



ST. JOHN

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Celebrating faith, sharing community

ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR-END 2023

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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

“It was impossible not to feel the Holy Spirit.” That’s how one member described her experience at an indoor skate park, and she was not alone. She was one of hundreds of volunteers who participated in a herculean grassroots effort to resurrect and reinvigorate an abandoned church building. Over the span of 12 years, hundreds of volunteers – mostly young people – filled dumpsters with debris, shoveled the remains of dead animals, and fortified failing structures. In the end, St. Liborious Catholic Church, “the largest gothic revival church west of the Mississippi,” became Sk8 Liborious, an indoor skate park and outreach organization in St. Louis.

Tragically, Sk8 Liborious made national news last summer when an electric fire consumed the roof, leaving their building partially intact but otherwise ruined. “Before the four-alarm fire, Sk8 Liborious was a beautiful place in a place not known for beauty.” To be sure, it was a form of beauty easily overlooked because it was more about the people than their property. Sk8 Liborious “was a place where people could feel safe and be free” in a context where both were in short supply. Now, seven months after the fire, they’re still figuring out their options but they plan to rebuild. How could they not? “After all,” they suggested, “who but us is interested in making our particular patch of unwanted earth more beautiful?”

Who but us? It’s a question brimming with possibility for St. John – and not because we’re lacking in beauty. Far from it. Rather, it’s a question brimming with possibility because we’re members of a living community with a centuries-old legacy of Christian worship and mission here in York. The question inherited by every generation of believers is the same: *Who but us?* *Who but us* is going to faithfully steward the gifts – both spiritual and material – that we have received? *Who but us* is going to faithfully discern adaptive initiatives that speak to the changing longings and needs of our neighbors? *Who but us* is going to faithfully embody the enduring light of Christ in our particular patch of earth? *Who but us?*

As we look over the past year, it’s encouraging to consider the many ways that we have leaned into that question. We have faithfully stewarded our gifts, from a refurbished historic entrance to our renewed Memorial Garden. We have faithfully discerned opportunities to serve our neighbors, from stable partnerships in local outreach to potential initiatives for urban agriculture. We have faithfully embodied the light of Christ through our worship and relationships, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep (Rom. 12:15).

In the coming year, let’s allow that question – *Who but us?* – to continue guiding our stewardship, discernment, and witness. Let’s also remember that we are never alone in our work, because the same Christ who commissions us also accompanies us every step of the way. We can rest assured that as we seek to be faithful, it will be impossible not to feel the Holy Spirit guiding our way.

Faithfully,



The Reverend Eric Hillegas

All quotations from: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/17/opinion/skatepark-community-stlouis-sk8-liborius.html>

MISSION STATEMENT



Mission Statement

St. John Episcopal Church is a community of believers that welcomes all people to celebrate God's presence in the world.

Vision Statement

At St. John, we strive to be a welcoming and diverse community of people who:

Demonstrate our love of Jesus Christ through service, outreach, and inclusion to better serve our members and the community at large.

Establish lifelong Christian Formation for our members and encourage fellowship to all people.

Provide a safe and accepting place for nurturing, healing, spiritual growth and sending peaceful people into the world.

THE VESTRY, STAFF, AND STANDING COMMITTEES

VESTRY

Rector and President

The Rev. Eric Hillegas

Senior Warden

R. Eric Menzer (2025)

Junior Warden

Morgan Hively (2024)

Clerk

Anne Strayer (2025)

Treasurer

Peter E. Partridge (2026)

Vestry Members

Susan Ariail (2025)

Matt Conant (2025)

Mike Dellinger (2024)

Scott Hamilton (2024)

David Kierce (2026)

Felicia Marino (2026)

Claudia Parks (2024)

STAFF

Rector

The Rev. Eric Hillegas

Deacon (Transitional)

The Rev. Martha Ambrose

Organist & Choir Director

Rodney Barnett

Parish Administrator

Tory Dunkle

Sexton

Shawn Lauer

Financial Administrator

Cathy Sowers

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance & Investment

Liz Wright, Chairperson
Fr. Eric Hillegas
Morgan Hively
Vicki Kearns
Milton Leake
Eric Menzer
Pete Partridge
Cathy Sowers

Property

Morgan Hively, Chairperson
Josephine Heidke
Brian Hershner
Rich Kopecki

Parish Life

Kris Potter-Klouse, Chairperson
Bev Altland
Cheryl Dumas
Robert Dumas
Linda Hively
Morgan Hively
Mark Lutz
Claudia Parks
Janice Wilhelm

Stewardship

Tom Russell, Chairperson
Fr. Eric Hillegas

Outreach

Susan Ariail, Co-Chair
Felicia Marino, Co-Chair
Milton Leake
Susan Leake
Conor McKee
Claudia Parks
Alison Vedder
Linda Yakacki

THE AGENDA
FOR THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
The Rev. Eric Hillegas, Presiding
January 28, 2024

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer The Rev. Eric Hillegas, Rector
- II. Introduction of the Vestry Secretary
- III. Confirmation of Quorum Anne Strayer, Secretary
- IV. Certification of the Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting
- V. Report on Behalf of the Nominating Committee Carolyn Warman, Chairperson
- VI. State of the Church Presentation
- a. Spiritual Life The Rev. Eric Hillegas, Rector
Rodney Barnett, Organist
 - b. Operational Life R. Eric Menzer, Senior Warden
 - c. Property Maintenance Morgan Hively, Junior Warden
 - d. Financial Activity Peter Partridge, Treasurer
- VII. Questions and Answers
- VIII. Blessing and Dismissal

MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING (YEAR-END 2022)

St. John Episcopal Church
January 29, 2023

I. Call to Order 11:17am

II. Opening Prayer

The Rev. Eric Hillegas

III. Confirmation of Quorum

Steven Robertson

60+ confirmed in attendance which is more than 50% of the average of the last two annual meetings, constituting a quorum.

IV. Certification of Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting.

A motion was made by Linda Davidson and seconded by Barb Linder to approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

V. Report of the Nominating Committee

Steve Linebaugh

A. The 2022 nominating committee was comprised of Steve Linebaugh, Daniel Blakemore, Susan Ariail, Anne Strayer and Kendall Menzer.

B. Vestry Nominees - Mike Dellinger, Scott Hamilton, Pete Partridge, Felicia Marino, Kris Potter Klouse and David Kierce. Unanimously approved.

C. Nominating Committee for 2023- Bill Ariail and Carolyn Warman.

1) A motion by Anne Deisher and seconded by Matt Conant was made to accept the nominees for 2023. Unanimously approved.

D. Father Eric asked for volunteers to represent St. John at the Diocesan Convention in the fall of 2023 with Charlie Marinio, Milton Leake, Susan Leake and Dorothy Kennedy volunteering. A motion by Eric Menzer, seconded by Wanda Linebaugh, to accept them as nominees was made. Unanimously approved.

VI. Rector's Report

The Rev. Eric Hillegas

A. Father Eric asked that his report be accepted as presented in the annual report and then invited Mother Alyssa and Ivan Ruiz share highlights from their ministry areas in 2022.

B. Mother Alyssa cited advances in Godly Play, Spiritual Retreats and Expanded Liturgies.

C. Ivan cited his increased role as Office Administrator along with Adult Forum, Pilgrimage, Home Blessings and monthly Nourishing Soul and Body which he hopes to continue in 2023.

VII. Senior Warden's Report

Daniel Blakemore

A. The Icons in Transformation exhibit was a highlight of 2022 with over 300 visitors coming to St. John to view the exhibit. Earnings from the exhibit supported our ministry to Haitian migrants as well as (pending) repairs and painting of the church interior.

B. The church furnace failed in December of 2021, necessitating its replacement. Since the air conditioning system was also near the end of its useful life, the vestry elected to replace both systems with a combination HVAC system which is scheduled to be fully installed by the end of February 2023.

C. A non-binding agreement for the church to be involved in discussions about the development of our parking lot was signed in 2022 but the development project for Northwest Triangle was not accepted by the City of York so the non-binding agreement is now null and void.

D. Brockie Realty/Healthcare who leases the church-owned parking lot has contracted with a new app-based revenue collection vendor by the name of ParkPoolr. St. John members who want to use the lot for church business during business hours are asked to provide their license plate information to the St. John office before April 1, 2023 to continue with free parking.

VIII. Junior Warden's Report

Morgan Hively

- A. The installation of the new HVAC system is nearing completion.
- B. Painting will follow the installation of the new HVAC system.
- C. Brick repairs on the south alley side of the church to seal and replace mortar in March/April.
- D. Phase One audio/visual system upgrade in the rear of the church which was paid for by private donations will be a good first step in making our online streaming and in-house audio more reliable.

VIV. Treasurer's Report

David Hogeman

- A. There was a cash surplus in 2022 of \$48,935 with income exceeding expenses which will support our new HVAC system in 2023.
- B. The Vestry has approved a balanced budget for 2023, for the 6th year in a row.
- C. We have paid down approximately \$900,000 on our \$2.4 million mortgage. Current mortgage funds will be exhausted in August of 2026, at which time our remaining balance would be approximately \$1.2 million. The Vestry will be looking for ways to raise funds necessary to continue the payment of the mortgage until completion.

X. Finance Committee Report

Liz Wright

- A. We currently have \$803,000 in investments of which \$625,000 is set aside for payments on the mortgage.
- B. 2022 was a volatile year in both the stock and bond markets. We currently have 35% of our portfolio in stocks and the rest in short term bonds (Vanguard). Our investments were down 8% in 2022, while major stock indexes were down 13-19%, indicating effective management of church investments.

XI. New Business/Questions

Rodney was asked to review the condition of the organ. The organ has a solid state system to control the organ and it is almost to a point of failing. The projected cost of this repair is approximately \$55,000.

A motion was made by Tom Warman, seconded by Wanda Linebaugh, to adjourn. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Steven Robertson.

PARISH DATA

Vital Statistics

Active Baptized Members 16+years of age = 196
Active Baptized Members 15 years of age and younger = 21
Inactive Baptized Members = 35
Other Active Members = 40
Total Members = 292

Average Sunday Attendance (in-person)

<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u> (partial)	<u>2021</u> (partial)	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
120	121	76	97	102

Number of Financial Pledges

102	91	82	86	78
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Parish Services and Membership Activity

Based on the 2023 Parish Register

Baptisms	2	Holy Eucharist	
Confirmations	0	Sunday	107
Receptions	0	Weekday	58
Marriages	2	Private	28
Deaths	4	Daily Offices	
Transfer Out	0	Sunday	10
		Weekday	11

Parish Staff

Rodney Barnett began his sixteenth year as our full-time **Organist and Choir Director**. Rodney continues to oversee the musical life of the parish, with primary focus on our Sunday Adult Choir. Rodney also functions as the Chair of the St. John Concert Series Committee.

Tory Dunkle joined the staff in August as our full-time **Parish Administrator**. Tory's position is new and provides vital administrative and front office support for the Parish. Tory also provides administrative guidance for our Godly Play formation.

Shawn Lauer completed his eleventh year as full-time **Sexton**. Shawn monitors our buildings and grounds and helps us maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming facility. Shawn also serves as our primary contact for major projects and events on the property.

Cathy Sowers completed her seventh year as part-time **Financial Administrator**. Cathy works closely with the Rector, the Parish Treasurer, the Vestry and the Finance and Investment Committee to provide timely and reliable financial reports.

The Rev. Martha Ambrose, **Transitional Deacon**, joined us for the last four weeks of the year as she completed preparations for ordination to the priesthood. We thank Rev. Martha for her contributions in liturgy and formation, as well as her relational investment in the life of our parish.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The 2023 Nominating Committee consisted of the following members:

Carolyn Warman (Chair), William Ariail, Daniel Blakemore, R. Eric Menzer, and Anne Strayer.

In accordance with Church bylaws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for election at the Annual Meeting.

For the 2024 Vestry

Mike Dellinger

Megan Dietz

Scott Hamilton

Brian Hershner

Claudia Parks

For the 2024 Nominating Committee

Bill Ariail

Lynn Conant

Carolyn Warman

Delegates for Diocesan Convention

Daniel Blakemore

Wanda Blakemore

Dorothy Kennedy

Charlie Marino

Alternate Delegate for Convention

Felicia Marino

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

Greetings, Fellow St. John's Parishioners,

It has been a privilege to serve you as Senior Warden the past 12 months. In over 35 years as a member of St. John's, I have rarely been as optimistic for our future. In a fractious country and troubled world, we are building real community, striving to be a light to enlighten that world, as we attempt to model Christian love, formed in the image of God. At the bottom of every Vestry agenda is the reminder that in a Christian community, "we value people for who they are more than what they can do." I am happy to report that your Vestry takes that seriously, and we operate with graciousness and open minds as we find our way forward together, as stewards of the St. John's campus and financial resources, and partners in administration and ministry with Fr. Eric.

Thanks to the remarkable generosity of all of you, our budget is balanced, and our facilities are in outstanding condition. When visitors and prospective members join us, they find a campus that reflects pride of place and an effort to invest for the next generation. I was personally overwhelmed this year by the response to our request to help us refurbish Memorial Garden plaques and establish a fund to ensure the garden is a place of respect and respite well into the future. When we gathered one Sunday morning to rededicate it, I was reminded of the ties that bind – the many generations who have called St. John's home. As we stood in the garden together – many of us with family and all of us with parishioners we knew whose ashes are interred there – it was a visible reminder of the connections between generations of members that goes well beyond simple friendship into a true Christian family. It made the connection for me between place and people.

And speaking of that connection, it is important not to substitute our financial health or the excellent condition of our buildings for community and spiritual health. That health comes from worshipping, learning, and working together for the increase of God's kingdom. We are extraordinarily blessed to have a Rector who blends vision, management skills, intellect, pastoral sensitivity, and good cheer in the way Father Eric does. Thanks to his leadership, there are green shoots of growth in our membership. That is no small statement at a time when most traditional churches – including, unfortunately, many of our fellow Central Pennsylvania Episcopal churches – are struggling to find relevance to the modern world. We should never take great leadership for granted. The Vestry is in an ongoing discussion about how we can make sure Father Eric has the help he needs to help all of us live fully into our faith in whatever manner is most important to us. We take that need very seriously.

Finally, it is true that we need to have a plan by the end of 2024 to retire what will remain of our mortgage when current funds reserved for that purpose are exhausted in 2026. The Vestry has commissioned a small group to study our options, and report back to the Vestry this summer. Given our history, I do not personally have any concern that we will meet the moment, but it will not happen by magic. It will happen because we will plan ahead and apply the professional expertise of many of our members, and the vision and generosity of all.

Thanks again to Father Eric, my fellow Vestry members, and all of you for making the role of Senior Warden at St. John's meaningful and easy – it truly is a pleasure to serve in that capacity at a place that means so much to me.

Respectfully submitted,
R. Eric Menzer

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

As we move forward into 2024, we look back and see what a productive year 2023 was. There were many projects which were completed and new projects placed on the slate for 2024.

First, we completed the installation of the new HVAC system in the sanctuary. I am sure we can all agree it was a welcomed completion. The second major improvement, thanks to Claudia Parks and her fellow associates, was the installation of our refurbished historic entrance. The completion was both a welcomed beautification, plus an added safety factor. JOB WELL DONE.

Another project completed for safety reasons was the removal and resetting of the flagstone steps both in front of the entrance to the Commons area and the steps leading into the courtyard. Over the years these steps had become loose and caused a safety factor. As this project was being done there was also work being done on the church building itself. Mortar repair and outside sealing of the brick to prevent moisture from seeping into the interior walls. This project is still ongoing with a completion scheduled for spring or early summer.

Another project completed was the patching and painting of the walls in the sanctuary, the commons area and also the parish hall. Once the painting was completed a committee was formed to reexamine the paintings which had been taken down and select paintings to be re-hung in the sanctuary. This has been completed until such time as additional paintings may be professionally cleaned and restored.

Finally, I could not end this report without expressing the sincere gratitude I feel for our sexton, Shawn Lauer. His dedication to this facility is unsurpassed. He handles many of the situations occurring and addresses the problems before they become major concerns. His association with many of the outside contractors is amazing. Most of the time his calls are answered almost immediately. He is certainly a valuable member of the team.

I would also like to take this time to thank all the members of the church for the support you have shown in my years as Junior Warden. It has been a very rewarding journey. THANK YOU and GOD Bless.

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan W. Hively

TREASURER REPORT

Once again in 2023, as it has since 2018, the parish was able to conduct its normal operations based on budgeted income from pledged and non-pledged contributions, parking lot and facility rental income, and fund raisers. No investment funds were needed to balance the budget and, thanks to generous giving by our parishioners, out of total expenses of \$589,289 we ended the year with a \$12,642 surplus.

As shown in Figure 1, the church structures its finances so that Operations and Property are treated as two separate financial entities so as not to comingle resources. Figure 2 is a breakdown, in pie chart form, of the major elements of the 2024 Operating Budget indicating that it is a balanced budget as required by the church's bylaws. The church's primary financial goals continue to be those shown in Figure 3.

Thanks to diligent vestry leadership, the church has been able to address a wide range of property maintenance needs in recent years, ranging from the preservation and protection of our most fragile stained glass to urgent masonry repairs that have preserved the integrity of our sacred structures. We are blessed that overall, our property is in very good shape and works for us and not the other way around. However, given the age and size of our facilities, we maintain an ongoing list of property maintenance projects that are addressed as funds permit or urgency dictates. This list is shown in Figure 4 as either priority (1 to 3 years) or long range (4 or more years). One-time special donations targeted at one or more of these property maintenance needs are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

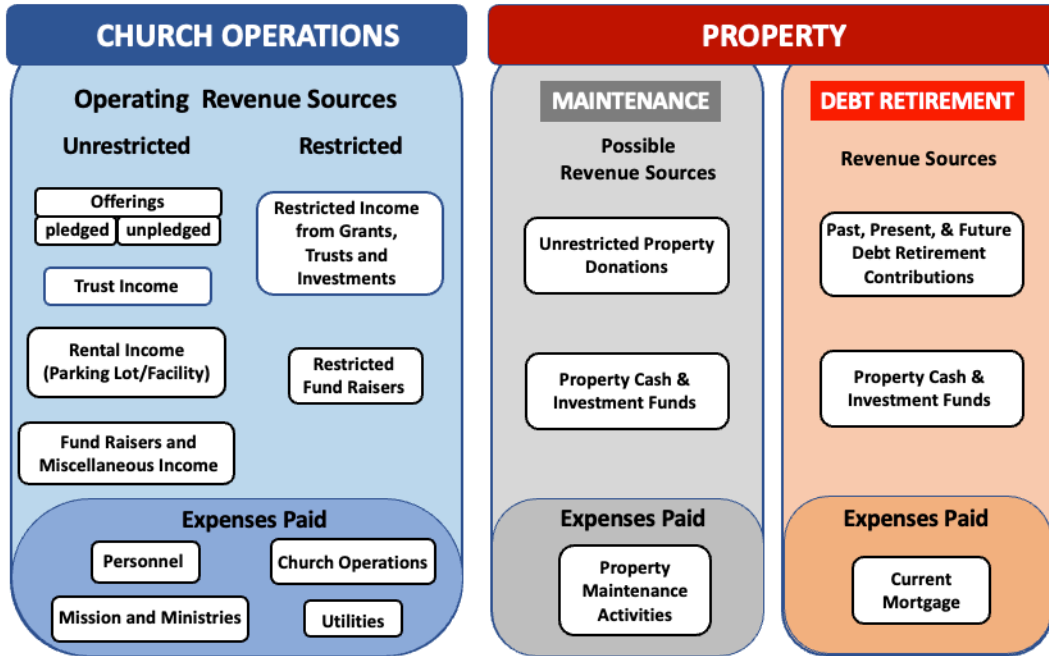
Details about the church's mortgage that financed the property improvements that were made several years ago are shown in Figure 5. Thanks to the parish's response to two capital campaigns plus a number of generous unexpected additional donations and two loan restructurings over the past several years, we have made great strides in paying down the mortgage. Of note is the fact that 23% of the original loan balance has been retired by non-scheduled principal only payments. As Figure 3 indicates, one of our primary financial goals is to develop and implement a mortgage retirement plan. The vestry, with the help of the Stewardship and Finance & Investment Committees, is continuing this year to actively explore options to accomplish this goal.

The overwhelming success of this year's pledge campaign, coupled with running budget surpluses for a number of years in a row, and the number of unexpected and unplanned donations the church has received recently toward property maintenance and improvement projects and paying down the mortgage should give us all confidence that the financial health and well-being of the church is strong and resilient and will continue so as we look to the future.

Finally, many thanks to those who serve on the Stewardship and Finance & Investment Committees, to our excellent Financial Administrator, Cathy Sowers, and to the rector and vestry for all of their diligent efforts in keeping our finances on a very sound and sustainable footing.

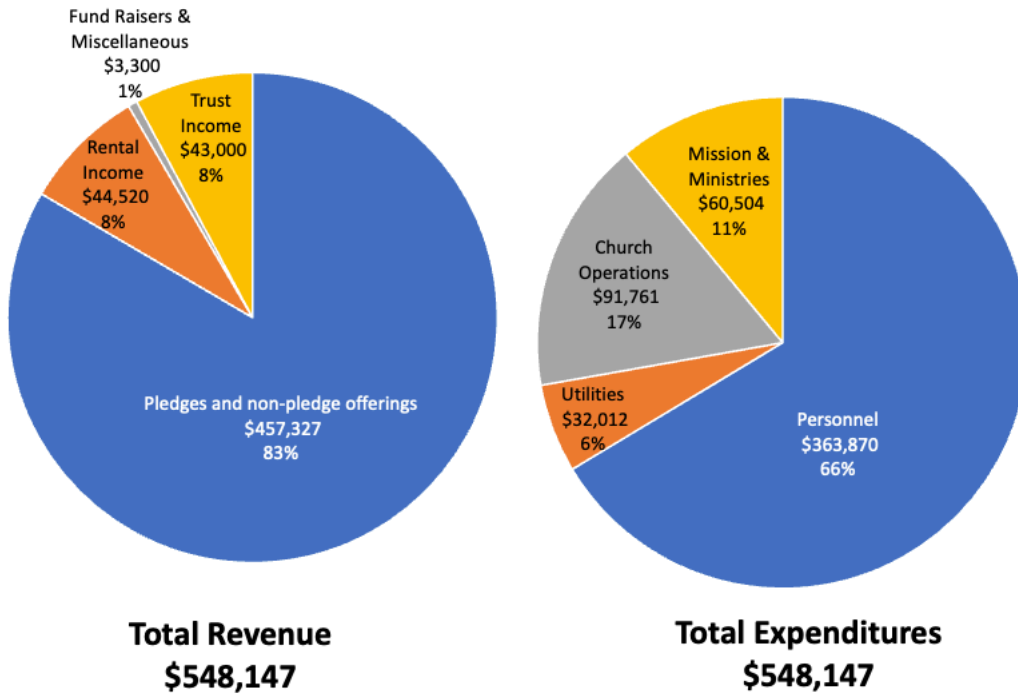
Respectfully submitted,
Peter E. Partridge

FIGURE 1
St. JOHN EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2024 FINANCIAL STRUCTURE



1/28/24

FIGURE 2
St. John Episcopal Church 2024 Operating Budget



1/28/24

FIGURE 3

OUR PRIMARY FINANCIAL GOALS CONTINUE TO BE:

- To continue supporting clergy leadership with expanded ministry staff and increasing mission to our community.**

- To develop and implement a mortgage retirement plan.**

- To develop and implement a long-term sustainable property maintenance funding source.**

FIGURE 4

CHURCH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Priority Projects (next 1 to 3 Years)

Re-fabricate Historic Sanctuary Front Doors	\$ 12,500
Organ Maintenance	\$ 75,000
Protective Tempered Glass on 20 Stained Glass Windows	\$ 40,000
Bell Tower Maintenance - Bell Cradle and Floor	\$ 50,000
Repair of Rubber Slate in Sanctuary	\$ 10,000
Priority Projects Total	\$187,500

Longer Range Projects (4 or more years)

Refurbish Iron Fencing Around Campus and Gravesites	\$ 5,000
Full Scale Organ Renovation	\$175,000
Replace Slate Roof on Education Building	\$125,000
Repair Floor by Narthex and Sacristy	\$ 50,000
Protective Tempered Glass on 17 Stained Glass Windows	\$ 35,000
Secondary Projects Total	\$390,000

GRAND TOTAL OF ESTIMATES \$577,500

1/28/24

FIGURE 5

CHURCH MORTGAGE

Original Principal Amount: <i>(disbursed on 25 July 2017)</i>	\$2,486,915
Current Annual Interest Rate:	3.78% <i>(fixed until May 2027)</i>
Current Payment:	\$14,130.33 per month \$169,564 per year
Original Term:	18 years, 216 months
Remaining Term:	11.7 years, 140 months <i>(last payment due in Aug 2035)</i>
Current Mortgage Balance as of 31 Dec 2023:	\$1,358,991
Current value of investment funds that can be used for mortgage payments:	\$468,853
Current projection of when these funds will be depleted:	August 2026
Projected mortgage balance at depletion if no additional debt retirement funds are raised or received as donations:	\$1,028,250
Principal only payments made to date thanks to individual donors:	\$563,425
<i>(this represents 23% of the original balance)</i>	
<i>Percent of last monthly payment that was:</i>	<i>Principal - 70% Interest - 30%</i>

1/28/24

FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance and Investment Committee met twice during 2023 to oversee the financial issues of the Church and conducted one e-vote. The individuals on the committee are the Rev. Eric Hillegas, Eric Menzer, Liz Wright, Cathy Sowers, Vicki Kearns, Pete Partridge, Milton Leake, Morgan Hively.

The main items addressed during the year were raising sufficient funds from the Property Investment Account to fund the mortgage payments, safeguarding the Property Fund to preserve capital, the status of the Restricted Fund and creating a 2024 budget for the Vestry to approve (covered in the Treasurer's report).

Given that all funds in the Property Account will be used by August 2026 to cover mortgage payments, it is becoming more imperative that capital be preserved. The Committee voted in February to sell all shares out of the two smaller stock funds and the Intermediate Bond Fund. With rising rates in money market accounts, the committee opted to move all funds into a Money Market. It was determined that PeoplesBank offered much higher rates than Fulton, so the funds were kept there. Also, because of the higher interest rates in the MM account, the Committee voted to move funds in the Operating Cash Reserves to a MM account. At the second meeting in October, the committee voted to sell the remaining stock fund and significant shares out of the two short term bond accounts. The committee initially determined to place those funds in the MM account. But a later discussion concerning the ability to lock the interest rates by using CDs resulted in an E-vote to place a majority of those funds into three short term CDs which will cover mortgage payments halfway through 2025.

The second main item on the Committee's 2023 agenda was the status of Restricted Funds. Restricted Funds are those in which the donor has given instructions for the use of the money. The money currently in the Fund has been there for decades and somewhere along the way, the instructions for the intended uses has been lost. Over the spring and summer, Liz undertook a physical examination of the Vestry minutes going back to 2000, along with requesting statements from PeoplesBank going back to 2011 (the earliest date available). The review was unable to shed any light on the remaining money in the account. During 2015, a significant portion of the then current balance was used towards the church's renovations, as the funds in the account were deemed to have "limited restrictions". It was agreed that any gifts are of an age that no one is around to authorize them being put to another purpose. A recommendation was made that Eric Menzer draft a proposal for the Vestry to vote on allowing the funds to be used for other purposes as determined by the Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Wright

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Operating Account Detail	12/31/23		
	YTD Actual 2023	YTD Actual 2022	Annual Budget 2023
Total Offerings	\$461,304.92	\$467,500.90	\$449,002.00
Other Income	\$95,456.11	\$100,268.95	\$94,225.00
Transfer Cash-Fulton Property Fund	\$0.00	\$1,058.96	\$0.00
Transfer Cash-Temporary Restricted Fund	\$45,169.98	\$90,000.00	\$90,000.00
Total Revenues	\$601,931.01	\$658,828.81	\$633,227.00
Personnel	\$412,570.76	\$437,440.50	\$449,827.00
Utilities	\$32,307.40	\$29,940.36	\$31,418.00
Church & Office Expense	\$87,874.00	\$83,393.38	\$92,759.00
Mission & Ministries	\$56,536.91	\$59,119.17	\$59,223.00
Total Expenses	\$589,289.07	\$609,893.41	\$633,227.00
Net Surplus (Loss)	\$12,641.94	\$48,935.40	\$0.00

ACOLYTES REPORT

Currently, just 8 youth and adults in the parish are on the acolyte roster. Acolytes typically serve at the Sunday morning 10:00 a.m. service from September - June and at special services throughout the year, including Holy Week and Christmas.

Acolyte participation is in a trough right now, with a number of older acolytes graduating or leaving the church, and a large group of young children not yet old enough to assist. This has led to inconsistent scheduling and participation. This will likely be the case for at least several more years, until the young group matures and is (we hope) interested in assisting.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Menzer

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

Altar Guild had a busy year. It is truly an amazing spiritual team. From the weekly services to special services to linen preparation, St. John's is blessed with caring and talented members.

Altar Guild got to work in 2023:

- Busy with setting the (2) Sunday Services and the weekly Wednesday service.
- The team did overall cleaning throughout the year.
- There is a dedicated group who launder and iron the linens each week.
- The Daughters of the King (DOK) step in to help with the cleaning and polishing of the altar.
- Thanks to Rodney's continued support as he rotates the seasonal linens, sets the altar flowers and so much other help.
- Thanks to our Master scheduler, Eric Menzer, for his efforts on making sure all is scheduled.
- And of course, never forgetting the unbelievable support of Father Eric and Our New Tory.
- Beautiful new linens were added so we could retire some of our linens which served us well.
- We hope to add new members and some Junior Members to carry on the privilege. We invite all to join us.
- The process of reorganizing and relocating some of our altar frontals began. Our new arrangement, scheduled for completion in 2024, will open up some room in the Sacristy.
- Thanks to a wonderful group who support this ministry.

In memory of those members that passed away this year, we hope to serve in their memories: Betty Deisher and Ursula Hennessy.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Deisher and Susan Ariail

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING REPORT

The St. John Chapter of the Daughters of the King, Apostles for Christ, has continued our monthly prayer and business meetings and several service projects throughout the year. As Daughters we have taken vows Prayer, Service and Evangelism.

We welcomed a new Daughter, Julie Walz, on Wednesday, March 1st, during the 10 AM service at St. John.

Two of us attended a diocesan-wide Daughters of the King picnic at Little Buffalo State Park in September. It was a time for the members of the chapters in the diocese and their families to get together.

Several of us attended the Diocesan Fall Assembly at St. James Episcopal Church in Lancaster on November 4th. There was a spiritual speaker followed by a service and a time for fellowship. Our Chapter will be hosting the Spring Assembly on May 4th at St. John.

Please make us aware of any prayers you need by speaking to Annie Brooks, Susan Leake, Alison Vedder, Beverly Altland, Sylvia Salerno or Julie Walz. These requests will only be shared with members of our chapter and Father Eric, our Chaplain. Our members pray for those on our list on a continuing basis.

For His Sake,
Susan Leake

GODLY PLAY REPORT

Building on the momentum of classroom and material renewal in the beginning of the 2022-2023 program year, Godly Play entered the 2023-2024 program year bolstered by continued growth and stability. A large part of that stability has come from the dedicated and passionate leadership of our volunteer storytellers. We began in the fall with 3 storytellers and have since added two additional teachers as the year has progressed. Consistent weekly attendance by a core group of children has fostered an energetic sense of community and fellowship within the group. Behind the scenes, Parish Administrator, Tory Dunkle, has lent her years of Godly Play experience in implementing a 3-year lesson cycle, a fall volunteer information session and weekly lesson and material support.

Respectfully submitted,
Tory C. Dunkle

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS, LECTORS AND USHERS

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (i.e. “chalicers”) assist the clergy in the administration of communion and lead the Nicene Creed at the 8:00 and 10:00 services, as well as at special services throughout the year, including Holy Week and funerals. In addition, Lay Eucharistic Ministers lead the Prayer of Intercession at the 8:00 service. Lay Eucharistic Ministers also serve as acolytes in the summer months at the 10:00 service. The chalice group stands at 13 members with four additions this year, and two members on sabbatical.

Lectors are scheduled to read the appointed lessons at both services and lead the Psalm at the 8:00 service. A lector also leads the Prayers of the People at the 10:00 service. One Lector is appointed weekly for the 8:00 service and three for the 10:00 service. A total of 18 parishioners now serve in this capacity, an increase of one member from last year. More volunteers would be welcome, especially at the 8:00 service.

Ushers assist at both the 8:00 and 10:00 service by greeting attendees, distributing service bulletins, and collecting alms. The ushers also present the gifts at the altar, keep a count of attendees, ring the bell, and straighten-up the church at the end of the service. Four ushers and an alternate are scheduled weekly. The usher corps stands at 22 members with the fortunate addition of a net five new volunteers in 2023.

2023 saw a much-welcomed response to requests for more volunteers, which eases the burden on all involved. It’s an encouraging trend for the future of St. John’s.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Menzer

MINISTRY ASSOCIATE REPORT

In my continued role as Ministry Associate, I can say that this year was a fruitful one. I have continued to function as a support to the clergy of the parish in preaching, leading adult formation sessions on various topics, as well as the monthly gathering of Nourishing Soul and Body for prayer and fellowship. In addition to these we offered a seasonal gathering opportunity during Lent in partnership with Heidelberg UCC Community which was well attended.

My emphasis and focus continue to be on lifelong discipleship and inclusive community building. Moving forward I hope to continue and further grow all these endeavors.

I continue to be very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the spiritual life of the community of St. John’s.

In Christ,

Ivan Ruiz

MUSIC REPORT

In some ways this year has been a refreshing change as we saw some semblance of normalcy return to our church life. Most people are slowly reintegrating themselves back to church and corporate worship. It is exciting to see the many new faces that are starting to call St. John their home. My prayer is that the music and liturgy will bring each of them into a deeper understanding of the God we serve.

The choirs have continued to serve in leading the congregation for our 10 am service. The St. John choir, although smaller, has still faithfully provided beautiful music on a weekly basis and for special services and events. We could use one or two more voices on each part to continue the quality of music that we have grown accustomed to expect.

The bell choir also has been able to provide music for our 10 am service on an occasional basis. We had a slow start after the summer break but were at least able to play for our later Christmas Eve service.

The kids were able to sing a few times last year and they really seemed to enjoy the experience. They also did an incredible job at the family Christmas Eve service.

Thank you for your continued support of the concert series through attendance, inviting friends and through your contributions. We have had some wonderful talent, both local and otherwise.

Although mother nature had other plans, we still were able to host much of the Miller music festival again this year. We also were able to include our Epiphany service as part of this festival.

The solid-state system, which is the control system for our sanctuary pipe organ, has been in a slow decline for at least the past 20 years. It will eventually need to be replaced, and the time is getting sooner than later. Otherwise, the organ is in great mechanical shape and should be able to continue to provide many years of support for this congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Rodney Barnett
Organist/Choir Director

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee met throughout the year. What an amazing group!

Crop Walk

Thank you, all parishioners, family members, friends and coworkers who generously donated to support the 2023 CROP Hunger Walk. The walk was held on Sunday, October 8, 2023 at John Rudy Park. St. John walkers raised \$4,438 from 53 donors. Thanks to our walkers and helpers at the walk for their support of this worthy cause. The Greater York CROP Hunger Walk raised over \$42,000. \$10,511 of the money collected was returned to Hunger Free York/York County Food Bank to support their work in feeding the hungry of York County.

Respectfully submitted,
Milton Leake

Our Daily Bread

We are thankful to our faithful group of casserole makers and the outreach ministry provided for those less fortunate in York who are hungry.

In 2023, 129 hot dog and bean casseroles were prepared for Our Daily Bread located at 331 S. George St. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Alison Vedder at avedder@comcast.net. We currently have enough casserole makers but it is always good to have some “waiting in the wings”.

We also thank our regular servers Dorothy Kennedy, Milton Leake, Felicia and Charlie Marino, and Elizabeth Smith. Our substitute servers are Susan Ariail, Susan Leake, Anne Strayer, Alison Vedder, Linda Just, Nicola Flagg and Linda Yakacki. If you are interested in being a substitute server on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 10:30 AM to noon, please contact Milton Leake at navy58co5@comcast.net.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Vedder

Easter Luncheon

The Easter lunch for 2023 had approximately 75 guests. This year I will make sure to reach out to the YWCA Director who assists the Haitian immigrants to extend an invitation. A friend of mine that is a York City firefighter will be contacting County Control to reach out to all first responders for York City to extend the invitation.

Donations included:

- \$970 cash and \$100 in grocery store gift cards
- 12 hams, 15 can sweet potatoes,
- 10 large cans green beans, 10 bags corn,
- 6 gallons ice tea, 6 gallons lemonade.

For 2024 we were gifted \$200 in remaining gift cards from the former Gift Card fundraising program.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristine Potter-Klouse

Shrove Tuesday Supper: The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was a huge success. We had 63 guests. I plan to serve the same meal of pancakes, Cracker Barrel hash brown casserole, fruit, bacon and sausage links. This year's dinner is Tuesday February 13th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristine Potter-Klouse

Hat and Mitten Tree/Pressley Ridge

The “Hat and Mitten Tree” provided such amazing mittens, knit hats and Target gift cards. The items were delivered to Pressley Ridge to be distributed to their young clients. Because we had such an amazing amount of donations, we were also able to donate a portion to Logos Academy where the need is great. A special thank you to those talented souls who hand-knit so many hats and mittens, particularly Evalyn Daddamio.

Pappus House

Items were collected during the year for Pappus House, a York based hospice care service. Claudia Parks maintains our ongoing relationship with Pappus House and delivers donated items to the center, including toiletries, food items, and small household goods. Please check the Commons throughout the year for a basket with a list of suggested items.

Palm Cross Project

There was a great turnout for making crosses and we were able to make enough for parishioners and 5-6 Senior Living Facilities. We made about 1,700 crosses. The Daughters of the King contacted local care facilities to find out which ones would like to receive Palm Crosses for their residents. Thank you, DOK! And thanks to our Sexton, Shawn, for preparing the Palms so we could make the crosses.

The following dollar amount was distributed at year-end from the annual Outreach budget:

Our Daily Bread - \$500

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ariail

PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The 5 Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) continue to visit and provide communion to St. John's at-home parishioners. We currently have 13 people we visit or contact on a regular basis, usually monthly. The Communion kits are blessed on a routine basis at the 10 AM Sunday service.

The LEV deliver plants to parishioners at Christmas and Easter.

Rides for parishioners to doctor appointments, therapy sessions, pharmacies, grocery stores and church services were, and will continue, to be provided on an as-needed basis. If someone is in need of help, please notify us.

Pastoral Care is an important volunteer resource provided by St. John and additional volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Claudia Parks if you are interested in assisting.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudia L. Parks

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Once again 2023 showed us the generosity of our parish family. The Stewardship committee would like to thank parish members for their willingness to be involved in the life of the parish and to support this year's financial campaign.

"Growing in Faith Together – Stewardship 2023" had a financial goal of \$395,000. This goal was set to help support our parish operational plans for next year. We are proud to report that we exceeded our goal! In total, our pledge amount is currently \$412,456. That is 104% of our goal, an absolutely wonderful result. We had 9 new pledging units this year and a total of 80 pledges.

The Vestry is committed to continuing to operate with a balanced budget. With this year's result, they will be able to do this. Thanks again to all the parish members that have helped to support this work!

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Russell