

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Ashfield, Massachusetts
Annual Report for 2024**



**204th Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 2, 2025**

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*"One day tells its tale to another, and one night
imparts knowledge to another." Psalm 19*

AGENDA FOR THE 204th ANNUAL MEETING

- **Call to Order** — Sue Craft
- **2025 Budget Presentation** — Raven Harris
- **Report of the Nominating Committee** — Madeleine Roberts
- **Election of Vestry & Officers** — Madeleine Roberts
- **"Envisioning our Future"** — The Rev. Steven Wilco, Interim Canon to the Ordinary
- **Expressions of Gratitude** — Addison Hall
- **Motion to Adjourn the 204th Annual Meeting** — Sue Craft

Minutes

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ashfield

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 4, 2024 - 10 a.m.

This annual meeting took place during the worship service.

10:02 Sue Craft called the meeting to order: the 203rd Annual Meeting

Susan Todd presented the budget.

- explained that there was a ~\$17,000 deficit budgeted, but the year ended with a ~\$221,000 surplus.
- explained that the 2024 budget has an expected deficit of \$12,700 because of a loss of parishioners, but we are hoping for a surplus again by the end of the year.
- the challenge, Susan said later in the service, is how to account for the beneficence of the Holy Spirit.
- encouraged UTO boxes.

10:18 Maddy Roberts gave the nominating committee report.

- extended an invitation to all to be on the Vestry Team.
- announced the slate for the coming year: co-senior wardens (Susan Todd and Sue Craft), junior warden (Maddy Roberts), clerk (Lynnette Sievert), treasurer (Raven Harris), vestry members (Jane Wagener, Jane Buckloh, and Andy Wickline), and convention delegates (Andy and Kristen Wickline, with Susan Todd as an alternate)
- this slate was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Vicki Ix gave a sermon on the relationship between mission and joy, and how being "in the zone" indicates an alignment of our gifts with the work. "St. John's," she said, "you are in the zone."

10:35 Addison Hall led the congregation in thanksgiving because, he said, as part of our Annual Meeting we give thanks. We are grateful for

- the music of St. John's, especially for Kevin, and for Duane's artistry and dedication, and for Julie's gentle and loving leadership
- Vicki and her ministry among us
- offering a home to the Ashfield Jewish community
- the beauty of our surroundings and how our church is part of that
- the on-line service and opportunity to join from a distance
- Andy, the Toothakers, and Thad for making the on-line service possible
- our elected officers and Vestry members for past and repeated service
- continuing support and production of the Ashfield directory which is of value to the people in this town
- Linnea McChesney who brings much needed stability and support
- John Wickline who prepares our worship space
- our buildings and grounds team, especially for Darlene Monds
- Jane Buckloh who has been our fresh eyes
- Kay Spencer for her eye for decorating our worship space and garden
- Jane Wagener for her leadership of the Fall Festival year after year
- Addison Hall for his management of the bicentennial work

Susan Todd came forward to thank Addison Hall and Lucinda Brown for bringing to our present life the people from the past.

10:50 Sue Craft adjourned the meeting.

Handouts included the Annual Report and a Budget Overview

Parish Statistics in 2024 for St. John's Episcopal Church

Baptisms: 0

Renewal of Vows: 0

Marriages: 0

Confirmations: 0

Burials/Interments: 4

- **Mary Seager**, August 18, 2024, St. John's Memorial Garden
- **Douglas Paige**, September 21, 2024
- **Hedley Yost & Gordon Dean**, October 27, 2024, St. John's Memorial Garden
- **Ardath Garfield**, November 16, 2024, St. John's Memorial Garden

Memorials: 1

- **Rosemarie Clark**, July 7, 2024, Northampton Country Club

Transfers: 2

- **Don and Jane Buckloh**, Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst December 19, 2024

Numbers of Services Held: 61 w/ an additional **11** private communions

Total Attendance at All Services by Year:

2005: 2770
2006: 2264
2007: 2248
2008: 2269
2009: 1923
2010: 2006
2011: 1520
2012: 1227
2013: 1291
2014: 1411
2015: 1475
2016: 1327
2017: 1789
2018: 1946
2019: 2570
2020: 2242
2021: 1980
2022: 2353 (in-person & online)
2023: 1673 (278 online)
2024: 1592 (294 online)

Total Sunday Services: 52

Total Sunday Attendance: 1148

Average Sunday Attendance: 24

Vestry for 2024:

Co-Senior Wardens: Sue Craft and Susan Todd
Junior Warden: Madeleine Susi Roberts
Clerk: Lynnette Leidy Sievert
Treasurer: Raven Harris
Assistant Treasurer:
Vestry Members: Andrew Wickline, Jane Wagener

Nominations for 2025

Nominating Committee: Sue Craft, Susan Todd, Madeleine Susi Roberts

Co-Senior Wardens: Sue Craft and Susan Todd
Junior Warden: Madeleine Susi Roberts
Clerk: Lynnette Leidy Sievert

Treasurer: Raven Harris
Assistant Treasurer:
Vestry Members: Kevin Blanchard, Lucinda Brown, Kay Spencer, Jane Wagener,
Andrew Wickline

Convention Delegates: Andrew Wickline, Kristen Wickline
Convention Delegate Alternate: Susan Todd

The Vicar's Report to the 204th Annual Meeting

December 28, 2024
Holy Innocents

Dear saints of St. John's,

This last report may be a bit longer than previous reports, but there are many things from which to draw hope and for which we give thanks to God. I beg your indulgence and I hope that these words will be gift to you, too.

2024 was a year of missional success. Three things, in particular, stand out for me. **Holy Conversation** emerged from the Episcopal '101' group in 2023. Meeting on the last Sunday for six months, those gathered shared their own spiritual questions and experiences. The depth of the sharing and the willingness to just be together in silence, was a gift to me, and, I hope, to those who gathered. I believe it served its initial purpose and it was place to embrace the Mystery in simplicity and silence. I remain grateful to each soul who entered a very holy conversation.

The Spiritual Parent began in the winter of 2024 as an experiment in supporting the spiritual experience of parenting. The long room in The Corner House became a shared space for parents to name the holy in their lives and for their children to play. I especially thank Co-Senior Wardens, **Sue Craft** and **Susan Todd** for supporting this effort. I met five loving parents who see God in their children every single day and long to articulate to their children their own experience of divine Love. Every meeting in winter, spring and fall showed me the God who mothers and fathers us all with unconditional love. These parents remain in my grateful prayers.

Moving Forward: From Incarceration to Community

The forum event in April was singular in scope and unprecedented in the extent to which we engaged the county as community. The planning committee created a day that began with the hope of life after incarceration. **Daryl McGraw**, founder of **Formerly Inc., Criminal Justice & Reentry Consultants**, inspired us and reminded us that each person who leaves a correctional facility must be given a second chance, a new beginning. God's mercy demands our imitation. This day asked us all to consider our role, society's

role, the government's role in the incarceration of mostly poor, and disproportionately black and brown citizens. If it were not for the ministry of **LOVE in a Backpack**, St. John's would never have asked the next questions. Why are so many incarcerated? What can we do to help? Abundant thanks to the whole planning committee as they coordinated so many moving parts!

It's also important to note the departure of **Maddy Leue** and the on-boarding of **Jennifer Wildermuth** as Mission Outreach Coordinator. Maddy was very much a part of the forum and lead **LOVE in a Backpack** with great energy and commitment. We bless her for all that she did. Jenny is hitting the ground running! She has expanded LOVE's reach to social media and is sharing the ministry with other interested congregations.

Pastoral Care

Much of my ministry in 2024 was with the sick and the dying, accompanying our members in the hospital, at home, and on their final journey.

Poetry I am most pleased by the gentle metamorphosis of The Ann Hutt Browning Poetry Reading into a community endeavor. On November 10th, the local Ashfield community gave voice to many poets living and in glory. We honored **Ann Browning**, as is our practice, and we honored local poet, Carol Anne Purington (1949-2020). It was a gracious gathering and a sign for us that poetry, like liturgy, can be the work of the people. Special thanks to **Sarah Browning**. It was an elegant reshaping of St. John's dedication to the written word.

The Rev. Linda (Elle) Morgan was ordained deacon on December 14th. Elle and Bryant transferred to St. John's in 2021. Sharing in her discernment for priesthood was a blessing for me and for our vestry. We gave Elle a refurbished Communion Kit that had belonged to **the Rev. Mark Hatch**. It was a joyful ordination day and we wish Elle and Bryant joy and peace wherever the Spirit calls them.

The Vestry has been blessed by **Raven Harris** as treasurer and **Maddy Roberts** as Junior Warden. A full complement of officers is essential for fully-capacitated leadership. This vestry is faithful and hopeful and ready to chart the course ahead in 2025. I pray others will take a turn and serve, too, in 2025.

The Wardens

It has been the greatest joy to serve as vicar during the leadership of **Sue Craft** and **Susan Todd**. From the very beginning when they took a chance on a middle-aged, newly-ordained priest, I felt the strength of their faith in God and in me. Their deep love for St. John's cannot be quantified or replicated in exactly the same way. Their unique, complimentary gifts for the ministry of Senior Warden resulted in a new configuration of leadership that messed with the confining boxes of the diocesan database, but allowed for both to share the burdens and joys of leadership.

To say the three of us have been through a lot together would be an understatement. The pandemic, a capital campaign, a bicentennial, a community forum – these are just facts. The deeper gift to me has been their faith, their willingness to help me become a priest, their

love for St. John's and their love for me. Team ministry – as a model – is not easy nor is it without its wounds and learning moments. We three have weathered it all by grace and with no shortage of laughter. I have felt especially cared for, respected and nurtured by Sue and Susan. To say that I will miss them both is, again, an understatement.

Thank you!

As I finish this report I am mindful that Annual Meeting will be about one month after my departure. Hopefully, I have written my 'thank you' notes by now, but just in case, I will say it again. Thank you, St. John's, for loving me into priesthood and for entrusting your deepest joys and sorrows to my care. Know that you will remain in grateful prayers and in Christ, who gathered us together, love never ends.

Vicki +

The Reverend Vicki Ix, Vicar
June 1, 2018 – January 5, 2025

Co-Senior Wardens' Report for 2024

On Tuesday, December 5, 2024, at 4 p.m. during our weekly wardens and vicar meeting, our beloved Vicki Ix let us know that she would be concluding her ministry with St. John's Church on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2025. Needless to say, that news rewrote our message for the year – but only in some ways. We are blessed to have had Vicki with us for nearly seven years and now we can ponder and embrace all that she has given us, and move into the future, strengthened and inspired by her presence.

At our last vestry meeting we took a few moments with the Interim Canon to the Ordinary, Steven Wilco, to name the qualities in Vicki that we treasured. Here are a few:

- She noticed us
- She loved us.
- She listened as if we were the only ones in the room
- She nurtured our gifts
- She was funny and humble
- She walked so many, with such compassion, home to God
- Her sermons spoke to us
- She was kind, open, vulnerable, and empathetic to us and to the wider community

Those were some of her qualities, but think about all that she shepherded us through with so much help from others, of course, since 2018:

- Guiding us through the pandemic
- Virtual worship
- Inclusive and expansive liturgy
- Updating our technology

- Outdoor worship
- Drive by imposition of ashes
- Purchase of a labyrinth
- Celebration of our 200th anniversary in so many forms
- A Third Century Endowment Fund to support mission by funding buildings and grounds projects
- The blossoming of the Love in a Backpack project
- The enactment of the Forum
- The rejuvenation of the office and various Corner spaces
- The painting of the church by means of the Sheriff's program

Over the next days and years, we will remember so much more about our time with Vicki, moments and lessons that we have not yet considered. While we now live with uncertainty, let us remember the remarkable people who have amazingly appeared and served us at St. John's. (Canon Steven reminds us that St. John's has a very special place in the heart of the Diocese.) Each one has brought us what we needed at the time, offerings that we may not even have recognized at the time.

Can a transition have a theme? We believe so. And ours is The Nourishment of our Flock. We want to use this time fruitfully, before we call a new priest, learning about ourselves afresh, without rushing the process. Every decision we make in the coming year, as wardens and vestry, will be devoted to noticing, listening, and nourishing this parish and one another, in ways that will serve as a tribute to Vicki and to all the vicars who have touched our lives in the past.

Already so many of you have come forward to help as we venture forth, and for that we are eternally thankful.

With love, Sue Craft and Susan Todd

What follows is the narrative from the Stewardship Letter that summarizes 2024 (more detailed reports follow) – here for archival reasons – so that people fifty years hence will recognize who we were and what we set out to do.

The Story of 2024 at St. John's

Dear Friends of St. John's, Near and Far,

We begin as always with our deepest gratitude for all who have contributed to the life of St. John's over the past year – by your treasure, by your talents, your prayers, and simply by your presence among us. Though we began the year with a deficit, we are now projecting a surplus, with heartfelt thanks to you and the beneficence of the Holy Spirit.

200th anniversary celebration: This is surely a moveable feast. Included with this packet is the second in a series of three publications marking our 200th anniversary. You will marvel at the lives of our Brotherhood of Saints and what they bequeathed to us through their actions and character. We thank Addison Hall and Lucinda Brown for their inspired leadership in causing these collections to happen.

This tanka by Carol Purington expresses so succinctly what these remembrances offer:

*Evening tightens around me
they teach me still,
the family that
time has whittled away –
they teach me*

Next year at this time you will receive a booklet profiling seven of our former vicars. In addition, we are gathering words of solace for a volume entitled: *Let Evening Come*.

The Forum: As we think back over the year a clear moment of grace was the presentation of the forum: “Moving Forward: from Incarceration to Community,” held on April 13. We had planned to offer it in 2020, but the pandemic intervened. While it was meaningful on so many levels, we came away with a commitment that our efforts would not end there, but continue with a next step, to ease this fear filled transition from incarceration.

“What is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?” Mary Oliver

Love in a Backpack:

13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Mathew 7:13-14.

This passage was sent to us by a woman who received one of our backpacks. It expresses above all else the extreme challenges that women face leaving incarceration. This mission has received an infusion of incredible energy in recent months with the naming of Jenny Wildermuth and Amanda Carter as our outreach coordinators for the project, taking over from Maddy Leue’s most successful tenure. Amanda arranged for an appearance on a Mass Appeal segment, which led to an interview on WHMP’s The Hustler Files. Jenny created a table at our diocesan convention which drew significant interest. With help from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts and a newfound energy and exposure, it is hoped that this initiative will grow and reach all the women who need support, far and wide, as they begin their new lives. While we have filled and distributed nearly 600 backpacks, it only serves a quarter of the those in need.

Our New Parish Administrator: Another very important transition was the arrival of Lis Henry as our new Parish Administrator. Lis has brought an understanding and enthusiasm for our small church along with the skills and time to solidify our organizational routines, enabling us to plan ahead and think around the bend. Here it is important to remind ourselves that we have, in Vicki, a quarter time vicar. It is hard to believe because she inhabits those ten hours with intense love and caring for each and every one of us, but the fact is, she depends on the lay leadership to fill in for her with the responsibilities that are ordinarily the purview of a full or even a half-time priest. Vicki needs us to be efficient and respectful of our collective time. For instance, we strive to have one-hour vestry meetings and use email to keep us updated and informed. What Lis is providing now is a brand-new area of support that benefits the parish in our present but will allow an orderly passing of the batons in the future.

Annual Meeting: For the past two years we have embedded our annual meeting within our worship service. This places the business of St. John's in a sacred space, but, we realized, it did not provide for the informal reflections that draw out the questions and responses from parishioners as to how we operate as an institution. This year we will again provide a festive brunch and also time to consider together after worship our next steps and how we might learn and grow as a community.

Tending our Buildings and Grounds: Under the unflagging vigilance of our Junior Warden, Maddy Roberts, our two precious antique buildings are being well cared for. Drawing on the incredible wisdom of Darlene Monds, Arnold Jones, and Jim Wagener, Maddy has overseen everything from the repair of our screen door to the installation of a new propane furnace scheduled for December. We are most grateful for Maddy's thoughtful hard work.

"I come to the garden alone ...": This is one of the Madrigals most beloved anthems, and now we have a garden worthy of this song. Our dear Kay Spencer, whose exquisite voice lifts our hearts during our Sunday worship, has taken upon herself to resurrect our church garden and make it sing, as well. This was no easy task. It involved removing the tired plants, evicting the invasives, and nurturing the soil with compost and mulch. All the plants chosen are native to our region, and by the end of the summer bloomed in perfect harmony. Thank you, Kay and Ned, for this lovely blessing, not only for the people of St. John's, but for all our neighbors.

Financial Picture: We are enormously fortunate that Raven Harris has agreed to take on the role of Treasurer of St. John's. He comes with both a historical perspective (he was St. John's treasurer some 20 years ago) but also an ability to see the **big picture**. Raven has said more than once that our finances are much more vibrant and healthier now than ever before, but with that growth comes the need to examine our financial procedures. To that end, he and our financial administrator, Amy Murray, are meeting with our auditor, Steve Hasbrouck, to discuss and propose needed changes in our systems.

"Unheard Of": Our Mutual Ministry Review (like a well-baby checkup) was held on October 20 with the Rev. Mary Rosendale. It was an unusually helpful conversation as Mary reminded us of aspects of our decision-making role as vestry members that we tend to forget. And she pointed out something that gave most of us gooseflesh. She studied our website and our annual report, including our budget numbers and thought there was some mistake. "You have a mission giving figure of \$10,000! That's unheard of for a parish your size." She thought there was a typo, and it was meant to be \$1,000. Actually, the figure is more than \$10,000 if we include a portion of our assessment to the diocese, grant funding that goes to *Love in a Backpack*, and the proceeds from our Ashfield Directory that go to local projects. (These included: supporting the rejuvenation of Elmer's, the planting of a new tree at the park, the distribution of cookies to the elderly, called Sweet Tuesdays, and supplies for our community band.)

Loss of Souls. As you well know, we have lost many souls in our congregation over the past months, through death and through relocation. The Madrigals, under the direction of our gifted director, Julie Meservey, have sung "What wondrous love is this," at memorial services many, many times this year. Because we are so small, we feel each loss with a

terrible pang. This means, however, that we are given the opportunity to love those in our midst because they are intimate parts of our lives.

Considering our pledges at this time. Because of so much loss, as Vicki said in her stewardship sermon, our “pledging units” have diminished. We have received “pennies from heaven,” through generous bequests, which will be used for specific needs, but it is our responsibility as parishioners in the moment to provide for our operation expenses each year.

We are, therefore, asking, if you are able, to prayerfully consider increasing your pledge by even a small amount for 2025. And if you have not yet pledged to St. John’s, we hope you might join us this year. Please remember, as Mary Rosendale said, “What you provide in mission giving, is **“Unheard of!”** We never want that to end.

With gratitude for each and every one of you,

The Wardens and Vestry of St. John’s Church

November 2024

Buildings and Grounds Report 2024

We give you thanks, O God, for the gifts of your people, and for the work of many hands, which have beautified this place and furnished it for the celebration of your holy mysteries. Accept and bless all we have done, and grant that in these earthly things we may behold the order and beauty of things heavenly; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

After investigating many options for heating, we replaced the oil furnace in the sanctuary with a propane furnace. The new furnace is more fuel-efficient due in part to a more powerful fan. This allowed us to remove the oil tank from the cellar, so it will not cause any disastrous leaks. In the coming year, we will pursue installing ceiling fans to keep more of the heat down near the pews where we need it.

At the Corner House, we sealed cracks and replaced the bulkhead to keep rodents out. We replaced the mouse-damaged stove with a newer model of the same style, which meets our needs at a low cost. Jim Wagener repaired the storm doors on both porches, saving us the considerable cost to replace them. We also installed a small roof over the Baptist Corner door to keep rain away from that entrance and reduce rot.

In the year ahead, we will be restoring the windows in the Sanctuary, preserving their historic glass for generations to come. We are also pursuing repairs to the tower, which will include the fallen pinnacle and damaged balustrade.

With gratitude,
Maddy Roberts, Junior Warden

Pastoral Care Team Report for 2024

*God, our Creator, we are held in your everlasting arms.
Jesus, our Savior, we are healed by your wounded hands,
Holy Spirit, be present as we reach out to one another in love.*

Iona worship book

The Pastoral Care Team did not meet together often this year, but we have reached out and served others often. Our Prayer Team is active, praying for those who come to us for prayer. This confidential group of prayers lifts up those for whom prayers are requested. Anyone can request prayers by emailing or calling Sue Craft at susananncraft@gmail.com. The Pastoral Care Team provided meals, made calls to check in on those who were recently hospitalized or sick at home and made visits to nursing homes.

Thank you,

Sue Craft, Jane Wagener, Jane Buckloh, Darlene Monds, the Rev Jane Dunning, Susan Todd

St. John's Mission Team Report 2024

The Mission Team meets yearly to identify organizations that need our support. We look at local, national and international needs in our decisions. This year we wrote \$7,000 in checks to provide this support. But St John's gives much more money for mission outreach. In total we give \$29,000. The mission outreach includes picnics, UTO, SPIN, backpacks, giving out our discretionary funds, The Forum, trees for the beach, Ashfield Community Band, and Ohketeau Cultural Center.

Members of the Mission Team: Jane Wagener, Gary Partenheimer, Michael Corrigan, Sue Craft

Hilltown Churches Food Pantry; \$950

P.O. Box 161

Ashfield, MA 01330

The Food Pantry serves about 10 towns in the Hilltowns and is supported by local churches. This year saw an increase in the number of people using the Pantry.

Life Path \$400

101 Munson St. Suite 201

Greenfield, MA 01301

Life Path provides support to caregivers and elders in their homes with homemaking and personal care as well as helping in elder emergencies.

NELCWIT \$400

New England Learning Center for Women in Transition

479 Main Street

Greenfield, MA 01302

NELCWIT, based in Greenfield, is an agency dedicated to helping families survive the trauma of domestic violence and sexual assault. They provide counselors who help people to make a plan to leave an abusive partner, improve their self-esteem and find employment to help meet their families' basic needs.

Episcopal Relief and Development \$1,400

PO Box 7058

Merrifield, VA 22116-7058

Episcopal Relief and Development works with church parishes, local and worldwide, to save lives and transform communities. This year we are giving our donation to Refugee Services.

Southern Poverty Law Center \$400

PO BOX 458

Montgomery, Alabama 36177-9621

The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit organization that combats hate, intolerance and discrimination through education and litigation.

Shelburne Senior Center \$200

Main Street

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

The Senior Center serves seniors from Ashfield, Buckland and Shelburne. Among their many programs are those providing transportation to medical appointments and shopping, a home repair service free of charge, home visitation by a social worker, as well as meals, exercise classes and entertainment.

Community Action Fuel Assistance \$2,500

Attn: Tammy Butler

383 Main St.

Greenfield, MA 01361

This program offers financial assistance and emergency oil for low-income people in Franklin County.

Thresholds \$50

4101 Ravenswood Avenue

Chicago Illinois 60631

Thresholds is committed to helping people with mental illness. They are based in Chicago with sites in other parts of the country. This donation is made in memory of Robert Hall.

Mary Lyon Foundation \$200

26 Ashfield Rd.

Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

The Mary Lyon Foundation promotes student success by mobilizing community investment in services and programs that create positive educational outcomes in rural communities.

The Western N.E. Food Bank \$500
97 N. Hatfield Road
Hatfield, MA 01038
The Food Bank distributes food to area food banks.

Thank you all for your generous support of our mission giving.

Community Support in 2024:

Monies from the Ashfield Directory were donated to the following organizations:

Ohketeau Cultural Center \$500 - Their address for your records is 551 Main St. Ashfield. Ohketeau allows for the opportunity for interdisciplinary education through cultural workshops, dance, music, art, indoor and outdoor, activities that allows participants the opportunity to fully express their talents. In addition, our mission is to provide a safe, rewarding and enriching experience for the Indigenous community of the region.

Ashfield Community Band \$300

St. John's Madrigal Singers

It has been another exciting and productive year for the St. John's Madrigal Singers (SJMS). Our group is typically eight members strong, meeting for a weekly rehearsal and performing in each and every service at St. John's. Our choir numbers swell to eleven or twelve during Holy Week and Easter with the addition of some baritone and tenor voices, allowing us to expand our repertoire and to explore new music. We are grateful to the men of St. John's for joining us whenever they can.

SJMS is a cohesive group of dedicated musicians who sing mostly a cappella, with an occasional collaboration with our organist, Duane Nyman, as accompanist. This past year, SJMS had the honor of singing the lovely piece *Hear My Prayer* composed by Duane which quickly became a favorite of the group. In these early months of 2025, SJMS has begun working on a second piece by Duane, *Psalm 121*, which will debut in the spring. We are so very grateful to have the opportunity to learn and present these beautiful pieces. Many thanks to Duane for sharing his work with us.

This past year, the SJMS have continued their outreach by singing at several funerals and memorial services at St. John's and beyond, as well as traveling to private homes of elderly and of those recovering from illness or injury to sing a few hymns and offer some good cheer. This continues to be a blessing and an honor for us.

Many thanks to Vicki Ix for her unfailing support and encouragement that helped build a strong foundation for the SJMS, to Duane Nyman for his steady presence and for sharing his musical knowledge and talent with us, and deep and heartfelt thanks to our singers: Sue Craft, Susan Todd, Maddy Roberts, Sylvia White, Kay Spencer, Jane Kaufman, Lynnette Sievert, and Andrea Caluori for their dedication, their good humor, and for sharing their beautiful voices with us every week. It has been an honor and a blessing to work with this wonderful and talented group of singers, and I look forward to many more years and much more music to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Ryan Meservey
January 2025

Love in a Backpack 2024 Report

Introduction

As the Outreach Coordinator for St. John's LOVE in a Backpack Ministry, I have had the privilege of joining this impactful initiative in August 2024. My role has focused on expanding the reach of the ministry, ensuring the continued success of our backpack distribution project, and identifying opportunities for future growth and sustainability. This report outlines the key accomplishments, ongoing efforts, and goals for the ministry over the past few months.

Key Accomplishments

1. Completion of 600 Backpacks for Distribution (December 2024)

In December 2024, our ministry successfully completed the filling of 600 backpacks with essential supplies for women being released from incarceration. These backpacks were carefully packed with items that will assist them as they transition back into society, including hygiene products, personal care items, and essential resources for reintegration. This milestone was achieved through the dedication of our volunteers, generous donations, and collaborative efforts with community partners.

2. Media Exposure: Mass Appeal & The Hustler Files

In a significant effort to raise awareness and build support for the ministry, Susan Todd and I were interviewed on both *Mass Appeal* and *The Hustler Files*. These interviews provided a platform to share the mission of the ministry, highlight our ongoing projects, and encourage community involvement. The media exposure has helped increase visibility for the ministry and has led to new opportunities for collaboration and support from local businesses and individuals.

3. Participation in Diocesan Convention

I had the opportunity to attend the Diocesan Convention, where I represented St. John's LOVE in a Backpack Ministry. This event provided an excellent platform to network with other ministries, share our successes, and discuss opportunities for collaboration. It was an invaluable opportunity to raise awareness about our work and to foster relationships with other churches and organizations.

4. Collaboration with Other Churches

In my outreach efforts, I have been actively engaging with other local churches to provide guidance and support for their own backpack initiatives. By sharing our experiences and best practices, I hope to inspire a wider network of faith-based organizations to join the effort in supporting women reentering society after incarceration. This collaborative spirit is key to building a more robust and sustainable network for these vital programs.

5. Data Collection for Correctional Facility Needs

I have been in contact with local correctional facilities in western Massachusetts to assess the specific needs of incarcerated women. This data collection is intended to guide future outreach efforts and ensure that we are providing relevant and impactful support to this underserved population. Early conversations indicate a significant need for hygiene products and other personal care items.

Ongoing Efforts and Goals

1. Planned Backpack Fillings

To maintain a steady flow of backpacks for distribution, we have planned three additional backpack filling events in 2025. These are scheduled for February, April, and June, with each event focused on filling 24 backpacks. These regular filling sessions will allow us to meet the needs of women reentering society throughout the year, keeping the ministry's impact consistent and effective.

2. Estimated Backpack Needs in Western Massachusetts

Based on data from local outreach efforts, we estimate that the backpack needs for women being released from incarceration in the tri-county area of western Massachusetts hover around 300 annually. This estimate reflects the ongoing demand in the region, and we are committed to meeting as much of this need as possible through our planned distributions and partnerships with other organizations.

3. Maintaining Backpack Costs Below \$100

One of my primary goals has been to maintain the cost of each backpack at or below \$100. Through careful budgeting, strategic sourcing of supplies, and the continued support of our donors, we have been able to keep costs manageable. This allows us to maximize the impact of our donations while ensuring that each woman receives a well-filled backpack to help with her transition.

4. Increase Financial and Wish List Donations

We are actively working to increase both financial and wish-list donations from private individuals. In addition, I am reaching out to potential corporate sponsors who may be interested in supporting the ministry's work. As we expand our donor base, we aim to provide a more consistent and reliable source of funding for the backpacks and related outreach efforts.

5. Grant Search and Application

I am also focused on identifying and applying for grants that can provide additional financial support for the ministry. This includes both public and private funding sources, with a particular emphasis on those that support programs aimed at the reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals. We are in the process of compiling relevant grant opportunities and preparing applications for submission in the coming months.

Conclusion and Looking Ahead

As we move forward into 2025, I am excited about the continued growth of the St. John's LOVE in a Backpack Ministry. With the support of our dedicated volunteers, donors, and

community partners, we will continue to provide essential resources to women reentering society after incarceration. I look forward to expanding our outreach efforts, strengthening our partnerships with other churches and organizations, and securing the funding necessary to ensure the sustainability of this vital ministry.

We are most grateful for the generous Loaves and Fishes grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, which has funded our work for the past two years, allowing us to expand our reach and, along with a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, sponsor our forum, Moving Forward: from Incarceration to Community.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this work, and I look forward to another year of service and collaboration.

Action Items for 2025:

- Fill 24 backpacks in February, April, and June.
- Address the estimated 300 backpack needs for women in the tri-county area.
- Secure additional corporate sponsors.
- Submit grant applications to support ministry growth.
- Expand outreach to additional correctional facilities.
- Maintain cost-efficiency and enhance fundraising efforts.

Jenny Wildermuth
Outreach Coordinator

ASHFIELD CHURCHES TOGETHER
Deepening our shared commitment to the Gospel
COLLABORATIONS IN 2024

Winter Share the Warmth: Both churches contributed clothing and warm bedding for Food Pantry.

March World Day of Prayer service held jointly and appreciated by all.

April Moving Forward, a full day forum about formerly incarcerated individuals. Hosted by St. John's with First Church providing funding for Four Rivers School students to present their film "Roots of Change."

April Sacred Stroll: Earth Day hike on Ridge Trail. Indigenous people once used the trail to get from the Deerfield River to Ashfield Pond.

June World Central Kitchen fundraiser at Farmer's Market. Exceeded our goal of \$1,000.

June Franklin Pride March. Banners from both churches carried during that successful parade.

December Joint Ad in The Ashfield News wishing all peace and joy.

December Love in a Backpack: coordinated by St. John's with notes written by Dianna Young at First Congregational.

Ongoing Ahmadi Family Resettlement: Continued outreach to the family and posting of stories about them to our congregations and in the Ashfield News.

We give heartfelt thanks to the **Rev. Vicki Ix** who supported and encouraged ACT's development and evolution since our beginning in 2018. She has stepped away from St. John's ministry, but we will carry her belief that this collaboration is good for both churches and for the whole community. God speed, Vicki.

ACT Representatives are: The Rev. Vicki Ix, Vicar, Susan Todd and Sue Craft, Co-Wardens at St. John's; Rev. David Jones, Annie Cheatham, Trustee, Bruce Bennett, Deacon, and Wendy Prée, Clerk from First Congregational.

2024 Annual Report for the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry

Once again, we have had a very exciting and busy year at the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry. Since January of 2024 we have had 26 new families sign up which equals 60 new people. We distributed 79,833 lbs. of food just from the Food Bank of Western Mass. Clearly, we could not do this without our partnership with the FBWM. This does not include things such as milk (Our Family Farm), local beef (Porter Family Farm), SideHill Farm yogurt, Scott's apples and peaches, Bug Hill Farm produce, Fern Hill farm produce, bread products from Big Y, and food drive efforts by local churches and organizations. A pretty amazing feat for our small pantry with a totally volunteer staff.

We continue to enjoy a collaborative relationship with the Mary Lyon Foundation. This program helps the food insecure students of the Mohawk School district, a hungry child is not able to concentrate on school work and thrive in a learning environment. Thanks to the dedication of Kristen Tallona-Baker, a woman of generous heart

We received a bequest from the Russell Williams estate and that along with several grants and donations enabled us to purchase a stand-alone cooler which the church has graciously allowed us to place in the parking lot. This enables us to have storage space to take advantage of fresh produce and dairy when it's available and store it until distribution. We were also awarded a grant to help support local farmers and in return they help provide us with fresh meat and produce for our families.

We now get a weekly van delivery from the Food Bank in Chicopee and this along with our monthly truck delivery has enabled us to avoid the drive to Chicopee, which was unsustainable for us. We have a dedicated group of new volunteers on board to help the current crew that sorely needed more help with the increased load. All these new volunteers and deliveries have created its own job of a volunteer coordinator which Marge Senecal has stepped up to fill. Growth is not without its own issues.

Our Sharing Gifts Program has some fresh volunteers to take over from our long-standing coordinator, Bonnie Coleman. Judy Willis and Marge Senecal have taken this wonderful program under their wings and are well underway for another successful season helping keep the children smiling at the holiday season with gifts to open.

And so goes another successful year of helping where we can, in our little corner of the world. Thanks to all of you, each a piece of an operation that needs all its pieces to achieve our goal.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Thayer, Director, HCFP

Report: the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry Survey

The food pantry conducted a client survey in Spring of 2024. Almost half of all clients responded. A great result! Many thanks to all.

The aim of the Hilltown Churches Food Pantry is to provide supplemental food to clients, i.e. enough food to cover three meals per household for a two-week period. Occasionally clients receive more and sometimes less, depending on supply.

The main sources for food are the Food Bank of Western MA and the MA Emergency Food Assistance Program. Every year the HCFP holds a fundraiser locally to cover its expenses. HCFP places orders with the Food Bank for a very low cost and also orders from Hatfield Beef, Porter Family Farm, Marty's Local, Warner Farms, Our Family Farms and Scott Orchards. Side Hill Farm donates yogurt. Seasonal produce is donated from Bug Hill Farm, Atherton Farm, Fern Hill Farm and many others.

Results of the Survey

Households served by HCFP bi-weekly in 2024 are 100 +/- . 49 clients responded to the survey representing households that range from 1 to 9 individuals.

The majority of clients (61.2%) are able to get food at this pantry that meets their preferences; about a third (34.7%) find it somewhat difficult and a small number difficult (4.1%). A minority of clients have specific food needs: limited ability to cook (6), food allergy (12), vegetarian or vegan (4), low sodium (11), diabetes-friendly food (8), kid friendly food (17). Most are comfortable speaking with volunteers about food preferences (63.3%) or somewhat comfortable (28.6%); a few are not comfortable (8.2%).

Many clients have a preference for fresh fruit (24), fresh vegetables (28), lean meats (22), healthy frozen meals (22), spices (22) and staples (flour, sugar, salt) (24) and would like more. Some would like to see more frozen vegetables (18), whole grains (6), dairy (15), dairy alternatives (6), child friendly food (5), low-sodium (8), food with low added sugar (12), nutritional drinks like Ensure (9), plant-based protein (1).

Response to Survey

For the most part the food pantry is distributing the requisite amount of fresh fruit and vegetables and lean meats. Clients are free to attend other food pantries in our area to meet their food needs. A list is attached.

The Food Bank does not regularly carry healthy frozen meals and frozen vegetables. HCFP storage capacity limits the number of bulky frozen meals that can be distributed. We distribute both when possible.

The Food Bank once in a while includes a nice selection of spices but the delivery is infrequent. Food coops (Northampton, Greenfield) sell spices in bulk at low prices.

The Food Bank sporadically provides staples (flour, sugar, salt). HCFP requests them in holiday food drives. Aldi's (Northampton, Hadley and soon Greenfield) sells these products at a reduced rate.

Freshness of meat and bread/pastries. These goods are frozen before the 'freeze by' date and are kept frozen. They are stored in freezers until distribution. Everything is done to maintain freshness.

The food pantry usually carries these child friendly foods: applesauce and fruit cups, small yogurts, sliced cheese product, fresh fruit, snacks on the free table, celery, carrots, peanut butter, pastries, pretzel rounds, dried fruit, raisins.

Loaves of bread. The pantry depends on what the Big Y donates. Occasionally we supplement the bread supply at the Dollar Store or Aldi's.

Canned foods in sugary syrup and peanut butter with added sugar. This is what the Food Bank sends us.

High protein shakes, butter, bacon and sweets. These are infrequently available. If available, food pantry volunteers will order them.

Food for those with diabetes and for those who need low salt. The meat and produce sections meet these needs. The pantry orders some canned goods with low sodium (salt). Please ask volunteers for help finding food to meet your needs.

Foods that don't require cooking. Examples of what HCFP provides: applesauce, tuna fish, cheese, pouch chicken, raisins, lunch meats, baked goods, baby food, fruit, canned beans.

In Sum

Most clients are able to find foods that meet their preferences. Please ask volunteers for help finding food to meet your needs. The 'Response to the Survey' section above provides explanations or makes suggestions addressing several particular foods where there might be confusion.

If a household's needs cannot be met at a bi-weekly distribution, there are other pantries in the area that provide food assistance. A list of those pantries is attached to this report.

Thanks, again, to the many clients who filled out the survey! Please feel free to let us know about your questions and concerns.

The Ryan Scholarship

Information for St. John's Episcopal Church Annual Report 2024
at the Annual Meeting 2025
St. John's serves as the Fiduciary Agent

Honoring Ryan Walsh Martel
November 11, 1980 — March 4, 2022

In August 2023, Thad Bennett, Coordinator for **The Ryan Scholarship**, asked the leadership of St. John's if they would be the fiduciary agent for this new scholarship in Conway. They agreed because St. John's has a history of helping incubate and launch community efforts which need a fiduciary agent to get started. Thus, St. John's Episcopal Church has been working behind the scenes to help this scholarship effort. Donations via GoFundMe and checks have been made out to St. John's and The Ryan funds are being "kept separately" through normal accounting practices. The fund has received over \$7,800 during its 2025 fall appeal and recognition of Ryan's 44th birthday. The relationship will continue through at least 2025.



Davey Mazur, of Matthews Road in Conway, was awarded the inaugural Ryan Scholarship of \$3,000 in May 2024. The Ryan is awarded to the Conway high school graduating senior who presents the best plan, through education or work, that reflects Ryan's passion about energy policy and reducing the impact of climate change - like the one Conway faced in 2023 - for the sake of future generations. The scholarship honors Ryan Walsh Martel, who grew up in Conway, attended Conway Grammar School, Deerfield Academy, Bowdoin College and Georgetown University. He had an active career in environmental regulatory policy on state, national and international levels until his death from brain cancer in 2022. The scholarship is sponsored by the Friends of the Field Memorial Library in Conway.

Respectfully submitted, Thad Bennett, coordinator

Chairman's Report on Bicentennial Activity 2024

As anticipated in last year's report, presentations were made in 2024 on significant former St. John's parishioners who were men. I reported on Charles A. Hall, Lucinda Brown on Norm Pike, Jane Kaufman on Gordon Quinn, Susan Todd on Phil Dater, Sue Craft on Clayton Craft, Mark Zenick on Peter Elenois and Jody Hall on Russell Williams. Lucinda Brown again lent her production skills and energy to the creation of a booklet containing these

presentations and accompanying photographs. We are grateful to all these people, and especially to Lucinda.

This year presentations will be made on the following former vicars of St. John's: Phil Hall on Charles Whiston, myself on Titus Strong (rector of St. James' Greenfield and a key supporter of St. John's as it got under way), Jane Kaufman on Phil Steinmetz, Mark Zenick on Susan Crampton, Lucinda Brown on Gordon Dean, Helena Snow on John Snow (not a St. John's vicar but active in the parish as a retiree) and Susan Todd on Lewis Green, St. John's longest serving vicar. We look forward to these presentations and a third booklet collecting them, thanks again to Lucinda Brown.

Last year's report anticipated a parish production of the medieval morality play *Everyman*, which began with enthusiasm but was halted because too few people were available to fill the many roles that the play required. We are grateful to those who volunteered, sorry for the disappointment, and continue to ponder possible other plays, presumably with fewer roles. Someone has suggested a poetry reading as an alternative.

Susan Todd has added a new project to our Bicentennial program, an anthology of poems and prose of consolation, to be entitled *Let Evening Come*. This project began as a promise Susan made to her friend (and poet) Carol Purington as Carol was close to death, that the collection, which they had envisioned together, would come to fruition. We look forward to this result.

Also mentioned last year was the possibility of St. John's planting two hundred trees as a bicentennial effort. No progress has been made, and I encourage anyone with an interest in it to contact me at addisonchall@gmail.com.

Many thanks to the aforementioned committee members and others who have helped with Bicentennial events. Long may we thrive.

Submitted on behalf of the Bicentennial team by Addison Hall, chair.

Third Century Fund/Endowment Campaign Committee

2024 Year End Report for the Annual Meeting 2025

The original goal set by the Vestry was \$300,000. The purpose is to cover the expenses related to the buildings and grounds of St. John's in the future. At the end of the campaign in September 2022 the total amount pledged was just over \$493,000.

The breakdown:

- Total pledged: Just over \$ 493,000
- Cash gifts pledged: Just over \$ 284,000
- Bequests: Just over \$ 102,000
- Beneficiary of IRA, Insurance, etc.: Just under \$ 110,000

- Cash gifts and pledges ranged from \$25 to \$150,000.

We want to thank everyone for your continued support of our Third Century Fund Endowment Campaign. We are so fortunate to have such caring and faithful supporters. In 2024 the parish administrator and bookkeeper took over the supervision of the campaign and keeping track of pledges. Pledge status reports have been or will be sent from the office to remind folk once-a-year about this amazing opportunity to help the future church and to fulfill their pledges.

More information about the general campaign is available on the church website:
<https://www.stjohnsashfield.org/third-century-campaign/>

Submitted on behalf of the TCF Committee (Thad Bennett, Michael Corrigan, Nancy Boyd, Ted Toothaker, Bill Scaife) by Thad Bennett, Chair.

Financial Report for 2024

Overall, St. John's finances are in good shape. As the treasurer some twenty years ago, I see a vast difference in our financial health today. Our net assets have roughly tripled in that time, with significantly better reserves. And most of this increase has been in the last two years.

With this financial success we now see, however, there comes complexity. We have a growing Third Century Endowment Fund to offset building and grounds expenses, significant mission spending (nearly \$30,000 last year), a growing Love in a Backpack program, and the incubation of the Ryan Scholarship Fund, among other aspects. Because of this complexity it was clear we needed to address our accounting practices.

In November our financial administrator, Amy Murray, and I began working with Steve Hasbrouck, the Diocesan auditor who performed our last year's audit. About to retire, he agreed to work with St. John's at no charge (except for mileage!) to help us organize our accounting practices. His work will end in February, and by that time Steve will have succeeded in helping us develop new processes to provide:

- Clearer picture of our finances
- Greater understanding of our accounting process
- Less work

The accompanying spreadsheet will indicate some of the progress we've made, realizing there will still be details to iron out. We are enormously grateful for Steve's wise and thorough help.

As we are realizing the goal set last year, we will next turn our attention to discovering trends in our history that can teach us and influence our decisions in the future. Again our

finances are strong, enabling us to take some risks and also to take our time as we figure out how we will continue to do God's work in our community and the world.

The daunting conundrum is the unpredictability of our income. How do we budget for the Holy Spirit?! Is it theologically possible? Surely we can say that the Holy Spirit has been most active in our small parish and for that we are most deeply grateful. And so It seems at the moment we must be content to be surprised.

Going forward:

- We are looking for three volunteers to perform our 2024 audit as per the Diocesan suggestion. This is an excellent opportunity for parishioners to learn more about the intricacies of St. John's finances.
- We are also looking for someone to become the Assistant Treasurer. I am focusing on the Big Picture and would much appreciate someone to focus on the numbers, day to day.

And one final note for completeness, the amounts on the balance sheet is as of 9/30/2024. This because the financial reports went to press before the 12/31/2024 numbers were available.

With gratitude to Amy Murray and the generous people of St. John's Church and to our Parish Administrator, Lis Henry, for making patient change after patient change.

Raven Harris, Treasurer

Notes on the budget and next year:

Last year's operating budget showed a deficit of over \$22,000, but our final deficit is just over \$5,000. The total income is over \$118,000.

We have lost several pledging units over the past year, so our pledges are reduced by about \$8,000, with many people pledging more and some pledge still to come.

We point out that our budget deficit this year is over \$19,000, noting that for the past few years we have created deficit budgets that generally produced surpluses, as we have seen in 2024.

A generous parishioner has bequeathed St. John's a local property, which she hoped we would sell, directing the proceeds to our Third Century Fund. The revenue from that sale should push our TCF fund over our goal of \$300,000.

Raven Harris, Treasurer
Susan Todd, Co-Senior Warden

Epiphany Sermon Delivered by the Rev. Vicki Ix on January 5, 2025

Epiphany Sunday
January 5, 2025
Ashfield

Good morning, St. John's – near and far!

So, here we are. We have lots to do this morning, so I will be brief. While this day feels like it's about me, we know it's really about him. *POINT TO CRECHE* Led by a star, magi made their way to the stable in Bethlehem and knelt before the newborn king to worship him and give him gifts. But the story takes a deadly turn at the end with Herod's plot to kill the child.

In this holy season, as wars rage and innocents suffer, Epiphany reminds us that our God came in poverty and fled for his life. We can't help but see the Holy Family in all families fleeing violence, looking for refuge, begging for bread.

It might be fruitful to ask what the story requires of us. What does God ask of the Christian community in this narrative?

- What child is threatened today by powerful, fearful men?
- What family will shiver in the cold tonight? Or seek refuge from violence?
- What are we willing to do to keep them safe? Is there another road we can take?
- Are we willing to be led by the star to strange and dangerous places?
- Are we willing to look for Jesus in places we would never want to go?
- Are we willing to give him our gifts, poor as we are?

These powerful questions might live in us in 2025. We could take a mystical approach, like the Magi. We could live beneath the headlines and the horrors to see where God is made manifest in human beings - people doing extraordinary things empowered, missioned, driven by divine Love. The feast of the Epiphany reminds us that God showed up and God is still showing up. And, we can all find our way to the manger.

The manifestation of divine Love is no small thing. In our own lives, we can mark the moments of Presence that got us through or showed us the way. By our baptism, we are all following the star – not just to one place but throughout our lives.

Seven years ago, I followed the star to priesthood and then it came to rest over a small country church in the Hilltowns. There, I found Him made flesh in you.

Every Sunday holding the *Book of the Gospels* before me, I could see you all softly blurred all around it. For seven years you have been the lens through which I have understood the Good News of God in Christ. What we have shared in the intimacy of Word and sacrament has been an experience of divine Love between us and among us. That's why today is really a thanksgiving for what has been given to us, what has been revealed and understood between us.

They don't tell you in seminary that the love you will feel for your people is God's love for them. They don't tell you how God will love you back in their faces, in their open hands and hearts. This is a disclosure zone they left out of the book. But I can write that book now. When the star leads you somewhere, that place becomes a new Bethlehem – an experience of God revealed in flesh and blood, in tears and in much laughter. That place is itself a sacrament from which we receive grace upon grace.

So, here we are, counting this blessing and celebrating with festivity even as we may feel other things, too. Something Jack Kornfield wrote has been helpful to me this week. Kornfield trained as a Buddhist monk in Thailand, India, and Burma. He is a founding teacher of the *Insight Meditation Society* in Massachusetts and *Spirit Rock Meditation Center* in California. He writes, "Though it sounds simple, letting go is an advanced practice. It is demanded in the greatest trials of our lives and in our final moments. It is here that the heart learns the secret: that to let go is also to embrace what is true."

What is true for us, St. John's? For seven years we have followed the star together. Eight weeks after ordination I found myself presiding at your Eucharist. But I became a priest because of your love.

*Love Divine, all loves excelling,
joy of Heav'n to Earth come down*
AMEN.

REMARKS OF GRATITUDE It's been a hard month for all of us. Long goodbyes are even harder. I am so grateful for your understanding and acceptance, for the incredible work it took to get us all to this moment of celebration.

The **vestry** – in all its living, shifting iterations, has always supported the vicar. I want to thank you for welcoming me into a healthy team ministry and showing me the ropes. Thank you all for your service to St. John's.

I want to thank the wonderful **staff** of St. John's who bring beauty to our worship, tend our finances, maintain our buildings and run a busy parish office. You are all such a blessing!

Thank you for welcoming my family, for greeting Gosia with warm affection and with appreciation for what clergy spouses do.

What began as an experiment seven years ago, turned out to be the best thing I have ever done in my life – and I have done many things. As I rest a bit and listen for God's voice in the days ahead, I will pray for your good.

My deepest thanks go to Susan and Sue. They were with me even before that first Ash Wednesday. They took a chance on priest who was new and old at the same time. They have been more to me than co-senior wardens. They have been icons of living faith and service to community. We three have been following the star together. Thank you, both, for all the care, respect and support than any vicar could hope for.

Balance Sheet 12/31/2024

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

1010 · GSB Checking	34,986.56
1015 · Ford Interest Advantage	
1015-1 · Donor Restricted Funds	46,481.69
1015-2 · Vestry Restricted Funds	29,439.06
1015-3 · Unrestricted Funds	144,049.70
Total 1015 · Ford Interest Advantage	219,970.45
1040 · Vicar's Discretionary Acct -GSB	1,893.83

Total Checking/Savings 256,850.84

Accounts Receivable

Accounts Receivable (General)	-1,300.00
1210 · Pledges Receivable	
1228 · 2023 Pledges	1,380.00
1229 · 2024 Pledges	6,925.00
1230 · 2025 Pledges	-18,810.00
Total 1210 · Pledges Receivable	-10,505.00

Total Accounts Receivable -11,805.00

Other Current Assets

1500 · Diocesan Trust Account	
1520 · Enos Hall Fund-Int. Only	4,290.72
1530 · Henry Taylor Fund-Int. Only	4,289.37
1540 · Leslie Guilford Fund-Whole/Part	3,608.20
1550 · Marion Sears Fund-Whole/Part	732.74
1560 · Del Glover/Linda Grenz Fund-Int	1,172.46
1570 · Arthur & Barbara Bruffee - Int	1,657.21
Total 1500 · Diocesan Trust Account	15,750.70

1600 · Third Century Fund	
1601 · Vanguard- TCF	250,528.60
Total 1600 · Third Century Fund	250,528.60

Total Other Current Assets 266,279.30

Total Current Assets 511,325.14

Fixed Assets

1640 · Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	
1642 · Equipment	209.99
1643 · Office Equipment	2,903.99
Total 1640 · Furniture, Fixtures, Equipment	3,113.98

Total Fixed Assets 3,113.98

Other Assets

1700 · GSB - CD (***9431) Hedley	10,534.01
1701 · GSB - CD (***1726) Surplus	10,531.24

Balance Sheet 12/31/2024

1702 · GSB - CD (**2971) Hedley	10,682.76
Total Other Assets	31,748.01
TOTAL ASSETS	546,187.13
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2012 · Suspense	1,000.00
2300 · Deferred Revenue	
2320 · Security Deposit	900.00
Total 2300 · Deferred Revenue	900.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,900.00
Total Current Liabilities	1,900.00
Long Term Liabilities	
Mass Saves Loan	1,428.28
Total Long Term Liabilities	1,428.28
Total Liabilities	3,328.28
Equity	
3000 · Donor Restricted Net Assets	46,481.69
3020 · Vestry Designated	29,439.06
3200 · Permanently Restrict Net Assets	
3210 · Trustee Endowment Fund	
3212 · Enos Hall Fund-Int. Only	4,290.72
3213 · Henry Taylor Fund-Int. Only	4,289.37
3214 · Leslie Guilford Fund-Whole/Part	3,608.20
3215 · Marion Sears Fund-Whole/Part	732.74
3216 · Del Glover/Linda Grenz Fund-Int	1,172.46
3217 · Arthur & Barbara Bruffee -Int	1,657.21
Total 3210 · Trustee Endowment Fund	15,750.70
3240 · Third Century Fund	250,528.60
Total 3200 · Permanently Restrict Net Assets	266,279.30
3402 · Unrestricted Net Assets (Rt Eg)	76,042.42
Net Income	124,616.38
Total Equity	542,858.85
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	546,187.13

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
	Jan - Dec 2024	Jan - Dec 2024	Jan - Dec 2025
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4009 · Pledges & Givers of Record			
4009221 - 2022 Pledges	677.00	667.00	
4009222 - 2022 Givers of Record			
4009223 - 2022 Additional Pledge			
4009231 - 2023 Pledge	50.00	1,940.00	1,380.00
4009232 - 2023 Givers of Record			
4009233 - 2023 Additional Pledge			
4009241 - 2024 Pledge	70,960.00	76,050.00	
4009242 - 2024 Givers of Record	5,829.00	2,000.00	
4009243 - 2024 Additional Pledge	1,202.00		
4009251 - 2025 Pledge			67,470.00
4009252 - 2025 Givers of Record			7,000.00
4009253 - 2025 Additional Pledge			
Total 4009 · Pledges & Givers of Record	78,718.00	80,657.00	75,850.00
4000 · Contributed Support			
4025 · Offerings			
4037 Special Offering/Mission			
4037-1 Special offering- St. John Mission	2,045.00		
4037-2 Special offering -Outside Mission	9,171.88		
4028 Christmas Offering	530.00		
4031 Easter Offering/Mission			
4029 Christmas Offering/Mission			

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2025</u>
4032 Easter/Good Friday	330.00		
4045 UTO	291.36	250.00	250.00
4033 Envelope			
4038 · Loose Plate	2,156.55	3,000.00	2,100.00
Total 4025 · Offerings	<u>14,524.79</u>	<u>3,250.00</u>	<u>2,350.00</u>
	720.00	700.00	700.00
4055 · Flowers			
4070 Gifts Unrestricted		0.00	0.00
4075 · Gifts-Restricted			
4077-4 Memorial Gifts	325.00	0.00	0.00
4079-3 · Ann Browning Poetry		900.00	0.00
4079-7 · Hedley Yost Organ Maint.		0.00	0.00
4079-81· Gifts Restricted Other		0.00	0.00
4079-81 Gifts Restricted - operational			
4079-83 Gifts Restricted - outreach mission	5,328.26		
4075-7 · Restricted Grants		0.00	5,000.00
4077-1 - ER & D		0.00	0.00
Total 4075 · Gifts-Restricted	<u>5,653.26</u>	<u>900.00</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
		0.00	1,300.00
4080 · Fred W. Wells Trust	5,000.00		
4090 Diocesan Grants			
4100 · Vicars Discretionary Fund	2,215.25	0.00	0.00
Total 4000 · Contributed Support	<u>28,113.30</u>	<u>4,850.00</u>	<u>9,350.00</u>
4999 Unearned Income/uncashed checks			

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2025</u>
5000 · Earned Revenue			
5031 · Lease Income	9,900.00	10,800.00	12,000.00
5020 · Diocesan Trust Income	654.84	550.00	600.00
5030 · Facility Usage Fees	895.00	675.00	800.00
5310 · Interest Income		4,000.00	4,000.00
5310-1 Bank Interest	1,104.99		
5310-2 Investment Income	11,500.27		
Total 5310 Interest	<u>12,605.26</u>		<u>12,000.00</u>
Total 5000 · Earned Revenue	<u>24,055.10</u>	<u>16,025.00</u>	<u>17,400.00</u>
 5700 · Fundraising Income			
5708 · Picnic Donations			
5700 · Fundraising Income - Other	2,500.00	0.00	0.00
Total 5700 · Fundraising Income	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
 5800 · Special Events/Mission			
5800 · Special Events (F.Fest, Xmas, tagsale)			
5814 · Revenue	6,704.56	7,000.00	7,000.00
5815 · Expense	-2,379.22	-3,000.00	-3,000.00
Total 5810 · Special Events	<u>4,325.34</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>	<u>4,000.00</u>
	4,325.34	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total 5800 · Special Events/Mission	<u>137,711.74</u>	<u>\$105,532.00</u>	<u>\$106,600.00</u>
 Total Income			
 Expense			

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2025</u>
7000 · Outreach			
7020 · Mission	7,800.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
7030 · Mission Other			
703004 · Community Picnic	321.00	250.00	250.00
703008 · Other	1,208.74		
703016 Food Bank W. Mass			
703018 · UTO	250.00	250.00	250.00
70310 - Mafi Dove			
703021 Christmas Offering/Mission			
703023 Special Offering/Mission			
7030231 Spec. Off/Miss. St. John's Mission			
7030232 Spec. Off/Miss. Outside Mission	4,190.00		
703022 Easter Offering/Mission			
703025 Grant Expenses	8,947.40		
703026 SPIN Expenses	902.91	1,200.00	1,200.00
703031 Backpack Expenses	4,591.82	5,000.00	5,000.00
7034 · Discretionary expenses	1,758.40		
703020 ER&D			
703003 · Integrity		100.00	100.00
703024 new mission			
Total 7030 · Mission Other	<u>22,170.27</u>	<u>6,800.00</u>	<u>6,800.00</u>
	29,970.27	13,800.00	13,800.00
Total 7000 · Outreach	9,066.00	9,890.00	10,337.00
7010 · Assessment for Common Ministry			
7080 · Memorial & Special Project Fund			
7081-1 200th Anniversary Expenses		1,000.00	

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2025</u>
7082 · Ann Browning Poetry		900.00	
7086 Other		0.00	0.00
Total 7080 · Memorial & Special Project Fund	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1,900.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
7500 · Worship, Education, Pastoral			
7501 · Adult Education	63.78	100.00	100.00
7502 · Liturgical Supplies	703.69	1,500.00	700.00
7517 Liturgical Resources	72.31	200.00	100.00
7504 · Clergy Education		100.00	100.00
75045 · Diocesan Clergy Events/Retreats	70.00	100.00	100.00
7518 Dioscesan Lay Events	140.00	100.00	150.00
7506 · Vestry Retreats		65.00	65.00
7516 Lay Leadership		50.00	
7515 Team Meetings	86.56	50.00	50.00
7507 · Howes Children & Youth Prog.	66.82	100.00	100.00
7505 · Flowers	1,227.25	1,000.00	1,200.00
7508 · Music	568.85	400.00	500.00
7509-Publications/Books	353.60	350.00	250.00
7510 · Pastoral Care		200.00	200.00
7511 · Hospitality	576.94	1,000.00	600.00
7512 · Safe Church Fee	100.00	200.00	150.00
7513 - Vicar's Expenses	364.05	500.00	500.00
7514 Vicar's Mileage	830.46	500.00	500.00
Total 7500 · Worship, Education, Pastoral	<u>5,224.31</u>	<u>6,515.00</u>	<u>5,365.00</u>
8000 · Personnel			
8015 · Cleaning ("Sexton")			

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2025</u>
8018 Sexton Payroll Tax Expense	163.16	195.08	208.85
8016 Sexton Payroll	2,615.50	2,550.00	2,730.00
Total 8015 Cleaning ("Sexton")	<u>2,778.66</u>	<u>2,745.08</u>	2,938.85
8020 · Vicar Salary			
8024 · Vicar Salary	21,155.94	21,156.00	16,263.00
8023 · Pension	4,099.44	4,083.11	3,138.76
80241 · Vicar Social Security	1,618.50	1,618.43	1,244.12
80242 · Workers Compensation Ins.	112.00	100.00	100.00
80243 - Sabbatical Fund			
Total 8020 · Vicar Salary	<u>26,985.88</u>	<u>26,957.54</u>	20,745.88
8025 · Supply Clergy			
8026 · Supply Travel	99.96	400.00	400.00
8027 · Clergy Fees	800.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
Total 8025 · Supply Clergy	<u>899.96</u>	<u>1,650.00</u>	1,650.00
8030 · Organist & Music			
8032 · Organist Wage	8,881.77	9,220.32	9,220.32
8036 Choral Director	3,197.16	3,204.00	3,204.00
8033 · Payroll Tax Expense Organist/ChoirDir	924.13	950.46	950.46
80242 · Workers Compensation Ins.	100.00	100.00	77.00
8032 · Organist Subcontractor			
Total 8030 · Organist	<u>13,103.06</u>	<u>13,474.78</u>	13,451.78
8040 · Payroll Expense/Office Staff			
8070 · Financial Administrator	5,159.96	5,160.00	5,160.00

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	<u>Jan - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Dec</u>
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
8050 · Parish Administrator	10,215.25	10,400.00	15,990.00
8080 Program Coordinator	3,418.00	3,900.00	3,900.00
8041 · Payroll Tax Expense	1,437.61	1,488.69	1,916.33
8042 · Workers Comp Insurance	62.00	62.00	62.00
Total 8040 · Payroll Expense/Office Staff	<u>20,292.82</u>	<u>21,010.69</u>	<u>27,028.33</u>
	64,060.38	65,838.09	65,814.83
Total 8000 · Personnel			
8500 · Administrative			
8501 Uncollected Pledges	677.00	667.00	1,380.00
8510 Bank Fees			
8520 · Bulletins and Printing	1,201.52	1,000.00	1,000.00
8523 · Family Ministry	119.95	150.00	120.00
8530 · Offering Envelopes	172.32	180.00	180.00
8540 · Office Supplies	1,857.66	2,000.00	2,000.00
8545 Online Services (newsletters etc)	41.43		
8550 · Postage	487.07	450.00	500.00
8555 Fundraising Expense			
8580 Internet and Phone Service	2,304.11	2,300.00	2,300.00
8585 - Website expense	598.51	70.00	120.00
8560-Professional Services	340.00	340.00	0.00
8590 Other	207.50	300.00	350.00
Total 8500 - Administrative	<u>8,007.07</u>	<u>7,457.00</u>	<u>7,950.00</u>
9000 · Facilities/Utilities			
9010 · Blanket Insurance/Property	3,805.00	3,805.00	4,271.00
9025 Grounds Maintenance	927.43		

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2024</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2025</u>
9030 · Church			
9031 · Church Electric	968.40	1,300.00	1,300.00
9032 · Church Oil	2,052.26	2,500.00	2,500.00
9033 · Church Wastewater Fees	198.00	800.00	800.00
9034 · Church Water	748.00	300.00	300.00
9034-01 · Water District Tax			
9035 · Organ Maintenance		100.00	100.00
9035-1 Piano Maintenance			
9036 · Repair & Maintenance			
9036-1 · Furnace/Cleaning		250.00	250.00
9036-2 · Lawnmowing	1,350.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
9036-3- Snow Removal		0.00	0.00
9037 · Services	1,306.50	100.00	1,500.00
9038 · Materials	829.71	1,000.00	1,000.00
9039 · Major Repairs	0.00	2,000.00	
Total 9036 · Repair & Maintenance	<u>3,486.21</u>	<u>4,650.00</u>	<u>4,050.00</u>
	7,452.87	9,650.00	9,050.00
Total 9030 · Church			
9040 · Corner			
9041 · Corner Electric	1,754.71	750.00	1,000.00
9042 · Corner Propane	2,391.93	3,500.00	3,000.00
9043 · Corner Wastewater Fees	300.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
9044 · Corner Water	1,168.00	325.00	325.00
9044-1 · Water District Tax			
Real Estate Tx	360.99	384.00	384.00
9049 Equipment Purchase	676.72		300.00

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	<u>Jan - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Dec</u>
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
9045 · Repair & Maintenance			
9045-1 · Furnace Cleaning		225.00	225.00
9045-2 · Lawnmowing	1,350.00	1,300.00	1,300.00
9045-3 · Snow Removal	450.00	600.00	600.00
9046 · Services	5,032.99	300.00	300.00
9047 · Materials	763.38	300.00	300.00
9048 · Major Repairs		300.00	300.00
Total 9045 · Repair & Maintenance	<u>7,596.37</u>	<u>3,025.00</u>	<u>3,025.00</u>
	14,248.72	9,284.00	9,334.00
Total 9040 · Corner	<u>26,434.02</u>	<u>22,739.00</u>	<u>22,655.00</u>
Total 9000 · Facilities/Utilities	<u>142,762.05</u>	<u>128,139.09</u>	<u>125,921.83</u>
Total Expense	<u>-5,050.31</u>	<u>-22,607.09</u>	<u>-19,321.83</u>
Net Ordinary Income			
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
9100- Endowment Income			
9100-01 Increase/Decrease in value	14,212.78		
9100-02 Donations (TCF)	110,421.04		
Total 9100 Securities (Vanguard)	<u>124,633.82</u>		
9200 Bequests	12,667.96		
Total Other Income	<u>137,301.78</u>		

2024 Profit & Loss and 2025 Budget

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2025 Budget</u>
	<u>Jan - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Dec</u>	<u>Jan - Dec</u>
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Other Expense			
9060 - Capital Projects			
Total 9060 · Capital Projects	13,853.09		
Total Other Expense	13,853.09	0.00	0.00
Net Other Income	123,448.69	0.00	0.00
NET INCOME	118,398.38	-22,607.09	-19,321.83

Ford Money Market Recap

12/31/2024

Craft, C	455.00
Craft, R memorial	856.49
Craft, R water trough	380.00
Corrigan, P mem.	150.00
M. Berthelette memorial	2,146.00
E. Nelson memorial	470.00
R. Todd Memorial	353.00
V. Leidy Memorial	1,015.00
G. Dean	410.00
American Foundation	3,983.23
Backpack Grant	1,149.98
TJC Backpack	178.60
Spin	1,204.39
Ann Browning	300.00
Piano Maintenance	1,410.00
Organ Fund	8,489.99
Mafi Dove/Mission	600.00
Howes Family/Bement	872.73
Afghan Family	500.00
Endowment (TCF)	0.00
Ryan Scholarship	21,557.28
Total Donor Restricted	46,481.69
Additional Mission	1,692.04
Directory Profits	1,646.00
Emerg	1,945.78
Accrued Sabbatical	0.00
Schultz -Green Team	24,155.24
Total Vestry Restricted	29,439.06
Fred Howes unrestricted	1,750.00
R. Williams	100,470.72
Free \$	10,339.11
Interest	31,489.87
Total Unrestricted	144,049.70
Total	219,970.45

Music Organ and Piano	13,470.99
Buildings and Grounds	2,945.78
Green Initiatives	24,155.24
Unrestricted	144,049.70
History	808.00
General Mission	7,752.39
Directory Profits	1,646.00
Liturgy and Worship	856.49
backpack	1,328.58
Ann Browning	300.00
Mafi Dove	600.00
Afghan family	500.00
Ryan scholarship	21,557.28
total	219,970.45

A Prayer from A New Zealand Prayer Book

Draw your Church together, O God,
into one great company of disciples,
together following our Lord Jesus Christ
into every walk of life,
together serving him in his mission to the world,
and together witnessing to his love
on every continent and island.

