



Saint John's Parish

2015 Profile

101 South Prospect Street
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

(301)733-2560

www.stjohnshagerstown.org

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Saint John's Episcopal Church

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome at Saint John's and will find opportunities to love and serve the Lord. Our mission is "to be a vibrant and diverse community transformed by God's reconciling love." Our vision is "to welcome all persons to a safe place to experience and share the good news of Christ. We seek to serve Christ in all persons through service projects dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger and participation in education." We invite you to read this profile in the spirit in which it was written-with prayerfulness, hopefulness, and discerning hearts.

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WHO WE ARE



Saint John's is located in Hagerstown, community 70 miles from its See city capital, Washington, D.C.

Maryland, which is a diverse, stable of Baltimore, and 70 miles from the nation's

Hagerstown is located in Washington County, Maryland. Both have grown steadily over the past fifteen years. The 2014 population of the town is approximately 40,360, and the population of the county is approximately 158,450. Much of the growth can be attributed to area commuters to both Washington, DC and Baltimore. The latest statistics show that 75% of the population is Caucasian, 16% African American, and 6% Hispanic. St. John's has attracted a number of these newcomers to its parish family. Eighty-three percent of our parish families are high school graduates or higher, and 17% hold at least a bachelor's degree. Twenty-five percent of our congregation is between 30 and 50 years of age, and 50 % is older.



Saint John's draws its members from three contiguous states: Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Twenty-eight percent have been members of St. John's for over 26 years, and 24% have been members for three years or less. Over the past five years the parish has grown slowly but steadily. This growth can be largely attributed to the efforts made to make the church a place of welcome by emphasizing pastoral care, creating a welcoming environment, and hiring a youth director who expanded youth programs.

Using past information that is pertinent and applicable in our search today and our 2013 strategic plan, we conducted two exercises for the basic profile. A series of six focus groups held over the period of one month were attended by 145 adults. In addition there was a separate focus session for the youth whose ideas have been incorporated with those of the adult meetings. There were lengthy discussions centering on such topics as who we are as a faith community, what God is calling us to be, what are our strengths and challenges, what should be the priorities of our next rector, and what should our church look like in the future. An online computer survey was conducted over a three week period which investigated the demographics of the parish as well as some of the topics discussed in the focus groups. One hundred ninety-two parishioners participated in this survey.

WHOM WE SERVE

St. John's views itself as a diverse family of active, caring Christians who work hard individually and collectively to fulfill our baptismal vows. With only one ordained minister, a minister of music, a part time youth director and a parish administrator-secretary, it falls on the laity to conduct day-to-day activities of the parish under the supervision of the rector. Over the past five years the lay ministries have blossomed to include active oversight of the many parish life responsibilities including pastoral care, administrative duties, liturgical activities, and outreach programs.

The following are specific examples that help to define us. St. John's Shelter, begun in 1987, was the first shelter in the area to provide for families and is now one of the two family shelters in our community. Stephen Ministers, the first in Maryland, is a group of trained laity who provide one on one pastoral care for those in need. The Community Café, begun in 2012, feeds one hundred plus low income persons once a month. Eucharistic Lay Ministers, a dedicated cadre of parishioners, carry the sacrament to those unable to attend service each week. Martha's Table provides food for those who have short term needs. Mayfest, our annual, major outreach event, has donated over \$115,000 to our community and Haiti. Each year we participate in managing the Cold Weather Shelter with other churches which provides housing and meals for the homeless. We partner with Bester Elementary School to provide Micah's Back Packs, clothing, Thanksgiving meals, Christmas gift boxes, and readers to the neediest children in the school.

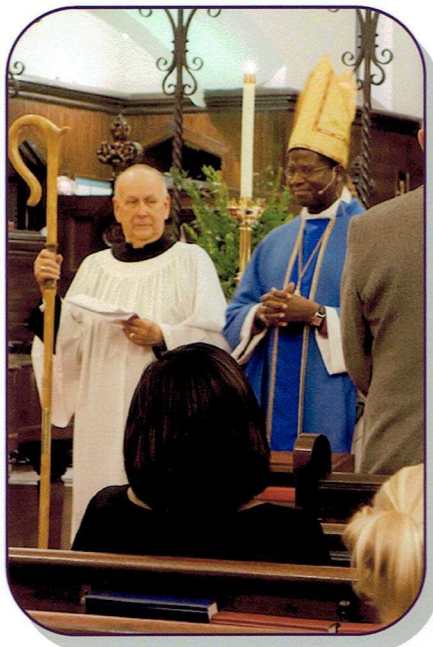


OUR WORSHIP TRADITIONS



St. John's is a prayer book based parish committed to living out our baptismal vows. Repeatedly, the Focus Groups stressed that the liturgical practices of the parish are the foundation on which our faith is based. Music is an essential part of our liturgy. Our adult choir has been invited to sing at St. John the Divine in New York City and the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The adult choir is complemented by the two youth choirs who sing once a month at the youth led 10:15 service. This service has been actively supported by our parish family. At present there are two Eucharists celebrated each Sunday. Our 8:00 am Rite I service is normally without

music, and our 10:15 am service uses one of the Rite II canons with music. On high feast days such as Christmas, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, and All Saints Day more elaborate music and incense are used. Additionally, a healing service on Thursdays at 12:10 pm often uses Eucharistic canons from other parts of the Anglican Communion. It is important to note that 72 percent of the parish feel that the liturgics of the worship service keep them at St. John's, while 54 percent feel that it is the music.



OUR CAMPUS

St. John's is an historic downtown church located two blocks from the city center. There are three structures which define our campus.



* Our church sanctuary is a gothic structure completed in 1882 with a great nave, high altar, and side chapel.

* Trimble Hall contains the parish hall, stage, kitchen, St. Mary's Chapel, four class rooms, choir room, two robing rooms and a modest library. This building, attached to the church, is handicapped accessible.

* St. John's House is the administrative building which includes the rector's office, reception area, and the youth associate's office, and meeting rooms.



- It should be noted that as per the 2013 Strategic Plan goals, St. John's House has been rewired and Trimble Hall air conditioned. Remaining to be done are the upgrading of kitchen appliances and repairs to the sanctuary stained glass windows.



OUR MINISTRIES

Our Parish Ministries are organized on a commission basis with each commission headed by a lay person reporting to the Vestry. There are currently seven commissions.

Christian Formation is the ministry of discipleship, both spiritual and intellectual. Education is the path that helps us become the people God created us to be. It provides for following Christ in word and deed in our lives.

Fabric and Grounds is the ministry of caring for and maintaining our sacred spaces. This is our tangible legacy to future generations.

Christian Stewardship is the ministry of being good stewards of our time, talent, and treasure. It builds community giving financial support to our daily operations, programs, and activities.

Spiritual Life is the ministry of serving for worship. It provides opportunities for deepening our spiritual journey, reflecting on God's word, and living out our baptismal vows.

Growth and Hospitality is the ministry of welcoming the stranger. It incorporates newcomers into our parish family by proclaiming the good news of Christ.

Parish Life is the ministry of food, fellowship, and hospitality. It provides opportunities for the congregation to join together as a family.

Service and Outreach is the ministry of spreading the word through gift giving and deeds- evangelism. It is meeting the needs of others within and beyond our community by offering prayer, financial support, and action.

Note: See the appendices for a complete listing of our ministries.



OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE

The strengths of St. John's are many:



a solid traditional Episcopal worship service at which music is essential

a welcoming nature of the parish

a commitment to lay leadership

an inclusion of parish youth in all aspects of our parish life

We are, also, faced with challenges:

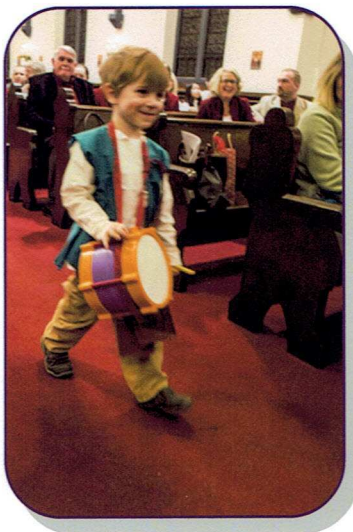
continuing to grow the financial health of the parish

continuing to welcome and integrate all newcomers into our parish family

continuing to promote the youth programs

continuing to strengthen the commission system

Recently, the retirement of our rector has provided a time of transition and reflection in discerning our strengths, our challenges, and our future. In searching for the next rector we are open to the workings of the Holy Spirit. We are prayerfully seeking a rector who is committed to



deepening and enriching our pastoral and spiritual life

developing a relationship with our youth with humor and empathy

integrating good theology into our daily lives and worldly issues through preaching and teaching

inspiring parishioners to embrace their Christian commitments with enthusiasm

We look forward to building on the progress we have made in fulfilling God's plan for us. We sincerely pray that St. John's will aspire to be a place full of love, music, and spiritual nourishment.

APPENDICES



PARISH HISTORY

St. John's Parish was originally a part of All Saints' Parish in Frederick, Maryland, both being at that time on the western frontier of this country. In 1774 a priest rode west over the mountains from Frederick to bring the sacraments to those living in what is now the City of Hagerstown. It was not until 1806 that St. John's became a self-supporting parish in the Diocese of Maryland. By 1821 the parish had outgrown its first church building.

The second church building was destroyed by fire in 1871. By 1882 the present building in which we worship today was completed on Prospect Street. Many of the most prosperous industrialists of the town were parishioners. In 1898 Mollie Rosenberg, the widow of the founder of the Santa Fe Railroad, purchased a magnificent altar and reredos at the Columbian Exposition and donated them to St. John's in memory of her parents who had been parishioners here. The church stone tower, one of only a few in the United States, was donated by Christopher Baldwin of the Baldwin Piano Company in memory of his wife, Sally Baldwin. The pipe organ came from the Moller Organ Company of Hagerstown, Maryland, a world renowned company.

In the 1950's the vestry voted to allow women to serve as members of the governing body. A parish sponsored thrift shop was established to provide additional financial support as well as outreach projects. After a fire in 1954 the parish hall building was constructed. The music program was a large part of both worship and outreach during this time, and continues to be so today.

In the 1960's support was developed within the congregation for the civil rights movement in Hagerstown. Chaperoned Teen Hops (dances) were held every week with an average attendance of approximately 150 teens.

In the 1970's house masses as well as folk masses were held. Bishop Cox at this time described St. John's as a "healthy whole family of God and one of the most significant islands of faith in the whole diocese."

In the 1980's St. John's continued to emphasize outreach. Lay leaders began St. John's Shelter, a building with five apartments to help transition homeless families to permanent housing. This ministry continues today. Also, a van was purchased to provide transportation for parishioners who could no longer drive.

In the 1990's the parish began a music series as a part of its outreach ministry. The Alternatives to Violence program was established to reach out to inmates in local prisons. The Stephen Ministry and Education for Ministry were introduced to strengthen our pastoral care and religious education.

In the 2000's St. John's established an annual Mayfest celebration which raises outreach funds for various charities within and beyond our region. Also, we established the Community Café which provides a free lunch once a month for those less fortunate. In this decade our parish family has strongly committed to expanding outreach.



OUR MINISTRIES AND ACTIVITIES

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION

Adult Forum
Biblical Story Tellers
Confirmation/Reception Classes
Daughters of the King (DOK)
Junior Daughters of the King (JDOK)
Education for Ministry (EFM)
Monday Adult Education Program
Vacation Bible School
Sunday School
Youth led Sundays
Youth Activities
Children's Chapel
Nursery



FABRIC AND GROUNDS COMMISSION

Cemetery maintenance
Alarm responders
Church and grounds maintenance
Church openers and closers
Van maintenance



CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMISSION

Stewardship Campaign
1806 Legacy Society
Money counters
Long term financial planning
Endowment funds



SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION

Acolytes
Altar Guild
Chalicists
Flowers
Intercessors
Ushers
Parish Health Ministries
Choirs
Martha's Table
Stephen Ministers
Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM)
Reunion Luncheon for bereaved parishioners



GROWTH AND HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

Greeters
Integration of newcomers into parish life
Welcoming luncheons
Newcomer visitations



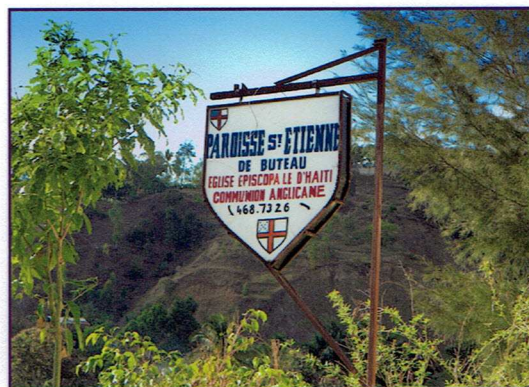
PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

Church Picnic
Fellowship Hour
Receptions
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
St. John's Day
St. Nicholas Fair
E-Tidings/ Soundings/ Web Site/ Facebook

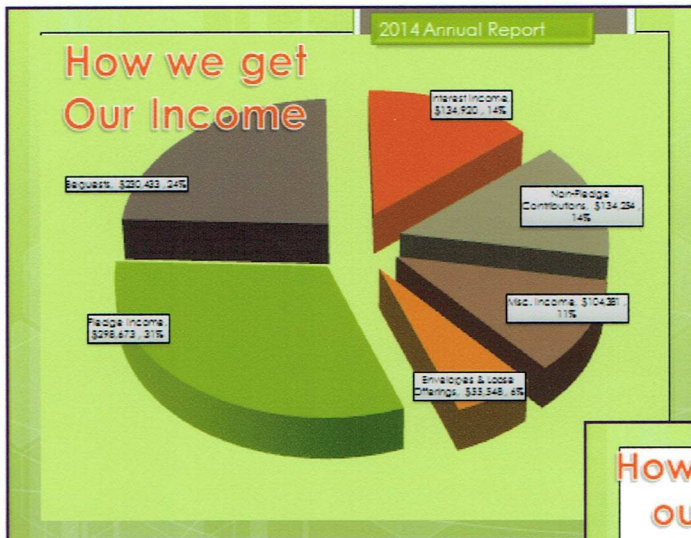


SERVICE AND OUTREACH COMMISSION

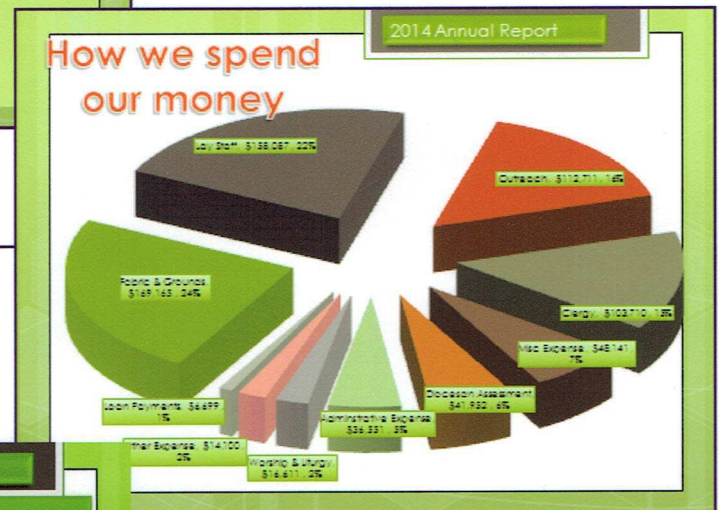
Alcoholics Anonymous
Alternative to Violence Program
Haiti Mission
Historic Properties Neighborhood
Martin's & Weis gift cards
Hospice
Mayfest
Shawl Ministry
St. John's Shelter
Community Café
Crop Walk
Food Collection for outreach agencies
Habitat for Humanity
Holiday Tour of Churches



Saint John's Episcopal Church Financial Studies



How We Get Our Income



How We Spend Our Money



Net Assets

ATTENDANCE/FINANCES

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Avg Sun Attendance 10:15	133	140	126	128	141
Avg Sun Attendance 8:00	33	44	41	42	50
Avg Thurs Attendance	6	6	6	6	6
Total Easter Attendance	463 *	410	376	350	353
Total Christmas Attendance	413	359	320	373	423
Baptisms	3	7	9	5	11
Confirmations/Receptions	4	9	12	8	13
Weddings	1	1	4	3	1
Funerals	5	17	14	14	8

* Includes Regional Easter Vigils

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
No of Pledges	138	138	138	140	138
Average Pledge	\$2,026	\$2,088	\$2,105	\$2,157	\$2,218
Pledge Income	\$305,337	\$329,759	\$326,043	\$345,620	\$425,074
Other Income	\$27,801	\$49,855	\$75,495	\$29,643	\$45,760
Total Income	\$333,138	\$379,614	\$401,538	\$375,263	\$470,834
Operating Expenses	\$360,412	\$392,103	\$433,327	\$385,936	\$493,234
Endowment	\$1,449,112	\$1,379,162	\$1,500,703	\$1,618,718	\$1,891,112
Increase/(Decrease) Assets	\$250,975	(\$63,950)	\$121,541	\$118,015	\$272,394
Diocesan Assessment	\$44,225	\$39,036	\$41,389	\$47,759	\$41,592



HAGERSTOWN/WASHINGTON COUNTY

Population		
Year	County	Hagerstown
1980	113,086	34,132
1990	121,393	35,445
2000	131,923	36,687
2010	147,430	39,662
2014	158,450	40,395



Hagerstown/Washington County is a perfect blend of city and country life-alive with personal, cultural, and intellectual opportunities. Housing options are affordable, crime rates are low, and our educational system is first class. A revitalized Arts and Entertainment District in downtown Hagerstown complements shopping, historical sites, museums, and a high school for the arts. The historic Maryland Theater hosts a superb symphony as well as theatrical events during the year, and the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, which is one of the only three accredited museums in the state, has an excellent art collection.

There are more than 30 institutions of higher education within a 70 mile radius of Hagerstown. Our public schools are ranked among the top in the state, and there are 37 private schools in the county including St. James which is the oldest Episcopal boarding school in the country.

Hagerstown Community College is the fastest growing community college in Maryland with nearly 13,000 credit and non-credit students enrolled. HCC offers more than 100 degree and certificate programs for university transfer for career preparation. The University System of Maryland in Hagerstown offers more than 20 graduate and degree and certificate programs which include Business, Education, Engineering, Nursing, and Social Work.

Meritus Health Care Hospital is the largest healthcare provider in western Maryland. As the largest employer in Washington County, it has a deep understanding of the needs of the community. Services at the hospital include a special care nursery, a level III trauma program, a primary stroke center, a wound center, a center for bariatric surgery, as well as a cardiac diagnostic laboratory, and the John Marsh Cancer Center.

