The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist Annual Meeting of the Parish January 26, 2025



Welcome – Worship – Connect - Serve

Mission Statement

We are The Church That Serves And Spreads God's Love to Everyone



Welcome – Worship – Connect – Serve

Episcopal Church of St John the Baptist Glendale, Arizona Annual Report, 2025

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Minutes of Annual Meeting held January 21, 2024

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Senior Warden's Report

Vestry Candidates' Biographies and Photos

2024 Financial Results

2025 Statement of Mission

Ministry Reports



Welcome - Worship - Connect - Serve

Vestry for 2024

Position/Name Rector	Email address	Telephone Number
The Rev. Timothy J. Yanni	fathertim@stjohnsaz.org	801-694-0790
Wardens Tracy Hare (Senior Warden) Michael "Buz" Isban	<u>tracytess2580@gmail.com</u> <u>buzisban@cox.net</u>	602-206-8571 623-512-0765
Vestry Members		
Class of 2022 Casey Klems Jackie Luptowski Dovie Templin	<u>kklems@cox.net</u> jcluptowski@yahoo.com dovtemplin@msn.com	602-400-4628 602-616-3280 602-680-3369
Class of 2023 Jimmy Diaz Frank Pastula Rose Hartley	jimmy.diaz@cox.net knarf418@gmail.com roz.4goz@gmail.com	623-326-1564 602-938-3153 602-919-0572
Class of 2024 Marykay Nelson Marjorie Thompson Robert Trotter	aztoucan@yahoo.com mjern96529@aol.com rtt2rtt3rtt4@gmail.com	623-694-6657 602-791-1855 928-380-8684
Vestry Support		
Treasurer Suzy Mortenson	suzyq906@gmail.com	623-826-0481
Parish Administrator Michelle Weaver	administration@stjohnsaz.org	810-765-1515
Clerk Nancy Young	hatchet4223@yahoo.com	602-571-2141



Welcome – Worship – Connect – Serve

Annual Meeting Agenda January 26, 2025

Call to Order - Fr. Tim

Opening Prayer – Fr. Tim

Appointment of Clerk for the Annual Meeting - Fr. Tim

Appointment of Tellers – Fr. Tim

Establishment of a Quorum - Clerk for the Annual Meeting

Approval of Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting

Elections

- Election of new Vestry: 3 three-year terms
- Candidates
 - o Call for nominations for Vestry from the floor, close nominations
 - Delegates to Convention
 - o Call for nominations, close nominations
- Call for vote

Rector's Report

Appointment of Senior Warden

- Senior Warden Report
- Awards and presentations
- Recognize members leaving the vestry
 - o Dovie Templin, Jackie Luptowski, Casey Klems

Treasurer's report - Suzy Mortenson

Other matters to come before the congregation

Election Results - (New Vestry must now nominate candidates for Jr. Warden and then vote)

Closing prayer - Fr. Tim

Adjournment - Fr. Tim



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist Glendale, Arizona Annual Parish Meeting in Person January 21, 2024

The Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist was called to order at 10:33 on January 21, 2024, by the Rev. Timothy Yanni. He led the congregation in prayer.

The following appointments were made by Rev. Yanni:

- Clerk for the Annual Meeting: Renee' Taylor
- Tellers for the meeting: The Rev. Cn. Chuck Milhoan, The Rev. Harry Way and Connie Castillo

A quorum was verified by the Clerk, Renee' Taylor. Approximately 91 parishioners were present.

The minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting were presented. It was moved by Sidney Sneed and seconded by Dan Basche to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried.

ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

Rev. Yanni presented the candidates for the 2024 Vestry: Rose Hartley, Linda Mee, Marykay Nelson, Colin Smith, Sidney Sneed, Marjorie Thompson, and Robert Trotter. Three delegates are needed for 3 three-year terms and one delegate is needed for one 2-year term. A call was made by Rev. Yanni for nominations from the floor; seeing none, Suzy Mortenson motioned that the nominations be closed, it was seconded by Stacy Milhoan. The motion carried.

Rev. Yanni called for nominations from the floor for delegates to the Diocesan Annual Convention in Tucson in October 2024. Three delegates are needed. Nancy Young nominated Donna Anastasi, Fr. Harry Way nominated Michelle Weaver and George Santamaria nominated Mary Jane Santamaria. Seeing no further nominations, Sidney Sneed motioned to close the nominations for delegates, and it was seconded by Nancy Young. The motion carried.

The Convention Delegates were voted on by acclamation.

Parishioners were instructed to vote for no more than four Vestry candidates.

Rev. Yanni read his Rector's Report

Rev. Yanni appointed Tracy Hare to continue as Senior Warden.

Tracy Hare recognized and thanked Ellie Calcagni and Nancy Young whose term on the Vestry have ended. Cody Bro's term has ended, he was not present.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Suzy Mortenson presented the Financial Statement of Mission for the year ending December 31, 2023. She also reviewed the 2024 Financial Statement of Mission approved by the Vestry at the January 10, 2024, Vestry meeting. Details of the 2023 Financial results and of the 2024 Financial Statement of Mission were included in the Annual Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Marykay Nelson nominated Buz Isban to continue as the Junior Warden for 2024. The nine 2023 Vestry members in attendance at the meeting were enough for a quorum. The vote was unanimous for Buz to continue as Junior Warden.

The voting results were announced at the end of the meeting by Rev. Yanni.

- The 3 new three-year term Vestry members are Marykay Nelson, Marjorie Thompson, and Robert Trotter
- The one 2-year term is held by Rose Hartley.
- The three delegates for the 2024 Diocesan Annual Convention are: Donna Anastasi, Michelle Weaver, and Mary Jane Santamaria

Rev. Yanni offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Reneé TaylorClerk for the Annual meeting

Rector Annual Report for 2024

We have come to the end of 2024, and wow, what a year it has been! Firstly, we celebrated our 40th year together as a parish! That's something to be proud of! We were so proud, in fact, that we had a whole year of celebration! A talented team of volunteers, Nancy Young, Marykay Nelson, and Casey Klems, led us on wonderful journey together. Through it, we enjoyed the memories of a time capsule, we made art, we dined, and we rejoiced. It is safe to say our 40th anniversary celebrations are not events we will soon forget.

And what do these 40 years mean? They mean St. John's continues to be a place of love, a place of service, and a place of joy. They mean we are a community that knows how to come together to have a party. They mean we're a community that knows how to share the love of Jesus Christ with the world around us. And who could ask for more than that? Not me, that's for sure!

We saw so much happen this year. And those are things that are cause for joy and celebration! Mary Brooks, whom we have supported for ordination to the diaconate for several years, was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church just yesterday! She's now the Rev. Mary Brooks! How wonderful is that? Any time we can raise up someone for ordination, that is cause for celebration. Speaking of new clergy, we welcomed Fr. Henry Orth back into the ranks of the ordinary! Fr. Henry's holy orders were received, right here at St. John's, restoring him to the priesthood he never lost in the eyes of God. The priesthood that had been unfairly taken from him. The priesthood to which he was called. For those two celebrations, we ought to be very pleased. I can assure you, God is pleased. And we can rejoice with him. A new deacon and a newly restored priest are not commodities that every parish gets to celebrate, especially in the same year!

We also embarked on a journey together. During 2024, we made a decision about some New Year's resolutions! Well, in fairness, I made those resolutions for us. But I did so based on what I heard from you. I heard from you a desire to be healthy. A desire to have different access to educational opportunities. And a desire to improve our now 40-year-old campus. Those culminated in goals of improved fitness, some tweaking of our educational offerings and times, and the beginning of a multiyear capital campaign.

But who keeps New Year's resolutions, anyway? St. John's does! That's who! Our fitness goal included the decision to embark on a 7500-mile "walk to Jerusalem", with a goal to finish before Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024. Collectively, we turned in our miles and steps walked, and we completed the

walk with plenty of time to spare! How wonderful is that? We held one another accountable, and we accomplished something together. Well done!

Our educational goals included determining better times for educational opportunities, as well as a larger variety of topics. While we explored various times and topics together, including mid-week preaching and pastoral care discussions, we finally settled on a gathering between the services. I'm happy to share that this gathering was attended by many parishioners, new and old alike. And 20 of them made the decision to become confirmed, received, baptized, or reaffirmed during the bishop's official visit in December. Twenty people! For a parish the size of St. John's! That is wonderful growth! Congratulations!

Finally, our financial goal included the beginning of a capital campaign. It was a capital campaign we've needed for a long time. It was a capital campaign that we collectively decided we needed. Through it, we plan to make improvements and repairs to our worship space, our grounds, and, probably most especially, our parking lot. This was not a small challenge. Our goal is to raise nearly \$400,000! That's a lot of money for a parish of our size! But thanks to the efforts of St. John's, and a capital campaign chaired by John Klems, we are well on our way to reaching our goal in record time! We still have a way to go, but we're ahead of schedule. You are to be commended for your dedication to your parish! Thank you, St. John's!

All of those things are wonderful! We should celebrate those victories! But as any good athletic team knows, we don't stop at celebrating our victories. Instead, we build on them. And there are so many things we can continue to build on here at St. John's.

I invite you and encourage you to read through the ministry reports that were submitted by your ministry teams. St. John's says it is the church that serves. And serve, we do! From the Veterans' ministry, to the St. John's Closet Boutique, to the Farmers' Market, to the Highway Cleanup, to POWWOW, St. John's truly is the church that serves. Your bread bakers come regularly to make communion bread, Faith Through the Arts and Garden Ministry make our spaces beautiful, and our choir brings us wonderful liturgical music. There's a whole lot of serving going on!

And yet, we all know, we can't pour from our own cup if our own cup is empty. We can do effective outreach without productive in-reach. So, as a goal for 2025, I want us to work on our in-house ministries. I'll be frank with you. We need more people to participate in the ministries that take place inside our building, especially on Sundays. We need readers. We need Eucharistic ministers and visitors. We need ushers. We need greeters. And we especially need people to help us with the altar guild and with coffee hour. Without people to make coffee and to clean up afterward, we won't have coffee! That's a travesty! And without people to set up and clean up after the services, we can't have services. Not pretty ones, anyway. We won't have services with nice altar dressings, pristine linens, or even clean communion vessels. We need people to serve in our in-house ministries so that we can be properly nourished to go into the world to be Christ's hands and feet. It's as simple as that.

Deacon Chuck has provided us with a lovely illustration from time to time about the importance of leading a ministry team and serving in ministry. We serve in ministry. We don't hold onto it tightly. Gone are the days of holding a ministry tightly. Instead, we all serve. And we serve together. Could the clergy do all of the jobs the laity usually does? Sure. Should we? No. Just as I *can* read the gospel, bid the confession of sin, and make the dismissal, I don't do those things. Why? Because those are more appropriately the duties of the deacon. So just as we conceivably could do all those other liturgical ministries, it's not appropriate for us to do that. Those are your roles. We want to make sure you have the opportunity to do them. It is my expectation that in the coming days, weeks, months, and year, we will grow our liturgical ministry teams. And while all liturgical ministry teams need help, this is especially true for altar guild and hospitality. Without everyone's help, those doing the ministries will become burned out. We do not want our people to become subject to burnout. I plead with you. Please join a liturgical ministry team, especially coffee hour and altar guild for now.

Soon we will have improvements to our campus. You will be invited in the coming days to sign a letter, asking the city of Phoenix to approve our new signage. You will be invited to offer your suggestions for what is important to you in a worship space. And you will soon be able to park and walk across a parking lot that is not literally crumbling under your feet. You've come a long way in 40 years, St. John's. And we've come a long way together in the past three. Please allow me to reiterate my appreciation for the trust you place in me as your Rector. Our relationship is a covenant. That means I reciprocate your trust. I believe in us as a church. I believe we will continue to do wonderful things together. And I believe we will continue to grow in faith and in love. Thank you.

Senior Warden Annual Report for 2024

Last June my wife and I took our annual pilgrimage to the Grand Canyon. Like many things in life, you have to earn your stripes by jumping hurdles or necessary, but not fun, tasks. Afterwards, one can relish the rewards. Our first hurdle was sitting in the car on I-17 for 50 minutes because the north bound lanes were closed. Eventually we could merge one by one into the left lane. Near Sunset Point, I saw to the right, a dog, probably a nine-year-old child, a parent and a fireman. We drove slowly past the burned out, blackened and melted remains of some type of vehicle. This was an inconvenient little hurdle for those of us in cars passing by. However, it was a life-changing event for one family standing beside the highway.

After getting to our lodge at the Canyon, we had to wait an hour and a half before our cabin was ready. Yes, this was a little inconvenient hurdle, too.

Last year when we started our hike down in the Canyon, there was a sprinkling of rain. Then there were beautiful rainbows. It was like walking into a post card. A neighbor had told me that at Cedar Ridge, the point beyond our goal, they had seen three California condors circling above them. It wasn't because the hikers were prey. It's just a thing condors do. This was a little reward for me to even imagine the experience.

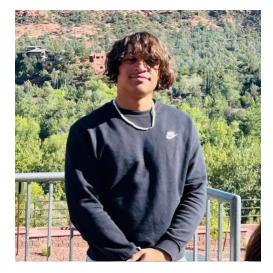
Thursday at 5a.m. we got on the hiker's express shuttle and went to the south Kaibab trailhead. The newspaper said the low at the Canyon was 39 degrees. That's nice sweater weather for a hike into the Canyon. The sky was blue so there were no rainbows. I couldn't hope to see condors.

A hike into the Canyon is a reward unto itself. We were halfway down to our goal, Ooh, Aah Point when we came face to face with a mountain goat. The trail has a cliff to the east going straight up 100 feet and one to the west going straight down 500 feet. His choices were to go through us, over us or around us by mere feet. He scampered around us. I wouldn't have bet two cents to a million dollars that we would see a mountain goat that close. On the return trip, we saw him, or another silhouetted on a rock precipice, with the sky and the north rim as background. He was chewing his cud and enjoying the weather.

Work, tasks, and hurdles aren't fun, however, pressing through problems will provide an arrival into rewards well worth it. Sometimes something beautiful like a postcard type view, or an experience, is just dropped into your lap for free. Relish those, too.

Tracy Hare, Senior Warden.

Vestry Candidates for the Class of 2025



Jayden Jerome

Hello, my name is Jayden Jerome. I am 16 years old and will be 17 this upcoming May 2025.

My parents, sister Brooklyn, and I have been attending St John's Episcopal church for about 7 years.

I attended the Sunday school program with Miss Peggy from age 9 until I was 12, and then I attended the youth church program with Miss Jennifer until I was 14 years old. I am currently a sophomore at Centennial High School, and I am on the Football and Wrestling teams.

I enjoy attending church with my family and being a part of the St John's community. I am interested in becoming a member of the Vestry to support St John's mission and my parish.

Thank you for your time.

Andy Salsbery



I was born in Cincinnati, OH and lived in NC, KY and OH prior to moving to Phoenix, AZ in 1978. Attended college at U of Cincinnati where I met and married my wife Diane in 1974 and we celebrated our 50th anniversary last March.

During my working years was a civil engineering drafter and always being an animal lover, later switched occupations to become a veterinarian technician and began working for Companion Pet Clinic, worked there for 15 years and retired at the end of 2011.

I'm a cradle Episcopalian and I've been a member of St John's for over 13 years and it's a perfect fit for me. Really enjoy helping with the Feed the Vet's on the first Friday of the month. Prior to St John's I attended Church of the Holy Spirit and was an acolyte and chalice bearer.

Currently I am volunteering at HALO (Helping Animals Live On) in their thrift store and also enjoy reading and gaming.

Leslie Mays



I was born in Washington, DC and raised in Virginia. I graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Elementary Education.

My husband has a degree in Civil Engineering. We have one daughter, Meredith and four grandchildren who currently live in Albuquerque. They recently returned from Morocco where they lived for eight years doing mission work for their church.

I taught first grade for 9 years before I started traveling with my husband from job site to job site where his company built power plants. During various moves, I have worked with our churches with their children's religious education programs. I taught English to children in village schools in India. I learned to adapt and appreciate many cultures and customs.

When Rick retired in 2008, we decided to make Phoenix our home.

After the pandemic, we decided that we needed to find a new church that would align with our values. We wanted a church that saw God in each other and in the community. Social outreach was very important to us. We were lucky enough to stumble upon St John the Baptist in our search. From the first, we were impressed with the warmth and friendliness of the members. As we learned about this church, we realized how deeply committed they were to all kinds of outreach in the community. We decided to join St. John's eighteen months ago.

Since that time, I became involved in the Altar Flowers ministry, Faith through the Arts, Women's Unlimited, the Greeters Ministry and helping to count money after church services. My husband, Rick, and I have volunteered at, Pow Wow. Rick is also on the Capital Campaign Committee.

I would like to serve on the vestry so I can help to grow the church and keep its vital ministries thriving. I feel that I have life experiences through our various moves that help me to relate to people on all levels.

Debora Jasinski



My name is Debora Jasinski and I'm running for a seat on St John's vestry. I've been a parishioner at St John's since 2001 along with my parents. I moved to Sedona in 2014 for four years to care for my mom until her passing in 2018.

I moved back to my house then, and went to St. Barnabas. I didn't feel connected to that church, so I came back to St. John's in March of 2024. I was warmly welcomed by parishioners I knew in the past and have met many new friends.

I currently volunteer in these ministries: boutique (I don't like the term "thrift shop"), POWWOW (I show up at 4:30 am and stay until it's over), and I am a greeter at least twice a month.

I love St John's and this is my home.

I wish to become a vestry member because I feel I can make a difference and bring a new light to my church, as well as different ideas and points of view to continually make our church grow.

Thank you for your consideration.

Charles Lawson



Hello everyone. My name is Charles Lawson. I am running for a position on the Vestry. I am running, because I love Saint John's, and the people here. I am new to Saint John's. I am beyond grateful, and honored for all of the love, kindness, and support that you all have shown to me.

Saint John's is such a beautiful, amazing, and godly community. I am so grateful that God led me to Saint John's. I want to reciprocate the help, and support that has been given to me by joining the vestry, and by being of service to Saint John's in anyway that I can. I am a lifelong Christian. I grew up attending church. I love church, and I love being a part of a church community. I was a member of the catholic faith, and I was a Knight Of Columbus. As a Knight I helped with fundraising, and promoting our church. We helped raise money for various different causes, and we were able to do wonderful things for our community, and our parishioners. I hope to be able to do the same at Saint John's. It would be an honor to be apart of the vestry, and to be able to serve our community. Thank you so much for your consideration, and God bless you all!

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist Financial Statement of Mission For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

For the Tear Ended December 51, 2024		Mission	Variance <u>Fav</u>
Mission Support	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Plan</u>	(Unfav)
Tithes & Offerings			• • • • • •
Plate and Special Offerings	61,298	41,250	20,048
Pledge Payments	322,468	323,281	(813)
Total Tithes & Offerings	383,766	364,531	19,235
Other Income			
Restricted funds used in operations	5,498	24,349	(18,851)
Building Use	3,337	1,800	1,537
Other Income	637	500	137
Total Other Income	9,472	26,649	(17,177)
Total Mission Support	393,238	391,180	2,058
Mission Exponditures			
<u>Mission Expenditures</u> Ministry Support			
Worship	3,818	3,050	(768)
Christian Education and Youth	1,880	2,500	620
Parish Life & Community Service	1,988	1,600	(388)
Total Ministries	7,686	7,150	(536)
Support of the Greater Church			
Mission Share	63,526	64,597	1,071
Other	1,390	1,500	110
Total Support of the Greater Church	64,916	66,097	1,181
Parish Staff			
Salaries	194,081	206,797	12,716
Taxes, Insurance, Pension	47,536	47,998	462
Total Parish Staff	241,617	254,795	13,178
Maintaining our Facility and Office Operations			
Administration	25,436	32,275	6,839
Building and Grounds	28,448	25,625	(2,823)
Utilities	17,722	16,892	(830)
Total Parish Operations	71,606	74,792	3,186
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Total Mission Expenditures	385,825	402,833	17,009
Net Support and Expenditures	7,413	(11,653)	19,067
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The Episcopal C Statement	The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist Statement of Mission Plan for 2025	the Baptist r 2025			
	2024 Plan	2024 Actual	2025 Plan	Inc (Decr) compared to 2024 Actual	Comments
Mission Support Tithes & Offerings Plate and Special Offerings	41,250	61,298	56,700	(4,598)	(4,598) Includes Easter & Christmas. Plate giving projected at \$52,000
Pledge Payments, General Fund	323,281	322,468	333,357	10,889	10,889 91 pledges in hand; 3 more projected
Total Tithes & Offerings	364,531	383,766	390,057	6,291	
Other Income Restricted Funds Used in Operations Building Use	1,800	1,857 3,337	1,900	43 (337)	43 Funds from Flower donations (337) AA groups and other services, primarily funerals
Other Income Funds from Thrift Store net proceeds	500 22,549	637 3,641	31,049	(137) 27,408	 (137) 27,408 We will need to use net proceeds from the thrift store to support our operations.
Total Other Income	26,649	9,472	36,449	26,977	
Total Funds to Support our Mission	391,180	393,238	426,506	33,268	

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist Statement of Mission Plan for 2025

				Inc (Decr)	
<u>Mission Expenditures</u>	2024 Plan	2024 Actual	2025 Plan	compared to 2024 Actual	Com ments
support of Ministres Worship Christian Education and Youth	3,750 2,500	4,407	4,150	(257) 324	Partnership with Lutheran Youth organization ended in 2024, and other costs for Sunday School
Parish Life & Hospitality	2,250	2,533	4,900	2,367	Primarily cost for coffee hour and other hospitality. 2025 includes \$2,500 for 40th anniversary.
Total Mnistries	8,500	8,116	10,550	2,434	
Support of the Greater Church Masion Share Other	08,588 1,500	66,013 1,449	72,814 560	6,801 (889)	(801 16.9% of all revenue used for operations (889) 2025 Diccesan Convention will be in Phoenix. 2024 Convertion was in Tucson.
Total Support of the Greater Church	680'68	67,462	73,374	5,913	
Partsh Staff Salaries	198,720	189,367	206,807	17,441	17,441 \$10,000 place holder for Children and Youth Director: \$5,000 placeholder for Web person, per
Taxes, Insurance, Pension	47,876	47,259	53,207	5,948	request of Capital Campaign committee Increase to Fr. Tim's health insurance, and pension contribution for Administration & Finance position
Total Partsh Sta#	246,597	236,626	260,015	23,389	
Maintaining our facility and office operations Administration	32,275	27,131	31,250	4,119	4,119 No audit in 2024-projected audit in 2025 at \$3,800.
Building and Grounds	29,170	29,636	31,781	2,145	Increase in Property and Liability insurance of \$2,007
Utilities	20,000	24,267	25,200	933	2025 Electric is based on APS belance budget plan at \$22,000
Total Parish Operations	81,445	81,034	88,231	7,197	
Total Expenditures to Support our Mission	404,628	393,238	432,170	38,932	
Net of Revenue and Expenditures	(13,448)	•	(5,664)	(5,084)	



Welcome – Worship – Connect – Serve

Annual Ministry Team Reports

Altar Bread Report 2024

Over the past year our bread making group has met every second Wednesday at 9:30 to bake the sacrament used in our Services. Our group of 6-8 volunteers has shared fellowship and fun while making the whole wheat sacrament bread using a recipe supplied to us by Father Tim.

We were blessed during the year with a kitchen aide mixer which makes our work go much easier. We are grateful for the angel donor that made this happen. Supplies remain an ongoing challenge as we are not budgeted, but the church has been generous, and donations have met our needs throughout the year.

We look forward to the year ahead doing our part in service of St. John's congregation,

Sue Stewart

Greeters Annual Report 2024

GREETERS

WELCOME! This is what we hope every person, who enters through our doors, feels when they walk in for the service. We have fabulous dedicated greeters who serve (generally) one service a month. We would love to have you join our ministry, not to mention it is a great way to meet "new" people and "old" people as well.

Casey Klems Ministry Leader 602-400-4628

We Are St. John's

We started back in late April changing the focus of "give me money" to join us "We are St. John's", acknowledging the fact of many things needing total renovation. Jimmy Diaz, Bob Trotter, Nancy Young, Pattie Prosory and Rick Mays were chosen to be the committee members. The advisors are Buz Isban, Tom Meeks and Fr Tim.

We started by identifying the needs, then requested (from reliable vendors) quotes for the solutions. The needs started with improving communications via an updated LED Sign. Secondly, the parking lot is in need of total refurbishment including completely rebuilding of the asphalt. The third and most difficult is refreshing the Sanctuary.

We have started the sign work. We have approved a vendor and working group that are going through the rigorous city requirements. We hope to complete the sign before Easter 2025.

We have several quotes for the parking lot and are ready to award as soon as funds are available. There is a hope that alternate funding might become available also.

The sanctuary will be the most difficult. We will take the time to evaluate our needs with a detailed concentration on each members' sacred space although we also need to be mindful of maintenance and adaptability. Sacred Space will be different for each person. We will be conducting meetings and focus groups to obtain as much input as possible. We will also bring in an architect that specializes in churches. We will need to deal with space, sound, and adaptability for new functions.

The Capital campaign income as of 12/31/2024 is \$200,831.98. Pretty good for nine months of a 24-month Campaign. Every day we look for fun methods to request and earn funds.

Ongoing events include the Farmers' Market and collection of the coins on the south wall of the parish hall.

Upcoming event

Art Auction

February 22, 2025

Any specific questions or concerns please contact John Klems or any member of the Campaign



FAITH THROUGH THE ARTS (FTTA) 2024



Mission: Our mission is to praise, honor, and glorify God by celebrating the arts

Vision: Our goal is to increase the role of the arts in the life of The Episcopal Church of St. John The Baptist by creating and upholding a beautiful place to worship and providing a variety of opportunities for the enhancement of our Faith Through the Arts.

Overview: We are a ministry with about 20 active members. The ministry is self-sustaining and have not had to reach out to the church for any funds for our projects. Our most successful project with the biggest impact is our stained glass windows in the sanctuary. We contracted with a local/family-owned stained glass company that made all the windows. The cost was about \$49,000 that we earned through art auctions, Jazz at Twilight concert evenings, and made and sold crosses and jewelry along with other activities. We have donated to the St. John kitchen remodel and the new air conditioners. FITA is planning an art auction in February 2025 to help support the capital campaign.

PAST -

2024 was a year when we welcomed several new members as well as new leadership and artists exhibiting their art.

Artist exhibits by Ann Osgood, Bob Trotter, Marion Wishnefski and Donna Berger, Cindi Chambers, Kathy Meredith and Linda Bailey, Barbara Clements

PRESENT- We are currently exhibiting the works by our own Janice Wittwer. Janice has also held class for the congregation in the past and hope she will again in the future.

FUTURE- The Art Auction is February 22, 2025. FITA is hosting this event with the proceeds going directly to the Capital Campaign Fund. We are also working on a Taize service and have artists scheduled to exhibit with us through 2025 and in to 2026.

Episcopal Church of St. John The Baptist St. John's Closet Thrift Store Ministry 2024 Annual Report

Our Mission: "We are the Church that serves and spread Gods love to everyone"

St. John's Closet opened April 2018. By opening our thrift store we - support environmental efforts through reselling goods. In reselling, we recycle gently used, quality products (clothing & home decor) to conscious minded people- some with limited income and others who just love a good bargain. In the past six years, since opening, we have experienced a steady increase in community participation resulting in an increase in store sales.

St John's Closet truly represents the mission of our church. We connect with the community by serving and spreading Gods love to everyone who visit our store. We offer a friendly and welcoming atmosphere while offering beautifully displayed gently used quality clothing & home products. This reflects our church and hopefully make people want to come and visit us.

We are opened only two days a week, four hours per day. We have a small staff of dedicated volunteers who keep the store operating. We hold at least two staff meeting during the year to keep everyone up to date and make sure we are staying true to our mission.

Our thrift store works closely with other ministries such as POWWOW & The Farmers Market to coordinate our hours and be available for increased traffic possibly resulting in increased sales. The Garden Ministry is also a great asset to our store. The beautiful well maintained garden reflects the atmosphere of the store. All income generated from the sales in the store help to fund other ministries in the church.

<u>GOALS</u>: new signage, increase customers, increase sales, keep store constantly refreshed. <u>EVENTS</u>: Special sales % discounts, tried six month trial ad in local newspaper <u>VOLUNTEER STATUS</u>: currently 14 active (lost 2} need to recruit volunteers

Respectfully submitted by St John Closet Ministry Leaders:

Co-Team Leaders: Dorothy Hendrickson Cindie

Consultant: Mae Sinclair 1/20/2025

Usher Ministry 2025 Annual Meeting

The mission of the **Usher Ministry** is to promote a welcome and cordial church environment by assisting both the congregation and clergy before and during the service. The Ministry chairman remains Michael "Buz" Isban. Since the onset of COVID-19, a single usher has been assigned to church services. This has worked remarkably well considering an off duty usher is usually available to assist as required; however, a return to having two ushers per service is desired. In 2025 the document listing usher responsibilities will be updated to reflect what we are currently doing. Some of the usher's past responsibilities are now being shared by the Greeters.

Veteran's Ministry 2025 Annual Meeting

The mission of the **Military Veterans Ministry** is to recognize, honor, and support military veterans rendering assistance in times of need and to support the diocese's outreach program of feeding veterans. Michael "Buz" Isban remains the chairman. While membership remained steady, the Ministry has continued to make great strides in its mission. The only requirement to be a member of this Ministry is that an individual wants to serve others. Brief flag ceremonies were performed during the Sundays closest to Veterans Day and Memorial Day to recognize veterans' service to our country. The military service flag of deceased military veterans in our congregation was prominently displayed in the sanctuary during their memorial service. Eleven hundred thirty-eight (1138) meals were financed, prepared and served to needy veterans during the calendar year. The Ministry sponsored golf tournament (Paws for Vets Charity Golf Tournament) raised enough money to support the training of more than two dogs with veterans at the Soldiers Best Friend nonprofit center in Peoria. The dog and training expense is at no cost to the veteran. That's close to \$20,000. With great optimism and enthusiasm, we look to 2025 to be no less successful.

Women's Unlimited Annual Report for 2024

We had a busy year and many of our congregation attended our meetings. During this year there was a change in Leadership and one meeting may have been canceled. Marjorie Thompson and I took over what we could.

We are in process of planning 2025 now as soon as possible.

Please see the attached sheets of last year's meetings.

Best regards, Linda Mee

Women Unlimited 2024 Calendar of Events

February 2024 — Philadelphia 11 Movie

Film about the first 11 women to be ordained in the Episcopal Church. We'll have snacks, popcorn, and will open the viewing to anyone. To be held in the parish hall most likely. Action Items: Renee to find out if she can obtain a copy of the film through the diocese.

March 16 2024 — Sponsor Ronald McDonald House meal We will be hosting a taco dinner at Ronald McDonald house. Action items find out how many of us can come to host dinner.

April 2024 — HelpSnacks

Have fun putting together and decorating snack bags for kids Action Items: Chris to check with them to see if we can schedule.

May 2024 — Brunch to honor inspirational women in our lives

Invite those inspirational women who are still with us to come brunch with us at the church to honor them. Also will collect small snippets and photos from those who want to honor some woman in their lives they find inspiring and we can put them up on the big screen as a slide show and possible in the newsletter or something.
Action Items: Send out a request for little blurbs about women in our lives a month or two ahead.

June 2024 — Lunch out Action Items: Rose to find us a nice place to eat out.

July 2024 — Christmas in July with Nancy and Pattie Come and make a Christmas craft and have fun. Action Items: Pick a Christmas themed craft or two.

August 2024 — Go to a play or have board game day. Depending on schedule of what's being performed we may switch August and November around. Looking possibly at a local youth theater. Action Items: Check theater schedule once dates are posted out this far.

September 2024 — Bad Women of History — Pirates, Thieves, and other notorious women Similar to our past inspirational women talks but turned on its head, featuring notorious bad girls and their antics. Great for starting to get into the Halloween spirit. Action Items: Laura to start researching

October 2024 — Tea Party Annual tea party, possibly at Pattie's house. Action Items: Confirm with Pattie

November 2024 — Go to a play or have board game day. Depending on schedule of what's being performed we may switch August and November around. Looking possibly at a local youth theater. Action Items: Check theater schedule once dates are posted out this far.

December 2024 — Cookie Exchange Last year was such a success we'd like to do it again. Action Items: None yet

Nursery Report

Annual Report from the Nursery - 2024

It has been a challenging year for our Nursery. We have maintained a positive, fun and nurturing environment even though we were limited to very few volunteers, who are wonderful, caring, dedicated and loving people.

We have a very active group of toddlers who are almost 2- and almost 3-year olds.

They spend their time between the kitchen area, train table, playing basketball, pushing the dolls in the carriage, making shapes with the Play-Doh and puzzle time. They also like the tool station, blocks, Webble Wobble sets and putting the animals in the Noah's Ark.

There is a time to learn about the Heroes of the Bible and the Love of Jesus Christ our LORD through story time and coloring pages.

When the weather is nice we spend time outside in our playground or in the garden area.

All in all, we strive to care for our youngest members of St. Johns so that they love to come and spend time here and that they feel loved by us and Jesus.

Flower Ministry Report

We are happy that our ministry has grown to 7 volunteers. Our names and phone numbers are listed in the Flower Request Book. We all enjoy arranging flowers for our St. John's parishioners' dedications and choosing the perfect flowers and colors for them. We want everyone to know that we are happy to hear anyone's wishes for these dedications. We all feel that fresh flowers are important to the ambience of each service.

Highway Cleanup

The St. John's Highway Cleanup Ministry is one that has been active for more than 20 years. We are part of a community of Arizona Adopt-a-Highway volunteers who help to keep State highways litter free. St. John's is responsible for a one mile stretch of land on the Carefree Highway. In 2024, church members assembled on two Saturday mornings to gather up the rubbish that had accumulated along the highway. St. John's has a consistent group of church members who participate. It is a time of fun and fellowship. We stay safe, while doing important work. We always welcome new volunteers.

Men's Fellowship

The St John's Men's Ministry has a cohesive core of dedicated men who support church goals. We meet weekly from our computers, via the Zoom interface. And then once a month we gather in person for a breakfast meeting. Our members study and discuss Bible passages, and other relevant spiritual readings. We also share in the matters occurring in our lives today, and support each other's personal journeys. For several years, this ministry has been enjoying success. We welcome and encourage interested men, young and old, to join us.

Altar Guild

Jennifer Elfenbein is now serving as the leader of the Altar Guild Ministry. A new Altar Guild guidebook was developed outlining the procedures for both services, providing a glossary of items used by the Altar Guild to set the altar, and illustrating linen folding techniques. The Altar Guild continues to look for new members in the coming year.