

Annual Report 2023



St. John's Episcopal Church

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Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 4th, 2024
11:30am

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Opening Prayer	The Rev. John Beach
Call to Order and Opening Remarks	The Rev. John Beach
Declaration of a Quorum	
Re-approval of the By-Laws of the Parish	
Acceptance of Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting	
Acknowledgements	
Introduction of 2023 Vestry Members and Officers	
Intro. of Nominations for Delegates to 2024 Diocesan Convention	
Election of Officers, Vestry, and Delegates to Diocesan Convention	<i>(see form insert)</i>
Priest-in-Charge Report	The Rev. John Beach
Senior Warden Report	Brenda Caggiano
Junior Warden Report	Daniel Casey
Treasurer Report	Phil Littlehale
Presentation of 2024 Operating Budget	
Adoption of the 2024 Operating Budget	
Overview of Other Reports	The Rev. John Beach
Response to Other Printed Reports	
Commissioning of 2024 Vestry and Officers	
Other Business	
Closing Prayer and Adjournment	The Rev. John Beach

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Section 1

The Officers, Vestry, and Staff of St. John’s Episcopal Church, 2023

Clergy & Officers:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Brenda Caggiano, Senior Warden
Daniel Casey, Junior Warden
Phil Littlehale, Treasurer
Paul Felci, Assistant Treasurer
Kristina Palazzo, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry:

William ‘Bill’ Bidmead, Sr. (2026)
M. ‘Dibby’ LeBlanc (2026)
D. ‘Dee’ LeMay (2024)
Donna Manoogian (2024)
Sandra ‘Sandy’ Mears (2026)

Lay Staff:

Stephen Belyea, Verger
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Kristina Palazzo, Sexton (2023)
Angela Grabowski, Parish Administrator

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Baptism(s)

Charlie Rose Collins

Confirmations, Receptions, and Renewals

n/a

Burial(s)

Frank R. Davey
William ‘Bill’ St. Clair
Jane M. Nicosia
Elaine M. Goodwin
Lorraine M. Seaboyer

Marriage(s)

Jennifer Napolitano & William Stanton

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Section 2

Annual Meeting Minutes ~ February 12th, 2023

Father John Beach called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with a prayer at approximately 11:30am.

Declaration of a Quorum: A quorum was declared by Father John Beach. This was a hybrid meeting with those at the parish and via Zoom.

Attendance at parish: John Beach, Phil Littlehale, Brenda Caggiano, Kristina Palazzo, Dibby LeBlanc, Sandy St. Clair, Jeannine Cutter, Kendra Webber, Ken Webber, Janice Butler, Joanne Crowe, Jeff Crowe, TJ Martin, Nancy White, Steve White, Julia Aston, Paul Felci, Sandy Mears, Ray Mears, Joan Cantarino, Linda Graves, Dee LeMay, Carl Senftleben, Denise Beneteau, Janet Pothier, Bill Pothier, Debbie Cox, Donna Manoogian, Darlene Rogers, Bill Bidmead, Susan Caggiano, Lahneen Visco and Lynn Smith

Attendance was also taken for Zoom attendees: Peggy Gibbs

Re-approval of the By-Laws of the Parish: It's been two years since they have been updated. Parishioners who haven't signed since that time will need to do so in order to vote for officers and vestry members.

T.J. Martin made a motion to re-approve the By-Laws of the Parish and Julia Aston seconded the motion. The parish all voted in favor.

Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting: The minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting were reviewed by the parish members present. Sandy St. Clair made a motion to accept the minutes, and the motion was seconded by Dee LeMay. The minutes were accepted as written.

Acknowledgements:

Father John is happy to have parishioners meet in person this year. He thanked Janet Pothier and everyone who contributed to the luncheon. He also thanked Angela Grabowski for her hard work and dedication to St. John's. Father John thanked Ken Webber and James Brown for completing their terms on the Vestry.

Nomination of 2023 Vestry Officers:

Brenda Caggiano, Senior Warden
Dan Casey, Junior Warden
Phil Littlehale, Treasurer
Kristina Palazzo, Clerk

Nomination of 2023 Vestry Members: Bill Bidmead, Sr., (2026), and Dibby LeBlanc, (2026)

Nominations of Delegates to the Diocesan Convention 2023: Kristina Palazzo and Dee LeMay

Alternates for the Diocesan Convention 2023: Jeff and Joanne Crowe

Nominations of Delegates to the Episcopal City Mission 2023: Delay to a future meeting

Nominations for Representatives to the North Shore Deanery: Delay to a future meeting

Father John gave a blessing to new officers, vestry members and convention delegates.

Priest in Charge Report: (refer to Section 3 of the Annual Report)

Father John thanked all of the parishioners in the St. John's community. It's a joy to be the Priest in Charge and he'd like to continue in this capacity. He thanked Brenda Caggiano and Dan Casey, Bible study participants, the Altar Guild members, pastoral care, Debbie Cox, The Whites, and Paul Felci.

Happenings: A time of Discernment in which we discuss and determine the direction of the church and its priest. A thank you to Lynn Smith for her involvement and direction. Father John hopes to remain at St. John's until May, 2025.

Father John shared that he is taking a one month vacation, beginning on May 5 and then a three month sabbatical following. He will be going on a bike riding adventure across the country. During his sabbatical, Father Paul Dalzell, who is from Australia, will be filling in for him. He and his wife will be staying at the Rectory.

Senior Warden's Report: (refer to Section 4 of the Annual Report)

Brenda Caggiano shared that it was a bit scary at first to take on the role of Senior Warden. However, she is now comfortable in the role. She recommends to anyone who may be interested in the role in the future to go outside their comfort zone and try something different. The Discernment Committee is a very big task and she is thankful to the committee members, Father John and Lynn Smith. The committee is currently in the process of coming up with the best questions to bring to the parishioners. Brenda also thanked Angela Grabowski for all of her assistance and reminded parishioners that she is here to help.

Junior Warden's Report: (refer to Section 5 of the Annual Report)

Dan Casey was not present but he left a summary with Father John and Brenda. He wants to remind people that St. John's parishioners do a lot of the work that needs to get done at the church. Father John will submit the list of physical plant improvements to Angela for inclusion in the Annual Report.

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Kitchen project: A plan is in the process to fix the dishwasher and sink and to install a grease trap. Once the plan is in place, he will be applying for a permit with the town of Saugus.

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QuickBooks: A plan is in the process to migrate from QuickBooks desktop to QuickBooks online.

Other Reports: (refer to Section 6 of the Annual Report)

Financial Reports:

Treasury Report - 2022

Phil Littehale thanked Paul Felci for all of his hard work and contributions over the years in his role of Assistant Treasurer. A plan is in process for the new financial team due to Paul's retirement this year.

2022 was a challenging year financially: (refer to page 23)

- Didn't sell securities
- Interest and Dividends were down
- Fidelity accounts were down \$90,000
- Pledges were down
- Strong balance sheet, as market recovers, our investments will increase. Phil is hoping in 2024 the balance sheet will be in better shape. Overall, better than expected.

2023 Budget:

- Pledges are up 7%
- Expenses decreased

Phil projects a loss of \$47,000 as the worst case scenario. The expectation is we will have a lower deficit (loss of \$20,000).

Question from parishioner: Why are there two checking accounts listed on page 25?

Eastern Bank is the primary account and North Shore Bank is for the rector's discretionary fund.

Brenda Caggiano made a motion to accept the 2023 budget and the motion was seconded by Ken Webber. The motion was passed to accept the budget.

Other Business:

Donna Manoogian would like to thank Fritz White for his continued efforts for the roast beef dinner. A meeting will take place in 2 weeks regarding the direction of the Annual Fair and roast beef dinner.

Father John would like to thank all parishioners who help with the community garden especially Dee and Laura. There will be a meeting soon about how it will run while Father John is on his sabbatical. There are discussions about having a garden in front of the church.

Father John would like to thank T.J. Martin for broadcasting the Sunday services.

Julia Aston pointed out we did have 2 confirmations this year, Dee LeMay and Kristina Palazzo. However, they weren't listed in the Annual Report.

Sandy Mears pointed out that the choir members were not acknowledged in Stephen Sikorski's contribution to the Annual Report.

Father John gave the closing blessing.

Phil Littlehale made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Dee LeMay. The meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.

Submitted by,
Kristina Palazzo

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Section 3

Annual Report of the Priest-in-Charge

by The Rev. John Beach

Dear Friends,

Our annual meeting gives all of us a chance to reflect over this past year and to see how its blessings and challenges of the past year have shaped us and given a glimpse of the community we have been called to be. As the gospel singer, Ken Medema, once remarked "Tomorrow is a mystery, and yesterday is a sign." Pausing for a moment to consider this past year allows us to see the hand of God at work in our community.

Speaking personally, I am grateful that you have all given me the opportunity to pursue a dream of mine. For nearly 4 months over the course of the summer, I was able to bicycle across this country. I left Washington State in early May and pulled into Saugus in late August. Along the way I was able to look upon the beauty and the pain which have shaped our country. I was able to visit old friends of mine for the first time since childhood. Over 30 strangers invited me into their homes, fed me, and told me their stories and listened to mine. The kindness, joy, courage, and sorrow I experienced along the way have greatly changed me. I invite any interested persons to read about my trip on my blog site <https://bikepilgrimageusa.blogspot.com/>

It lifted my heart to see that the ministry of St. John's church thrived in my absence. I realized to my surprise and delight that this community does not require my controlling tendencies to be the welcoming, loving, healing, and joyous community it has been for generations. I was reminded, once again, that world can rotate in my absence, and that this is a good thing.

During my absence I am grateful that The Rev. Paul Dalzell and his wife, Robyn Ellis, from Alexandra, Australia, were able to celebrate the liturgy and lead the Bible Study. The intersection of rural Australia and eastern Massachusetts was a delightful event which expanded everyone's world view. Paul wrote a brief reflection at my request describing his time here which I have appended to the end of this report. I will be speaking with representatives of the diocese to discern if this exchange might serve as a template for future visiting clergy to the region.

The community garden continues to be a source of joy and vegetables. I am grateful for hard work of Dee Lemay and Laura Eisener. I rejoice in their fruitful endeavors. It is my hope that there are others in the congregation who would like to hone their gardening skills when the weather gets warmer.

With Covid behind us, we have returned to our outreach projects. I am grateful for the hard work and cheerful optimism of Donna Manoogian, who organized and recruited volunteers for our Church Fair in December. The profits have been considerably greater than any other fair in recent memory and a good time was had by all. There are countless others who have given joyfully of their time and talents to the life of the parish. T.J. Martin, the White Family, and Sharwood Family have produced mountains of food for our lobster rolls sales, roast beef dinner, pancake suppers, and yard sale barbeques.

Health concerns have forced Elizabeth Littlehale to take a break from organizing the coffee hour. We are so grateful that Bill and Janet Pothier have jumped in to pick up the baton. I am grateful to T.J. Martin, Fritz White, and Dan Casey who have broadcasted our worship and have provided creative suggestions for how we can become more accessible. I am thankful for our talented music director, Stephen Sikorski, who has contributed both his musical and technical expertise to insure that we are able to make a joyful sound unto the Lord! We are blessed as well by our faithful choir and liturgical ministers who make our worship a joy.

We have continued our weekly Bible Study each Tuesday. We have also organized several book study groups through the Saugus Public Library. We have just finished a discussion of the book *Together: The Healing Power of Human Connection in a Sometimes Lonely World* by the U.S. Surgeon General, Vivek Murthy. During Lent, we will be offering a study of the recent book by David Brooks *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and being Deeply Seen*.

Julia Aston wears many hats at St. John's. She is planning on taking one of them off this winter - serving as a Licensed Eucharistic Minister. I am grateful several members of the congregation have stepped up and offered their services. She will continue her faithful work on the Altar Guild and Stewardship. She is a true blessing to our community.

Julia continues coordinating the altar guild and has recruited several more members. We are all blessed by her love of liturgy and her attention to details. She has invited the Diocesan Altar Guild annual meeting to St. John's, and we are looking forward to hosting them.

We are grateful to Debby Cox who has worked with our children in Sunday school as we return to in person worship. We have had several new families join us in recent months and are now planning to start a group for older children. We are seeking a few teachers to help us in this initiative.

Jeanne Seaboyer has continued to invite us to share in the ministry of Every Child Deserves a Smile, Bread of Life, and the offering of the Christmas gifts through the Saugus Fire Department. This has provided an opportunity for us to restore security and dignity to those who are made most vulnerable through these difficult days.

There are many people for whom I am grateful. In listing them I know that my flawed memory will leave some out-so I beg your forgiveness in advance.

We are grateful to Phil Littlehale, our treasurer, and Paul Felci and James Duracin who have done much of the administrative work in insuring that we are good stewards of our financial resources. I am grateful for those who have assisted in the counting and hope that there might a some more in the congregation who would like to join their ranks.

We are blessed with a group of dedicated volunteers who quietly do a great job in looking after the physical plant. The Whites remove our snow, Bill Bidmead removes the grass, there are many folks who patiently clean up the messes that some of us leave behind. I am grateful for Kristina Palazzo who has been our sexton this year and attends to details too numerous to list here. She has also generously agreed to continue as Vestry secretary and effectively gives structure to our sometime rambling discussions.

I am grateful for our wardens, Dan Casey and Brenda Caggiano who have met with me to ensure that we are a welcoming and encouraging place.

I wanted to extend a personal thanks to our parish administrator, Angela Grabowski, who remembers many things I forget and makes me appear more organized that I really am. She confronts the forces of disorder with competence, patience, kindness, and grace. We are a better community for her ministry among us.

I would also like to thank my wonderful wife, Denise Bénéteau. She has been a constant presence of love, counsel, and support. I am more grateful that I can express.

Thank you for all the ways the ways you share in the ministry of this community. You have blessed me more than you can know.

Rev. Dalzell's A. M. Contribution.

It was a great pleasure to be a part of the congregation from the end of April to the end of July 2023. The experience of receiving a welcome from everyone, and having my ministry received by the congregation is one that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I will not go into specifics here, but I hope that this brief mention will serve fondly to bring to mind our time together.

Being in the U.S. has also given me some good contacts, especially with the Episcopal Migration Ministry, which I am following up this year.

Apart from the ministry aspects of our time in Saugus, visiting in the USA gave Robyn and I a chance to better understand your history and culture. An understanding that is of great value to us as we now observe events from the other side of the Pacific.

I would also like to pay tribute to Fr. John for his daring and creativity in thinking of me, and making the exchange possible, and to Denise for her welcome of me and later of Robyn into the rectory. We shared the space so well, that it made the time of work in Saugus that much the better. Thank you both.

I would also like to add Robyn's thanks for the opportunity to explore the North East of the United States, and the life in Saugus. She had a most wonderful time and helped me to see things that I might not otherwise have visited.

~ Paul and Robyn

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Section 4

Senior Warden Report

Senior Warden Report

Where has the time gone? It's time for our annual meeting and as I review my notes, I am amazed as to what our parish has accomplished with grace while introducing change.

We completed our discernment following a very aggressive schedule last spring/summer. This was no easy task but with a caring and energetic group consisting of Julia Aston, Dan Casey, Donna Manoogian, and T.J Martin and our consultant Lynn Smith it was accomplished. Many hours were involved meeting, interviewing, reviewing and compiling which led us to asking Rev. John to stay as our Priest-in-Charge until April 30, 2025.

During this time, we were also preparing for Rev. Paul Dalzell from Australia to join us. Rev. Paul was our priest while Rev. John was taking his leave of absence for his summer bike pilgrimage. This was something different and may have pushed some of us out of comfort zone (I know I was) but it was a positive and enjoyable experience.

We have continued with many of our traditional events such as the lobster roll sales, Mother's Day plant sale, the Yard sale, the infamous Roast Beef Dinner and Christmas Fair (formerly known as the Fall fair). The Fair tried something different and was quite successful. We shared our space with vendors and had a purpose of being a Christmas event. We continue to contribute to the community with Every Child Deserves to Smile, helping the food pantry, gifts for Operation Christmas Child and supporting a Pakistan family. Founders Day, once again was a success with donations going to the ALS foundation. Our booth on Central Street and free ice cream sundaes like everything else we do is a great team effort.

Two potluck suppers with music and dancing were also held this year that was open to the community. We will be having more of these events and we are open for ideas!

This was also our year to renew our ServSafe certifications. In addition to those that needed to renew their certificates we had 4 additional people complete training and been certified. As food plays a big role in our St. John's community, I am grateful to those that give their time and effort to keeping us safe.

As this year progresses, we will be updating our church profile and begin our search for a new priest. So, keep your minds open and share your thoughts, concerns and creativity!

We welcome new members to the vestry team and thank those who have served and will continue to chip away at the 'to do' list.

I look forward to another year.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Caggiano

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Section 5

Junior Warden Report

2023 has been an interesting and productive year for sustaining our physical building and grounds. We are faced with continuing challenges of maintaining the physical church and grounds. Some of the notable projects and endeavors we have undertaken in the calendar year of 2023 are noted and listed below in no particular order:

- The repair and upgrade for the memorial Garden organized by Lahneen Visco.
- The completion of upgrading our internet switch and cabling throughout the church.
- The continuing upgrades of the exit lighting signs.
- The successful migration from QuickBooks Desktop to QuickBooks online.
- The formation of a finance committee and the ability to view online financial reports through QuickBooks online.
- The partial rebuild of the church steeple.
- The new roof on the back of the McQueston Hall, the vestment room and Ashworth Hall.
- The start of the mandated and much needed kitchen remodel.

There are many small repairs which are numerous to list, however, all are accomplished, often times without being notice. With that said, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of Steve and Fritz White for the accomplishment of many of these tasks.

Some of the projects that are in the planning stage are:

- The second phase of the steeple repair
- Repair and or replacement of the church front stairs
- The completion of the kitchen remodel
- Other projects as they make themselves known

If I have missed anyone who has helped in the upkeep of St John’s building and grounds, I apologize in advance.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not state: the upkeep of the building and grounds would be a great financial burden if we had pay for the services we derive from the joyful donation of time and expertise from within the congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Daniel Casey, Junior Warden

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Section 6

Education, Communications, and Parish Events

Church School & Youth Group

Church school is growing! A few new families joined during the year; five kids total, with first grade, kindergarten, and pre-K - a 3 yr. and 2 ½ yr. old.

We read from the *Beginner's Bible*, short stories and pictures to color, based on what was read. The class loves to hear the different stories each week and especially love to color.

In December, we started reading about the birth of Jesus and had a different craft project each week to work on.

In January, St. John's had new family join the church school; two children, 12 & 10 yrs. old. They work on different puzzles base on the Bible stories.

Rev. John is in the process of getting another Sunday school class started for the older kids. He hopes to start the class by the end of January.

Submitted by Debbie Cox

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Communications

St. John's continues to be a visible and welcoming religious entity in the greater Saugus community, conveying our messaging via printed, electronic, and social media (website, mail, email, FB, etc.).

Weekly service bulletins and monthly newsletter are posted to the church website; both are mailed, and, emailed for the convenience of those who may not have printing capabilities and/or prefer to download them.

During the year annual events are promoted through the same avenues, in addition to printed flyers and posters, which are circulated locally. To parishioners and friends who make it a point to share such information by word-of-mouth and online - your help is *very much appreciated* and contributes to the success of St. John's fundraisers and other special events.

I offer sincere thanks to Rev. Beach for his continued understanding and support, as well as to the Wardens, Officers, and Vestry for their commitment and diligence in church leadership.

My appreciation also to Paul Felci, Julia Aston, Steve White, Donna Manoogian, Jeanne Seaboyer, T.J. Martin, and Kristina Palazzo for everyone's crucial support with daily parish business, managing Zoom worship streaming, building maintenance, annual stewardship, and various fundraisers throughout the year.

Finally, a sincere 'thank you' is offered to everyone who contributed to this report; communicating such information to parish members is important, and I am grateful for their timely efforts.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Grabowski

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Communications – Streaming

We continue to use Zoom as the platform to stream our services. The services are recorded and then posted to our YouTube channel and linked to the church's website. The following table provides data on viewership of our services, both live via Zoom and the subsequent recordings on YouTube. Since last year (2022) the numbers viewing our services live has gone down, but the number viewing the recordings on YouTube has gone up.

In the coming year we hope to finally make some upgrades to our cameras that will improve camera sightlines. We are also planning on improving our the streaming setup that will make the operation easier for the operator.

We do need more volunteers to help with the steaming operation. It would be ideal to have 2-3 volunteers so we could create a rotating roster for streaming services. Please reach out to me if you are interested.

Respectfully submitted,
T.J. Martin

	Viewed Service Live via Zoom	Viewed recording on St. John's website/YouTube	Total Viewings	
1/1/2023	3	8	11	
1/8/2023	3	9	12	
1/15/2023	6	8	14	
1/22/2023	5	3	8	
1/29/2023	5	8	13	
2/5/2023	4	3	7	
2/12/2023	6	4	10	
2/19/2023	0	0	0	*Zoom not working*
2/22/2023	1	8	9	Ash Wednesday
2/26/2023	5	7	12	
3/5/2023	4	5	9	
3/12/2023	6	10	16	
3/19/2023	5	12	17	
3/26/2023	6	15	21	
4/2/2023	6	9	15	Palm Sunday
4/6/2023	0	7	7	Maundy Thursday
4/7/2023	2	5	7	Good Friday
4/9/2023	8	4	12	Easter
4/16/2023	6	7	13	
4/23/2023	11	7	18	
4/30/2023	7	4	11	
5/7/2023	9	4	13	
5/14/2023	8	12	20	
5/21/2023	4	0	4	No Audio
5/28/2023	8	4	12	
6/4/2023	9	7	16	
6/11/2023	10	7	17	
6/18/2023	7	14	21	
6/25/2023	7	11	18	
7/2/2023	9	6	15	
7/9/2023	8	6	14	
7/16/2023	7	5	12	
7/23/2023	6	9	15	
7/30/2023	6	1	7	
8/6/2023	4	0	4	No recording
8/13/2023	4	13	17	
8/20/2023	6	6	12	
8/27/2023	4	5	9	
9/3/2023	5	6	11	
9/10/2023	4	3	7	
9/17/2023	7	3	10	
9/24/2023	12	7	19	
10/1/2023	8	6	14	
10/8/2023	7	6	13	
10/15/2023	3	7	10	
10/22/2023	4	4	8	
10/29/2023	4	10	14	
11/5/2023	6	4	10	
11/12/2023	4	9	13	
11/19/2023	5	5	10	
11/26/2023	7	5	12	
12/3/2023	8	8	16	
12/10/2023	6	7	13	
12/17/2023	5	10	15	
12/24/2023	4	7	11	
12/24/2023	3	8	11	Christmas Pageant
12/31/2023	8	6	14	Lessons & Carols

Outreach Ministries

Saugus United Parish Food Pantry (and other church philanthropy)

Church members remain supportive of our local food pantry with grocery donations, in addition to the produce harvested from St. John’s community garden. Last year, the parish contributed monetary gifts totaling \$400.00 to support the pantry’s mission.

St. John’s also supports continued good works of the following area and far-reaching nonprofits:

Barbara C Harris Camp & Conference Center (bchcenter.org): \$250.00

Episcopal Relief and Development (episcopalrelief.org): \$650.00

My Brother’s Table (mybrotherstable.org): \$500.00

While Covid, flu, and new variants ebb and flow, infectious illnesses continue to challenge the already difficult circumstances for families in need. The community fabric overall is lifted up by the essential services the Food Pantry and other organizations provide.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Grabowski

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Rev. Roger E. Nelson & Dotsie Nelson Scholarship

This scholarship, formerly The Reverend Roger E. Nelson Scholarship, was renamed at the request of Reverend Nelson in honor of Reverend Nelson and in memory of his wife, Dotsie Nelson.

Any active, contributing member of St. John's Church who is graduating from high school and plans to continue their education is eligible for this scholarship.

Two (2) scholarships were awarded in 2023. Recipients are Eden Mejias who is attending Salem State University and Fletcher Martin who is attending Pace University.

Best of luck to these students!

Submitted by,
Rose Holt

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Every Child Deserves to Smile

Every Child Deserves to Smile is in its 12th year! The mission of this ministry is to be a light in the life of homeless children residing in temporary motel accommodations in one specific motel in Saugus.

This year we have all experienced the pinch of the rising cost of everyday needs. Clothing, personal care items, and food prices have doubled and tripled. For most of us, we are able to manage and do without a few things if need be. Imagine not having a home, of being dropped into a motel situation possessing only the things you could carry in a shopping bag with no food and an insecure financial situation.

With your generous donations, St. John's has brought hope and joy to benefit approximately 40 homeless children in our community each month. Your kindness has allowed us to provide 2-3 boxes each month with items such as fresh fruit and non-perishable food items, snack items, water, paper goods, kitchen items, toiletries, and laundry detergent and clothing throughout the year.

We helped the children celebrate Valentines, Easter and Halloween with 30-40+ gift bags/baskets filled with treats for each occasion. We remembered 16 moms and 16 dads with gift bags of personal care items on their special days in May and June. In June we also provided games, toys, and arts and crafts activities for summer enjoyment. In September, 3 boxes of back-to-school supplies were delivered. In November and December, we collected and delivered a total of \$190 in grocery store gift cards.

Your donations mean the world for the homeless children and their families that this ministry serves. The planning, coordinating, and delivery of your donations would not be possible without the unified efforts of a core of individuals who continually work behind the scenes. Steve and Nancy White, Karen Riccio, Sue Noonan, Rev. John Beach, and Jane Selvitella, your devotion to this ministry and the children it serves keeps hope alive in a world of uncertainty.

We meet quarterly at 9:30 am in the Hurl Room on the first Thursdays in March, June, September and December. We encourage anyone interested in helping to generate the light for homeless children to join us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanne Seaboyer
Every Child Deserves to Smile Coordinator

Community Outreach

Saugus Fire Department Annual Drive

As in past years, we participated in the Saugus Fire Department’s Annual Drive to provide a memorable Christmas for Saugus children in need. With teens and tweens in mind, our donation of \$210 in Gift Cards was gratefully received by Ret. Capt. Bill & Carol O’Malley, who noted that the need for assistance is much greater this year than in past years.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Seaboyer

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Parish Fellowship

Annual Yard Sale—June 10, 2023

Once again we had beautiful weather. The community turned out to make this a success once again. The final profit was \$838.80, which included a \$55 donation to the book table.

Annual Roast Beef Dinner—October 26, 2023

Once again this dinner was a ‘grab and go.’ Nearly 120 dinners were put up. We hope to have a sit-down dinner next year. The final profit was \$2,416.14, which includes the cost of the roast beef (approximately \$550.00). A generous donation of that amount was made to cover the purchase of beef.

Annual Christmas Craft Fair—December 2, 2023

This year we changed from a fall fair to a Christmas craft fair. We invited 10 crafters to rent tables in the Hurl Room. It was decided to try something different, which turned out to be a huge success.

We had our regular fair tables-candy, baked, jewelry, cards, knit, yard sale in the basement and snack bar in the kitchen. The fair had a profit of just over \$4,000 this year. Thanks to everyone who worked to make this year’s fair such a success.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Manoogian, Fair Chairman

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Lobster Roll Sales

We had two successful lobster roll sales in 2023.

Sales:

April 28 th :	Rolls Sold: 259	Revenue: \$1,735.00
September 15 th :	Rolls Sold: 257	Revenue: \$1,863.00

I am very grateful for the assistance of those who helped with deliveries; Rev. John, Denise, Janet and Bill Pothier, and Bill Bidmead – and to the many brownie bakers. And a big thank you to the lobster roll makers – Steve & Nancy White, Laura Geary and Janet Pothier.

We are planning on two sales in 2024 – May 3rd and September 13th. Mark your calendars! Volunteers are always greatly appreciated.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
T.J. Martin

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Mother’s Day Plant Sale ~ Spring May 13th 2023

Beautiful weather, gorgeous flowers, and cheerful volunteers combined to make this one of our best flower sales and community building experiences! Our net profit was \$1,109.

It takes many hands to make this event run smoothly. We have many volunteers to thank for the generous donation of their time: The Friday crew who came out to transport flowers from Kane’s to the church, and the many who were on hand to unload. The Saturday crew who set up, greeted the public, and the clean-up crew who kept everything spotless.

The behind the scenes individuals who promoted the sale, took phone orders, kept the coffee hot, and kept track of the sales.

Our volunteers are at the heart of all we do and are gratefully appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Seaboyer

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Founder's Day Ice Cream Social - September 9th

St. John's annual participation in Saugus Founders Day was a resounding success!

St. John's has become well known at this event for lip-smacking complimentary ice cream sundaes and greeting people at the booth with smiles and information about our worship, fellowship and volunteer activities.

New this year was the addition of the luncheon grill on the lawn. Although the ice cream was complimentary, patrons were offered the opportunity to donate to ALS in memory of long-time St. John's member, Christine Sentfleben. We offer thanks to the very generous patrons who donated \$213.00 to ALS research.

Thanks to team leaders Diana White & T. J. Martin at our booth, Fritz White on the grill, and all who assisted them, as well as those who volunteered to assist me inside at the ice cream emporium...you made St. John's sparkle on September 9th!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanne Seaboyer

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Worship Ministry

Altar Guild

Members of the Altar Guild serve every week of the year, preparing the altar for Holy Communion on Sundays, and when needed, setting up for baptisms, funerals or weddings. Members sign up to cover for a week about once a month. Usually that involves coming to the church on Friday or Saturday to set up the altar and cleaning up after the service on Sunday.

The Altar Guild Directress orders all the candles needed for worship including altar candles, service candles, candelabra candles, Advent wreath candles, the paschal candle as well as the candle hanging over the Ombre. She also informs the Altar Guild person covering for the week when there is a funeral or other service that needs to be set up for during the week they are covering.

The Altar Guild launders the dirty linens and washes the vessels, bread plate, and chalice after services. We change the colors of the hangings on the altar, lectern and pulpit for the various seasons of the church year; this includes changing the colors on the altar in the Hurl Room, which came from St. Luke's. For most of the church year the hangings are green, then purple for Advent and Lent, white for Christmas and Easter, weddings and funerals, and red for Pentecost.

We have continued, since COVID, using single throw-away cups for wine for Holy Communion. Members of the Altar Guild for 2023: Julia Aston, Jeannine Cutter, Dibby LeBlanc, Dee LeMay, Sandy Mears, and Kristina Palazzo, Assistant Directress.

We are always looking for new members. If you are interested in serving St. John's in this capacity, please see Julia Aston or any Altar Guild member, we'll be happy to explain what's involved and train you! It's not difficult to learn and it is a very rewarding way to serve the church.

Submitted by Julia Aston,
Altar Guild Directress

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2023 Layreader Ministry and Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Layreaders: St. John's has a wonderful group of dedicated layreaders from the congregation, who volunteer to participate in our weekly worship service, reading the lessons, psalms, and Prayers of the People. With this size group, the commitment has been to read approximately once a month, but also includes filling in when needed and reading for special services in Lent and Advent.

For 2023 the group consisted of Ray Mears, Sandy St. Clair, Denise Beneteau, John Rogalski and Sandy Mears.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs): are volunteers from the congregation, who train to assist our priest during the service - carrying the Gospel to be read, receiving the offering, assisting the priest prepare Holy Communion and distributing the wine during Holy Communion.

For 2023, Stephen Belyea and Julia Aston served in this position. They also served throughout the COVID season 2020 - 2022.

Thank you all for your service to St. John's in this important Ministry.

Julia Aston
Layreader/LEM Scheduler

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Candle and Flower Memorials

Candle and flower memorials are offered as a way to commemorate a loved one or friend in a particular month, or on a specific date. The fee for each remembrance is \$20.00. An endowment may also be established for \$250.00, which recognizes the individual(s) in perpetuity.

Offerings for the paschal candle and Advent wreath are also opportunities to memorialize beloved family or friends at worship during the Easter and Christmas seasons.

Arrangements are made through the parish office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Angela Grabowski

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Music Program 2023

Choir members, fluctuating between 4-5 voices depending on the week, performed weekly choral anthems during the offertory. Also on occasion a communion soloist has performed works for variety. Preludes, postludes, and other incidental music are generally improvised on the organ during weekly services.

In addition to standard hymns and anthems, the choir has begun to lead the congregation in chanting a Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation during regular Sunday services.

We continue our tradition of singing largely from the 1982 hymnal, however when suggested, the choir and congregation are quick to learn new pieces from other sources featuring texts that are particularly suited to certain liturgical seasons or themes in our worship. The choir members are: Stephen & Nancy Belyea, Joan Contarino, Linda Graves, and Ray Mears.

Respectfully,
Stephen Sikorski

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Section 7

2024 Stewardship Ministry Team Annual Report

Julia Aston led the Stewardship Team for St. John's 2024 Stewardship Ministry. Team Members included Julia Aston, Dibby LeBlanc, and Kristina Palazzo.

This year we chose the theme *Rooted in Love*. For four Sundays in October and November 2023 everyone attending services received a Bible verse having to do with roots and growth, which they were to take home and look up 'the rest of the story' surrounding that verse in their Bibles. We also each wrote down how we feel rooted in the church and why we attend. These thoughts were written on sticky notes and placed in the roots of a tree (representing St. John's) on a poster board. These 4 weeks were a time to reflect on what ways we are rooted in St. John's learning about God's love for us and what comfort we receive from the church community.

For the 2024 Stewardship Ministry, St. John's received 53 pledges totaling \$90,252.

For comparison, the 2023 Stewardship Ministry received 52 pledges in the amount of \$89,820.

Breakdown of the 53 pledges for 2024

2 new pledges were received

21 pledges increased from 2023

28 pledges stayed the same as 2023

2 pledges decreased from 2023

Thank you to the 28 pledgers who use auto withdrawal from their bank (ACH) – two of them are new ACH this year. This is very helpful for the church as those pledges are received regularly every month, which makes it easier for finance to pay the monthly bills of the church.

What a wonderful show of support from us all, showing that as a faith community we all want St. John’s to continue as a place we feel rooted, a place where everyone is welcome to worship in person or to join us on Zoom, and as a presence with outreach service to the Saugus community and beyond.

Thank you all for your donation of time, talent and treasure to St. John’s year after year. The church appreciates and needs each and every one of you!

The Stewardship Ministry
Submitted by: Julia Aston

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Memorial Fund

In 2023, just over \$3,000.00 was donated to St. John’s in memory of loved ones and friends. Gifts varied in purpose: a number were directed to kitchen upgrades, our memorial garden, for unrestricted use, the Nelson Scholarship Fund, etc.

Such tributes are not only thoughtful gestures; they also provide scholarships, maintain and improve the church property, and support our outreach programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Angela Grabowski

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Profit & Loss YTD Comparison
January through December 2023 and 2022

		<u>Jan-Dec 23</u>	<u>Jan -Dec 22</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	% Change
Ordinary Income & Expenses	Notes:				
Income					
Christmas		1,672.00	957.00	715.00	74.7%
Easter		660.00	947.00	(287.00)	-30.3%
Fair & Fair Efforts		7,833.44	4,864.67	2,968.77	61.0%
Fund Raising		5,213.00	4,211.50	1,001.50	23.8%
Interest /Dividends		24,658.38	17,659.11	6,999.27	39.6%
Lent		320.00	371.00	(51.00)	-13.7%
Other Income for General Use		1,210.92	792.97	417.95	52.7%
Plate/Loose		2,579.72	1,000.10	1,579.62	157.9%
Pledge		91,686.00	87,583.00	4,103.00	4.7%
Rental Income		40,200.00	37,810.00	2,390.00	6.3%
Thanksgiving		202.00	192.00	10.00	5.2%
Total Income		<u>176,235.46</u>	<u>156,388.35</u>	<u>19,847.11</u>	<u>12.7%</u>
				-	
Gross Profit		176,235.46	156,388.35	19,847.11	<u>12.7%</u>
Expenses					
Diocesan Expense		11,785.00	15,135.00	(3,350.00)	-22.1%
Operating Expenses		56,603.85	46,963.93	9,639.92	20.5%
Salary & Benefits		104,178.12	104,869.17	(691.05)	-0.7%
Vestry Sub Committees		10,530.65	11,630.16	(1,099.51)	-9.5%
Total Expenses		<u>183,097.62</u>	<u>178,598.26</u>	<u>4,499.36</u>	<u>2.5%</u>
Net Ordinary Income		(6,862.16)	(22,209.91)	15,347.75	-69.1%
Other Income/Expense					
Other Income	(1.00)	11,066.75	-	11,066.75	100.0%
Total Other Income		<u>11,066.75</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,066.75</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Net Other Income		<u>11,066.75</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,066.75</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Net Income		<u>4,204.59</u>	<u>(22,209.91)</u>	<u>26,414.50</u>	<u>-118.9%</u>
Notes:					
(1) Other Income represents a gain on sales of Fidelity Investments Securities in 2023 of 11,066.75					

Profit & Loss (Budget Vs. Actual)
January through December 2023

	<u>Jan-Dec 23</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over</u>	
			<u>Budget</u>	% of Budget
Ordinary Income & Expenses				
Income				
Christmas	1,672.00	1,000.00	672.00	167.2%
Easter	660.00	1,000.00	(340.00)	66.0%
Fair & Fair Efforts	7,833.44	4,500.00	3,333.44	174.1%
Fund Raising	5,213.00	3,500.00	1,713.00	148.9%
Interest /Dividends	24,658.38	20,420.00	4,238.38	120.8%
Lent	320.00	400.00	(80.00)	80.0%
Other Income for General Use	1,210.92	360.00	850.92	336.4%
Plate/Loose	2,579.72	1,500.00	1,079.72	172.0%
Pledge	91,686.00	90,000.00	1,686.00	101.9%
Rental Income	40,200.00	40,200.00	-	100.0%
Thanksgiving	<u>202.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>(98.00)</u>	<u>67.3%</u>
Total Income	<u>176,235.46</u>	<u>163,180.00</u>	<u>13,055.46</u>	<u>108.0%</u>
Gross Profit	176,235.46	163,180.00	13,055.46	108.0%
Expenses				
Diocesan Expense	11,785.00	11,774.00	11.00	100.1%
Operating Expenses	56,603.85	64,600.00	(7,996.15)	87.6%
Salary & Benefits	104,178.12	111,927.00	(7,748.88)	93.1%
Vestry Sub Committees	<u>10,530.65</u>	<u>22,150.00</u>	<u>(11,619.35)</u>	<u>47.5%</u>
Total Expenses	<u>183,097.62</u>	<u>210,451.00</u>	<u>(27,353.38)</u>	<u>87.0%</u>
			-	
Net Ordinary Income	(6,862.16)	(47,271.00)	40,408.84	14.5%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense	<u>11,066.75</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,066.75</u>	0.0%
Net OtherExpense	<u>11,066.75</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,066.75</u>	0.0%
Other Income				
Total Other Income	<u>11,066.75</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,066.75</u>	-
Net Income	<u>4,204.59</u>	<u>(47,271.00)</u>	<u>51,475.59</u>	<u>-8.9%</u>

Comparative Balance Sheets
As of December 31st, 2023 & 2022

	<u>Dec 31,2023</u>	<u>Dec 31,2022</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Checking/Savings				
Rectory Rental Checking-(Eastern Bk)	2,948.99	1,558.99	1,390.00	89.2%
Checking-No. Shore Bk (RD Acct)	796.12	306.38	489.74	159.8%
Checking-Eastern Bk. #3038661	3,526.53	8,282.35	(4,755.82)	-57.4%
Eastern FBC 6007302113 DC Card	639.96	579.53	60.43	10.4%
Eastern Savings A/C ... 8615	80,475.92	67,776.24	12,699.68	18.7%
Total Checking/Savings	<u>88,387.52</u>	<u>78,503.49</u>	<u>9,884.03</u>	<u>12.6%</u>
Other Current Assets				
CD's	160,774.22	159,826.51	947.71	0.6%
Fidelity Accounts	439,637.88	378,935.00	60,702.88	16.0%
Other Stocks	3,710.09	3,710.09	-	0.0%
Total Other Current Assets	<u>604,122.19</u>	<u>542,471.60</u>	<u>61,650.59</u>	<u>11.4%</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>692,509.71</u>	<u>620,975.09</u>	<u>71,534.62</u>	<u>11.5%</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>692,509.71</u>	<u>620,975.09</u>	<u>71,534.62</u>	<u>11.5%</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
Payroll Liabilities	924.14	966.42	(42.28)	-4.4%
Pledge-Rec in Advance	200.00	720.00	(520.00)	-72.2%
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>1,124.14</u>	<u>1,686.42</u>	<u>(562.28)</u>	<u>-33.3%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,124.14</u>	<u>1,686.42</u>	<u>(562.28)</u>	<u>-33.3%</u>
EQUITY				
Market Value Adjustments	100,528.14	44,081.99	56,446.15	128.0%
Opening Balance -Equity	15,341.34	15,341.34	-	0.0%
Restricted Funds	145,944.01	134,817.85	11,126.16	8.3%
Retained Earnings	(133,759.97)	(111,550.06)	(22,209.91)	19.9%
Unrestricted Funds	559,127.46	558,807.46	320.00	0.1%
Net Income	4,204.59	(22,209.91)	26,414.50	-118.9%
Total Equity	<u>691,385.57</u>	<u>619,288.67</u>	<u>72,096.90</u>	<u>11.6%</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>692,509.71</u>	<u>620,975.09</u>	<u>71,534.62</u>	<u>11.5%</u>

Profit & Loss Budget Overview (and proposed 2024 Budget)
January through December 2024 vs. 2023

	<u>Jan-Dec 24</u>	<u>Jan -Dec 23</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Ordinary Income & Expenses				
Income				
Christmas	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	0.0%
Easter	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	0.0%
Fair & Fair Efforts	7,500.00	4,500.00	3,000.00	66.7%
Fund Raising	5,000.00	3,500.00	1,500.00	42.9%
Interest /Dividends	22,420.00	20,420.00	2,000.00	9.8%
Lent	400.00	400.00	-	0.0%
Other Income for General Use	840.00	360.00	480.00	133.3%
Plate/Loose	2,500.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	66.7%
Pledge	90,000.00	90,000.00	-	0.0%
Rental Income	43,200.00	40,200.00	3,000.00	7.5%
Thanksgiving	<u>300.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
Total Income	174,160.00	163,180.00	10,980.00	6.7%
Gross Profit	174,160.00	163,180.00	10,980.00	6.7%
Expenses				
Diocesan Expense	10,575.00	11,774.00	(1,199.00)	-10.2%
Operating Expenses	65,980.00	64,600.00	1,380.00	2.1%
Salary & Benefits	119,409.00	111,927.00	7,482.00	6.7%
Vestry Sub Committees	<u>21,650.00</u>	<u>22,150.00</u>	<u>(500.00)</u>	<u>-2.3%</u>
Total Expenses	<u>217,614.00</u>	<u>210,451.00</u>	<u>7,163.00</u>	<u>3.4%</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(43,454.00)</u>	<u>(47,271.00)</u>	<u>3,817.00</u>	<u>-8.1%</u>