruit worth celebrating. To name only three: new pew cards, the outline of a process in connecting newcomers, and a big invitation for our ministry heads. This invitation? To care as much about inviting new people to participate in our ministries as we care for the great outcomes that we see in our church work.

Christian Formation

With the growth in our facilities came an opportunity to grow in how we participate in Christian Formation. Home Groups during our Fall Wednesday-Night Series provided a profound area of reaping spiritual fruit. Due to the noise of construction the Centering Prayer and *Lectio Divina* group shifted locations to meet in the chapel, which has deepened our communion with God and one another. Lay-led Sunday-morning classes offer new opportunities for the clergy to teach together and to participate in wonderful parishioner-led offerings. Spiritual fruit abounds through this formation!

Episcopal Youth Community

From confirmation classes to participation in diocesan events like Happening to small groups on Sunday evenings, I have witnessed abundant growth in our teenagers. Without the efforts of our Youth Steering Committee, parents, volunteers, Evan, and Tim, these spiritual fruits would not be possible. The deep passion our teenagers have for a connection with Jesus and with one another lets me know that these ones are not the Church of the future, but they are the Church of now!

What other fruit will we reap in 2018? Let us not grow weary in doing good.

Senior Warden's Report

Steve Sandlin

This was the third and last year of my three-year term on St. John's Vestry, and I feel it was one of the most memorable years of my church life. As the end of the year approached, I found myself looking back at what has happened at St. John's this year. As with any church, we've had comings and goings, we've laughed and cried together, we've prayed and worshiped together, and we've gathered and broken bread together. For most of the year, our attention was directed to the Capital Campaign, *Our Table, God's Table*. During the last quarter, we began to see the architectural plans come to fruition with visible construction progress.

In 2017, we were able to increase our spending among our outreach ministries. We assisted 18 different organizations through our Outreach Partnership Ministries with over \$214,000 in monetary as well as in-kind aid plus innumerable hours of volunteer assistance.

(Continues on next page.)

We maintained our programs with Banks-Caddell Elementary School, and we were able to increase the students in Homework Helpers and the number of the 5th graders who took a memorable trip to the McDowell Environmental Camp at Camp McDowell. Our construction caused a move of the Simply Divine Bake Sale to the cafeteria at Banks-Caddell, which was apropos since its students are the beneficiaries of the funds raised. Many thanks go to our four chairwomen who made the 2017 Simply Divine Bake Sale so successful! We increased the number of students who receive weekend meals through the Backpack Food Program to thirty-five. Parishioners buy the food and bag it each week for distribution to the students each Friday. At the Committee on Church Cooperation (CCC), St. John's sponsored a meal for the Soup for the Soul soup kitchen once a quarter. Our parishioners not only prepared the meals, but our volunteers served the food to the CCC clients. These are just four of the Outreach Partnership Ministries that received grants in 2017.

It has been both an honor and a personal blessing to serve St. John's as your Senior Warden. I have had the privilege of working with Evan and Seth, who are both outstanding and dedicated priests. They have shepherded us through the trials of the Capital Campaign and the beginning phases of our construction project. I know that it has not been easy for them or the staff working in the midst of a construction zone.

To each parishioner who is running for the new Vestry class, I wish to say thank you for considering serving on our Vestry as part of your ministry. I have worked with some of God's most exceptional persons on our Vestry. This was an outstanding Vestry term, and I feel we had a most successful year at St. John's. I also thank every parishioner for your outstanding support of our church and of the Vestry as we went about determining and performing God's mission.

May God continue to bless our St. John's family.

Director of Youth Ministries Report (6th - 12th grades)

Tim Callahan

I am very excited to be able to give a report on a full-year spent as the Youth Director at St. John's. The 6th-12th graders at St. John's have continued to grow closer to each other in fellowship and with their personal relationship with Christ. The keyword that I associate with this group of youth is community and whether they are experiencing this community through the acolyte program, Sunday morning/evening programs, and fellowship events, it has been a privilege to be a witness. I look forward as we start another calendar year for our parish and our youth group.

Highlights of the past year for St. John's youth Christian formation include many rewarding experiences. We continued with our small group model this past year with Jr. High meeting in the morning and Sr. High meeting in the evening. The Jr. High group was co-led by a company of Sr. High youth who did a great job while also showing dedication that I am very thankful. The Sr. High small group continued meeting in the evenings at a host home and were led by a group of EYC advisors with support from myself, Evan, and Seth. Jr. High youth navigated their way through a curriculum that focused on how to live life with Jesus while the Sr. High youth were introduced to a series of difficult questions related to our faith. I am excited to continue with this small group model shifting to both Jr. and Sr. High meeting in the evenings for spiritual formation. There were a variety of Wednesday-night programs offered for EYC at St. John's centered on Lent, fall, and Advent offerings. In Lent, both adults and youth were treated to hearing from speakers from different faiths talk about their experiences and core beliefs. In the fall, youth had their own specific program during which the story of the Prodigal Son and its meaning were explored through film. Wednesday-night programs wrapped up for the year in Advent during which adults and youth rejoined for a series on *Praying in Color*. Another major Christian experience came in the form of Happening which was hosted by St. John's from March 3-5. Over that weekend, three of St. John's youth went through as

(Continues on next page.)

Happened and have continued to be a part of that amazing ministry. Perhaps the biggest Christian experience was the Confirmation class that was presented, and seven youth were successfully confirmed in the Episcopal Church! These youth continued their Confirmation experience with a one-night retreat to Camp McDowell.

I believe that part of being a member of EYC at St. John's is having the opportunity to serve others, and St. John's youth were able to partake in great service opportunities. With the first opportunity, in the summer of 2017, a group of eight youth alongside myself, Seth, and Lydia Allison (who served as the chaperone) went to Monteagle, TN, to continue working with Exceptional Enterprises and to perform service projects for Otey Parish in Monteagle. For the second opportunity, also in the summer, three youth were able to travel to Greensboro, AL, to staff a session at Sawyerville Day Camp. The third and final opportunity was when several of the youth decorated the Free Clinic for the Christmas season, and they were also available to take down those decorations. The decorating was an acknowledgement of the partnership between St. John's and the Free Clinic which is always amazing to behold.

All of that being said, the youth at St. John's had numerous opportunities to have fun this past year. Youth attended Diocesan youth events such as District Day, Happening #71 at St. Stephen's in Birmingham, and Christmas Conference at Camp McDowell. St. John's EYC also continued with our off-site EYC dinners with an addition of a "Theology on Tap" style question. St. John's partnered with Trinity Episcopal Church in Florence to go on two retreats to Camp McDowell. Other events for the youth this past year included an EYC Kick-Off event at Insanity Complex in Madison, a soccer tournament versus Huntsville churches, a pool party, the popular bring-your-parent to EYC night, and concluding with our Pre-Christmas Party hosted by the Powell family.

There are numerous people I would like to thank because without them this overwhelmingly successful year in EYC would not be possible. To McCauley Smith, Sanders White, Cricket Powell, and Will Dinsmore for leading the Jr. High Sunday morning classes. To Alana Haughaboo, Dustin Bowman, and Tony Bolan for both leading and continuing to lead the Sr. High evening classes. Thank you to our hosts for this past year: Wade Dinsmore and Sue Powell for hosting our Sunday evening Sr. High meetings. An extra thank you to the entire Powell family for hosting the home groups for the Fall. Thank you to all those who provided a meal for EYC this past semester; there will be sign-ups available after Annual Meeting so please sign-up to provide a meal! Finally, thank you to Evan and Seth for their presence and for continuing to be invested in EYC.

Director of Children's Ministries Report (Nursery - 5th grade)

Sally W. Marsh

2017 saw continued growth in the Children's Ministry area of St. John's. The average number of children attending Children's Church increased, the number of consistent students attending Sunday School, specifically in our Kindergarten class is up. The Wednesday-night series was also very well attended.

During the first half of the year, we saw our children winning (again) first place in the Carnegie Carnival Prince and Princess Parade. There were a record number of children and parents participating in the decorating, riding, and walking in the parade. Parish retreat was well attended by families with young children. A guided hike, the play ground, a farm tour, dancing, and plenty of free time was enjoyed by all. VBS saw St. John's partnering with Westminster Presbyterian. It was held at night with St. John's taking turns providing dinner and adult and teen instruction. Our children had a wonderful time learning that Jesus is a Super Hero. Everyone should be very proud of our turn out and the amount of effort that was given.

Our school year started with the annual pool party. This year we rented the Hartselle City Pool for a private party, not just for the children and their families but for the entire parish. More than 50 people attended this event, and

(Continues on next page.)

we look forward to hosting it again. Our children also had fun playing putt-putt, eating ice cream, going to Chuck E. Cheese, and seeing a movie in the theater. They created Mardi Gras wreaths, flowered crowns, filled bags of beans and rice, created “Boo-Boo Bunnies” and many other service projects.

Our annual Christmas Eve Pageant went off without a hitch thanks to the hard work of many volunteers. There were children of all ages participating and many visitors accepted our invitation to be a part of the pageant. It was beautiful.

Thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers of the Children's Department, we expect to see continued growth in the next year.

Director of Communications Report

Ann Stewart

St. John's communications department continues to improve how we share information about our services, Christian formation classes, and various events through a variety of communication tools including our newsletter, website, social media accounts, iTunes podcast for sermons and weekday bible studies, and some print formats.

In 2017, some big accomplishments have included the makeover of the pew cards (a Welcome card, a Children's card, and a Giving card), an updated pictorial directory, and the release of online giving through our website and through our giving kiosk—making it easy for you to support the ministries you care about with secure online gifts to St. John's.

The website continues to be resourceful not only for visitors but for parishioners, and it is maintained weekly making it more inviting and up-to-date. There has been growth in the sharing and use of our Facebook page and Instagram account. Our goal with social media is to promote the work and ministry of St. John's, to keep people in the loop, and to engage and build community. The weekly newsletter, *The View*, is distributed each week to 392 e-mail addresses—an increase of 22 e-mails from 2016. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please contact the office (256-353-9615) or use the easy online signup at <http://bit.ly/TheViewNewsletter>.

Our greatest communications challenge is to stay current in the use of technology and to communicate in the ways that parishioners want to receive and respond to information. With the new construction comes opportunities for expanded Wi-Fi which can lead to more ways to communicate within the church and with the wider community.

In summary, we have experienced success through our newsletter, website, and posting to our social media sites, helping us to reach many within and beyond our red doors, and we are excited about what 2018 holds for God's work in the digital world.

Outreach Report

Harry Moore

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.
~Matthew 25:40

Locally, St. John's supports building houses for the poor through Habitat for Humanity, providing clothing for the needy through the Committee on Church Cooperation (CCC), food for the hungry through the CCC, Backpacks, and the Beans and Rice program, health care for those who have no insurance through the Community Free Clinic, tutoring for children who need help through Homework Helpers at Banks-Caddell and through the Boys and Girls Club, arts education and discipline for marginalized students through the Princess Theatre, training and spiritual guidance for those in jail through the Neighborhood Christian Center (NCC), training and encouragement for single mothers through Parents and Children Together (PACT), basic necessities for foster children through DHR's F.A.C.E.S. program, and grief counseling for children who have lost loved ones through Hospice of the Valley. St. John's also maintains the Episcopal Center and the Common Ground Community Garden.

More broadly, St. John's supports programs throughout the diocese and beyond through its monthly diocesan contribution (currently 14% of pledge, non-pledge, and plate income) and through donations to Sawyerville Day Camp and to seminary education. St. John's supports advocacy for the poor in Alabama through an institutional membership in Alabama Arise.

Last year, the Vestry approved grants for 13 different programs—a total of \$42,800—and in the fall, when demand for the Banks-Caddell fifth graders' trip to the McDowell Environmental Center mushroomed beyond all expectations, the vestry approved a supplemental allocation for that. For 2018, the Vestry has approved a total of \$60,000 for potential support for 15 grant applicants.

In last year's budget (2017), total outreach expenditures at St. John's made up 21.47% of income. In this year's budget (2018), outreach increased to 22.67% of total income. Because of the vision of clergy and vestry and the parish's commitment to sacrificial giving, St. John's plans to spend over \$192,000 on outreach this year.

Outreach at St. John's is rooted in relationships between the parish and a wide range of ministries in the community. Parishioners volunteer their time and service at PACT, the Morgan Country Free Clinic, the CCC, Homework Helpers, Backpacks, and other ministries. The Vestry encourages other parishioners to volunteer at these agencies. Those who would like more information about a specific ministry can e-mail the parish liaison.

Agency and St. John's Liaison

Alabama Arise - Harry Moore (hmoore944@aol.com)

Banks-Caddell Backpacks Food Program - Suzanne Thompson (laurasuzannethompson@gmail.com)

Banks-Caddell Homework Helpers - Kevin Malcolm (dive4dlr@aol.com)

Banks-Caddell 5th Graders McDowell Environmental Trip - Carolyn Price (cprice1958@att.net) and Dodie Hall (dodiehall@bellsouth.net)

Boys and Girls Club - Elise Hannah (elisehannah@me.com)

Committee on Church Cooperation - Kathy Slaton (kdwslaton@gmail.com)

Community Free Clinic - Grant Thompson (grant.h.thompson@gmail.com)

F.A.C.E.S. - Mary McKimmon (marymck2@att.net)

Habitat for Humanity - Karen Sawyer (karen.sawyer89@gmail.com)

Hospice of the Valley - Martha Freeman (cookie@bellsouth.net)

Neighborhood Christian Center - Bobby Straub (bob@lbr1co.com)

PACT - Cassandra Moore (moorec6@gmail.com)

Princess Theatre - Harry Moore (hmoore944@aol.com)

St. John's Beans and Rice - Sally Marsh (sally@stjohnsdeatur.org)

Music Report

Lauren Salerno, Choirmaster

We've been busy in the St. John's music program this year! We've had fun working on some gorgeous pieces, like Liszt's "Ave Verum Corpus," Rutter's "Christ the Lord is Risen Again," and Biebl's "Ave Maria." In addition to our weekly offertory anthems, we prepared music for our annual Easter, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas Eve services, as well as the Blessing of the Animals. In the near future, we hope to add a Choral Evensong to the list of musical offerings!

One of the most exciting developments this year has been the opportunity to collaborate with the choir from the Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills, AL. A joint choir camp at Camp McDowell sparked the idea to do a combined Lessons and Carols service. As such, Ascension's choir joined us for our carol service, and we journeyed to Birmingham the following week to sing with them. We had a wonderful time, and we hope to continue collaborating in the future. Choir Camp 2018 is already booked!

The Children's Choir is now meeting regularly from 9:15-9:30 on Sunday mornings. Our goal is to have the choir sing once per season in church, and grow from there. In the fall, the children performed a beautiful rendition of "This is My Father's World" with harp accompaniment, and we are currently working on "This Little Light of Mine." If your child is interested in joining the choir, just come to a Sunday-morning rehearsal!

There's a lot of "new" happening in the St. John's music program—new choir members, new opportunities, and soon, a new choir room! It's a perfect time to get involved. Come sing with us!

Altar Guild Report

Kristen Propst

The Altar and Linen Guild is a group of 24 members called to serve God in a special ministry that prepares the vessels, vestments, and linens for our worship and cares for the altar and its furnishings. Our worshiping community moves through the seasons and the feasts of the liturgical calendar with our guild members offering their time and talents each week to prepare and tend our place of worship. This year, we have welcomed new members to our ministry and had dedicated members retire from our ministry. This guild faithfully prepares for four services of Eucharist each week. We have modified our teams to include weekend teams to attend to Sunday services, a Tuesday-noon team, and a Wednesday-evening team. I encourage you to consider joining our ministry where in fellowship, we serve our Lord and care for our parish. We appreciate the contributions of the Communion wine, given to the glory of God in memory of loved ones, or in thanksgiving for particular people, or in celebration of a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary, so the parish may share in our ministry. As our parish looks to the future with our ongoing renovations, I thank God for each of our parishioners who are sustained by the blessed sacraments and the faithful service of our guild.

Flower Guild Report

Sue Hennessy

Flower Guild at present is a group of 16 members and 2 apprentices plus several former members, who have had to quit Flower Guild for one reason or another but still show up at Christmas, Easter and Lessons and Carols to help decorate the church. We have a wonderful time when working together, and we enjoy such peace when working alone. We have very little to do, as God has provided the beauty of the flowers with which to work. Members are scheduled to arrange the flowers for the altar once a quarter, and that schedule is given out at the first of the year. Swaps with other members can be made if an inconvenient assignment is made. The best of all is when we come together as a group to decorate for Christmas and Easter. On these occasions there is always a large group working, and laughing and enjoying time together to make St. John's become a more beautiful, joyful, and reverent place.

Thanks be to God for these people who are on the Flower Guild and who get so much enjoyment from this ministry. We would love for you to join us too! If you would like to join the Flower Guild, please call Sue Hennessy at (256) 318-2064.

Bread Guild Report

Nell Standridge

Since 2007, St. John's has been using home-baked bread during the Holy Eucharist. The use of real bread rather than wafers enhances our worship both theologically and symbolically from the baking of it to the breaking and sharing of it. Bread Guild makes bread for Sunday Holy Eucharist, Tuesday Healing Eucharist, Wednesday-Evening Eucharist, and any service in which we celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Bread Guild now consists of nine bakers: Nina Mae Blackburn, Amy Calame, Alana Haughaboo, Allyson Land, Larkin Martin, Mary McKimmon, Nell Standridge, Suzanne Thompson, and Rachel Wiley. Baking bread for our services is a ministry we love, and we are honored to contribute in this way. If you are interested in joining the Bread Guild, please contact Nell Standridge at (256) 350-6836.

Thinking of You/St. Anne's Bereavement Guild Report

Annie Cornell

Thinking of You cooks and delivers a meal to parishioners in time of illness and to parishioners having lost a family member that is not a member of St. John's. We have served 2-8 meals a month.

St. Anne's Bereavement Guild will prepare and serve a meal for the family (maximum of 40 people) on the day a funeral is held at St. John's. When the funeral service is not held at St. John's, the committee will supply the bereavement meal if the deceased is a member of St. John's or is a member's spouse, child, or parent so long as the deceased is not a member of another Decatur church. The meal will be served at St. John's or at the home of a family member of the deceased. For visitation at the church, the committee will supply coffee, tea, and ice water. If the family declines the offer of the bereavement meal, very light refreshments may be served during the visitation.

These are important ministries, and we need more volunteers. If you are willing to help provide meals to parishioners in need, please contact Annie Cornell at (256) 616-9876 or call the church office at (256) 353-9615.

Family Life Committee Report

Bunny Edwards

The goal of the Family Life Committee is to provide fellowship opportunities for St. John's parish family. The committee meets twice a year to plan activities. In 2017, the committee sponsored several events including the Annual Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell, a canoe trip, the Rally Day Lunch, Chili Cook-Off, Parish Picnic, and the Advent Wreath Workshop. Committee member, Sally Bibb, prepared sympathy cards, which are signed by parishioners and mailed 4-6 times a year to those who may be sick or unable to be with us in church on Sundays. Our full list of committee members are: Amy Calame, Billy Biles, Marthelyn Biles, Bynum Rogers, Carol Sandlin, Dana Baggette, Dashiell McKay, David Rice, Dodie Hall, Elizabeth Garner, Huey Hall, Janet Morgan, Joe Propst, Julia Roth, June Hall, Steven Hall, Ann Stewart, Kerry Standridge, Frank Hollon, Kim Meuth, Laura Ritch, Margaret MacIlveen, Menine Rice, Nell Standridge, Nick Roth, Mike Salerno, Nora Hall, Hagler Wiley, Rachel Wiley, David Bibb, Sally Bibb, Pat Price, Steve Price, Vennette Charlton, Wade Dinsmore, and Will Dinsmore. If you would like to join the FamilyLife Committee, please contact Bunny Edwards at (256) 227-3760 or by e-mail at edwards.bunny46@gmail.com.

Grounds Committee Report

Glynn Tubb

The Capital Campaign followed by construction has put a halt to any new plantings or landscape changes for St. John's not only in 2017 but probably for a substantial part of 2018. Near the end of construction, we will visit our ground's plans for the future including plantings of shrubs, trees, etc.

Common Ground Community Garden Report

Carol Hancock

The Common Ground Community Garden continues to grace the church grounds and surrounding neighborhood with supplemental food, flowers, and a place of repose amongst busy lives. This garden's intent is not to be a farm or high production food garden. We spread our energy and attentions across an ecosystem that provides maintenance for our Creator's diversity which uplifts in spirit as well as supporting bodily health. Our organic practices support healthy soils, creature habitat, and foods that are nutritious and safe to eat.

This past year the Cooperative Extension Agency of Morgan County continued to conduct informative class series open to the public at Common Ground on a variety of topics applicable to homeowners gardening needs and interests.

At the invitation of Pamela Payne, a presentation about Common Ground will be featured this February in a workshop at the Episcopal Diocesan Convention in Decatur in order to encourage other churches to create gardens of their own.

Our team of volunteers continues to grow and for this we can all be grateful, as with many hands, the work load is more manageably distributed through our long growing season. More volunteers are always needed and welcomed!

We thank St. John's for its continued support of this garden and hope that in 2018 the garden will be used for enjoyable work, learning, and worship.

Trustees Report

Sonny Craig

The Trustees meet twice a year with the portfolio managers and trust officer from Regions as well as throughout the year when needed. The Trustees are Sonny Craig, Woody Peebles, Dana Baggette, Luke Slaton, and Nick Roth. They are supported by Ken Schuppert, Bobby Straub, Stan Evans, D. Hall, the Wardens, and the Rector, who all serve in *ex officio* capacities. This year, the Trustees met to consider a request by the Vestry to allocate funds from the endowment to the capital improvement campaign. After considerable discussion, they voted to give \$70,000 per year to the campaign for four consecutive years and to request that the Vestry repay those funds to the endowment in a timely manner. That support comes in lieu of the usual annual payment made to the operating budget.

Account Synopsis: Ending value on 12/31/2017 was \$623,154 with an allocation of \$441,152 (71%) to stocks, \$112,291 (18%) to bonds, \$55,226 (9%) to alternative investments, and \$14,485 (2%) to cash. We started the year with a total account value of \$589,422 and generated a net return of 11.05%. For the past 5 years, the account has generated an annualized return, net of fees, of 8.3%. The stock portfolio has had a heavy emphasis on value/dividend yield over the years. Returns by asset class style are broken out below:

Stocks - 16.24%	Bonds - 4.86%
Domestic Large Cap - 9.36%	Alternatives - 2.66%
Domestic S/MID Cap - 21.42%	
Int'l Equity - 26.68%	

St. John's Trust Funds	Starting Balance (1/1/2017)	Change in Investment Value	Ending Balance (12/31/2017)
Charles H. Eyster General Fund <i>Supports Outreach & Care of Properties</i>	\$139,386.14	\$8,164.26	\$147,550.40
Charles H. Eyster Choir Fund <i>Supports Music Programs</i>	\$140,075.43	\$8,204.57	\$148,280.00
Margaret A. Hoff Memorial Fund <i>Supports Outreach & Care of Properties</i>	\$216,747.23	\$12,695.46	\$229,442.69
St. John's Endowment Fund <i>Supports Outreach & Care of Properties</i>	\$92,117.68	\$5,395.60	\$97,513.28
Total for All Trust Accounts	\$588,326.48	\$34,459.89	\$622,786.37

I would like to remind every St. John's member that you can give to this trust at any time and are encouraged to leave donations for the future of St. John's through your will, IRA, and 401k designations with the help of your personal financial advisor. If you have any questions on how to do this, please feel free to contact Sonny Craig or Julia Roth for assistance.

Capital Improvements Report

Bobby Greene

It's been four years since we conducted the parish-wide visioning process which led to our Capital Campaign fundraising, facility improvements plan, and ground breaking. There is no need to describe where we are in terms of construction as the progress made is both evident and ever changing. After completing a second round of fundraising, which resulted in an additional \$343,928 pledged to the project, our total pledged is \$3,396,776. Of the pledged amount, \$1,707,438 was received by December 31, 2017, which was \$122,390 over projections. In addition, we have received \$332,016 from other gifts. Though the cost projected for the completion of the entire envisioned project is greater than the total amount pledged and gifted, the Vestry voted to move forward with the total project and borrow the balance. Our challenge now is to complete construction some time early fall and manage costs not to exceed the budget. I am encouraged that both these goals will be accomplished. There has been and will continue to be inconveniences and disruptions to our everyday operations, but, at the end, we will have the facilities improvements you identified as necessary to successfully carry out our ever-expanding ministries. Thank you for your support of this wonderful, God-blessed undertaking.

Treasurer's Report

Bobby Straub

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2017

Assets

Bank Independent (Checking + Money Market)	\$1,843,173
Clergy Discretionary Funds	9,844
Endowment	622,786
Petty Cash	200
Accounts Receivable	995
Total Current Assets	\$2,476,998

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$19,925
Payroll Taxes & Elective Deductions	8,163
Restricted Funds	2,375,919
Bank Independent Loan	0
Equity & Loan Offset	72,991
Total Liabilities	\$2,476,998

2017 Operations Income/Expense Summary

Income

Pledge Income	\$756,092
Non-Pledge & Other Income	67,441
Trust Distribution	28,500
Total Operations Income	\$852,033

Expense

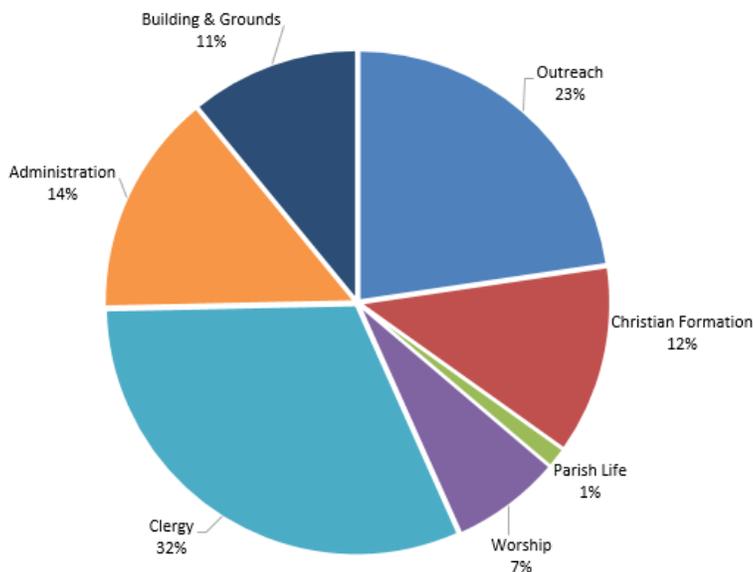
Outreach	\$191,335
Programs	419,225
Administration, Properties, Debt Service	241,473
Total Operations Expense	\$852,033

2017 Designated Income/Expense Summary

Designated Income	\$1,864,664
Designated Expense	1,147,279
Total Designated Net Income	\$717,385

St. John's 2018 Budget (Approved)

St. John's 2018 Budget



Income

Pledge	\$778,504
Plate	10,000
Non-Pledge	37,000
Endowment Distribution	-0-
Discretionary Fund Contributions	16,000
Interest Income	2,500
Breakfast & Dinner	4,000
Communion Wine Dedications	105
Total Income	\$848,109

For expense breakdown, see chart below.

Total Expense \$848,109

Area of Ministry	2018 Budget	% of Budget	2017 Budget	2017 Actual
Outreach	\$192,231	23%	\$174,675	\$199,335
Christian Formation	103,449	12%	105,932	100,338
Parish Life	11,300	1%	9,100	10,278
Worship	60,386	7%	57,655	56,762
Clergy	265,942	32%	253,486	251,847
Administration	122,001	14%	119,265	116,190
Building & Grounds	92,800	11%	93,280	125,283
Debt Service	0	0%	-0-	-0-
Total*	\$848,109	100%	\$813,393	\$852,033

*Due to rounding, totals may not add up exactly.

We give thanks for these individuals who are willing to stand for election to the vestry:
Tony Bolan, Bill Briscoe, Sonny Craig, Wade Dinsmore, Nora Hall, Sue Hennessy, James Pressnell, Betty Weaver,
Brian White, and Jack Williamson.

We give gratitude and thanks to our outgoing Vestry Class of 2017
Steve Sandlin (Senior Warden), Squee Bailey, Harry Moore, David Rice, and Kathy Slaton

In 2018, the Wardens of St. John's will be
Pat Price (Senior Warden), and David Rahm (Junior Warden).
We are grateful for their willingness to serve in that capacity.

The Current Vestry

Class of 2018: Alana Haughaboo, Mary McKimmon, Billy Middleton, Pat Price, and Karen Smith

Class of 2019: Dana Baggette, Elise Hannah, Pam Howell, Billy Middleton, and David Rahm,

Treasurer: Bobby Straub Clerk: Martha Freeman Chancellor: Ken Schuppert

Weekly Calendar

Upcoming Events

Sundays

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
8:45 a.m. Parish Breakfast
9:15 a.m. Nursery Available through 10:30 a.m. service
9:15 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite II)
11:45 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
5:30 p.m. EYC (see schedule for jr. high & sr. high)

Ash Wednesday Services
7:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:30 p.m. on February 14

Wednesday-Night Home Groups
6:00 p.m. beginning on February 21

Parish Retreat
March 16-18
At Camp McDowell

Mondays

10:00 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
1:30 p.m. Senior Bridge Players

Holy Week Services
March 26-March 31
Services Every Day

Tuesdays

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
8:00 a.m. Yoga Flow Level 2
12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist w/ Prayers for Healing

Easter Day
5:30 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. on April 1

Parish Workday
8:00 a.m. on April 14

Wednesdays

8:30 a.m. Yoga for Wellness Mixed Level
5:30 p.m. Evening Eucharist
6:00 p.m. Supper & Programs (see schedule)

Shared Episcopal Eucharist
May 2
At Rhodes Ferry Park with Covered-Dish Supper

Thursdays

9:00 a.m. Centering Prayer & *Lectio Divina*
5:15 p.m. Theology on Tap at the Brick

Ascension Day Service
5:15 p.m. on May 10

Children and Youth Banquet
6:00 p.m. on May 16

Fridays

7:00 a.m. Men's Cursillo Reunion Group
8:00 a.m. Yoga Flow Level 2

St. John's Episcopal Church · 202 Gordon Drive SE · Decatur, AL 35601 · (256) 353-9615

Website: stjohnsdeatur.dioala.org Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnsdeatur](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsdeatur)

Instagram: [instagram.com/stjohnsdeatur](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsdeatur) iTunes: <http://bit.ly/StJohnsITunes>