



**SAINT  
JOHN'S  
CHURCH**

LAFAYETTE SQUARE  
WASHINGTON, DC

# ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2023

Rector's Report

Senior Warden's Report

Reports of  
Parish Organizations

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

**FEBRUARY 2024**



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

# RECTOR'S REPORT

## St. John's Annual Report, February 2024

Dear Members of St. John's,

Bishop Mariann has been speaking lately about courageous discipleship. Some may ask, what exactly does courageous discipleship mean? The word courageous is more than merely being brave. *Cor* is the Latin word for heart, and so to be courageous is rooted in the heart and requires our whole selves. And discipleship is about the way we follow. During the time of Jesus, a disciple was described as someone covered in the dust of their rabbi. I pray that we are following Jesus with all of our hearts in this way here at St. John's.

I am astounded at the many accomplishments we have achieved over the last 12 months. You can read about all of them in the pages ahead. The Senior Warden's report in particular has a remarkable list of ways that we have stepped forward and made St. John's a stronger, sounder, and more efficient institution to sustainably support the joyful nature and the deep sense of service that is the mark of this congregation.

During the past 12 months we have also seen new ministries sprouting up, and former ministries being revived. We have a brand-new chorister program for children and youth whose voices add to our already outstanding music program. We have started an LGBTQ+ Fellowship. We initiated a new course called *Being With*. And we have brought back the Lafayette Fellowship, which is for those who are a little bit older than the young adult members of the Latrobe Fellowship.

One of the most exciting and unexpected developments last year was receiving the remarkable estate gift from Dorothy Mahana Macauley, a longtime parishioner who died in the mid 1990s. Unbeknownst to us, she put St. John's in her will, stipulating that a gift would come to us after the passing of her final heirs. When her trust officer informed us of the gift in the fall it was valued at \$6.1 million, and thanks to favorable market conditions it is now worth \$6.55 million. Her generosity for her beloved church, and her forethought, are going to enable us to do much good over many years to come. Half of her gift will be dedicated to outreach, as we believe she would have wanted, and we are currently delving into a process of discerning how to best use this opportunity in ways that will both help St. John's and that will also make a difference beyond ourselves serving the community at large.

This past year saw the departure of Kim Carlson, who was hired during Interim Rector Bruce McPherson's time, and who, as a trained accountant, helped the church improve many of our accounting practices. We are now taking a new approach by bringing on Cordia Partners (who operate within the larger firm Cherry Bekaert) who are offsite accountants, and who have been working with our treasurer and operations staff to bring us to the next level of excellent accounting and bookkeeping practices, which will save us both money and time in the years ahead.

I am very happy that, after a brief time away, Preston Cherouny has returned to the staff in a new role as Chief Operating Officer. Preston knows St. John's well, and he is ready to step up in this new way during a crucial and exciting time in the life of our church. I am also grateful for Charley Griffin's service as Interim Parish Administrator in recent months. She helped us keep our momentum during a time of transition, and she will now return to her role as our Operations Manager.

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I am grateful to Shawn, Sarah, and Will, who make a fine clergy staff and who ably give spiritual guidance and leadership offering a diverse set of gifts and perspectives. It is a joy to work with them all. Thanks to Shawn's work with the youth, and Sarah's work with children, we are seeing palpable growth with our family ministries.

I am also grateful to our other hardworking staff and the many volunteers who give all of their heart and who share their gifts generously to make St. John's the vibrant place that it is.

Our Wardens, Clark Ervin and Nora Rigby, are remarkable individuals. It has been a privilege and a joy to work closely with both of them these past two years as they served in their respective roles. Happily, Nora will become our new Senior Warden, and Alfred Thesmar will become Junior Warden. Clark is cycling off after an astounding tenure, and I look forward to continuing to work with him on special projects in addition to having him stay on with the Speaker Series, which he leads so ably.

Above all, I feel that the spirit is very alive here right now. This really is the most important thing of all, and it empowers us as a church as we continue to move faithfully forward, being a place of grace during a time in our city and nation that needs it. This is our way of being courageous disciples of Jesus, following him in his way of love.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Rob Fisher

# SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Dear Parishioners:

It seems that 2023 flew by in a flash like a comet. It was an incredibly busy and productive year, highlights of which include:

**The Creation of the St. John's Historic Preservation Foundation.** With particular thanks to our Parish Counsel, Harker Rhodes, we created a historic preservation foundation. It provides a vehicle for donations that will be used solely to maintain our historic buildings. It is intended to encourage donations from institutions and individuals who do not donate to religious organizations but who will donate to entities benefitting religious organizations, if the purpose is a non-religious one such as historic preservation.

**Major Progress on the Bell Tower Restoration Projection.** With particular thanks to Rob, Julia Koster, David Gallalee, and others, we expect to begin work in the next few months on the restoration of our historic bell tower, which houses a priceless Revere bell. Over the past year, we passed the historic review process, received the necessary construction permits from the city, solicited bids from contractors, and signed the winning contractor bid documents. We have not yet begun the public fundraising campaign, but nearly half of the projected cost of the project has already been raised during the "quiet phase." Among the notable donations received so far are ones from the Paul Revere House in Boston and President George W. Bush and Mrs. Laura Bush. Needless to say, this progress augurs well for the public campaign, which will kick off early this year.

**Efforts to Earn Revenue from Outside Events in the Parlor.** We have developed a plan to earn revenue from renting out the Togo West Parlor for appropriate events. Parishioner and event planner Christi Rich organized a delightful "preview" luncheon for some of the DMV's most noted event planners and has helped us put together a price list and a portfolio of lovely photos.

**Creating a New Website.** We have updated our website and made it much easier to navigate and much more appealing. We expect the website to be instrumental in connecting existing parishioners to each other and attracting new ones.

**Progress on our Strategic Objectives.** We continue to make progress toward achieving the strategic goals set by the Vestry in 2022:

- (1) Sustaining St. John's as a "place of grace" in the DC community and beyond for centuries to come (for example, through the creation of the historic preservation foundation);
- (2) Attracting additional families to St. John's by making it more welcoming and vibrant for children, teenagers, and families (huge kudos to Shawn Evelyn and Sarah Akes-Cardwell for their great work in this regard, which is plain for all to see and hear each Sunday);
- (3) Devote more of St. John's time and talent to outreach so we can expand our role as a spiritual and material resource to those in need in Washington and beyond (special thanks to the Outreach Committee, so well led by Jess Sanchez; the Refugee Committee, so well led by Lacy Broemel; and others for ensuring that we do just that. The latest examples are the cleanup of the Anacostia River organized by the Outreach Committee and the Care of Creation Committee, and a Speaker Series talk, organized by Livy More and Ann Gardner, by representatives of Communities in Schools); and

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- (4) Highlight and increase the diversity of St. John's (in recognition of both our diversity and the legacy of slavery, and to do our part to "repair the breach," Rob has convened a group of parishioners who will make recommendations on financial contributions and investments the parish can make to benefit the Black community).

**Making the Most of a Major New Bequest.** With deep gratitude to the late Dorothy Macauley, we are working hard to discern how best to invest and deploy the major gift her estate left to St. John's, the value of which as of this writing is roughly \$6.5 million. Invested and deployed wisely, it can benefit our parish and those we support for centuries to come.

**Adoption of Amended Bylaws.** At last year's Annual Meeting, the parish approved the amendments to the bylaws that we proposed at that meeting. As noted at the time, a revision was long overdue. In addition to amendments designed to keep up with the changing times, there were also ones designed to ensure that we follow diocesan guidelines and best practices for churches and other non-profits.

**The Transition of Investment Advisers.** After a rigorous RFP process, we selected a new firm, Goldman Sachs, to manage the church's endowment. Over the course of the initial months of the relationship, we have been impressed by Goldman's acumen, resourcefulness, and responsiveness.

**The Transition of our Banking Relationship.** For quite some time, we have been seeking a commercial bank that provides better, personalized service and lower fees, and have now found one that perfectly fits the bill, United Bank. The transition is nearly complete.

**Transitioning to a New Auditor.** The Audit Committee is putting the final touches on an RFP to select a new audit firm, with plans thereafter to catch up quickly on past-due audits and ensure that there are annual audits going forward.

**Outsourcing Accounting and Bookkeeping.** After another rigorous RFP process, we outsourced the accounting and bookkeeping work that has consumed huge amounts of staff time over the years to a well-regarded local firm, Cordia Partners, now owned by Cherry Bekaert. Doing so has dramatically increased the efficiency of our financial systems and is already enabling St. John's staffers, even before the completion of the onboarding process, to spend their time on higher-order tasks. We anticipate that, in time, there will also be modest cost savings.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Senior Warden for the last two years. I leave you in the extremely capable hands of Nora Rigby and Alfred Thesmar. I will be ever thankful for the time that I have spent with Rob, Nora, and the entire Vestry helping to guide our beloved and thriving parish.

♦ Clark Ervin, *Senior Warden*



# REPORTS OF PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

## Adult Inquirers' Classes

The Rector's 2023 Spring Adult Inquirers' Class was held on March 18 and 25 and the Fall Adult Inquirers' Class on October 14 and 28. In total, 17 adults, many newcomers to St. John's, attended this lively two-day experience that explores our faith, the history and tradition of the Episcopal Church, and the spiritual life of the Episcopal Church as practiced through St. John's.

The class is open to anyone seeking a faith practice or to deepen their own. This includes newcomers to St. John's; adults seeking baptism, confirmation, or reception into the Episcopal Church; and anyone, newcomer or longtime member, interested in learning more about St. John's and the Episcopal Church.

Eight members of the spring class participated in the Service of Confirmation and Reception at Washington National Cathedral on May 20, as well as seven members of the fall class on November 4.

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

## Bell Tower Committee

St. John's, Lafayette Square, is embarking on a long-deferred maintenance project to address the deteriorating condition of the bell tower. Over the past year the project has advanced significantly, and we are poised to start the construction process and launch into public fundraising, thanks to the efforts of the Building and Fundraising Committees and the support of the congregation.

The bell tower will require substantial rehabilitation. The existing wood trim, roofing, and louvers of the bell tower show significant signs of progressive failure, as evidenced by peeling paint, rotting or missing wood trim and flat work, patched roofing elements, and general failure of the building envelope to keep water out of the structure as a whole. The bell tower project includes repair of the stucco on the bell tower's base and replacement of deteriorated copper roof elements, including the dome. If funds allow, the existing slate roof, flashing, copper gutters and downspouts will also be replaced.

Over the past year, the Building Committee worked with architect Bill Gridley and his team at DLR and brought on Owner's Representative Sean Regan to accomplish several key steps. First, a project scope of work was developed to achieve our dual interests in restoring the tower to meet rigorous historic preservation standards and bring back this beautiful structure, while ensuring that the materials and approach result in a durable, more easily maintained structure that looks to the needs of future congregations. Drawings and a work scope were approved by federal and District agencies responsible for historic preservation reviews to meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards. After considerable research of available replacement materials for historical details, the deteriorated exterior wood elements will be replaced with a milled material known as "poly-ash" to create dimensionally stable moldings and flat work, impervious to water and insects, easily milled to match exact historic profiles, and with a life expectancy far exceeding those of typical available wood products. This material has been approved by the oversight agencies and used for historical restoration efforts in the District and numerous projects in other parts of the country.

Following these approvals, we obtained bids and secured the services of Worcester Eisenbrandt (WEI) and JR Walls as contractors for the bell tower and roofing projects, respectively. WEI has extensive experience in historic preservation projects, including religious facilities. With building permits secured, we are scheduled to start construction at the end of winter.

Concurrently, the Bell Tower Fundraising Committee has worked diligently to secure funding from a variety of sources. Committee members have significant personal expertise in fundraising, historic preservation, and public outreach. Based on this in-house expertise and early conversations with potential donors, St. John's focused on the "quiet" phase of fundraising until the full scope of work was determined, necessary historic preservation reviews were complete, and bids secured to establish fundraising goals. It is important to have a clear, compelling message to explain the condition of the tower and project costs. We are raising funds for the bell tower (estimated at \$1.4 million) and to re-roof the church (estimated at \$361,000), another critical need that requires close coordination with the bell tower work. As of December 2023, substantial gifts and pledges from inside and outside the congregation have already raised over \$560,000, in addition to a \$100,000 grant from the Partners for Sacred Spaces. An important strategy is to initiate the public fundraising campaign with at least half of the money raised.

Our strategy recognizes that substantial donations will be necessary to meet fundraising goals. It is equally important to demonstrate the participation and interest of St. John's congregation, and to show that there is great community-wide interest for this project. In the coming year, we will roll out a public-facing strategy that will include a congregational campaign, external donors' campaign, and support from other philanthropic sources.

St. John's is tracking gifts in hand and pledges made, while at the same time tracking project expenses. The Vestry has approved a bridge loan from available assets to cover near-term construction costs while fundraising continues. The Vestry will be provided with monthly reports of expenses and fundraising for the bell tower.

The bell tower of St. John's has stood above Lafayette Square and the White House for more than two centuries. Its Revere bell has tolled in times of national celebration as well as mourning. This beautiful structure is beloved by our congregation and has great significance for our local community and the nation. Through these efforts, we are proud to be stewards of this landmark entrusted to our care and to enable future generations to maintain it effectively. We are pleased to share our progress and to have you be part of this exciting project.

♦ Julia Koster, *Coordinator*

♦ BUILDING COMMITTEE: Chase Rynd, *Chair*; Rick Busch, Lauren Edwards, Cliff Elmore, Fruzsina Harsanyi, Michelle Mangrum, and Sharon Park, *Members*

♦ FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE: David Gallalee, *Chair*; Chandler Battaile, Stephen Crochet, Wendy J. Fibison, Richard Grimmett, John Herzog, Carter Keithley, Robert Mosbacher, and Gail West, *Members*

# Book Group

The St. John's Book Group convenes on the first Thursday of the month to share in fellowship, discussing ideas and perspectives about inspirational and thoughtful works of fiction and nonfiction. During 2023, the group met 11 times virtually and in person, with approximately 15 regular participants. There are 45 individuals on the mailing list.

In the spring and fall of 2023, we voted democratically on proposed books for our reading list for the next six months. We continued to read books on a wide range of cultural, historic, and spiritual topics, both nonfiction and fiction.

We also continued the tradition of sponsoring a diaper drive from March 5 to April 2 to help alleviate family needs, as inspired by the book *Broke in America*, which the group read several years ago. Through the generosity of parishioners, we raised more than \$6,400 in financial contributions, and we collected almost 1,900 diapers for newborns to toddlers, 2,304 baby wipes, and 945 period products.

As well, the group hosted several parish lunches and contributed guest speaker suggestions to the Speaker Series organizers based on books that we have read.

♦ Janet Edmond, *Chair*

# Care of Creation Ministry

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

Thirty-two parishioners participate in the listserv for this parish interest group, while a core of 10 to 12 participate actively in our online meetings; two of us also serve on the Diocesan Creation Care Committee. In 2023 we hosted our second spring hike with shared eucharist at the National Arboretum, as well as a sustainable parish luncheon highlighting a delicious all-organic vegetarian menu.

The group has sponsored occasional Speaker Series, and we keep one another informed about community efforts parishioners may support. An excellent vehicle for staying informed is the monthly Episcopal Diocese of Washington Environmental Newsletter distributed by St. Columba's parishioner Reid Detchon. Are you familiar with your local Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions ([faithforclimate.org](http://faithforclimate.org))?

The diocese is supporting the Anglican Communion Forest initiative ([www.communionforest.org](http://www.communionforest.org)). St. John's co-sponsored a successful convention resolution at the 2023 Diocesan Annual Convention encouraging parishes to plant a tree to celebrate special religious occasions such as baptisms, confirmations, and marriages. We urge parishioners to consider observing such special occasions with native tree plantings if they have landscapes that can support canopy.

In the fall, in conjunction with the Outreach Committee, we formed a partnership with the Anacostia Riverkeepers group; watch for the opportunity to participate in a spring 2024 cleanup and educational boat tour of the Anacostia with that organization, as well as other efforts to give our attention to pressing water quality questions. A tour of DC's Blue Plains, the largest advanced wastewater treatment plant of its type in the world, is also planned.

♦ Joanne Hutton, *Chair*

# Christian Education

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES (Pre-K through Grade 5)

We have continued to offer meaningful **Sunday morning faith formation** for young children in the 10 a.m. formation hour. Pre-K and 1st graders continue to use the Godly Play curriculum. Those in 2nd through 5th grades use the Spark Lectionary curriculum. We expanded our teacher rota and welcomed two new teachers in the fall of 2023, bringing the total to five teachers. Between the two classes, we have an average of seven children on Sundays, and we offer thanks to the help of our dedicated team of volunteer teachers and doorkeepers.

**Ministry Visits** are held semi-regularly and give children the opportunity to learn about various parts of our parish community and ways to be involved. Visits from the Flower Guild, Care of Creation Committee, Kwasa College, and the Refugee Committee were all held in 2023.

**Children's Chapel** is now being offered year-round (during the 11 a.m. service in the program year, and during the 10:30 a.m. service in the summer). It was particularly encouraging that we had children participate every Sunday, and several weeks had more than 10 children present. In the fall of 2023, Dr. Lyn Loewi started leading children and parents in song to open our time together, which has been a welcome addition to Children's Chapel. We have an average of eight children each week.

## FAMILY MINISTRIES

In addition to our annual Advent wreath-making activity and Christmas pageant, we presented numerous opportunities for families with young children. In particular, the return of Parents' Night Out and the start of quarterly Family Meet-Ups have been welcome additions to our community offerings for families with young children. Our year in Family Ministries included the following events:

- March: Holy Week Preview for families
- May: Baptism reunion lunch for families with children baptized in the past year
- Pentecost Sunday: Celebratory reception complete with kid-friendly activities, for a festive end to the program year
- June: Family Meet-Up at Hains Point
- August: All-ages interactive prayer stations
- September: Parents' Night Out (resumed after multi-year hiatus)
- October: Fall Family Meet-Up at the church
- November: Communion class for families
- December: Advent party with kid-friendly activities; family-friendly service activity

These offerings would not be possible without dedicated lay volunteers, the support of St. John's staff, and the commitment of families with young children to deepen the faith lives of their children and our youngest parishioners. We are especially grateful for Katherine Raab (Director) and Susan Cardwell (Costume Coordinator) for their leadership of the Christmas pageant. Many thanks to the parents who made it possible for their children and youth to participate in the pageant and our other family offerings.

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

## YOUTH MINISTRIES

The goal of the youth program at St. John's is to equip our young members in grades 6 through 12 to develop a deeper relationship with God and their church community. We began the new program year with much excitement. We have since welcomed two more youths into our community, and we have two other youths who have started to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation that will take place at St. John's later this year.

Since beginning our youth program not long ago, we set out to cultivate the faith and formation of our youth while also having fun. Last year, we included rich and meaningful conversations regarding the liturgical calendar, faith, scripture, and how they relate to our context. We have had a youth lock-in where our youth spent the night in the parish house, hosted a Parish lunch, and welcomed youth from Kwasa College from our companion relationship with the diocese of Highveld, South Africa.

Our weekly rhythm of life strengthens our bonds as we ground ourselves in God's presence and how we check in on one another. We have also had more opportunities in the last year to interact with our younger members of the Church School, from creating cards to decorating cookies to hosting lunch. Since establishing our youth group, every member has continued to serve in at least one parish-wide Sunday morning ministry.

We look forward to a new year in which the youth group continues flourishing.

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

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study meets on most Sunday mornings at 10 a.m., using a hybrid approach with both in-person and Zoom participants. This adult formation offering seeks to increase affinity groups within the congregation and to meet the interest in Bible study options. Retired minister and St. John's parishioner Jack Reiffer leads the class. Twenty-four members of the group receive the weekly study materials. Several can no longer attend regularly on Sundays but have asked to receive the materials and reports of class discussions. Average Sunday attendance is eight. In 2023 the group discussed the structure, audience, and themes of the Gospel of Matthew, focusing especially on the Five Major Discourses in this gospel and what they teach regarding our life in the church. In December the class began Liturgical Year B with its focus on the Gospels of Mark and John. On most Sundays our discussion includes the assigned gospel lesson for that day, so our class conversation also includes a discussion of at least part of the sermon.

♦ Jack Reiffer, *Coordinator*

## BEING WITH

This year marked St. John's pilot of a curriculum called *Being With*. Created by the Rev. Dr. Sam Wells of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, *Being With* is a ten-week course that serves as a way to develop one's faith, offering a deep dive into Christianity. The course features small groups led by a host and storyteller. Each group explores various themes through the eyes of relationships, including God being with us. Through introspective conversation and the sharing of stories and scripture, the end result is a more meaningful sense of faith and spirituality.

We started with two lay-led groups in the fall of 2023, including some leaders who are graduates of Education for Ministry (EfM). With the help of an in-person visit from James Fawcett, head of the *Being With* course, we ventured on. The Episcopal Diocese of Washington looks to discipleship as its focus for this year, and the work we have engaged in *Being With* has caught their attention. St. John's was part of a special panel, Courageous Discipleship, earlier this year speaking about the course, and James Fawcett will be present at this year's diocesan convention as an event facilitator and guest preacher.

With what we have learned, the communities that were developed, the faith that is strengthened, and the support of our diocese, we look forward to more groups and continuing *Being With*.

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

## Education for Ministry

This was a landmark year for Education for Ministry (EfM), a unique four-year, small-group formation program, based on study and practice in theological reflection, that "lives" at Sewanee: The University of the South. Longtime executive director Karen Meredith retired and EfM staff and participants welcomed the Rev. Kevin M. Goodman to the executive director role. Goodman has convened EfM staff and mentors to embark on an extensive evaluation of a number of program areas, including financial processes, staff responsibilities, curriculum review, training structure and design, and more. The goal is to position EfM to attract and meet the needs of busy, tech-savvy Christians who yearn to be part of the program yet may not be able to commit to EfM's current once-a-week-for-four-years structure.

Here in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, EfM groups meet both in person and online. The majority of in-person groups meet at an Episcopal church and are often comprised of participants from a particular parish. The many online groups are comprised of participants from throughout the diocese and sometimes beyond it. Four St. John's parishioners (Fruzsina Harsanyi, John Lucio, Sara McGanity, and Jeremy Skog) are currently enrolled the EfM group led by mentor Carolyn Crouch. Meetings are held virtually on Monday evenings.

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

♦ Carolyn Crouch, *Leader*

# Flower Guild

Using beautiful blossoms as their artistic medium, St John's Flower Guild members work joyfully to create floral arrangements that enhance the beauty of our historic church and enrich the worship experience of all parishioners.

The guild provides floral arrangements for Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and memorial services. Flower Guild duties include planning and ordering the flowers for each service, as well as creating the arrangements that will be placed throughout the church.

In 2023, in addition to the Sunday morning flowers, members arranged flowers for eight weddings and three memorial and funeral services. Guild members make every effort to honor parishioners' and loved ones' requests regarding flower choices and colors on these important occasions.

Christmas and Easter, the Church's most celebrated holy days, call for an overabundance of fellowship and flowers, as guild members gather cheerfully to prepare the church to celebrate the birth and resurrection of our Lord.

Every week parishioners have the opportunity to honor loved ones by making a donation to the Flower Fund. Contributors may sponsor all or part of the church's floral arrangements for a given Sunday. The names of designated loved ones appear in the church bulletin along with a dedication, which can be in memory of, in celebration of, or in thanksgiving for a person or event.

The Flower Guild gladly welcomes new members. The only membership requirements are a desire to learn more about flower arranging and sincere wish to participate in this ministry at St. John's. Prior experience is not necessary; newcomers are paired with a veteran guild member during Saturday morning arranging sessions. These mentors graciously share their knowledge of floral arranging techniques and artistry.

The guild operates under the skilled leadership of Katherine Kyle, who directs and oversees all activities. During her tenure, Katherine set up the online sign-up calendar that is in current use. She monitors the site to make sure all Sundays are covered, and she is the direct contact between the church office and members regarding all floral arranging needs. Co-chair Pat Dalby provides steadfast assistance and unfailing backup.

Anne Harrington continues to provide invaluable service both to the guild and to couples who marry at St. John's by serving as our wedding coordinator, a position she has held for many years.

Thanks are due to the following people for their service on the St. John's Flower Guild in 2023: Sarah Agnew, Paul Barkett, Barbara Bulla Brown, Pat Dalby, Nicole Feaster, Susan Feaster, Jamie Finch, Anne Harrington, Susan Heil, Amanda Claire Hoover, Joanne Hutton, Lara Kanitra, Nicole Kleman, Julia Koster, Katherine Kyle, Elizabeth Lewis, Sherill Mason, Anna Leithauser McIntosh, Allie Raether, Zach Schutz, Adelle Simmons, Becca Brown Todd, Susan Valaskovic, and Pamela Venzke.

Finally, flowers at St. John's would not be possible without the assistance of our dedicated sextons. A big thank you to Victor Obregon, Glynnis "GeeGee" Bryant, and David Gamboa for their loving behind-the-scenes help at St. John's.

- ◆ Katherine Kyle, *Chair*
- ◆ Pat Dalby, *Co-Chair*

# Greeters Guild

The role of the greeter is to make everyone who comes to our worship services feel welcomed. Greeters stand outside the church offering St. John's literature, answering questions, and giving directions. We say hello to everyone who comes in, and we introduce ourselves to the people we do not know. We invite visitors to tell us about themselves—for example, where they are from and how they found St. John's. We answer any questions they have about our church and its history.

We want people to know St. John's as a welcoming community for all, and this ministry provides visitors and potential new members a first glance at St. John's. It is a genuinely fun ministry that gives those of us who are greeters the opportunity to get to know more people. We currently have 23 greeters and try to schedule two at each 9 and 11 a.m. service. We would love to have more volunteers and more ideas for warmly welcoming all; please contact us if you are interested.

♦ Peter and Eleanor Odom, *Head Greeters*

# Investment Committee

The Investment Committee's charge is to help the Vestry in carrying out its duty to provide oversight and management of the church's endowment. The members of the committee in 2023, in alphabetical order, were: Virginia Bader (transitioning out as Chair), Justin Dean, Clark Ervin, the Rev. Rob Fisher, Lisa Kirchenbauer (transitioning in as Chair), Sara McGanity, Richard Metzger, and Nora Rigby.

Brown Advisory was retained by the church in 2011 to manage the day-to-day investment portfolio. The Investment Committee relies on the expertise and guidance of Brown Advisory to increase the value of the church's portfolio over time through capital appreciation and dividend and interest payments. The church's endowment is a crucial asset as it provides an annual income stream to support the church's operating expenses, at a historical cash equivalent of approximately 5% of the endowment's total value. During 2023, St. John's, and specifically the Investment Committee, undertook a search for a potential new investment advisor (details are listed below). **By the end of 2023, Goldman Sachs had become St. John's investment advisor.** As a result, there was a transitional period when management was passed from Brown to Goldman.

**With respect to the draw-down of assets for operational purposes, in 2023, the church drew 5% (or \$866,787.50) from its main endowment and Quinby endowment to fund operational costs.**

## Important Changes in 2023

As mentioned above, St. John's decided to undertake a reassessment of its investment manager, Brown, in 2022. After submitting a Request for Proposal (RFP) and receiving a numbers of bids for management, the Investment Committee went through a rigorous interview and discernment process, ultimately recommending to the Vestry that St. John's select the local office of Goldman Sachs as our next investment advisor. That recommendation was accepted and the transition was begun in this past summer. One of the deciding points was Goldman's deep knowledge and expertise in ESG (Environmental, Social Responsibility, and Corporate Governance) investing, as the Investment Committee continues to realign the endowment assets with these principles.



In a continuation of the discussions begun in 2021, the Investment Committee recommended to the Vestry that St. John's generally and pragmatically adopt the ESG guidelines developed by the Episcopal Church. The Vestry approved that recommendation. As the transition to Goldman Sachs began, a preliminary Investment Policy Statement (IPS) was being developed. The committee plans to finalize the IPS in 2024 as it assesses the Macauley gift (see below) and other considerations. Goldman Sachs has indicated that they do not see any real constraints on their ability to manage the endowment funds going forward.

Fortuitously, St. John's received a large remainder interest from a planned gift from the estate of **Dorothy M. Macauley, of approximately \$6 million in September of 2023**. A special committee, under the oversight of the Vestry, will be discerning the ultimate use of this gift in the years to come. In 2024, the income from the assets are not expected to be utilized for operations.

## **Investment Committee Meetings**

The Investment Committee met with Brown Advisory early in 2023, and in the latter part of the year with Goldman Sachs, to review the church's endowment performance and discuss global and domestic economic trends that could affect it. There were additional meetings to address transition issues and continue the work in creating an IPS

## **Market Conditions and Portfolio Performance**

This was a better year than 2022 in terms of stock market performance and economic outlook. The bond market continued to under perform as the Federal Reserve managed interest rates in an effort to reduce inflation to their set targets. **At year-end 2023, the St. John's endowment was valued at \$7,052,494 and Quinby fund was valued at \$9,734,145**, both endowment funds having grown in excess of our 5% for the transitional year of 2023. **The Macauley assets finished at \$6,463,061, for a total endowment value of \$23,625,407.41.**

The economic and market outlook continues to be a bit unknown, as the Federal Reserve has indicated that they plan to consider cutting interest rates in 2024, although corporations remain cautious. There is hope for a "soft" economic landing, and the stock market rallied aggressively at year-end 2023. The question will be whether that continues. As a result of the methodology utilized by St. John's, the Investment Committee, and Vestry, portfolio draws off the endowment assets will be slightly lower in 2024 in support of 2024 operations costs. The Vestry will be assessing any needed changes to the 2024 budget to support this slight change in income.

♦ Lisa Kirchenbauer, *Chair*

## **Lafayette Fellowship**

We are in the process of reviving the Lafayette Fellowship, a group for adults looking for community—old souls or the young at heart—parents, couples, or singles. In 2023, we hosted two events: a reception following evensong on September 20 and a dinner (taco night) on November 14. To guide our planning, a survey was sent out in the fall. As we move into 2024, we are looking for volunteers to join our planning committee. Our events offer time and space to build friendships, expand hearts and minds, and have fun.

♦ Hilary West, *Chair*

# Latrobe Fellowship for Young Adults

The Latrobe Fellowship is an active, energetic, joy-filled group of young adults at St. John's. Latrobers are single and married adults in their 20s and 30s who find themselves at different places in their lives and on their spiritual journeys. Developing and deepening relationships with God and other young adults is very important to us. We typically gather on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. for a short contemplative service—whether compline, Eucharist, or evening prayer—followed by refreshments, fellowship, and an opportunity to learn about faith, food, the Episcopal Church, and more.

Latrobers also participate in the larger life of St. John's by serving on Sunday mornings as ushers, greeters, readers, chalice bearers, musicians, Sunday school teachers, and in many other ways. Additionally, several serve on Vestry, as delegates to Diocesan Convention, and in other parish leadership roles. Young adults have worked on many different outreach projects, including the Christmas toy drive and Grace's Table. As we move into 2024, you will continue to see young adults active and engaged in the good work that is being done in this church and community.

In 2023 the Latrobe Fellowship sponsored the following regular and special events:

- January 8—New Year's Parish Lunch
- February 1—Black History Month trivia
- February 26—A visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture
- March 1—A kite-making workshop
- April 12—Easter wine-tasting
- May 3—Alternative Eucharist with 1662 Prayer Book
- June 4—Sunday brunch after church
- July 16—Sunday brunch after church
- August 6—Sunday brunch after church
- September 6—Rooftop Eucharist
- October 4—Cooking for Grace's Table
- October 21—Serving at Grace's Table
- October 29—Fall brunch
- November 1—Ghost tour of Lafayette Square
- December 6—White-elephant holiday party

We are especially grateful to Latrobe Steering Committee members Kate Benner, Patrick Bond, Autumn Brown, Cami Pease, Matthew Taylor, and Carl Ward.

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

# LGBTQ+ Fellowship

The LGBTQ+ Fellowship was created in the spring of 2023 to foster inclusion at St. John's. We are fortunate to have immense support from parishioners and to be a part of a denomination that welcomes individuals in their authentic form and gives everyone equality and equity in serving God and the community. In 2023 we sponsored a parish lunch, participated in the Pride Parade, and held a meet-and-greet at the Dirty Goose, owned by fellow parishioners Daniel Honeycutt and Justin Parker. During the fall, Zachary Schultz and John Turner hosted a dinner at their home; and in November, Brandon Montgomery and Stevan Johnson hosted Friendsgiving at their home. The LGBTQ+ Fellowship is looking forward to growing in various ways in 2024 to further support St. John's and its mission.

♦ Anthony Pegues, *Coordinator*

# Livestream Ministry

The Livestream Ministry is an essential part of St. John's ministry, making accessible a weekly Eucharist, monthly evensong, and occasional parish-wide events. In order to livestream from the sanctuary, St. John's uses a DataVideo EZ livestream package that includes a desktop operating device and three PTZ cameras mounted under the balcony. For each event, a livestream link is created in YouTube Studio, and underlay slides updated in Google. The link and associated bulletins are then uploaded to our website.

This professional installation of hard-wired equipment and cameras is a vast improvement over our old system, which depended on Wi-Fi signals that were not always reliable. Now our operators need roughly 15 minutes before the service to set up the equipment, connect the livestream, and prep the cameras to offer weekly services to viewers near and far.

Our primary challenge in 2023 has been consistent operator coverage given the demands of travel, work, and unexpected illness on our team of three. This is the smallest of our many worship ministries and the only one requiring specialized training and ease with technology. We have trained one new volunteer and hope to recruit more in 2024. To ensure that future services in the church have reliable coverage, and eventually to be able to use the portable equipment purchased for the parlor, we have contracted Jeremy Sheeler of Awarehouse Productions to manage gaps in our schedule, train newcomers, and troubleshoot technical issues in the church and in the parlor.

Once trained and engaged, our team members find livestreaming to be a creative, fun, and rewarding. We are grateful to Jeremy Skog, Matthew Taylor, Ryan Wagner, and our newest recruit, Everett Haugh, for volunteering their time and talent. But there is always room for more. Come join the team!

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

## Midweek Men's Group

Monthly “brown bag” lunch gatherings of men in the St. John's congregation commenced in September 2023 and occur on the third Thursday of every month. Texts of the Lectionary Readings prescribed for the upcoming Sunday are distributed in advance, along with brief published commentaries. The readings provide a platform for discussion, but conversations are wide-ranging and offer men of the congregation opportunity to become better acquainted. Four members of the congregation attend on a regular basis, with a distribution list of 12 who have expressed interest. The group meets in the Togo West Parlor, where coffee and water are provided.

♦ Carter Keithley, *Leader*

## Music Ministry

The psalmist compels us to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. In the Anglican tradition, we also believe that the converse is true—that profound holiness is found in God's gift of beauty. To that end, our music ministry endeavors to offer our best efforts in worship and outreach.

Following a period of discernment and planning over the summer, we launched a new chorister program for children and youth in September. We currently have 13 choristers rehearsing in two groups. Our six advanced choristers rehearse twice weekly, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and sing monthly for worship and Choral Evensong. The St. Cecilia Choir is comprised of our youngest signers, who are building rudimentary skills in vocal technique and music theory under the leadership of Lyn Loewi. After a strong start in 2023, we hope to see this program continue to grow and flourish in 2024. Special thanks to Susan Cardwell and Sara Josey, who have volunteered indispensable organizational support to the new program.

In November, the St. John's Choir and choristers offered Maurice Duruflé's *Requiem for All Souls' Day* accompanied by string orchestra and organ. The service was sung with special intention for Albert Russell, our former director of music who died earlier in the year. At a reception following the service, friends and choir members shared recollections of Mr. Russell's accomplishments in ministry at St. John's.

The Advent party saw record attendance and featured members of the St. John's Choir and choristers in leading attendees in caroling. For the first time, our service of Christmas Lessons and Carols included the forces of our three combined choirs. This made for a more robust and inclusive celebration of the holiday and was well received by parishioners. We initiated a new service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphanytide sung by the combined choirs of St. John's and Christ Church, Georgetown. In 2023 the first service was offered at Christ Church, and we recently hosted the second service at St. John's.

Choral Evensong continues to be a highlight of our program offerings. This distinctly Anglican liturgy connects us with the best of our Episcopal heritage even as we endeavor to become more inclusive of living and underrepresented composers. Evensong regularly welcomes visitors, tourists, and members of other churches who are eager to experience this particular liturgy.

Our Midweek Music series continued to offer monthly concerts open to the public free of charge. Performances in 2023 included:

- The Howard University Gospel Choir in a performance on the first day of Black History Month
- A recital by local organist Karl Robson
- A performance of François Couperin's *Leçons des Ténèbres* during Holy Week
- A recital by the Cafritz Young Artists of Washington National Opera
- A recital by Baltimore-based organist, Jordan Prescott
- A solo recital by local cellist Wade Davis
- A performance of seldom-heard carols sung by Philadelphia-based soprano Abigail Chapman, accompanied by our own associate organist, Lyn Loewi

Of course, our choirs stand firmly at the heart of all that we do as a music ministry. I'm grateful for the many ways that each of the singers listed below contributes to this robust music ministry.

### **The Saint John's Choir**

*Sopranos* Elissa Edwards, Kerry Holahan, and Tory Wood  
*Altos* Lisa Koehler, Charlotte Stewart, and Louisa Waycott  
*Tenors* David Evans, Andrew Sauvageau, and William Watson  
*Basses* Nathan Lofton, Justin Dean, and Christopher Jones

### **The Parish Choir**

*Sopranos* Annette Anfinrud, Whitley Herndon, Kerry Holahan, Christina Wilson, and Tory Wood  
*Altos* Alison Adkins, Cay Buser, Barbara Burkhardt, Nicole Feaster, Wendy J. Fibison, Sara Josey, Lisa Koehler, LaFleur Paysour, Charlotte Stewart, Louisa Waycott, and Margaret Wiegenstein  
*Tenors* Philip Anfinrud, Craig Burkhardt, David Evans, Tom Kingsley, Andrew Sauvageau, and William Watson  
*Basses* Jeffrey Bozman, Justin Dean, Matthew Ford, Christopher Jones, Nathan Lofton, and Bill Josey

### **The Choristers**

*Trebles* Sander Agnew-Molokken, Gloria Burkhardt, James Dudley, Scout Fairbanks, Haven Flokstra-Udoewa, Vincent Gaziano, Peter Gullans, Nathaniel Hersey, Beatrix Neal, Eudora Neal, Sydney Shepherd, Cecily Stewart, and William Stewart

♦ Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

# Outreach Committee

As Christians, we are called at baptism to “seek and serve Christ in all persons.” At St. John’s, our outreach ministries are focused on partnerships to serve others, both in our community and around the world. In 2023, the Outreach Committee continued to build many of our long-standing partnerships. Dozens of parishioners and friends were involved in outreach during 2023, and we supported and served a variety of communities in Washington, DC, South Africa, and Jerusalem. The Outreach Committee utilized a budget of \$106,000 during 2023, and the committee is grateful to the Vestry for this generous allotment. Our resources were allocated as follows:

## **EDUCATION: \$40,000**

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

St. John’s provided significant support to **Communities in Schools of the Nation’s Capital (CISNCAP)** through funding for the general operations of the organization and through the time and talent of its parishioners as volunteers in DC’s public schools. Two St. John’s parishioners were among the founding members of this local affiliate and served for many years on the Board of Directors. Livy More and Ann Gardner continue to check in quarterly with the CIS Executive Director and Program Director to review the organization’s needs and spending. CISNCAP’s mission is to surround public school students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. To do that, CISNCAP places a site coordinator in each of its partner schools to focus on case management, targeted interventions, whole school prevention services, and parent engagement. Volunteers from St. John’s provide assistance with, sorting, organizing, and bagging groceries at the monthly food markets throughout the school year. Last summer St. John’s offered space for the CIS Site Coordinator Summer Institute, a three-day gathering that included presentations on gun violence in schools, substance-abuse intervention, CIS program updates, and data training. The Rev. Shawn Evelyn welcomed our guests and provided a tour of the church. In the fall, parishioner Matt Bode made it possible for 2,800 DCPS students to receive backpacks from Amazon. On October 20, the Kwasa group (see “Partnerships” below) received a tour of Cardozo and learned about the CIS model and the possibility of incorporating aspects at Kwasa. The generous contribution from St. John’s was used to support site coordinator positions in the partner schools and fund emergency supply closet purchases of food, clothing, shoes, winter coats, hats, gloves, and hygiene products.

**Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys (BWS)** was organized as the Episcopal Diocese of Washington’s response to the serious educational challenges facing African American boys in the low-income communities east of the Anacostia River. The school, named in honor of the first African American bishop of the diocese, is a tuition-free independent elementary school rooted in the traditions of Episcopal education and the educational philosophy of Bishop Walker. Through a collaboration of partner organizations, BWS provides access to high quality educational, health, cultural, recreation, and social service programs. St. John’s provides a variety of support for the school, including generous financial support and giving books to students as part of our annual Christmas gift drive. In 2023, graduates of BWS were accepted into St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, Cardigan Mountain Boarding School, St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes Episcopal School, St. Thomas More Catholic Academy, Sandy Springs Friends School, Statesmen Public Charter School, and Washington Jesuit Academy.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### *Washington, DC*

- Grace's Table—\$6,500

### *South Africa*

- Kwasa College, South Africa—\$15,000
- Travel—\$6,000
- Clergy Education—\$2,500

### *Diocese of Jerusalem*

- St. Paul's Shafr'Amr—\$1,000
- American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)—\$1,000
- Princess Basma Centre —\$1,500
- Travel—\$6,000

This year the Outreach Committee marked its tenth year of partnership with **Grace's Table**, an outreach ministry of Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown that provides hot meals for those in our community who are unhoused or at risk of losing housing. Through this partnership, St. John's commits to providing volunteers to host Grace's Table on the third Saturday of each month. Teams of 3–7 volunteers prepare and serve the food, and then gather with guests to socialize, followed by a Bible study led by Grace Episcopal. St. John's funds are used to cover the cost of supplies for Grace's Table, such as coffee, tea, eating utensils, paper products, and food items like salad dressing, sugar, and creamer. In addition, Grace Episcopal uses some of the funds to pay a small salary to a widowed immigrant who prepares hot meals for the guests on Saturdays when St. John's parishioners are not volunteering. Beginning in the late summer/early fall of 2023, the number of guests seeking food from Grace's Table increased significantly, due to the reopening on the weekend of nearby Georgetown Ministries (which serves the same community with other forms of support). As a result, the Outreach Committee decided to hold a special parish-wide event in November to raise attention to the need for additional support and to bring more parishioners into the ministry. We prepared and hosted a full traditional Thanksgiving meal for the guests, conducted a canned food drive (both to supplement Grace's Table on Saturdays when prepared food runs out and to support those guests who have some housing but cannot afford groceries), offered cards handmade by the children of St. John's, and featured two parishioners who performed live music for the guests. The event was a success—something we hope to build on in the coming year.

The South African Companion Group partners with **Kwasa College**, a pre-primary and primary school in the Anglican Diocese of the Highveld South Africa, which provides education and other services to children living in an informal settlement near Johannesburg. The St. John's funds sent to Kwasa in 2023 enabled Kwasa to provide classroom instruction and student feeding programs despite food shortages and high unemployment among parents. St. John's also hosted Sharron Dinnie, the school's founder and rector, as well as the primary school director and two students, for a week in October.

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St. John's funds for **clergy development** in the Diocese of the Highveld provided valuable tuition support for a seminarian, Ms. Ntombomzi Sitinise, at the only Anglican residential seminary in South Africa, the College of the Transfiguration (COT). Zomzi, as she is known, expressed appreciation for the 2023 tuition assistance. In addition to her studies, Zomzi engaged in internships in 2023 for local youth prison and orphanage ministries.

St. John's continues to partner with the Diocese of Jerusalem, in particular through donations to partners at **St. Paul's Shafr'Amr** and the **American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ)**. A group of pilgrims from St. John's visited the Holy Land in October 2023. The pilgrims from the 2018 and 2019 groups have hosted several events, including parish lunch and Latrobe Fellowship, to discuss their journeys.

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

- Annual Gift Drive—\$1,000

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

### **REFUGEES: \$6,000**

The 2023 funds were used to support specific families and refugee youth in the DC area. First, funds went toward the Afghan family that St. John's assisted through our Sponsor Circle with rent, job development, and other social service support. Second, the committee used funds to purchase backpacks and school supplies to meet donation goals for the successful backpack drive for refugee youth. Finally, the majority of 2023 funds went to furnishing a home for a newly arrived Afghan refugee family of six. We paid for a storage unit space and purchased household goods, moving supplies, and furniture. In 2023, the funds allowed the Refugee Committee to continue its mission to bring Beloved Community to refugee neighbors in our region.

### **DONATIONS: \$15,500**

- Downtown Cluster of Congregations—\$7,000
- Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington—\$2,000
- Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)—\$6,500

In 2023, the Outreach Committee continued our partnership with: (1) **Downtown Cluster**, an ecumenical group of Washington churches that cooperatively uses member resources to meet critical community needs, prioritizing homeless safety, seniors, and youth; (2) **Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington**, a faith-based community partnership serving the greater Washington, DC, area that brings our neighbors who face poverty, challenges obtaining housing, or other debilitating obstacles together with partner leaders, donors, volunteers, and staff in a shared ministry that improves the lives of all throughout the Washington area; and (3) **Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)**, which aims to create a more just DC through interfaith community organizing and building power to effect positive, equitable change with respect to climate, health, public housing, public safety, public lands, and Black home ownership.



**Samaritan Ministry** experienced a substantial increase in demand for its services from people living in or on the edge of poverty in the DMV in 2023. With the help of St. John's and other donors, it was able to respond to the need by adding three new full-time caseworkers and an additional office.

WIN played a significant role in securing many policy gains and more than \$200 million of funding for DC residents in 2023 in the areas of affordable housing, Black equity through home ownership, public safety, green and healthy housing, and climate-change mitigation.

## MOVING FORWARD

The Outreach Committee, under the guidance of the Rev. Shawn Evelyn, looks forward to continuing our work in the community and with our partnership organizations throughout 2024.

- ◆ Jess Sanchez, *Outreach Committee Chair*
- ◆ Holly Sukenik, *Temporary Chair*

## Parish Lunch

The Sunday Parish Lunch is a wonderful and important fellowship opportunity at St. John's that returned in the fall of 2022 after long hiatus. (When the Parish House closed for renovations in September 2017, Parish Lunch was replaced by potlucks in homes. Parish Lunch resumed in January 2019 and continued until COVID shut everything down a year later, in March 2020.)

Some of the momentum lost during the renovation and then COVID has now been regained. From January 8 through May 21, and October 1 through December 17, 14 out of 26 Sundays available for Parish Lunch saw an event. Nine lunches were hosted by committees, five by individuals.

Interestingly, before COVID-19 most lunches were hosted by family and friend groups; now most are hosted by parish committees. Two possible reasons for this change are (1) The individuals who previously would have hosted seem to be engaged with church committees, and (2) more families attended when Sunday School was scheduled at 11 am.

On October 1, I led a "Parish Lunch 101" tutorial and refresher course to give the fall a kick start. Parishioners interested in Parish Lunch were invited to take a supporting role, with the hope they would feel confident in the future to organize a group of friends and host on their own.

Special appreciation is extended to the following individuals and groups who organized, cooked for, and hosted 2023 Sunday Parish Lunches, during which more than 650 parishioners enjoyed fellowship: RJ Lyerly, Ed and Lacey Szczepanik, Margaret Wiegenstein (twice), the Book Group (twice), Children and Youth Ministries, the Latrobe Young Adults Fellowship, the Sisters at St. John's (twice), the Care of Creation Committee, the Refugee Committee, and the Stewardship Committee.

Community-Building Potluck Suppers held in parishioners' homes were very popular when parish lunches were not possible. Many parishioners have continued to request them, but I have not had the bandwidth to organize that effort. This may be an activity to be pursued if someone steps forward to help.

- ◆ Holly Sukenik, *Parish Lunch Coordinator*

# Parish Register for 2023

## Transfers into the Parish

Mark Cardwell—from St. Paul's Episcopal, Chattanooga, TN  
Kelle Anne George—from St. James in-the-Hills Episcopal, Hollywood, FL  
Peter Weidman Hardinge, Summer Mounfield Hardinge, and Isabelle Pratt Hardinge—  
from Christ Church, Prince George's County, MD  
Blount Stewart III, Charlotte Stewart, Cecily Rose Stewart, and William Stewart IV—  
from St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC

## Transfers out of the Parish

William Case Anderson, Cecilia McGowin Ey Anderson, John William Lucius Anderson, and  
Tere Tippen Anderson—to All Saints Church, Chevy Chase, MD  
Thomas Bell and Mary English Saunders—to All Saints Church, Atlanta, GA  
Donna Roper Canada—to All Saint's Episcopal, Concord, NC  
Ted Graves and Sandy Graves—to St. Stephen's Episcopal, Richmond, VA  
Elizabeth Thomas Hunter—to The Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh, NC  
Alix Lancaster—to St. Thomas the Apostle, Los Angeles, CA  
Marcus J. Lemon—to Church of the Redeemer, Sarasota, FL  
Chrystal Lauren Martin, John Charles Martin, Elizabeth Sue Martin, and John Patten Martin—  
to St. Paul's Episcopal, Alexandria, VA  
Diane S. Melton—to The Falls Church Episcopal, Falls Church, VA  
Robert Schwartz and Alexandra Thomas—to Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Ivy, Charlottesville, VA  
Winfield Scott Stanley and Cynthia Ward Stanley—to Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, VA  
Alyssa Sheets Wolf—to First Presbyterian, Livermore, CA

## Baptisms

Finley Ryan Crawford  
Callum James Ford  
Kristopher C. Foreman  
Emma Jo Gonzalez  
Marie Sebelle von Hafften  
Peter Charles Holder  
Caroline Wood Hoover  
Cecily Tala Kosegarten  
Graham Alexander Kosobucki  
Christian Tanner Nuñez  
Grayson Joel Nuñez  
Amara Chinonyerem Owunwanne  
Charles Barrett Rawlings  
Ella Marion Slatery Stock  
Alexander Charles Stuart  
Ella Rose Tejera  
John Michael Turner Jr.

## Confirmations

Brian Kent Cordova-Brookey  
Kristopher Foreman  
Anna Lee Price  
Zachary Thomas Schutz  
John Michael Turner Jr.  
Robert Voetsch  
Hannah Walters-Bootay  
Leeza Rachel Myers Wheeler

## Receptions

Kevin Lee Cordova-Brookey  
Glenn Louis Stewart  
Sarah Bano Tareen

## **Reaffirmations**

Glen Arthur Bootay  
Sandra F. Hackworth  
Alex Lauren Hergenroeder  
David Vaughn

## **Weddings**

Charles Dahan & Lauren Von Bargaen  
Kristopher C. Foreman & Kathryn Wade Meeley  
J. David Drewry Gallalee & Elizabeth Parker Browne  
Caleb Jonathan Hays & James Patrick Reilly  
Allie Matthews Raether & Ali Ganjian  
Wonyong Shim & Ju Hyun Park  
Ralda Rozelle Stidd & Alexander Harrison Scott  
John Michael Turner Jr. & Zachary Thomas Schutz

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

Krista Lynn Becker  
Christopher Warren Danello  
Richard Loren Doege  
Ruth McWilliams Leffall  
Peter John Roehrich  
Richard Dax Tejera

# **Pastoral Care Ministry**

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

Opportunities to visit in person improved this year, a blessing after the challenging restrictions for several years related to COVID-19. The Pastoral Care Ministry writes notes and delivers flowers at Easter (lily plants) and Christmas (poinsettia plants) for members of St. John's who have experienced a death in their immediate family and for those in rehabilitation programs or confined to home or medical facilities. The committee also assists the clergy and staff with weekly delivery of bouquets to parishioners who are unable to be at church. Several worshippers lend their help in all these deliveries. It is gratifying to hear from so many members how much they have appreciated these gestures from the congregation.

The Rev. Shawn Evelyn, Associate for Parish Life, has been the lead clergy person for this ministry. Current Pastoral Care Ministry members include Laurie Adams, Krista Bradley, Wendy J. Fibison, Ann Gardner, Sandy Hackworth, Debby Hailey, Anne Harrington, Joanne Hutton, Richard J. Price, Diane Spaulding, Margaret Wiegenstein, and Sarah Wood.

♦ Jack Reiffer, *Chair*

# Planned Giving Committee

As of the end of 2023, there were 61 members of our parish who have committed to providing a legacy to St. John's through their estate planning bequests as part of the 1816 Society, and another 33 have indicated in their stewardship cards that they have added St. John's to their estate plans. We are grateful for this outpouring of both interest and action.

In September 2023, St. John's received a large planned gift from the remainder of the estate of Dorothy M. Macauley of approximately \$6 million. This is a welcome gift at a time of increasing expenses for St. John's. A special committee has been assembled to discern and develop a set of recommendations for possible uses of these funds. Including the Macauley gift, which has already grown with a favorable market, St. John's endowment funds totaled \$23,625,407 at the end of 2023.

We are entering a time where intentional estate planning and charitable giving are essential for the life of the church. In the coming year, we will be offering financial education and resources to help those who are interested in planned giving.

♦ Lisa A.K. Kirchenbauer, *Chair*

## Sisters at St. John's

The Sisters at St. John's is open to any and all women of St. John's. We gather at different times of the year for fellowship, social, and giving activities. In addition, we support each other in times of need. We maintain a listserv to stay in touch and let everyone know when one of the sisters has something to celebrate or needs assistance. At the start of 2023, the Sister's of St. John's had 65 members.

Every year, we host a weekend retreat at the A. Felix DuPont Memorial House in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The 2023 retreat was held March 3-5, led by Rev. Maria Kane, with 22 women in attendance. The theme of the retreat was "Practicing Sabbath Rest in our Daily Lives." It was a wonderful weekend of fellowship and spirituality.

In May 2023, we sent out a survey to the parish to learn how we can better serve the women of St. John's as we grow. We wanted to learn from the parish and offer more opportunities for fellowship, allowing more women to participate. Thirty-one women responded to the survey.

At the Ministry Fair on September 17, we signed up an additional 17 women to be a part of our group. The following Sunday, September 24, the sisters held a tea after the 11 a.m. service, with more than 25 women attending, including some who were new to the group. At the tea, we talked about the purpose of the women's group and registered five more women. In addition, we planned our calendar of events for the remainder of the year and into 2024, including:

- November 19, 2023—Hosting a Thanksgiving-themed parish lunch
- January through March, 2024—Supply drive benefitting N Street Village
- February 25—Tour of the Women in the Arts Museum
- March 8, 9 & 10—Annual Retreat
- Spring date TBD—Tour of the National Cathedral
- Summer date TBD—Group outing to the Kennedy Center

We had two goals for 2023: One was to get more women involved with the group, and the other was to host more opportunities for us to connect. We successfully fulfilled those two goals with an increase of 21 members and five events planned.

♦ Lisa Kirchenbauer, Joanne Hutton, and Emily Lucio, *Co-Leaders*

## Speaker Series

The Speaker Series is held most Sundays from September through May at 10 a.m. in the Togo West Parlor on the first floor of the Parish House. An audio recording is made available on our website the week after each talk. The following speakers were featured during 2023:

**Jill Dougherty**, Global Fellow, Wilson Center, and former CNN Foreign Affairs Correspondent, on Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

**Beverly Gage**, Professor of History, Yale University, on her book *J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century*.

### Annual Three-Week Presidential Series: The Presidency of Ronald Reagan

**Fred Ryan**, Chairman of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute, former Chief of Staff to the former President, and former publisher of *The Washington Post*.

**Timothy Naftali**, Faculty Scholar, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, founding Director of the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, and CNN presidential historian.

**Sean Wilentz**, Professor of History, Princeton University, and author of *The Age of Reagan: A History, 1974–2008*.

**Kim Sajet**, Director, National Portrait Gallery, on the museum's collection.

**Cafritz Young Artists** from Washington National Opera performing excerpts from *Blue*.

**Dr. Anthony Fauci**, former Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and former Chief Medical Adviser to the President, on his work combating COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

**Evans Osnos**, Staff Writer, *The New Yorker*, on his biography *Joe Biden: The Life, the Run, and What Matters Now*.

**Pierre Thomas**, Senior Justice Correspondent, ABC News, on his career in television journalism.

**Lisa Kirchenbauer**, Parishioner, and Founder and President of Omega Wealth Management, on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing.

**Judi Garrett**, Chief Operating Officer, Jewish Relief Network Ukraine, on the organization's work.

**Lyn Loewi**, Associate Organist, St. John's, Lafayette Square, on "Revaluing Women Hymn Writers."

**Leonard Downie**, former executive editor of *The Washington Post*, on his book about his journalistic career, *All About the Story*.

**Dr. Vivek Murthy**, Surgeon General of the U.S., on the national loneliness epidemic.

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Jane Clarke, Katie Donovan, and Catherine Phil MacCarthy, three Irish poetesses, on “Wonders and Realities.”

Shibley Telhami, Anwar Sadat Professor of Peace and Development, University of Maryland, on the war between Israel and Hamas.

The Rev. Sharron Dinnie, Founder, Kwasa College in Springs, South Africa, on the work of the college.

John Dalton, former Secretary of the Navy, on his autobiography, *At the Helm*.

Thomas Cummins, Professor of the History of Pre-Columbian and Colonial Art at Harvard University and Director of Dumbarton Oaks, on the history and work of Dumbarton Oaks.

Fiona Hill, Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy, Center on the United States and Europe, and former Deputy Assistant to the President and Director for European and Russian Affairs at the National Security Council, on Russia’s war on Ukraine.

Simon Johnson, Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on his book *Power and Progress*.

♦ Clark Ervin, *Coordinator*

## Stewardship Committee

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

Year	Pledged	Units
2016	\$1,025,960	427
2017	\$1,020,000	371
2018	\$1,035,765	375
2019	\$933,468	368
2020	\$940,383	336
2021	\$1,016,726	367
2022	\$1,084,393	367
2023	\$1,129,641	338

As of January 14, 2024, we have received pledges from 266 units totaling \$1,041,949 (as compared with 294 units totaling \$1,023,258 last January 24). We’ve seen at least 22 new or reinstated pledges as of January 14 (as compared with 32 by the end of January 2023) and 110 increased pledges (as compared with 134 at the end of January 2023). The average increased pledge was nearly 18% higher than in the previous year.

Typically, parishioners continue to submit pledges for several months into each calendar year, as new members join our church or members reevaluate their charitable giving plans. **To those in our parish family who have not yet pledged for 2024, we ask you carefully and prayerfully to consider making a pledge. Any pledge, no matter the size, makes a difference!** For those whose financial situation allows an increase to your pledge, this helps us face the increased costs of our inflationary environment.

We continue to tweak the website to make both pledging and donating more straightforward. If you have any suggestions for continued improvements, please send them our way! Membership of this year's Stewardship Committee includes Tony Anikeeff, Powell Hutton, David Kieve, Elizabeth and Greg Morrison, Eleanor Odom, Richard Price, Alfred Thesmar, and Richard Young. Co-chair Carter Keithley got a lot of help from this group to put together a wonderful parish lunch hosted by our committee—and we are grateful for the contributions of this group to ensure the lunch was free for parishioners.

We were pleased once again to benefit from wonderful stewardship testimonials—this year from Clark Ervin, Greg Morrison, and Jack Reiffer. We also and especially want to recognize the outstanding support that the St. John's office staff has provided in facilitating our stewardship work. Charley Griffin stepped up after the departure of Preston Cherouny and has been instrumental to the logistics and data management of the process, with help from Obi Onwuamaegbu. Though officially retired, Kaye Edwards has continued to lend a hand with her longstanding relationships with and knowledge of so many parishioners; we are happy to have help from Lisa Koehler now too. We continue to be blessed as a result of their hard work.

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher continues to provide enthusiastic leadership and support for stewardship. His participation in both our committee meetings and our monthly leadership meetings, his outreach to individual pledgers (and speedy thank yous), as well as his constant encouragement of stewardship during services make a huge difference in our results.

♦ Toby Stock, *Co-Chair*

## Sunday Liturgical Ministries

Worship at St. John's would not be possible without the faithful commitment of our acolytes, chalice bearers, crucifers, and readers. On Sunday mornings, at funerals, evensongs, and a host of other worship occasions, these dedicated lay leaders add so much to our community. It is encouraging to see participation in these ministries extend across multiple generations, and among both newcomers and longtime members. Through their teaching and mentorship, the thoughtful leaders of these liturgical ministries continue to help parishioners grow in their confidence and skill in facilitating meaningful worship.

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

### Crucifers

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

Our regular and occasional crucifers in 2023 were Paul Barkett, Matt Bode, Finley Buchanan, Kevin Cordova-Brookey, James Doyle, Wendy J. Fibison, Stewart Jeffries, Anya Kleymenova, Paul Winslow Mandelson, Michelle Mangrum, Brandon Montgomery, Greg Morrison, Felicia Owunwanne, Rachel Pepper, Eric Peters, Jack Reiffer, David Vaughn, and Carl Ward.

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

♦ Kenny Kraft, *Coordinator*

## Chalice Bearers & Lay Servers

Chalice bearers and lay servers support the eucharistic liturgy at 7:45, 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday services during the program year, and at 7:45 and 10:30 a.m. during the summer. Availability for weekday services and memorial services, as needed, is requested but not expected. The role of both is to administer wine to communicants. Lay servers, who are only scheduled at the 7:45 a.m. service, have the additional responsibility of reading the lessons and prayers and holding the gospel for the priest to read. At this time, 22 parishioners serve as chalice bearers and six as lay servers. If you are interested in sharing sacramentally the blood of Christ with others during services, please speak to a member of the clergy or contact the lay coordinator of chalice bearers, Joanne Hutton, to find out more.

♦ Joanne Hutton, *Coordinator*

## Readers / Lectors

Our dedicated group of 67 lectors and readers continued to assist in proclaiming the Word with excellence during each worship service. Whether reading Old Testament scripture passages, Epistle texts, or leading the psalms, our readers continued the vital leadership in opening our hearts and minds and listening to God's word. Their ability to lead us in the prayers of the people helped us to respond to God's word, lifting our praises, thanks, and intercessions on high. We will continue trainings to help lectors develop and refine their skills for this important role in the Ministry of the Word.

♦ Martha Ellison, *Coordinator*

## Youth Acolytes

Our Youth Acolyte program remained strong in 2023 and has 10 participants again this year. One member graduated in May 2023 and another moved to serving St. John's in a new ministry, but we were fortunate to add two new members in their stead. The participating middle and high school students serve at the 11 a.m. service as torch bearers, assist with Children's Chapel, and help set the altar for communion. We continue to have a once-per-month participation schedule and look forward to expanding to serve in evening and holiday services as the ministry grows.

♦ Nora Haugh, *Coordinator*

## Tour Guide Guild

During 2023, St. John's Tour Guides greeted 34 visitors from 12 states (Alabama, California, Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington state); five from the District of Columbia; and two from New York City. We also had two visitors from Australia, three from Canada, and one from Kenya, bringing the overall number of visitors who took tours this year to 47.

Diane Spaulding and James Longley served as tour guides until September; Richard Price and Richard Busch each served for the entire year. Kevin Cordova-Brookey joined the team in the late fall and began service in January 2024.

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



# Treasurer's Report

## 2023 Highlights

In 2023, St. John's outsourced its primary accounting responsibilities to Cherry Bekaert and moved to a new asset manager, Goldman Sachs. Both teams have helped modernize and build efficiencies in our systems and financial operations. This additional support should enhance the financial reporting available to the Vestry and staff.

St. John's received more than \$2.28 million in operating revenue in 2023, of which nearly half (\$1.129 million) came from annual pledges; as of December 31, 2023, the volume of unpaid pledges was 8.1%. It is typical to receive prior year pledge payments into the following year, so we expect to continue receiving 2023 pledge dollars into 2024 to bring us closer to our budgeted pledge goal. St. John's also collects revenue through non-pledge contributions, offerings, program/event income, space rentals, and transfers from our endowment.

St. John's received extraordinary bequests in 2023 that surpassed \$6 million, most notably from the estate of Dorothy M. Macauley. Bequests are treated as non-operating revenue, and the gifts are invested and managed by the Investment Committee and our advisor, Goldman Sachs. To learn more about St. John's investments, please review the Investment Committee report.

St. John's program expenses increased in 2023. As a reminder, in 2022, St. John's added one half-time clergy position and shifted the Director of Music position from part-time to full-time. While those staffing and clergy positions were only partially annualized in 2022, these costs are fully realized in the 2023 budget. St. John's also hosted more events at the church, which further contributed to increased utilities and maintenance costs. However, some formation activities were under budget, allowing the church to realize some savings in light of increases elsewhere.

## 2023 Operating Income/Revenue

As part of transitioning to Cherry Beckaert, St. John's shifted to fully operating on an accrual basis and conforming with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) standards; these changes enhance the accuracy of our financial reports and improve our financial reporting procedures.

Total pledges in 2023 (approximately \$1,129 million) exceeded the 2022 budgeted pledge amount by more than \$45,000. Notably, 140 households increased their pledge commitment for the year. Also, more than 45 households were new or returning pledges, contributing to an increase in the average pledge from \$2,970 to \$3,340. The median pledge was \$1,600.

Non-pledge contributions (\$41,416) and offerings (\$125,336) lagged for the year, compared to budget, reaching 80% and 95% of their targeted revenues, respectively; notably, while pledges have increased year over year, offertory has been a decreasing/under performing source of revenue since 2020, a trend we have been closely monitoring. Program and event income outperformed expectations, bringing in more than \$65,000 for the year, plus an additional \$20,000 in space rentals. With new rates that are more competitively priced for the market, program, event, and rental income show promise as growing revenue streams for the church.

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## 2023 Disbursements

The majority of St. John's 2023 projected expenses (\$2,345,385) fell into three categories: personnel, buildings and grounds, and outreach. Other operating expenses include formation, parish life, music, worship, administration, and unpaid pledges.

St. John's remains a top contributor to the diocese, and also distributed \$106,000 in outreach grants to community organizations both locally and abroad (to the Holy Land and South Africa, where we maintain long-standing partnerships). For many years, our practice has been to donate a net 10% of our pledge income directly back to the greater community through outreach grants.

St. John's also continued ongoing maintenance and updates to our building and grounds.

## 2024 Financial Outlook

The Vestry approved an operating budget of \$2,355,954 for 2024, based on an anticipated \$1,160,000 in income from pledges. Additional revenue is expected from offerings, gifts, and event income, as well as transfers from our endowment and reserve funding.

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

- \$1,160,000 anticipated pledge income
- \$40,000 in event income for use of the church's space
- 5% draw from endowment, based on a rolling 12-quarter fund average  
(Note: The recent Macauley gift was not factored into this calculation.)
- \$107,800 for outreach contributions and grants, 10% of net pledge revenue
- \$135,000 pledge to the diocese
- 3.5% salary increase for staff and clergy (in line with diocesan guidelines)
- 3.75% in reserves for unpaid pledge balances
- 10% increase to cover increased building and grounds costs  
(e.g., increased maintenance expenses and rising property insurance rates)
- Boosts formation budgets for new and reinstated initiatives
- Increases fixed costs (e.g. supplies, flowers) according to the CPI-U  
(Consumer Price Index for All Urban Customers)

The Vestry approved drawing up to \$173,000 from reserve savings to balance the budget, due to increased expenses and rising costs. Thankfully, because of the Macauley gift, we don't anticipate needing to draw reserve funds next year.

Lastly, St. John's is restoring the bell tower and roof in 2024. This project has its own budget and is separate from our annual operations. To learn more about that budget and fundraising, please review the Bell Tower Committee report.

- ♦ Sara McGanity, *Parish Treasurer*
- ♦ Jeremy Skog, *Assistant Parish Treasurer*

# Usher Guild

For the past 137 years, ushers have had an integral role at St. John's Church, Lafayette Square, more than 200 years after the placement of its cornerstone on September 14, 1815. Over 70 years after services began on October 27, 1816, the Vestry approved the hiring of ushers from the local community to seat growing numbers of visitors and parishioners. In 1894, volunteer male members of the congregation were given the opportunity to serve as ushers to offer service to the church and on committees and the Vestry. In 1941, the Usher Guild was formed. In the 1970s, volunteer female members of the congregation began to serve on the Vestry and in the 1980s as ushers. In 2003, female parishioners assumed roles as Assistant Head Ushers.\*

Today's volunteer ushers are members of that legacy Usher Guild, and warmly greet and assist parishioners and visitors as they attend services at St. John's Church. Ushers help with seating so as not to disrupt the worship of others, and participate during the offertory and administration of the Holy Eucharist. Ushers serve in small teams once a month at each of its Sunday services. They may also volunteer to serve as ushers for funeral and memorial services, and other special events during the week. Members of the Usher Guild have sponsored one of the splendid festival music programs, including that featured at the Easter Sunday services, for the past 19 years.

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

During 2023, more than 50 parishioners volunteered as ushers. Small teams of ushers were led by Assistant Head Ushers Jeff Agnew, Matt Bode, Chris Danello, George Diliberto, Jill Dowell, Bud Harrell, Richard Metzger, Anthony Pegues, Nora Rigby, and Alfred Thesmar. Church attendance continued to increase during the year despite the continuing aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Christmas Eve pageant and Easter Sunday services continue to be the most highly attended regular services held at St. John's.

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

♦ James H. Czerwonky, *Head Usher*

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

# Vestry Nominating Committee

Per parish bylaws, the Vestry of St. John's, Lafayette Square, is the governing body of the parish and acts as our agent and legal representative for all matters concerning our corporate property and relation to the clergy. The Vestry consists of the Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and 12 at-large members elected by the parish. The Vestry is assisted by the parish officers—the Parish Counsel, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. Officers are appointed by the Vestry annually.

The Senior and Junior Wardens serve one-year terms while the 12 at-large members serve staggered terms of four years. Each year, the terms of three members of the Vestry expire. This year the departing members of the Vestry are Laurie Adams, Anthony Pegues, and Carl Ward.

The Vestry Nominating Committee, chaired, per custom, by the departing Senior Warden, met to consider nominees to fill these vacancies. Based on the committee's recommendations, the following parishioners have agreed to stand for election to the Vestry:

*Senior Warden*—Nora Rigby

*Junior Warden*—Alfred Thesmar

*At-Large Vestry Members (three to be elected):*

Marion Blakey

Kaye Edwards

Caroline Faris

Nora Haugh

Jack Reiffer

Jess Unger

On Sunday, January 28, 2024, the candidates introduced themselves during the Speaker Series hour and spoke briefly about their backgrounds and their plans and priorities if elected. Voting will take place at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 4, 2024, and the results will be announced at the end of the meeting.

♦ Clark Ervin, *Chair*







# WELCOME!

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

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

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

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

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## Vestry

Clark Ervin, *Senior Warden*

Nora Rigby, *Junior Warden*

Laurie Adams, Tony Anikeeff, Krista Rimple Bradley,  
Casey Evans, Wendy J. Fibison, David Gallalee,  
Fruzsina Harsanyi, Ucheora Onwuamaegbu, Anthony  
Pegues, Matthew Taylor, Alfred Thesmar, and Carl  
Ward, *Members*

Sara McGanity, *Treasurer*

Jeremy Skog, *Assistant Treasurer*

Allie Raether, *Secretary*

Harker Rhodes, *Parish Counsel*

## Head Usher

James H. Czerwonky

## Heads of Flower Guild

Pat Dalby and Katherine Kyle

## Head Greeters

Eleanor and Peter Odom

## Worship and Program Staff

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher, *Rector*

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

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

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

Brent Erstad, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lyn Loewi, *Associate Organist*

## Staff

Charley Griffin, *Interim Parish Administrator*

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

David Evans, *Hospitality, Administration,  
and Program Assistant*

Obi Onwuamaegbu, *Front Desk Support*

Javier Obregon, *Sexton*

GeeGee Bryant and David Gamboa, *Assistant Sextons*

Anne Stone, *Publications*

## ST. JOHN'S MISSION STATEMENT

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

## Parish House

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

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