



St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  DECATUR, ALABAMA

2022
MINISTRY DIRECTORY

Greetings and welcome to all:

Whether you are a newcomer or longtime parishioner, we are so glad to have you as part of our St. John's family. It is our hope that each of you will come to know and love this community as your spiritual home.

According to the Catechism in the Book of Common Prayer, the ministers of the church (all of us!) are called "to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God" (BCP 856). Furthermore, each of us has been given gifts to spread that very Kingdom of God (Romans 12:4-8). Some of us are called to prophesy, others to minister or teach, and still others to lead or extend compassion to those who need it the most.

Here at St. John's, we have a variety of ways in which you can engage in answering the call to spread the Kingdom of God while leaning into the gifts you have been given – from helping out with Vacation Bible School to reading during Sunday worship and from taking out recycling to ironing linens, there are so many ways you are invited to be part of the life of St. John's.

As you seek to discern how your passions and gifts might align with the various ministries of St. John's, we hope that this booklet will be a helpful resource for you. And, as always, we are open to the ways in which the Holy Spirit might be moving and calling you to begin new ministries to meet the needs of both our church and wider Decatur community.

Again, we are so glad that you are part of our St. John's family and we look forward to getting to know you more fully.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman
Rector

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

This Rite I Eucharist is held in the Church with scaled back hymns and no choir. Join this more traditional service and enjoy the quiet contemplative nature.

9:30 a.m. – Christian Education

Every Sunday (Labor Day through Memorial Day), there are a variety of opportunities for members of all ages to gather together to grow in relationship with one another and with God. See all of the Christian Formation options below.

10:30 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite II

This Rite II Eucharist is held in the Church and features hymns and, during the school year, the St. John's Choir. Children are invited to attend Children's Chapel (from the Gospel Reading through the Confession, returning at the Peace).

Please note, the Nursery is open for infants to children in 4K from 9:30am – 11:30am.

WEDNESDAY

12:10 p.m. – Holy Eucharist II with Prayers for Healing, Chapel

Our weekly Wednesday service of the Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing and anointing is held in St. Mary's Chapel. On the first Wednesday of the month, we will continue our fellowship over lunch (Dutch treat) at a nearby restaurant. All are invited to reflect, pray, and eat.

MONDAY-FRIDAY

9:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer, Facebook Live

This brief service is rooted in the monastic tradition and is the perfect way to begin your day. We recite psalms, read Scripture, and have time for private intercessions offered either silently or aloud.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday (Closed Fridays)

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed for Lunch 12 to 1:00 p.m.

PRAYER LIST

Members of the congregation are encouraged to place names on the prayer list. First names are read during the Prayers of the People on Sunday and full names are read during Wednesday's Holy Eucharist & Healing service. Names remain on the prayer list for four weeks and may be added again at any time. Contact Ann Stewart to add a name to the prayer list (ann@stjohnsdecat.org; 256-353-9615).

Table of Contents

The Sacraments.....	5
Liturgical Ministries.....	8
Adult Formation	11
Children’s Ministries.....	13
Club 56.....	15
Youth	16
In-Reach Ministries & Pastoral Care	18
Community Life.....	20
Garden Ministries	21
Outreach Ministries.....	22
Governance & Finance	24
2022 Partners in Ministry	26



THE SACRAMENTS

"The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace." (BCP, 857)

BAPTISM

Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church, during which "God adopts us as God's children." The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble. Each candidate for Holy Baptism is to be sponsored by one or more baptized persons. Sponsors of adults and older children present their candidates and promise to support them by prayer and example in their Christian life. Sponsors of infants, commonly called godparents, present their candidates, make promises in their own names, and take vows on behalf of their candidates. Preparation for Holy Baptism generally occurs the Sunday before the baptism is to take place, and we generally offer baptisms four times a year: All Saints' Sunday, The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, The Easter Vigil, and Pentecost. Please email The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman (chase@stjohnsdecatur.org) to schedule a baptism.



THE HOLY EUCHARIST



Holy Eucharist is the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord's Day. It is the sacrament commanded by Christ for the continual remembrance of his life, death, and resurrection until his coming again. The Eucharist (which means "thanksgiving") is also known as the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion and was instituted by our Lord at the Last Supper. We believe Christ's living presence is manifest in the consecrated bread and wine, the Body and Blood of

Christ. Christians of all ages who have been baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, are invited to receive Holy Communion. If you have not been baptized, or do not wish to receive Holy Communion, you are invited to come to the rail for a blessing.

CONFIRMATION

In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age as well as those baptized as adults are invited, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.

Adults and those in High School are prepared for Confirmation each Spring in the weeks leading up to the Bishop's Visit (which generally occurs in May).



MARRIAGE

The Episcopal Church considers marriage to be a sacrament in which two people enter into a life-long union, make their vows before God and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows. The holiness of a marriage is not only experienced by the two people getting married but is shared within the life of a parish family. Since the vows between two people are to be lived out in the community of faith, they become a celebration of the entire church—even though only some of the parishioners may be invited to the wedding. Because of that, marriages at St. John's are only celebrated and blessed for members of the parish and for individuals who are directly related to parishioners. To learn more, please email The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman (chase@stjohnsdecatur.org).

HEALING (UNCTION OF THE SICK)

Unction is the rite of anointing the sick with oil, or the laying on of hands, by which God's grace is given for the healing of spirit, mind, and body. Each Wednesday at 12:10 p.m., St. John's has a service of Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing during which parishioners are invited forward to receive this sacrament.

RECONCILIATION OF A PENITENT

Reconciliation of a Penitent is the rite in which those who repent of their sins may confess them to God in the presence of a priest and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution. Though we, as a congregation, confess and are absolved of our sins almost every Sunday morning during The Holy Eucharist, those who would like to meet with a priest for confession and absolution are more than welcome to. Please email The Rev. Chase Ackerman (chase@stjohnsdecatur.org) or The Rev. Sarah E. Watts (sarah@stjohnsdecatur.org) to schedule a time to meet.

ORDINATION

Ordination is the rite in which God gives authority and the grace of the Holy Spirit to those being made bishops, priests, and deacons, through prayer and the laying on of hands by bishops. While all baptized people are called to make Christ known as Savior and Lord, and to share in the renewing of God's world, some are called to discern Holy Orders. Deacons are called to a ministry of servanthood, serving all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. Priests are called to work as pastors and teachers and to take their share in the councils of the church, and bishops are called to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the church, to celebrate and to provide for the administration of the sacraments, to ordain priests and deacons, to confirm, and to be in all things a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ. If you feel called to discern Holy Orders, the first step is to email The Rev. Chase Ackerman (chase@stjohnsdecatur.org) to set up an initial meeting.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

"Do this in remembrance of me"

-1 Corinthians 11:24

ACOLYTES

Acolytes play an important role in the life of the Church by serving at the altar on Sunday and for other special services during the year. They serve as torchbearers, crucifers (those who carry the cross), thurifers (those who swing the incense). All adults and children in 3rd grade or older are invited to take part in this important ministry. Trainings are normally held about two times a year and acolytes generally serve once a month.



Contact

The Rev. Sarah E. Watts, Associate Rector

sarah@stjohnsdecatour.org

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild members have the privilege of giving their time and talents to preparing the church for worship services, weddings, and funerals, as well as preparing the chapel for weekly services. Most of the Altar Guild volunteers serve one weekend a month, in teams, to get the church and altar ready for Sunday or other services. They clean and polish vessels; replace candles as needed; vest the chalice that is put on the altar; place chalices, wine, wafers, water; update hymn boards; put out offering plates and bulletins; prepare the font for baptisms and prepare the space for funerals. The Altar Guild plays an integral part in ensuring that our space is ready for each service.

Contact

Kristen Propst, Altar Guild Chair

kristenpropst@aol.com

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

LEMs are the "Lay Eucharistic Ministers" who help administer Communion during worship at St. John's. They are appointed and trained by the rector and then licensed by the bishop for a three-year term, beginning in Advent.

Contact

The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman, Rector

chase@stjohnsdecatour.org

LECTORS



As we believe that scripture contains all things necessary for salvation, it is important that we immerse ourselves in the stories and truths which inform and shape our spiritual lives. Each Sunday, we hear one reading from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a New Testament reading, and a Gospel reading. Lectors are those individuals who read these lessons as well as the prayers during worship. They bring not only their willingness to serve and to speak the Word of God into our communities but also their dedication to preparing ahead of time.

Contact:

Alana Haughaboo, Lector Chair

alana.haughaboo@dcs.k12.al.us

LINEN GUILD

Each week, the church uses approximately 10-15 linens of various shapes and sizes for our various services. Some linens, such as the Fair Linen, lie on the altar or credence table, while other linens (such as the purificators) are used to wipe wine from the rims of eucharistic vessels. Because of the frequent use of these linens, members of the Linen Guild spend time at home washing, ironing, and mending these altar linens and purificators so that we always have linens for use.

Contact

Kristen Propst, Altar Guild Chair

kristenpropst@aol.com

FLOWER GUILD

Every Sunday Service and Feast Day, we are blessed with the joy of having beautiful flowers from God's creation on our Altar and in our space. The Flower Guild is the group that acquires and arranges these flowers for worship. Men and women are invited to participate. Never arranged flowers before? Don't worry, training is provided for new members.



Contact

Sue Hennessy, Flower Guild Chair

rosies8th@aol.com

MEDIA MINISTRY

The Media Ministry is an important part of our worship both in-person and online because it allows us to share our services with and expand our community to those who would not otherwise be able to join us in-person. This is an important form of evangelism! With our live-streaming capabilities, there is now an opportunity for volunteers to help sustain this ministry into the future. We are looking for men and women (high school age +) who are ready and willing to volunteer their time on a rotating schedule at the 10:30 a.m. service. All volunteers will be trained to ensure they are comfortable running the audio and video equipment.

Contact

Ann Stewart, Director of Communications
ann@stjohnsdecaturn.org

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR

"He who sings prays twice," a sentiment most commonly attributed to St. Augustine. At St. John's we are blessed with a wonderful choir who not only leads our congregational singing and offers an Anthem most every Sunday between Labor Day and Memorial Day, but also offers music for events such as Lessons and Carols and Choral Evensong. All members (high school age +) are invited to join this vital ministry and raise your prayers in song.



Contact

Lauren Cantrell, Choirmaster
laurencantrellsalerno@gmail.com

USHERS

Ushers at St. John's are usually the first people we see when we walk into church. For lifelong parishioners and for first-time visitors, they are the face of our parish. Theirs is an important ministry of hospitality. During each service, Ushers are responsible welcoming all people into worship, the distribution of bulletins, counting the number of people present, collecting and presenting the offering, opening and closing the red doors to the church at the beginning and end of each service, and just generally being available to assist with any needs which may arise during a service.

Contact:

Ann Stewart, Director of Communications
ann@stjohnsdecaturn.org

Adult Formation

"Becoming holy is being so taken over by the extraordinariness of God that that is what you are really interested in, and that is what radiates from you to reflect on other people."

- Rowan Williams

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

EfM is an intensive, community-focused course for lay persons who would like to learn more about the Bible and the Church. The series is designed around four years of study—Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theological Choices – during which participants reflect on their own spiritual growth and passions for ministry.

Contact

Sandy Barr, EfM Mentor

sandybarr@wowway.com

LAY-LED SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Each Sunday morning a group gather together in the Library to explore they day's scripture readings through the lens of academic study, art, poetry, and even children's stories. Join this group any Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Contact

Harry Moore

hmoore944@aol.com

SUNDAY MORING ADULT EDUCATION

Each Sunday morning, you are invited to grab a cup of coffee and gather in the Parish Hall with Father Chase and Mother Sarah to explore and discuss a wide variety of topics related to faith and discipleship.

Contact

The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman, Rector

chase@stjohnsdecatur.org



WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER & PROGRAMS

During Stewardship Season (October), Advent, and Lent the entire parish is invited to come together at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and a seasonal program. During our Stewardship season, we generally hear from organizations or ministries that we fund in order to gain a deeper understanding of where and how the money we give to the church is allocated. During Advent, we engage in a variety of intergenerational activities (such as caroling, and St. Nicholas bingo) as we prepare to welcome the light of Christ into our world. And, finally, during Lent we have programming which helps us to engage in our call to live a Holy Lent. There are a variety of way in which you can be involved in these evenings – from just being present, to helping prepare dinner (more information below), to leading programming for children and youth.

Contact

The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman, Rector

chase@stjohnsdecatur.org

YOUNG ADULTS MARRIED AND SINGLE (Y.A.M.S)

Once a month, those who consider themselves young adults are invited to gather together for a time of fellowship and a brief devotion or reflection. Thus far, we have gathered at Mother Sarah's house, Cross Eyed Owl, and Hard Dock. Keep an eye out for future gatherings because we'd love to see you there!

Contact

The Rev. Sarah E. Watts, Associate Rector

sarah@stjohnsdecatur.org



Children's Ministries

"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

- Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Our children are not only the church of tomorrow, but they are the church of today. Within each child is an innate sense of God and an openness to wonder and creativity. It is our hope that all of our offerings continue to foster these attributes and instill in each child and knowledge and love of God.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Most Sunday mornings from between Labor Day and Memorial Day, children in 5K – 4th grade are invited to gather for a time of learning and formation. This year, children from 5K – 2nd grade will continue to use the Godly Play curriculum, a program which is published by The Episcopal Church and aims to help children make meaning through story, wonder, and play while nurturing their spiritual lives by honoring the centrality, competency, and capacity of children. Children in 3rd & 4th grades will be using Holy Moly, a program which invites children into our sacred stories with animated Bible story retellings and activities which bring the stories to life.



Contact

Sally Marsh, Director of Children's Ministries

sally@stjohnsdecatur.org

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children in 5K-5th grade are invited to participate in an age-appropriate Gospel lesson, homily, prayers, and songs. During the 10:30 a.m. service, children are invited to follow the wooden cross out of the church during the Sequence Hymn and walk to the Parish Hall or McKimmon Garden (weather permitting). They return during the Peace.

Contact

Sally Marsh, Director of Children's Ministries

sally@stjohnsdecatur.org

NURSERY

Providing a safe and nurturing environment for our very youngest worshipers is an integral part of this vision for our church family. The nursery at St. John's strives to be a welcoming and comfortable sanctuary for our youngest children and visitors.



The nursery is provided for infants and toddlers (6 weeks old through 4K) by our professional caregivers from 9:00 a.m. through the 10:30 a.m. Sunday-morning service and is also provided during special church events and offerings. During our 10:30 a.m. service, our nursery staff provide age-appropriate Bible Stories and games so even our littlest members are growing in their knowledge and love of God. Our nursery is located downstairs. If you are new among us, please follow the directional signs located in the stairwell.

Children are welcome to receive communion at St. John's. Many parents choose to pick up their children from the nursery and bring them into church in time to receive communion together as a family.

Contact

Sally Marsh, Director of Children's Ministries
sally@stjohnsdecatur.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout the year, we host a variety of events to promote fellowship and celebrate milestones in our children's lives. From our Back-to-School Cookouts and Tie Dye events to play dates in the park to movie nights in the Parish Hall, we hope to see you at our next fun event!

Contact

Sally Marsh, Director of Children's Ministries
sally@stjohnsdecatur.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Each summer, St. John's offers a three to four-day-long morning program for children Pre-K-6th Grade. During them morning, we learn about God, sing and dance, eat great snacks, watch informative videos, do crafts, and play games. Stay tuned for the Summer 2023 dates!

Contact

Sally Marsh, Director of Children's Ministries

sally@stjohnsdecatur.org



Tweens Group

For 4th, 5th and 6th graders, we are offering Weaving God's Promises—a curriculum that mirrors the Eucharist by opening in prayer, telling the story of God's people, and sharing in activities before closing in prayer – on Sunday mornings. Stay tuned for more information about gatherings and outings for this group.

Contact

Alana Haughaboo

alana.haughaboo@dcs.k12.al.us

Sue Powell

suegpowell@gmail.com



Youth Ministries

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity

-1 Timothy 4:12



BIBLE STUDIES

Throughout the week, we have various opportunities for youth to gather for Bible studies and fellowship. The topics of these studies are often picked and guided by youth interest and curiosity. The most up to date information regarding timing and location meetings can be found in the weekly youth email.

Contact

Sam Burcham, Youth Minister
sam@stjohnsdecatour.org

EVENTS & TRIPS

Over the course of the year, the youth gather together for various activities. Some can be as simple as meeting at Mi Hacienda for lunch or dinner or could be as involved as going to Camp McDowell or going on a mission trip. It is our hope that these trips not only provide a chance for our youth to have fun and get to know one another but also get to experience and see themselves in a new part of God's creation.

Contact

Sam Burcham, Youth Minister
sam@stjohnsdecatour.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL

All 7th-12th graders are invited to gather together each Sunday morning between Labor Day and Memorial Day to learn and talk about God, to get to know one another, and to have a great time together. This year we'll be using the Rite13 curriculum which gives participants a basic, yet deeper, understanding of The Episcopal Church and helps youth explore their place in it.

Contact

Sam Burcham, Youth Minister
sam@stjohnsdecaturn.org



In-reach Ministries & Pastoral Care

"By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

-John 13:35

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Order of the Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. Reaffirming the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, a Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. She receives support in this commitment from a worldwide community of like-minded women. St. John's is in the process of discerning whether we would like to charter a chapter here.

Contact

Beth Gilbert

bethbgilbert@gmail.com

FLOWER DELIVERERS

The flower delivery volunteers are a group of men and women, families and individuals, who help distribute altar flowers on a rotating schedule to those who are homebound, have recently experienced an illness or surgery, or to those who are in the hospital.

Contact

Ann Stewart, Director of Communications

ann@stjohnsdecatour.org

FLOWER REARRANGERS

The flower rearrangers are a group of men and women who help prepare the altar flowers for delivery after the 10:30am service.

Contact

Ann Stewart, Director of Communications

ann@stjohnsdecatour.org



GUILD OF THE CHRIST CHILD

When someone at St. John's gives birth to a new child, we like to help welcome that gift into the world by providing a hand-knit blanket for the child and a meal for the family.

Contact

Erika Huber

ehuber4404@gmail.com

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Lay Eucharistic Visitors are licensed by the Bishop to take communion from our Sunday morning services out to those who are homebound or who are not otherwise able to attend our Sunday morning services.

Contact

The Rev. Sarah E. Watts, Associate Rector

sarah@stjohnsdecatur.org

THINKING OF YOU

The Thinking of You Committee provides and delivers meals to those who are homebound, have recently experienced an illness or surgery, those who are in the hospital, or to those who are mourning the death of a loved one. This is one little way in which we as a community can care for one another during hard times.

Contact

Bunny Edwards

edwards.bunny46@gmail.com

ST. ANN'S GUILD

While mourning the loss of a loved one, it can be difficult to deal with the millions of details and decisions that must be made in a short amount of time. In order to ease some of that stress, St. Ann's Guild helps take care of families when a parishioner has died. The guild can either provide a meal for the family before or immediately after the funeral, or they can provide a small selection of finger-food for a visitation in the Parish Hall.

Contact

Bunny Edwards

edwards.bunny46@gmail.com

Community Life

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

- Matthew 18:20

BRIDGE GROUP

Calling all experienced bridge players! If you know bridge basics but want to improve your playing skills or need a refresher course, please join us Mondays in the Library! It is a great time of fellowship with a bit of competition thrown in!

Contact

Vennette Charlton
256-616-1531

CURSILLO

Cursillo is a long-weekend program for renewal and spiritual deepening for adults in The Episcopal Church. Couples or individuals go to Camp McDowell for an uplifting and fun Cursillo weekend full of opportunities to deepen your spirituality and make connections with those in the wider Episcopal community. After the Cursillo weekend, participants are invited to take part in regular gatherings of the Cursillo community.

Contact

Erika Huber, St. John's Lay Rector
ehuber4404@gmail.com

FAMILY LIFE

The goal of the Family Life Committee is to provide fellowship opportunities for St. John's parish family. Past projects include canoe trips, hikes, bowling, ice skating, baseball games, picnics, the Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell, and so much more! We welcome your ideas and enthusiastically request your participation in all of these fellowship events!

Contact

Bunny Edwards
edwards.bunny46@gmail.com



LEMONADE & COOKIES

As parishioners exit the red doors of the church after our 10:30 a.m. service, they are often greeted with a yummy cookie and refreshing lemonade. We invite you to stick around, talk to an old friend or even someone you've never met, and enjoy a sweet treat before you head into your Sunday afternoon activities. We are always looking for volunteers to host this simple but meaningful gathering time.



Contact

Suzanne Thompson

laurasuzannethompson@gmail.com

Amy Calame

amycalame1@gmail.com

NEWCOMERS MINISTRY & BREAD BAKING

Visiting a new church can be scary and overwhelming. It is our hope that we, at St. John's, warmly welcome and connect to all those who are visiting St. John's. One of the ways in which we do this is to provide welcome backs with freshly baked bread cooked with love by a parishioner. We welcome all ideas and support of this ministry as we aim to expand and deepen our church community to include more and more of God's children.

Contact

Suzanne Thompson

laurasuzannethompson@gmail.com

Beth Gilbert

bethbgilbert@gmail.com

RECEPTION MINISTRIES

Throughout the year we have a variety of reasons to celebrate. Whether we are celebrating Confirmation and the Bishop's Visit or coming together after our Annual Lessons and Carols, these occasions often call for a reception! Reception Hosts are those individuals who coordinate parish receptions and make sure that all of the food and drink is provided.

Contact

Melba Middleton

melbabm2@gmail.com

SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFASTS

St. John's provides breakfast every Sunday morning. During the school year, we usually offer a hot breakfast, and, during the summer or during holiday weekends, we usually offer a continental breakfast. This act of hospitality provides a chance for parishioners to gather together over some yummy food in between services. Afterall, who doesn't want to stop and chat over a donut or a warm sausage biscuit! We'd love to have your help in the kitchen!

Contact

Patrick Lokken

pglokken79@gmail.com

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Each Thursday evening, anyone and everyone is invited to The Brick for dinner, fellowship and pondering a theological question or conundrum. We have a great time exploring our theology, eating good food, and getting to know one another!



Contact

The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman, Rector

chase@stjohnsdecatur.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS

St. John's has parish-wide dinners in the fall, during Advent, and during Lent. These are great opportunities for us to gather together during these important liturgical seasons so that we can grow closer to God and one another. We rely on groups of volunteers to set up, prepare the meals, and clean up afterwards! Kitchen duty is such great fun!

Contact

Melba Middleton

melbabm2@gmail.com

YOGA

Did you know that St. John's has a dedicated Yoga Room?!? So cool! Every Friday morning, there is a Yoga class at St. John's taught by Carol Hancock and you are invited to be part of this group!

Contact

Carol Hancock

clch11@icloud.com

Garden Ministries

"But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."

-Job 12:7-10

COMMON GROUND

Our community garden has recently been re-visioned and renovated. You can now find new structures, an irrigation system, and plants native to the area in order to support the natural life and environment of North Alabama. We are always looking for extra hands and invite you to join us in this piece of God's creation.

Contact

Julia Chenault

julia.s.chenault@gmail.com

JACKSON STREET SIDEWALK GARDEN

We are blessed with beautiful gardens at St. John's, and many who pass by have the opportunity to enjoy the sights and sounds and smells from these beautiful patches of God's creation. Maintaining the Jackson Street Flower Garden is a great way to serve God, and contribute to the beauty of our church.



Contact

D.D. Martin

dnm@aol.com



Outreach Ministries

"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

BACKPACKS FOR FOOD

One of our most important and successful outreach projects is the Backpacks for Food program. We have adopted children at Banks-Caddell Elementary School and provided supplemental nutrition for them throughout the weekend. We have an incredible team of people who purchase supplies, pack bags, and deliver them to the schools. We would love to have you as part of this important and impactful ministry.

Contact

Sally Marsh, Director of Children's Ministries

sally@stjohnsdecatur.org

BEANS & RICE

Once a month, St. John's provides a bag full of rice, beans, vegetables, and tide-pods to those in the community who could use a bit of extra support. We have a great team of people who pack bags and distribute these bags and we would love for you to join our team!

Contact

Sally Marsh, Director of Children's Ministries

sally@stjohnsdecatur.org



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The St. John's Outreach Committee is comprised of 10 members who are charged with the task of managing our grant process and maintaining ongoing and supportive relationships with our partners in ministry. Members are appointed for three-year terms with two members starting every year. We encourage you to take a look at our "Partners in Ministry" list below and get involved in any of those wonderful ministries.

Contact

Grant Thompson, Outreach Committee Chair

grant.h.thompson@gmail.com

RECYCLERS

Recycling is one of the ways in which we can live into our call to be stewards of the gift of God's creation. The City of Decatur picks up recycling from the church, but we need help collecting our recyclables, getting them to the curb, and bringing the cans back. Plus, we need help reminding our fellow parishioners to remember to recycle what can be recycled! We would love for you to join our recycling team!

Contact

Tommy Loyd

tomloyd@bellsouth.net

SIMPLY DIVINE BAKE SALE

Each year, St. John's comes together to create a variety of sweet and savory treats to be sold at our Annual Bake Sale. Occurring the Saturday before Thanksgiving, this bake sale raises funds for a non-profit who cares for those in our community. We would love to have you cook, bake, or volunteer at the sale!

Contact

Emily Nazarchyk

etmarsh1997@gmail.com

Leah Cayson

lecayson@gmail.com

SINGALONGS

Once a month, the Singalongs gather at a local nursing home to bring the gift of song to area residents. No rehearsals and no musical talent are required! Simply bring your willingness to brighten the day of someone in need! Look out for the schedule in our weekly email.

Contact

Janet Varner

pianonow90900@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Our Stewardship of Creation Task Force is charged with helping our parish take care of the earth. No small task! Old habits are hard to break, but, with education and encouragement, each of us can become responsible stewards of what God has given us.

Contact

Anne Ness

annegness@icloud.com

Governance & Finance

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

-Ephesians 4:11-13

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

St. John's is blessed with beautiful buildings which not only provide space for us to meet for worship throughout the week but also provide a multitude of spaces for us to carry out the breadth of our ministries. In order to care for our building, we have a Parish Clean Up day twice a year and all parishioners of all skill levels are invited to come keep our many spaces beautiful. Furthermore, if you would like to reserve a space to host a meeting, we encourage you to reach out to the office for a Facility Use & Reservation form.



Contact:

Julia Roth, Junior Warden

jroth@eysterkeylaw.com

SAFEGUARDING

Here at St. John's we take very seriously the need to protect the safety of all people. Therefore, those who work with vulnerable populations, specifically those who work with our children and youth, are background checked and trained through a diocesan program. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us.

Contact

The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman, Rector

chase@stjohnsdecatur.org

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is the management and development of all the gifts God has given to each of us – money, time, talents, and the created world. Through our giving, we give thanks to God for all the blessings we have received. St. John's carries out its many ministries through our gifts. The annual budget will be presented to the congregation during the Annual Meeting in January. That budget is based on the financial commitments made by all of our members during October's Stewardship Season.

Contact:

The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman, Rector

chase@stjohnsdecatur.org

VESTRY

The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector. There are two wardens. The senior warden leads the parish between rectors and is a support person for the rector. The junior warden has responsibility for church property and buildings. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances. Members of the vestry are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting for a three-year term, with one third of the vestry being elected each year. The vestry generally meets monthly.

Contact

The Rev. Chase D. Ackerman, Rector

chase@stjohnsdecatur.org

2022 PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

Please reach out to Grant Thompson (grant.h.thompson@gmail.com) for contact information for each of these ministries.

BANKS-CADELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Banks-Caddell is a Title 1 school that services a majority Hispanic population and is located directly across the street from the church. St. John's supports the students and teachers in a variety of ways, including subsidizing the 5th grade trip to Camp McDowell's Environmental Center.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH COOPERATION

The CCC was founded in 1973 as a means for area churches to pool their resources and collaborate to alleviate the struggles of our community. Currently, they offer services ranging from food and clothing to medicine and a diaper pantry. In all, the CCC has 11 core programs aimed at helping those in need help themselves. Their mission is to "build collaborative efforts among churches of Morgan County to provide emergency and short-term assistance to persons in need, in the name of Jesus Christ.

COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP

The Community Action Partnership of North Alabama is a results-driven, non-profit business that is committed to reducing or eliminating the causes and consequences of poverty for families and communities in need through comprehensive services and strategic partnerships.

Hunger is one of the consequences of poverty and their Meals on Wheels & More program was created in 1972 to meet the nutritional needs of the elderly and disabled homebound residents of Decatur and Hartselle.

COMMUNITY FREE CLINIC OF DECATUR-MORGAN COUNTY, INC.

The mission of the Community Free Clinic is to provide free, quality healthcare, dental care and prescription medication to low income, medically uninsured adult residents of Decatur and Morgan County, through volunteers serving the community in a manner that respects the dignity of all persons.

The Clinic is a valuable resource which helps alleviate the strain on our medical community caused by individuals not having access to preventative primary care. Resources and support from the entire community help provide life-saving medical and dental care to people from all across Morgan County. This support from the community including the medical community makes the Community Free Clinic the most cost-effective way to take care of low-income uninsured patients.

DECATUR YOUTH SERVICE

The Decatur Youth Services was developed to find solutions to the economic, social and educational circumstances that our community was facing with our youth. Our programs are designed to target those areas and help our youth as well the entire family build strong values and skills that will directly impact their quality of life.

FACES

FACES (Families and Children Experiencing Separation) provides monetary support for foster children and protective service children of Morgan County Alabama. They provide school clothes, back packs, school supplies, birthday card with \$25 Gift Card, Christmas, Easter Basket filled with toys and goodies. They cover the cost for children to play little league, take music lessons, receive tutoring and attend camps and church camps.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County is a nonprofit Christian ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in Morgan County, Alabama. We provide opportunities for the community to show God's love in action in partnership with people in need, as we break the cycle of poverty by providing decent, affordable housing and improving the quality of life of our partner families.

HANDS ACROSS DECATUR

Since founded in 2012, H.A.D.'s purpose has always been to identify a path forward to self-sufficiency for our homeless and those in crisis. Currently, they feed hot meals 3 days per week and provide to go lunches along with food bags and clothes, sleeping bags, etc. 4 per week. They are open for those in crisis to seek day shelter from the severe weather elements, as well as a welcoming place for them just to come in side and read, socialize and more - regardless of what mother nature's plans are for the day.

HOSPICE OF THE VALLEY

They are a not-for-profit hospice that offers end-of-life care for terminally ill patients and their families. Hospice of the Valley helps keep the patient comfortable, teaches families how to care for their loved one, and offers emotional and spiritual support. They also have a Community Bereavement Center in our facility. The CBC offers grief support in the form of individual sessions and scheduled groups. They also offer a school-based grief support program called Friend to Friend. These groups meet at local schools (Morgan, Lawrence, and Decatur City) for children who are grieving the loss of a close loved one.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN MORGAN COUNTY

The Mental Health Association in Morgan County (MHA) was formally organized in 1956 culminating the efforts of a small group of citizens to provide support for local mental health programs. Over the last 50+ years MHA has developed many programs and services related to the mission of promoting mental health, preventing mental illness, and advocating for the improved care and treatment of the mentally ill. Our history includes many different grants and fundraisers that support our partnerships with other agencies to provide the education and support of mental health issues necessary to improve the quality of lives within our community.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTIAN CENTER OF AL, INC

The Neighborhood Christian Center's Mission is to serve our neighbors in need with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and provide hope and healing through education and discipleship. We desire to provide a compassionate, Christ-centered ministry for the practical and spiritual needs of those struggling in our community, envisioning a transformation in the lives of those we serve and hopefully "changing a generation, one life at a time."

PARENTS AND CHILDREN TOGETHER

Protecting children, strengthening families, and preventing child abuse. PACT strives to improve the quality of life in Morgan County by preventing child abuse and neglect through empowering individuals and families to create a healthy interdependence by means of strengths-based programs including parent education, direct services, public awareness and school programs which are based on on-going assessment of community needs.

TENNESSEE VALLEY OUTREACH

Tennessee Valley Outreach provides temporary living accommodations that are safe and clean. We also provide wholesome food as well as spiritual sustenance for men, women, and children. Tennessee Valley Outreach serves as a preparation tool for people wanting to re-enter society. This is accomplished by offering a supportive environment that encourages spiritual growth, education, independence, discipline, and personal responsibility. TVO not only services homeless citizens within the city of Decatur and Morgan County but is a beacon of hope to any homeless, hungry, or hurting individual located anywhere in the Tennessee Valley Area.

TVO is a 24 hour 7 day a week facility (much like a hotel). We provide housing, food, laundry facilities, transportation, security, etc... to all our clients as needed. Any grant awards would be used for operational expenditures such as food, utilities, cleaning supplies, transportation costs, staffing, etc... as needed.

THE ENRICHMENT CENTER

The Enrichment Center partners with local school districts to provide school-based mental health counseling. The mission of our organization is to passionately walk with students through seasons of struggle and to equip students with the tools, support, and confidence to create a brighter future. Our program supports students through seasons of struggle and major life crises. Through our partnerships with local schools we are able to offer our counseling as a free service to students and their families. Additionally, we do not bill insurance. These two factors give us the opportunity to help any child at any time without the barriers to services that many families face. We believe that every child deserves a support system and a safe place to go when facing a difficult time.



St. John's Episcopal Church
202 Gordon Drive SE Decatur, Alabama 35601

256-353-9615

Monday -Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Friday: Closed
After-hours Pastoral Emergency 256-280-3792

The Rev. Chase Ackerman, <i>Rector</i> , ext. 102	chase@stjohnsdecatur.org
The Rev. Sarah Watts, <i>Associate Rector</i> , ext. 103	sarah@stjohnsdecatur.org
Vickie Reed, <i>Financial Administrator</i> , ext. 101	vickie@stjohnsdecatur.org
Ann Stewart, <i>Director of Communications</i> , ext. 105	ann@stjohnsdecatur.org
Sally Marsh, <i>Director of Children's Ministries</i> , ext. 111	sally@stjohnsdecatur.org
Sam Burcham, <i>Director of Youth Ministries</i> , ext. 110	sam@stjohnsdecatur.org
Lauren Cantrell, <i>Choirmaster</i>	
Foster Bailey, <i>Organist</i>	
David Wilcox, <i>Seminarian</i>	
Sandy Burleson, <i>Nursery</i>	
Monica Wright, <i>Nursery</i>	
Melba Middleton, <i>Food & Hospitality</i>	

The Vestry

Class of 2022: Erika Huber, Sue Powell, Carol Sandlin,
Bobby Straub (Senior Warden), and Callie Tubb

Class of 2023: Beth Gilbert, Huey Hall, Jennifer Jackson,
Julia Roth (Junior Warden), Suzanne Thompson

Class of 2024: Sandy Barr, Mike Burnthall, Steve Price,
Kristen Propst, and Karen Sawyer

Clerk: Sally Quinn

Treasurer: John Thornton

Assistant Treasurers: Stan Evans and Bobby Straub

Chancellor: Ken Schuppert