



## St. John's Church

*(Founded 1858)*

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### The 165<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2025

### Agenda

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Necrology – Tracy Rice, Robert Hart, Eleanor Tuttle, Milford Palmer, Cathy Morgan, Joseph Jackson, Virginia Burton
- III. Additions to the Agenda
- IV. Minutes of the 164<sup>rd</sup> Annual Parish Meeting on January 28, 2024
  - a. Approved and filed by the Vestry in February 2024
- V. Nominations and Election of Parish Representatives to the Vestry
  - a. Vestry – three to elect
  - b. Candidates – **Cynthia Edwards, Peter Grim, Morley Stevenson.**
  - c. Thank you to Durene Brown and Charles Roby for their service on the Vestry.
- VI. Treasurer's Report
  - a. 2024 Financial Report
  - b. 2025 Budget, approved by the Vestry December 11, 2024
- VII. Senior Warden's and Junior Warden's Report
- VIII. Choirmaster's Report
- IX. Reports from Parish Ministries, Committees, and Organizations
  - a. Acolytes, Lay Readers, and Ushers
  - b. Altar Guild
  - c. Armitage Club
  - d. Daughters of the King
  - e. Kitchen and Coffee Hour
  - f. Malawi
  - g. Outreach
  - h. St. Catherine's Guild of the ECW
  - i. Sunday School
  - j. Parish Statistics
- X. Rector's Report
- XI. Other Business
- XII. Motion to adjourn
- XIII. Blessing

## **ST. JOHN'S OPERATING POLICIES**

Adopted February 17, 1997

Revised January 14, 2002, December 14, 2015, September 21, 2022

### ***The following sections pertain to the Annual Parish Meeting and the Election of Members of the Vestry.***

#### **I. Concerning Annual and Special Meetings of the Parish.**

- A. Annual Meetings or Special Meetings of the parish are to be scheduled by the Vestry, and advertised well in advance. They are to be called in accordance with national and diocesan canon laws.
- B. Annual Meetings may be conducted with an agenda, but in such a way that free and open discussion of any topic is encouraged and allowed. There are to be no limitations on nominations, motions, or length of speeches or discussions.
- C. Special Meetings are to be called for consideration of only specific topics. Free and open discussion of the topic/s is encouraged and allowed. In consideration of the topic/s, there are to be no limitations on nominations, motions, or length of speeches or discussions.
- D. "Voting privilege" at an Annual or Special Meeting of the parish is defined as residing with those persons who:
  - 1. Are baptized.
  - 2. Have attained the age of 16 years.
  - 3. Have attended St. John's regularly for at least six months immediately prior to the meeting.
- E. An election of four members of the parish to serve as members of the Vestry is to be conducted at the Annual Meeting. Persons who have attained "voting privilege" are eligible for election. Additional guidelines, dated November, 1992, are applicable.

#### **II. Concerning Vestry membership.**

- A. Three new members of the vestry shall be elected to three year terms at each Annual Meeting of the parish. Those persons who have attained "voting privilege" at Annual Meetings are eligible for vestry membership. (See definition above.) The four persons among those nominated who receive the most votes shall be considered as elected. A tie situation is to be broken immediately by conducting a run-off election.
- B. The three year terms of vestry service shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the Annual Meeting in which they are elected and terminate upon the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the third year.

### **Finance/Treasurer Report - Jerrid Mooney**

## **Senior Warden's Report** – Charles Roby

Calendar year 2024 was another good year for our beloved church. We had solid attendance throughout the year, we increased funds raised from all of you by a healthy mid-single digit rate, and we continued to be active throughout our community through our generous support of time and money. So, we should all take a moment to reflect and be thankful for what God is doing in our lives through St John's and that we get to serve and help build His kingdom.

Although my term as has lasted only two years, it has been a true privilege and honor to serve as your Senior Warden. The responsibility has been a growing experience for me both personally and spiritually and I look forward to serving again if I'm called upon.

As we know there is a substantial amount of time and effort that goes into running St John's and I'm grateful for all of the dedication put forth by the numerous groups in our parish. The lengthy list includes: Father Kelly for his spiritual leadership and preaching; the laymen and lay readers who aid Father Kelly; Huw, Grace and the choir of professionals for their wonderful organ play and singing that brighten our services and help us connect with God on a deeper level; the ushers who greet us every week and keep our services running smoothly and safely; the ladies of the Altar Guild and St Catherine's Guild who raise money and hold numerous events to build fellowship; the Daughters of the King and the Sunday School Program for their tireless prayers and important spiritual work, Chris, Martina and the entire group of dedicated women who run our kitchen and coffee hour every week, Elizabeth for her daily support of Father Kelly and her operations and administrative leadership, Jerrid our Treasurer for his financial guidance and careful stewardship of our funds, our financial counters and their patient weekly review of the donations, Pat, my Junior Warden, and his team for their dedication in running our building, my entire Vestry for their time and thoughtful input, and our new security team and Bernard who keep us safe each and every week.

We accomplished some important tasks during my tenure and we have more things that we are working on in the near future. Of note, (1) we repaired and preserved the wrought iron fence and cement along the north side of our building, (2) we scheduled CPR training for the parish which will be held in early February, (3) we are refurbishing or rebuilding the kneelers and also replacing the cushions throughout the church, (4) we hired a security professional to monitor our services every Sunday and added additional cameras, (5) we hosted the Bishop for her visit which happens every 3 years, and on the financial front, (5) we repaid all of the loan that was outstanding from the building project of the administrative offices a few years ago, and (6) we are currently working on improving the clarity of our financial statements. I'm grateful for everyone who helped and is currently helping to accomplish these projects.

As we look to the future, we obviously must all continue to actively attend and participate in the various components of our community, and we must all contribute financially as much as we are able to. Evangelism is also critical for us. We must not be shy, but rather willing and committed to spreading the good news of the Gospel and to advertising St John's to attract new people to our community. Thank you all again for the opportunity to serve and may God bless St John's and all of us. Please never hesitate to reach out with comments and input.

## **Junior Warden's Report**– Pat Walters

## **Choirmaster's Report** – Dr. Huw Lewis

## **Acolytes, Lay Readers and Ushers**

The Acolytes serve at the altar during the worship services, assisting the clergy. Right now we have a small, faithful core group of Servers and we are always welcoming new members to the corps. Contact Morley Stevenson for more information about becoming a Server.

The Lay Readers read the Lessons at Holy Communion and Lessons and Psalms at Choral Morning Prayer. Brian Campbell coordinates the schedule. If you would like to join this group please contact Brian.

The Ushers greet people at the door, coordinate people going up front for the reception of Communion during the Service and help with overall flow of people at the Services. Contact John Barge and Peter Grim for more information about volunteering.

### **Altar Guild** – Sarah Babcock, Directresses

The members of St. John's Altar Guild continue to prepare the altars for worship services every Sunday as well as serving for weddings, funerals, and special services when needed.

Some members are assigned to designated Sundays each month. Others help with polishing brass, writing notes of appreciation for memorial donations, mending linens, caring for altar flowers and maintaining votive candles in the church and chapel. All of these duties are important, and I am thankful for the dedication and faithfulness of each member.

The Altar Guild has two current projects we are working on. We are in the process of ordering beautiful new pew cushions for the main church, narthex and sanctuary and along with the vestry intend to order new kneelers for the church. These projects will likely be completed this year and will add to the beauty of our historic St. John's.

There are many opportunities to lend a hand, whether part-time or in a more involved role. We always welcome new members. Melody Huffer is our newest member, joining us last year after the Annual Meeting.

We are very grateful for Fr. Kelly's help and guidance throughout the year and also thankful for the work done by our treasurer Carolyn Ricca.

Please contact Sarah Babcock if you would like to become an Altar Guild member, serving St. John's and the Lord.

### **Armitage Club**

Men in the parish are invited to join together for breakfast on Tuesday mornings for fellowship and discussion. The group is currently meeting at the National Coney Island on Mack Avenue in Grosse Pointe. Pat Walter is the coordinator of this group.

### **Daughters of the King** – Lena R. Nealley

St. Margaret's Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King continues in its mission of prayer, service and evangelism. As we meet monthly, on the second Saturday, September through May, we are a warm, supportive group of women who work together, pray, study and uplift one another and our parish, for Jesus' sake.

During the past year, our study has been on the Letters of John, (I John, II John, and III John). The strong message of those Bible books is to Love One Another!! We have lived that message with our service projects, the Christmas Giving Tree, the baby shower to benefit Pregnancy Aid, and our special Women's Advent Tea early in December. We are beginning a new series of topics that will challenge and bless us, in a study led by Elizabeth Savage, our newest member.

Our chapter officers currently are: Lena Nealley, president, Janice Baldwin, vice president, Chris Golembiewski, secretary and prayer list coordinator, Suzie Decker, corresponding secretary, and Sarah Babcock, treasurer, with Elizabeth Savage our study leader.

We warmly welcome any interested woman to join us at a meeting. You may visit, with no obligation; we enjoy food, fellowship, and prayer support! To become a member, a three month training period is needed. We hope to sponsor a new training period this spring; just ask any member (look for our silver cross and a smile) for more information.

Prayer is our special gift to our parish. The prayer cards in the pews bring your needs and requests to our hearts and our lips. We consider it an honor to join with you in heartfelt needs.

## **Kitchen & Coffee Hour and Fellowship** – Chris Golembiewski

Coffee, food and fellowship about sums it up for Sunday Coffee Hours. Coffee, tea and packaged chips / treats are served every Sunday. Home baked, and other gifts of sweet treats are always welcome! This year was a busy one in the kitchen. In addition to Sunday Coffee Hour and helping with Soup Sundays, we served the St. Patrick's Day luncheon and the hot dog luncheon before the annual Tiger Baseball outing. We hired caterer Edwin Smith for our annual 'Welcome Back' luncheon in September. Edwin was also hired by the Pfadt's and Campbell's for their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries, which we were honored to have take place at St. John's. Edwin also catered the luncheon following Cathy Morgan's funeral. Cathy was a pillar of St. John's, making the luncheon a special tribute to her.

St. John's is blessed to have many wonderful folks involved in many ministries within the church – including the kitchen. The tireless work of Martina Stevenson, Suzanne Porter, Stella Heatley, Nancy Donnelley, every Sunday, and additional help from many others on special event Sundays are so very valuable in keeping fun and fellowship alive at St. John's. Appreciation and thanks also to Pat Burson for always being available to help set up for special events, and Pat Walter who did the legwork in securing a new refrigerator when our lovely old 'push the door shut' unit bit dust at the end of the year! We look forward to another year of coffee hour, fellowship and special events in the Undercroft, and welcome anyone interested in helping out in the kitchen (men and women!) to come on in - we'd be happy to have your help!

## **Malawi** – Fr. Michael Bedford and Chris Golembiewski

St. John's continues to support the Diocese of Northern Malawi in two ways. First, through "Loose Offerings" received on the first Sunday of each month. Second, through our Spring and Fall Ingatherings, that take place in May and November. The generous offerings of our parishioners throughout the year support the Bishop Biggers' Educational Fund. In 2024, St. John's contributed \$4,376 plus an additional \$2,000 from our parish friends in Florida for a total of \$6,376. Please keep the Diocese of Northern Malawi, and Bishop Biggers in your prayers, and continue to support Bishop Biggers' Education Fund through loose offerings and our Spring and Fall Ingatherings.

## **Outreach Committee** – Debbie Swain and Chris Golembiewski

This year grants were given to the following organizations. **Building Beds for Kids** – funds used to purchase lumber, hardware, mattresses and bedding (approx \$137/bed) Developmentally disabled young adults build twin size wooden platform beds, which are distributed along with new mattresses and bedding to families in need. **Cass Community Social Services** – dedicated to making a profound difference in the lives of the diverse population served by providing basic needs – including serving 700,000 meals annually, housing for 300 men women and children nightly, medical and mental health services, vocational training; promoting self reliance and encouraging community involvement. **Corner Shower and Laundry** - Build and operate clean and safe shower and laundry facilities where the homeless and others in need in our community can shower and launder their clothes. **Crossroads** - Focused on human services, providing emergency food, clothing personal hygiene products, local and long-distant transportation, prescription assistance and other material resources to fill immediate needs. Also provide one-on-one client impact, children's summer lunch, Sunday Soup Kitchen, and Workforce Readiness and jobs programs. Client Impact Program allows help and care for those in need. More than half of all clients need help to obtain birth certificates or Michigan State ID cards to obtain housing, to enroll their children in school, or to secure employment. **Georgia Street Community Collective(GSCC)** - With the help of volunteers, and the Garden Resource Program, empty lots have be revitalized to become GSCC Gardens/Farm. GSCC helps seniors and youth of the neighborhood through education - using the garden/farm as a way to mentor students and teach others to start their own garden. GSCC has refurbished an old storefront and its attached home into a community center with a community room, kitchen, computer lab, library, and the project keeps growing. The garden/farm now comprises 17 lots on Georgia and Vinton Streets including a fruit orchard. **Incarcerated Youth Ministries** – bring God's word to those incarcerated- "locked up but not locked out of God's love and protection". Bible studies, worship services, chaplain visits, on site retreats, basic need to those being released, Christmas & Easter celebrations (Food). Provide clothing, hygiene products to those being released. **Keep Growing Detroit (KGD)** – promote a food sovereign city where the majority of fruits and vegetables are grown and

consumed by residents within the city. Assist at least 7 community groups in establishing or improving vegetable gardens by installing 27 new 4"x8" raised metal (longer lasting) beds. All sites selected for improvement will receive KGD garden development assistance. **NOAH Project** – A central hub for services, resources and relationships assisting individuals on the path to stable housing. Serve as a drop in center for the unhoused community - providing case management, lunch, showers (M&W), street outreach, etc. **The Arc Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods** – protect the rights and supports full inclusion of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the community by facilitating activities, advocacy, employment, education and meaningful relationships from childhood through adulthood. After school enrichment programs, Friends Group (social and recreational programs for teens and adults), summer camps, family support (information, advocacy and referral assistance). **Vista Maria** – Foster restorative relationships and deliver innovative care, treatment and education so that vulnerable youth and families believe in their worth, heal and build skills for success. Funds to be used to support Shepherd Hall Transitional Living Program, serving low-income young women and adults 16-24 aging out of the foster care system and in need of combined affordable housing and supportive services. **Wayne County Jail Outreach Ministry** – serve individuals affected by crime offenders and their families. Also provide returning citizens with education, job assistance and medical/dental services. Serve individuals spiritual need and promote emotional and long term goals – including job and life skill training.

### **St. Catherine's Guild of the Episcopal Church Women – Debbie Swain**

The ladies of St Catherine's filled 40 toiletry bags, held 3 planning & workshop meetings, hosted a Craft Sale for 1 month, held the annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale & Thanksgiving Donut Sale. In December (a very busy month) the ladies put up the Advent (Chrismon) Trees in the narthex, hosted the annual Christmas Tree Lighting & Carols in the garden, held the annual Cookie Walk, held 2 days for pre-greening of the church and had the annual Advent soup luncheon for the final day of greening this beautiful church for Christmas.

In the kitchen the ladies: Hosted a Shrove Tuesday dinner, a St Patrick's Day luncheon, annual Lenten Soup Sunday, Annual Bake Sale on Palm Sunday, hosted the 59th Anniversary celebration for Han & Ellen (paid for by their son), Outreach Sunday Reception, Founder's Day Ice Cream Social, Welcome back luncheon, Homecoming Luncheon, Advent soup and Hosted Brian & Natalie 50 Anniversary (paid for by them).

We have had a busy, wonderful, productive year thanks to all the ladies in this congregation and a successful fundraising year thanks to the support and generous nature of St John's members.

### **Sunday School – Lena Nealley**

This year our Sunday school has a theme of Bible Heroes and Jesus Stories. During the fall lessons, we have studied major Old Testament figures from Adam and Eve, Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, Hannah and Samuel, Ruth and Naomi, David, Daniel, Isaiah, ending with John the Baptist. Each student has a notebook and is learning a memory verse for each lesson. For the January through May lessons, we will be following many stories of Jesus, his teachings and his miracles.

Our numbers for Sunday School are not large; most weeks we have one faithful student, but we have had Sundays with four or five. In addition to our regular Sunday school leaders, Lena Nealley and Martina Stevenson, Melody Huffer is now our regular pianist for our songs in worship. We welcome visitors; **come and see** what is happening in our children's chapel downstairs each Sunday. You could read the Bible story!!

We have a good time with our worship, Bible study, discussions, puzzles, coloring pages, and snacks. Special thanks to all who support our Sunday School. Please encourage and invite other young people to come (ages 5-12). Let us all keep working to make St. John's a wonderful place to worship each Sunday.

## Rector's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting January 26, 2025

*As Christians and as Churchman, we thank GOD for our strong assurance and conviction, drawn on past history, that the Protestant Episcopal Church, for whose communion this building will be reared, is so grounded on the one foundation, JESUS CHRIST, so true to Him, in the ministry, the doctrine, the Liturgy, the sacred year, the entire system which she has inherited; so careful of His complete Gospel; holding each and every part thereof, in its own due proportion and harmony; that however we and those who shall follow us may prove unworthy of her and of her Lord, among all the changes and chances of this world, she will remain, in all essential things unchanged.*

*– Fr. William Armitage, St. John's Cornerstone Dedication 1860*

2024 has been for me a year of recollection. In May I celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of having Holy Orders bestowed upon me, and with the retirement of one of my classmates in June I became the last member of my seminary class still in active ministry in the Episcopal Church. In June I attended my 40<sup>th</sup> high school reunion, seeing many men I haven't seen since we were students in Orchard Lake. In November Jennifer and I celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. How have the years gone by so quickly?

By God's grace I am completing my 24<sup>th</sup> year as the Rector of St. John's and continue as the longest serving priest in this diocese in the same position. It seems like just yesterday that I mounted the pulpit here for the first time, Quinquagesima Sunday, and prayed that God would bless our time together. He certainly has. And who would have imagined all the remarkable things that have happened in our parish, neighborhood, and country since February 2001.

We see from the reports in this booklet the many active things that the ministries in this parish has accomplished. Outreach, Social Events, and Educational Opportunities are natural appendages to what is our primary purpose – to glorify God by worshipping Him, to come to know Him better, and to share the good news with others.

The worship at St. John's is sublime with our choir supporting the timeless Anglican cadence of prayer and praise of the Book of Common Prayer. The social time after worship, as well as special events uplifts and encourages us. Sunday School, the Alpha Course, Adult Education (Dante's Inferno), and the Daily Morning Mediations are wonderful opportunities to learn the faith. Our outreach work through things like the Baby Shower for Pregnancy Aid, Support of the Church in Malawi, support for local ministries through the Outreach Committee, the School Supplies gathering and October Food and Coat Drive, the Giving Tree and Warm Fuzzy Tree in support of Georgia Street Community Collective are all remarkable ways that we look outside ourselves to aid others in gratitude for all the blessings God has bestowed upon us. 2024 was a remarkable year for all of the above.

Also this past year I have been involved in the community development planning for projects that could make a major impact on the neighborhood around St. John's. Plans are moving forward to place a cap over I-75 next to the church and other parts of the freeway nearby, making green space and walking space over the concrete chasm. Planning is also underway for a complete rebuild of I-75 involving the removal of I-375 and reconfiguring the Vernor/Gratiot/I-75 turn and exit to our east. If both these projects achieve their funding goal it will make for remarkable changes for pedestrian and bicycle traffic coming to St. John's.

When Fr. Armitage, the Vestry, and parishioners of St. John's placed in the cornerstone the words quoted above, they could not have imagined what Detroit and The Episcopal Church would be like 165 years later. I can hardly believe the changes I have seen in just 24 years. But we continue to be convinced of another phrase quoted in that dedication document.

*We are conscious and confident that we are building that which will outlast ourselves; and we rejoice in the hope that, within the walls we are permitted to raise, thousands, in successive generations, will worship GOD, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; and confess our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, in the Sacraments and ordinances of His Gospel; and partake of all the blessings of membership in His Church, which are precious to our souls to-day.*