



2023 Annual Report

of the

Parish

Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist,
Aptos, California
a California nonprofit religious
corporation

Table of Contents

The Clergy of St. John's in 2023	3
The Staff of St. John's in 2023	3
The Officers of St. John's in 2023	4
The 2023 Vestry of St. John's.....	4
The Diocesan Convention Delegates of St. John's in 2023	4
Interim & Officer Reports:	5
Interim Pastor's Report, Amma Eliza Linley.....	5
Senior Warden Report, Win Fernald.....	5
Junior Warden Report, Debra Spencer.....	6
Treasurer's Report, Nelson Crandall.....	7
Staff Reports:	13
Music Ministry Report, Andrew Carter	13
Helpful Shop Report, Elizabeth Sanchez.....	14
Aptos Community Youth Program Report, Lisa Freeman	14
Sexton's Report, Matt McCabe.....	15
Vestry Reports:	16
Administration Team Report	16
External Ministries Support Team Report	17
Internal Ministries Support Team Report	17
Ministry Reports	18
Adopt-A-Family Report, Loris Gielczyk	18
Adult Formation Report, Debra Spencer	18
Altar Guild Report, Eileen Fernald	18
Architecture & Space Use Committee Report, Jon Showalter	19
Association of Faith Communities Report, Jon Showalter	19
Beach Cleanup Report, Bart Coddington.....	19
Big Sur Camping Trip Report, Michael DeArmond.....	19
Canterbury Homes Report, Jon Showalter.....	19
Children's Church & Godly Play Report, Liz Lindsley	20
Compline Report, Anne Baker.....	20
Daughters of the King (DOK) & Prayer Shawl Ministry, Karen Greenleaf.....	20
Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Report, Barbara Raney.....	21
Evening Prayer Report, Cindy Phillips	21
Events and Hospitality Report, Antonette Wood.....	21
Fix-It Gang Report, Jon Showalter	22
Friday Morning Men's Group Report, Tom Butler	22
Friday Morning Women's Group Report, Cindy Phillips	22
Friday Noontime Prayer Report, Alliee DeArmond	22
Gaffer's Men's Group Report, John Duncan	22
Grounds Report, Tina Grubbe.....	23
Kairos Prison Ministry Report, Bill Kell	23
Newcomers Committee Report, Jon Showalter	23
Outreach Committee Report, Mary-Nona Hudson	23
Pastoral Care, Brian Raney	24
Prayer List Ministry Report, Kathy Butler.....	25
Rector Transition Team Report, Rick Becton.....	25
Scouts Report, Susan von Schmacht.....	25

Stewardship Committee Report, Tom Butler	26
Worship Committee Report, Anne Baker	26
Financial Reports:.....	27
1. 2024 Parish Budget (approved Dec. 19, 2023)	5 pages
2. St. John’s 2023 Statement of Activities vs Budget	5 pages
3. St. John’s 2023 Statement of Financial Position.....	4 pages
4. Helpful Shop 2023 Statement of Activities.....	1 page
5. Helpful Shop 2023 Statement of Financial Position	1 page
6. ACYP 2024 Budget.....	1 page
7. ACYP 2023 Statement of Activities	2 pages
8. ACYP 2023 Statement of Financial Position.....	1 page
9. Rebele Endowment 2023 Statement of Activities.....	1 page
10. Rebele Endowment 2023 Statement of Financial Position	1 page
11. LMK Trust 1 2023 Statement of Activities.....	1 page
12. DOK 2023 Statement of Activities	1 page
13. DOK 2023 Statement of Financial Position.....	1 page

The Clergy of St. John’s in 2023

Name	Position
The Reverend Tracy J. Wells Miller	Rector – Resigned 10/31/2023
The Reverend Joan Anderson	Deacon – Retired - 2023
The Reverend Mary Craig Caruthers	Assisting Priest
The Reverend John Duncan	Assisting Priest
The Reverend Eliza Linley	Interim Pastor
The Reverend Mary Lou McKenney	Assisting Priest

The Staff of St. John’s in 2023

Name	Position
Andrew Carter	Director of Music Ministries
Rosa Miriam Escobar	Janitor
Lisa Freeman	Community Youth Program Director
Matt McCabe	Sexton
Elizabeth Sanchez	Helpful Shop Manager
Chrys Sparks	Office Manager

The Officers of St. John's in 2023

Win Fernald

Senior Warden

Debra Spencer

Junior Warden

Alliee DeArmond

Clerk of the Vestry

Nelson Crandall

Treasurer

The 2023 Vestry of St. John's

Class of 2023

Kathy Butler

kathybutler924@gmail.com

Win Fernald

winferald3@msn.com

Debra Spencer

cuardaigh55@gmail.com

Class of 2024

Joanna Phillips

joannaphillips11@gmail.com

Jon Showalter

showalterjon@gmail.com

Antonette Wood

swingtimeevents@aol.com

Class of 2025

Anne Baker

anne_baker@pacbell.net

Liz Lindsley

lindsley@cruzio.com

Susan von Schmacht

svonschmacht@sbcglobal.net

The Diocesan Convention Delegates of St. John's in 2023

2023 Voting Delegates

Sherrie DeWitt

Robin Gaither

Barbara Raney

Susan von Schmacht

Alternates and 2024 Delegates

Mary Jane Chambers

Nelson Crandall

Lise Crowley

Sarah Simms

Interim & Officer Reports:

Interim Pastor's Report, Amma Eliza Linley

From the vantage point of a new year, a look in the rearview mirror shows our congregational strengths, as well as the several ways St. John's was challenged. We've had six deaths of beloved parishioners, losses we could have done without. We had a rector in absentia for several months before her resignation 2/3 of the way through the year. We "made do" with supply clergy (mostly our own assisting clergy) for 9 of the 13 months before Mother Tracy's departure. When I stepped into the role of interim in November (well, really in early September), parish leadership was already used to doing what needed to be done in the absence of a rector. In some ways, of course, this has made my job easier. In others, the chain of communication has become unclear over time, and in some instances, committees have become rusty and in need of refurbishing, which the vestry and said committees and teams are now taking steps to do.

Bishop Lucinda's office advised that the congregation would experience feelings of abandonment and loss, and, while this may be true, Mother Tracy's gradual departure may have mitigated that. My perception is that any sense of loss is as much about the loss of our parishioners who are with God as it is the sudden loss of a rector. More than abandonment there was a sense of "luffing in the wind", simply because there had been no central clergy leadership for a while. Now that we are moving ahead, part of the challenge is to find where all the information is stored. Google Works is not yet my constant friend, but I feel sure that any information regarding the parish and all its (administrative) secrets has only to be mined there and in other apps which Tracy so assiduously set up. Our web site is being brought up to date, a regular necessity.

It was not easy for our recent rector to have had the bulk of her ministry during the time of Covid, and, now that it is easing off (although not gone), the parish is more than ready for the fellowship that was denied us during quarantine and distancing. There's also energy for the new, demonstrated in applications for the transition team and general parish involvement in the Community Project process. We are blessed with 6 young families, and their general incorporation into parish life is an ongoing gift. Because they tend to be very busy, we need to remember them in all aspects of parish life and seek their representation. Our ASA (average Sunday attendance) has been growing a bit, and who knows why, but it is a blessing. My guess is that kids bring their parents, others return after an absence and see how much is going on. We lost our media tech, Avihay, who moved on to work more commensurate with his considerable skills. Our AV committee has arranged Zoom worship to function with two cameras and a split screen, making it possible for people to worship at home without the need of on-site staff. We have a small but faithful contingent of at-home worshippers, all from among us.

Chrys, Andy and Matt continue to do what they do so well, and the parish could not run without them. I am so grateful to be in this parish where taking initiative is the norm, things that need doing get done, and the Holy Spirit is alive and evident in the creative and the new. It is a joy to be serving a need at St. John's, and a blessing to be surrounded by so many able ministers.

Amma Eliza +

Senior Warden Report, Win Fernald

We started the year with a Vestry Retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista. Linda Buskirk, consultant, and some of the "Lift Every Voice" team members came to present the results of their report of congregational needs in the future. Based on this excellent report we

developed plans to begin discussions within the congregation regarding building and campus changes we need to make to meet our future needs. Unfortunately, this work never got started because in April, Mother Tracy notified us that, due to her illness of depression, she needed a break from her work as Rector at St. John's.

You may recall that what started as a 10-week sabbatical in 2022 for Mother Tracy changed to 14 weeks of being a caregiver to Thomasjohn as he went through cancer surgery and treatments. She never got the Sabbatical break and rest she needed and deserved. The Vestry and Bishop Lucinda granted Mother Tracy the medical leave she needed beginning May 1st. Mother Tracy expected to be ready to return to St. John's full-time at the end of May.

During May, it became clear that Mother Tracy needed more than one month of recovery time and would not likely return until after Labor Day. On September 5th, Mother Tracy notified us of her plan to resign from her position as Rector at St. John's. Her illness of depression made it impossible for her to meet the demands of a full-time Rector of a church as active as St. John's. I accepted her resignation and we held a sad, but wonderful celebration of her ministry, with Bishop Lucinda and Canon Martha present, on September 27th. The Rev. Tracy Wells-Miller provided excellent guidance, wonderful services and thoughtful homilies while she was Rector here and she was critical in helping us work through important future planning for our church buildings and campus.

Our excellent Assisting Priests, The Reverends Mary Craig Caruthers, John Duncan, Eliza Linley, and Mary Lou McKenney covered services for St John's through the summer and early fall. Their untiring support to celebrate and preach during the summer and early fall enabled us to maintain our ministry and message at a high level. They became a clergy team that provided important support and advice to me as we worked through all of the changes we were experiencing. In September, Bishop Lucinda appointed The Rev. Eliza Linley to be Interim Pastor and serve November 2023 through April 2024. Being an Interim Pastor is a full-time job.

Considering all we have been through, St. John's seems to be doing well, and we are seeing some increases in attendance. Amma Eliza's ministry has been a great gift to us, and we are able to use Supply Clergy in productive ways as well. The Community Project Team, which is part of the Outreach Committee, completed their work and received parish support for a possible housing project on our campus. The Canterbury Homes project is currently in the engineering and development phase.

So, how are we doing? Amma Eliza baptized two children in January and now there are more asking to be baptized. We have commissioned a search team, Rector Transition Team, and they are off and running with Rick Becton as the chair. We held our Vestry Retreat January 12, 13 and 14, and set our goals for the year. One of those goals is to continue providing services with an Interim, who is as talented as Eliza, to serve for the rest of the year. In addition, we will start installing a Solar Power system in February. 2024 is off to a fast and joyful start.

Win Fernald, Senior Warden

Junior Warden Report, Debra Spencer

There is nothing like being Junior Warden to give a person an inside look at the physical and mental foundations for our spiritual life together. It has been my privilege to be Junior Warden of this parish for the last two and a half years—a humbling yet satisfying experience. During those years:

- I have come into closer contact with fellow parishioners, many of whom have had fresh ideas on how things should be done (or not done), and wished to let the Vestry know.
- I have had the chance sometimes to urge people to speak directly to the person in charge.
- I have learned a lot about how our buildings and grounds are maintained, and have even enjoyed lengthy discussions about dishwashers, door locks, water pressure, solar panel companies, ants, and landscaping.
- I have watched as the Internal Ministries Support Team has planned and carried out many successful fundraisers.
- When needed, I have posted notices on Realm, the eNews, and This Week at St. John's about scheduling matters, buildings and grounds concerns, and messages from the Bishop.
- I have had the privilege of supporting our Rector Mtr. Tracy Wells-Miller and lately our Interim Amma Eliza Linley, as well as Win Fernald our Senior Warden, in their guidance of us all and our life together. (They have all worked much harder than I have.)

I'm very grateful to everyone here at St. John's for this experience. I find you all even more loveable now than I did when I started being Junior Warden.

Debra Spencer, Junior Warden

Treasurer's Report, Nelson Crandall

Financial Statements. The following documents follow this report:

- The Parish (what we normally think of as church)
 - 2024 Parish Budget
 - 2023 Statement of Activity vs. Budget
 - 2023 Statement of Financial Position
- The Helpful Shop (our thrift store)
 - 2023 Statement of Activity
 - 2023 Statement of Financial Position
- Aptos Community Youth Program (ACYP)
 - 2024 Annual Budget
 - 2023 Statement of Activity
 - 2023 Statement of Financial Position
- The Rebele Endowment (the endowment that funds ACYP)
 - 2023 Statement of Activity
 - 2023 Statement of Financial Position
- The Larry K. Mikkelsen Trust #1 (a trust established by former rector Rev. Larry K. Mikkelsen for making charitable contributions and funding an annual preaching grant)
 - 2023 Statement of Activity
 - 2023 Statement of Financial Position
- The Daughters of the King (a semi-autonomous organization)
 - 2023 Statement of Activity
 - 2023 Statement of Financial Position

2024 Parish Budget Highlights

A budget is an estimate of the annual sources of parish **support** (donations) and **revenue** (payment for goods or services) and annual **expenses**. The parish plans to spend only as much money as it reasonably believes it will receive when combined with **existing resources**.

All budget line items begin with a four- or eight-digit accounting code. All support and revenue line items begin with a 4. All expense line items begin with a 5.

A budget is **balanced** when total **existing resources, support, and revenue** equals total **expenses**.

Support and Revenue

- *Existing Resources*, the first line item, is money the parish possessed before the start of the year that the vestry decided to use, if needed, to balance the annual budget.
- *Current Year Annual Pledges*, the second line item, is money parishioners have pledged in writing minus an estimate of amounts that they will be unable to give, based on past experience.
- *Other line items*. All other line items assume that 2024's experience will be similar to 2023's experience.

Expenses

- *Basic assumption*. The budget generally assumes that the cost of each expense line item will be the same as the cost in 2024, except in those cases where the parish has specific information to the contrary.
- *Electricity*. The electricity budget is slightly less than the actual expense of electricity in 2023, notwithstanding the pending installation of solar panels. The parish did not have enough information to confidently budget an electricity savings in 2024.
- *Staff compensation*. Every staff member received a 4% cost of living increase.
- *Interim priest compensation*. Amma Eliza will serve as Interim Priest through the end of April, when she will leave on a long-planned extended tour. While she serves, the parish is not required to provide Amma Eliza with the pension and insurance benefits that it would normally provide. The budget assumes, however, that the parish will have an interim rector beginning in May and that, in addition to paying the same salary as Amma Eliza receives, the parish will provide the interim with full pension and insurance benefits.

Parish 2023 Actual vs. Budget Highlights

- *Overview*. The parish planned to spend more than \$25,000 of its existing resources to fully offset 2023 budgeted expenses. Instead, it had a \$7 surplus at year end.
- *Total Support*. Total support (pledges and other gifts) was \$12,600 more than budgeted. Although total fundraising was less than budgeted, Christmas Fair sales were 30% more than was projected.
- *Revenue*. Interest on the parish money market account and facility rental fees mostly offset a lower than projected Helpful Shop tithe.
- *Maintenance*. Total Maintenance was almost \$2,000 more than was budgeted.
- *Janitorial Supplies*. Total Janitorial expense (not including the janitor's wages) was almost \$2,300 more than budgeted. Much of the increase is probably attributable to an overall increase in the cost of paper goods.
- *Landscaping Service*. The cost of the parish's landscaping service exceeded the budget by \$4,700. Part of the excess was due to underestimating the amount of service that was required. The landscaping service also increased its charges by almost 30% in August. The parish has since changed the landscaping service and agreed to the rate of compensation for 2024.
- *Electricity*. Electricity was \$3,500 more than was budgeted in 2023.
- *Fair Share*. Fair Share was \$2,800 more than budgeted. "Fair Share" is the parish's contribution to the cost of running the Diocese. The increase in Fair Share is attributable to the increase in Total Support.
- *Bookkeeping*. Total bookkeeping expense was approximately \$5,300 more than budgeted. Bookkeeping expenses included bookkeeping software, amounts paid to the outside

bookkeeping service, and amounts paid to a part-time bookkeeper. The excess is attributable to several false steps made in the course of transitioning from QuickBooks to Realm, which then had to be corrected. Many of the false steps were attributable to accounting for the movement of money among the parish, the Helpful Shop, ACYP, and the Rebele Endowment. Steps have been taken to reduce the movement of money between the several ministries.

- *Contingency Fund.* The Contingency Fund was \$1,000 under budget. “Contingency Fund” is the term the Finance Committee settled on for otherwise unbudgeted expenditures for items that are expected to have a useful life of more than a year. Items charged to the Contingency fund included \$570 for a bulk purchase of keys to the campus; \$270 for an indoor air quality monitor; \$175 for the sentry stanchions purchased in the hope of preventing falls from the altar platform; \$460 to replace dead plants with silk plants; and costs of installing the cameras used to stream the Sunday services.
- *Clergy Compensation.* Net clergy compensation was \$33,000 under budget. Mother Tracy’s medical insurance paid the parish almost \$26,000 in short-term disability benefits and the parish did not need to pay Mother Tracy for November and December. The parish did not spend almost \$50,000 in budgeted wages and benefits but spent \$17,000 more than was budgeted for supply clergy during Mother Tracy’s absence and for Amma Eliza’s salary in November and December.
- *Office Manager Wages.* Office Manager wages were \$1,200 more than were budgeted.

Parish Year-End Statement of Financial Position Highlights

- **Overview.** A Statement of Financial Position is a snapshot of the parish’s financial position as of a given date.
 - *Assets.* The Assets section shows the things that constitute the parish’s assets.
 - *Liabilities and Net Assets.* The Liabilities and Net Assets section shows what the parish intends to do with its assets.
 - *Account Codes.* All Statement of Financial Position line items begin with a four- or eight-digit accounting code. All Asset line items begin with a 1. All Liability line items begin with a 2. All Net Asset line items begin with a 3.
- **St. John’s Assets Highlights.**
 - **Bank Accounts.** The parish has four checking accounts, a savings account, and a money market account.
 - *St. John’s Checking.* This account at Santa Cruz County Bank (SCCB) fluctuated between \$14,000 and \$119,000 during 2023. The account held \$119,000 at year end.
 - *St. John’s Money Market.* This account at SCCB holds most of the parish’s funds that are not in the checking account. The account balance held steady at around \$155,000 during 2023. Interest earned on the funds is included in the annual budget.
 - *Building Fund Checking.* This account at Wells Fargo was originally established as a requirement of the parish’s construction loan. The Building Fund checking account holds the portion of the Building Fund that is not invested in certificates of deposit.
 - *Columbarium Fund Savings Account.* This account at Wells Fargo, originally used in connection with the construction loan, is now dedicated to holding the Columbarium Fund.
 - *Rector’s Discretionary Account.* This SCCB checking account holds contributions to the Rector’s Discretionary Account. A discretionary account is used to give financial assistance to individual parishioners and community members in the discretion of the rector or interim.
 - *SCCB Curate’s Discretionary Account.* This SCCB checking account is being held open with a minimum deposit for the use of the eventual curate.

- **Investment Accounts.** The parish has three investment accounts, two of which are divided into five subaccounts. Assistant Treasurer John Melvin manages the parish's investment accounts.
 - *Wells Fargo Brokerage.* The parish invests the Building Fund in certificates of deposit through this account.
 - *Charles Schwab.* The parish's account at Charles Schwab is divided into three subaccounts.
 - Stock Gift Liquidation Account. The parish typically receives two stock gifts in any given year. The parish immediately sells any stock gift. The parish holds a single share of PG& E stock to keep the account open.
 - Schwab Total Market Index. The St. John's Curate Fund is invested in this Index.
 - Schwab S&P 500 Index. The Nelson Special Fund is invested in this Index.
 - *Episcopal Church Foundation/State Street Global Advisors.* The parish's account at ECF/SSGA is divided into four subaccounts, two of which appear on the parish's Statement of Financial Position. This is a professionally managed fund. The manager's fee is based on assets under management. The two subaccounts on the Statement of Financial Position are for the St. John's Endowment and the Mikkelsen Curate Trust.
- **Fixed Assets.** Fixed Assets include the parish land, building, furniture, and fixtures, all of which are valued at cost.
- **Two valuation methods.** Fixed assets are valued at cost because it is too difficult and subjective to assign current values to them. Investment accounts, consisting of publicly traded securities and cash, are valued at current market value, which is objective and easily determined. The value of the Wells Fargo Brokerage account is updated monthly. The value of the Schwab and ECF/SSGA accounts are updated quarterly.
- **Liabilities – Highlights.**
 - **Overview.** A liability is an obligation of the parish to pay money to another person. Money received in one year that is intended to apply to the following year (such as a prepaid pledge) is also treated as a liability.
 - **Pass-throughs.** The parish frequently receives money with the request or expectation that it be passed on to someone else. Money received in these circumstances is treated as a liability.
 - **South Sudan Scholars.** The best example of a pass-through is money the parish collects to help a group of South Sudanese war orphans obtain their educations. At year-end, the parish held \$2,700 in donations for the benefit of the South Sudan scholars. For more information, see Mary-Nona Hudson.
- **Net Assets – Highlights.**
 - **Overview.** Net Assets is the value of the Assets minus the Liabilities. Individual Net Asset line items are generally gifts given for a specific purpose or funds the Vestry has set aside for a specific purpose.
 - **Altar Guild Fund.** There was \$4,100 in the Altar Guild Fund at yearend. The Altar Guild Fund is used to fund the purchase of items used to adorn the altar.
 - **Flowers Fund.** There was \$1,100 in the Flowers Fund at yearend. The fund is used to purchase the flowers that grace our altar for services and other events, especially memorial services.
 - **Music Fund.** There was \$1,000 in the Music Fund at yearend. The Music Fund is used to pay contract musicians at Christmas, Easter, and other special services.
 - **Coffee Hour Fund.** There was \$430 in the Coffee Hour fund at yearend. The Coffee Hour fund is used to reimburse parishioners who provide food and supplies at coffee hour if they request reimbursement and funds are available.

- **Community Project Fund.** There was \$73,000 in the Community Project Fund at year end. The Community Project Fund is funded by 10% of undesignated bequests the parish receives. Expenditures require approval of the congregation after approval by the vestry. For more information, see Kathy Butler.
- **Capital Fund.** The Capital Fund consists of the Major Maintenance Reserve and the Building Fund. The total Capital Fund at yearend was \$1.1 million. Expenditures from the Capital Fund in 2023 paid for the consultant who assisted in the effort to discern the congregation’s vision for campus expansion and for the upcoming solar installation.
- **Columbarium Fund.** There was \$46,600 in the Columbarium Fund at year end. For more information, see Anne Baker.
- **St John’s Endowment.** There was also \$46,600 in the St. John’s Endowment at year end. Several years ago, an effort was undertaken to create an endowment fund for the parish. No decision has been made concerning the use of the endowment funds. The funds are invested with the Episcopal Church Foundation and managed by State Street Global Advisors. The fund grew by 15% in 2023.
- **The Curate Funds.** There was \$765,000 in three Curate Funds at year end. A Curate is a recent seminary graduate in training. For more information about curates, see John Melvin.
 - The *St. John’s Curate Fund* was \$16,700 at yearend, invested in the Schwab Total Market Index Fund. It is money left over from the last time St. John’s had a curate. The fund grew by 26% in 2023.
 - The *Nelson Special Fund* was \$38,000 at yearend gifted by parishioner Robert (Nels) Nelson. The fund is invested in the Schwab S&P 500 Index Fund. Not counting the impact of a mid-year \$2,500 contribution, the Fund grew by 26% in 2023.
 - The *Mikkelsen Curate Trust* bequeathed by former rector Rev. Larry K. Mikkelsen was \$709,000 at yearend. The funds are invested with the Episcopal Church Foundation and managed by State Street Global Advisors. The fund grew by 14% in 2023.
- **Working Capital Reserve.** According to the memory of some parishioners, a former parishioner gave the parish \$30,000 to be used solely for the purpose of allowing the parish to pay its bills when parishioners are slow in paying their pledges.
- **Accumulated Surplus.** Accumulated Surplus at yearend was \$93,000. Accumulated Surplus is the sum of all previous budget surpluses net of all previous budget deficits. It is also referred to as “unencumbered cash” because it is not needed to pay existing debts and has not been set aside or reserved for any specific purpose.

Helpful Shop 2023 Statement of Activity and Statement of Financial Position Ministry

- *Origin.* St. John’s Helpful Shop thrift store celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2023. Originally founded as a fundraiser for the parish, the Helpful Shop has become a meaningful source of funds for the community’s nonprofit organizations.
- *Tithe.* The Helpful Shop pays a “tithe” to the parish equal to 10% of the Helpful Shop’s net sales (sales minus credit card fees and sales taxes).
- *Grants.* The balance of its surplus is available for community grants. The amount to be given as community grants is determined based on the Helpful Shop’s results of operations as of October 31 each year.

Helpful Shop Statement of Financial Position Highlights

- *Grants Awarded or (Paid).* The vestry approved the Helpful Shop’s award of \$28,000 in grants on December 19. Those awards are reflected as a liability on the Statement of Financial Position. The grants will be paid in the next few weeks.

- *Accumulated Deficit.* Because of a miscalculation, the Helpful Shop awarded more money in 2022 than it had to give away. This resulted in a December 31, 2022 Accumulated Deficit of \$5,726.
- *Available for End of Year Awards.* As of December 31, the money already available to be awarded next year is \$7,432. That amount represents the \$13,159 Surplus from November and December minus the \$5,716 Accumulated Deficit from 2023.

ACYP 2024 Budget, 2023 Statement of Activity, and 2023 Statement of Financial Position Ministry

In 2018, the late Roland and his wife Pat Rebele established a \$2.625 million endowment for the purpose of funding a program for teens in the Aptos area. That program is now known as the Aptos Community Youth Program. Lisa Freeman is its director and is an employee of the parish. The Aptos Community Youth Committee, consisting of parishioners and community members, supports Lisa in running the program. Lisa publishes a monthly report on the program's activities on Realm.

ACYP Statement of Financial Position Highlights.

- ***Student Ministries.*** The ACYP Statement of Financial Position reflects three ministries that the students themselves initiated.
 - *Food Pantry.* ACYP students worked with the Live Like Coco Foundation to establish a food pantry on the parish campus to alleviate local hunger. The Rotary Club of Capitola-Aptos gave ACYP a \$1,000 grant to stock the pantry. Unfortunately, the pantry had to be moved to another location and repurposed because of repeated vandalism. A bit more than \$500 of the original grant remains. Lisa will seek the input of the ACYP students in finding another way to use the remaining funds to address local hunger.
 - *School Supply Fund.* ACYP students hold an annual school supply drive to provide backpacks filled with school supplies to students in need. There is \$1,400 in the fund to help students as needed during the year and to give the program a head start on the 2024-25 school year.
 - *Scholarship Fund.* In spring 2023 ACYP students held an inaugural drive to raise funds to help outstanding senior participants pay for college. There is almost \$2,000 in the fund to give the program a head start on 2024 scholarships.
- ***Total Unencumbered Cash.*** At the end of the year, ACYP had more than \$30,000 in cash left over. ACYP can do whatever it wants with the cash, subject to the approval of the vestry, so long as the use is consistent with its purpose of helping teens in the Aptos community.

Rebele Endowment Statement of Activity and Statement of Financial Position

Mission. The sole mission of the Rebele Endowment is to fund the ACYP, including the Director's compensation and benefits. The Rebeles' contributions totaled \$2,625,000. The endowment is invested with ECF/SSGA.

Distribution Formula. The Rebeles requested that, after a start-up draw of \$125,000, 5% of the average net asset value of the endowment over the previous 12 quarters (4 and 8 quarters in the first and second year) be calculated annually and distributed quarterly in equal amounts on February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 of each year.

2023 Performance. The Rebele Endowment grew by more than \$211,000 in 2023 *after* distributing \$137,000 to ACYP. At year end, the remaining endowment was just over \$2.8 million.

Mikkelsen Trust #1 Statement of Activity and Statement of Financial Position

Ministry. Former rector Rev. Larry K. Mikkelsen created two trusts when he passed. Trust #2 is the curate trust referenced in the discussion of the parish's Statement of Financial Position. Trust #1 is to fund charitable gifts to causes important to Rev. Mikkelsen and to fund an annual grant to an outstanding student at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific. A condition of the grant is that the recipient give a sermon to the Parish. The recipient is determined by the faculty of the CDSP. John Melvin serves as trustee of each trust.

Daughters of the King Statement of Activity and Statement of Financial Position

Ministry. The Order of the Daughters of the King is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the historic episcopate but not in communion with it. Its membership currently includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA), and Roman Catholic churches. The St. John's chapter of the Order maintains a checking account under the name of the parish, although the parish exercises no control over the Order's finances.

Nelson Crandall, Treasurer

Staff Reports:

Music Ministry Report, Andrew Carter

2023 was another busy year for the music ministries of St John's. While we continued to offer music on Sunday mornings, our primary focus was community and fellowship. Both the choir and the chime choir has seen growth with new members. They have continued to grow in both musicianship and community, the time we got to spend together was a gift I have been thankful each week. Although the year as a whole could be considered "business as usual," there were many highlights that I would like to share as I remember 2023.

When I think about the "Choir" at St John's I think about its many devoted members, and that they all truly love and enjoy singing. I am always pleased with the group's work ethic. One of my fondest memories in 2023 was Palm Sunday. For this Sunday, we prepared one of my all-time favorite choral pieces, Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus. It was absolutely one of the highlights to my year. Another wonderful memory was just the past Christmas Eve. The offering of Franz Biebl's "Ave Maria" was perhaps the most satisfying moment I have had at St. John's. And I will be thankful for the work and dedication our little choir gave for years to come.

The chime choir continued to meet every Friday morning throughout 2023. This year we lost a few members which is always sad but new folks have joined us and we continue to work and learn. As has become our custom the Friday morning rehearsals continue to be a place to come participate in community and share in laughter. Just last week we decided that our meeting time was like another weekly breakfast group, and as a bonus we get to make music. While we have not been offering our music in service as often as in the past, we look forward to another year and hope to share our music more in 2024.

Throughout 2023 our organist Ann Thiermann faithfully led us through services on the last Sunday of every month, and I am continually thankful for her artistry at the organ. I look forward to another year of working with her.

2023 also featured many guests to our music ministries. I would like to remember Easter Sunday when we had two fine saxophones and a trombone join us in service. While It was my first experience this ensemble, it proved to be so much fun that I hope to reprise the group for something in the near future. Our Children were beloved guests to our service on special

occasion throughout the year, and we plan to continue their offerings as often as possible. And finally, I am glad to welcome back Bill Visscher as a guest musician to St John's. Bill has been an invaluable asset to this church for many years, and now that he has moved back to the area, I hope to have him participate regularly.

All in all, 2023 was a great year musically at St John's. I am thankful every day for the opportunity and the friendships that I have made here and I look forward to being with you and all the musicians for years to come.

Andrew Carter, Director of Music Ministries

Helpful Shop Report, Elizabeth Sanchez

Hello! I would first off like to thank St John's for accepting me into their community and bringing me on as manager of the Helpful Shop. Since starting at the shop in June, I have had much to learn. It has been so fun and fulfilling to get to know our volunteers and regular customers.

This year we made \$28,000 that went to 22 different nonprofits, some who we have given to in the past and two new ones. (Safe Families and Live Like Coco).

We currently have a very strong team of volunteers. Each day of the week for the most part has a regular schedule of who comes in. We have so many loyal and well trained volunteers that in the case that any fall out there is always someone to fill in. The last two months have been very consistent and our shift calendar is always full and covered. I have not struggled to get days filled since the end of summer. I think for now we have a very good system. We have three volunteers that just started in the last few months that are very dependable and have become a core part of our team. We have about 15-20 volunteers on our roster for now. I encourage you all to come by the shop and check it out if you haven't already. We are getting quality donations every day. Our shoppers have also mentioned on multiple occasions how good the shop has been looking lately.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Helpful Shop update.

Elizabeth Sanchez, St John's Helpful Shop Manager

Aptos Community Youth Program Report, Lisa Freeman

2023 was a wonderful and growing year for the Aptos Community Youth Program. Our youth did tremendous work helping out their communities. From working with COPA to address transportation disparities among youth including achieving free bus passes for them and their peers, to completing service projects with organizations such as Second Harvest Food Bank, Watsonville Wetlands, the Homeless Garden Project, school supply and gift drives, and beach clean-ups. Creatively, we were proud to host a youth photography exhibit titled, "Through Our Lens," and kicked off both video production and photography programming as the year went on. Our high schoolers continued to keep their podcast Gen Impact going and enjoyed having that media outlet for self-expression. We were sad and proud to say goodbye to our Class of 2023 Founding Class but were able to award 3 student scholarships to 3 outstanding youth leaders in our program as well as small financial gifts to all of our graduating ACYP members. Fun social events included a Spring Cookout, beach bonfire, skate night, relaxing stitch nights, and much more fun after school activities. Overall it was a year of new beginnings, sad goodbyes, and many ways to continue to be inspired by these amazing young leaders!

Lisa Freeman, Community Youth Program Director

Sexton's Report, Matt McCabe

Annual Responsibilities:

- *CalFire Fire Inspection* - All First Alarm / Local Fire Inspections are confirmed by CalFire to fulfill CalFire inspection prerequisites. CalFire agent performs their own inspection to make sure all equipment is up to code (2023 inspection completed successfully).
- *Water Filtration Inspection* - All water filters were brought up to date, with minimal adjustments made. Reverse osmosis filter (kitchen drinking water) replaced, chemical composition levels checked for safety.
- *Rain Catchment System Cleaning* - 1x per year, Sexton removes parking lot grates to clear leaves and debris that collect and block rain water from flowing out of the rain catchment system.

Semi-Annual Responsibilities:

- *First Alarm / Local Fire Inspection* - 2x per year fire alarms, hoses, and valves are inspected and brought up to code, if necessary (all fire alarm batteries were replaced in 2023).
- *Water Filter Regeneration* - 2x per year, Sexton resets the water filters (located in the storage space, outside the youth center; and, restocks the potassium chloride -soft water- containers).
- *Enzyme Flush (Kitchen Sinks & Bathroom Sinks)* - 2x per year, Sexton flushes sinks with an enzyme flush (purchased from water filtration specialist) to clear grease and debris from pipes.
- *Spring/Winter Courtyard Canopy Set-Up/Break-Down* - In Spring, Sexton sets-up the courtyard canopy. In Winter, Sexton breaks-down the canopy.

Monthly Responsibilities:

- *Head of Grounds Maintenance Check-in* - At least 1x per month, Sexton talks to head of grounds maintenance (Leonard Foreman, 2023) to get updates and assist with issues as they arise. For example, the Head of Grounds Maintenance may ask for assistance turning on/off the irrigation lines, checking/programming the landscape watering system, locating necessary tools, etc.
- *Senior Warden Check-in* - At least 1x per month, Sexton talks to Senior Warden (Win Fernald) to get updates and assist with issues as they arise. For example, the Senior Warden hired a commercial plumber to replace faulty water pressure valves, and Sexton was present for all meetings, email communications, and follow-ups.
- *Restock Cleaning/Paper Supplies* - 1x per month, Sexton goes to Coast Paper Supplies to purchase essential cleaning products (e.g. detergent, hand soaps, sanitation wipes, etc.); and, paper products (e.g. toilet paper, 3-fold paper towels, toilet seat liners, trash bags, latex gloves, etc.)

Weekly Responsibilities:

- *Church Set-up for Sunday Service* - Sexton sets up tables and chairs for luncheon and meetings that occur after service; For outdoor services, Sexton sets-up and takes-down the altar, chairs, flowers, sound system, etc. Sexton makes sure that the bathrooms are clean and restocked with paper supplies; Before service, Sexton sets up the children's ministry room, and after service cleans the room. Locking all doors and turning off all lights after service.
- *Staff Meetings* - Sexton attends staff meetings every Wednesday morning and provides an update on what has happened the previous week, along with any other pertinent information.
- *Cleaning Person Check-in* - 1x per week, Sexton communicates with the cleaning person (Rosa), communicating about anything from supplies to time-off.
- *Checking-in with AFC group* - every Saturday, Sexton communicates with AFC leader.

- *Trash In/Out* - Every Tuesday night, Sexton takes out garbage and recycling bins to the front of the property for pick-up. Every Wednesday morning, Sexton brings in the empty garbage and recycling bins for weekly use.

Daily Responsibilities:

- *Visual Inspection of Campus* - 2x per day, Sexton walks around the campus to pick up trash, check to ensure all doors are locked, and know who is on site (along with monitoring from security cameras).
- *Check Security Cameras* - Sexton checks the Wyze security cameras to ensure they are online and working properly, and makes necessary adjustments if a camera(s) are offline.
- *Manage Parking Lot Traffic* - Sexton monitors and controls the flow of traffic in the parking lot by watching movement, talking to people who are acting in an unsafe manner, etc.
- *Checking-in With SafeSpaces Participants* - There are 3 parking spaces at the back of the property that are used nightly by our SafeSpaces participants.
- *Front Entrance Barriers* - Entrance barriers put in place at dusk and removed at dawn.
- *Parking Lot Lights* - Sexton manually turns off parking lot lights at 9p (to save energy cost and create a restful environment for neighborhood families who have children that need sleep).
- *Keeping Track of Daily Group Activities* - Various groups come in and out of the property and it is important to make sure they are using the facilities properly; as well as offer any assistance necessary (e.g. helping groups connect to wifi or mirroring presentations onto the television).
- *Being Available to Answer Questions & Offer Assistance* - Questions such as, “Do you know where this is, have you seen so and so, can you help me move that -and- I forgot my keys, can you open the door for me”.

Miscellaneous Responsibilities:

- *Providing Assistance for Wedding/Funeral Events* - Discussing/coordinating the events, directing traffic, set-up and take-down.
- *Cleaning Up After Vandalism* - E.g. painting over and/or paint removal of graffiti on walls and cement; cleaning up vandalism, etc.
- *Coordination/Set-up Support for Voting Events*
- *Seasonal Support* - Sexton is on-site for all liturgical holidays (Christmas, Easter, etc.).
- *Communicating with County Officials When There is an Event at the Skatepark*
- *Receiving Amazon/FedEx/UPS Packages and Delivering Them to the Correct People*
- *Monitoring WiFi Connectivity (Comcast) and Electricity Outages (PG&E)*
- *Being Onsite 40+ Hours per Week* - Sexton and Senior Warden are the point of contact, when staff members are away.

Matt McCabe, Sexton

Vestry Reports:

Administration Team Report

The Administration Team assists the Rector, Priest in Charge, or Interim Priest in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the parish, particularly with regard to building and grounds, financial matters, and parish policies and procedures. The team set the agenda for Vestry meetings, approve expenditure for upkeep of the campus, keep an eye on the budget, and oversee staff issues. Goals accomplished this year include:

- Replacing a higher-priced accounting firm with a more reasonably-priced (and more church-savvy) bookkeeper, who also helped with the transition from QuickBooks to Realm
- Recruiting a Building Maintenance Team (thanks to Jon Showalter) and finding a non-Vestry member to lead it

- Hiring a new manager for the Helpful Shop
- Writing a series of policies and procedures for financial and personnel matters to aid Vestry members of the future

Partially met goals the Admin Team will continue to work on are:

- Write a work plan that includes congregational input in creating a conceptual proposal for campus development (this was postponed due to Mtr. Tracy's leave of absence and subsequent departure)
- Ensure parish compliance with new state law AB-506 (which concerns people who work with children) (this has been mostly met but is waiting for the diocese to schedule a final training)
- Include check-in on team and Vestry goals at quarterly Vestry meetings

2023 Admin Team: Mother Tracy Wells Miller (Rector), Amma Eliza Linley (Interim), Win Fernald (Senior Warden), Debra Spencer (Junior Warden), Jon Showalter (Vestry member), Alliee DeArmond (Clerk of the Vestry), and Nelson Crandall (Treasurer).

External Ministries Support Team Report

The External Ministries Support Team from the Vestry consisted of Kathy Butler, Joanna Phillips, and Susan von Schmacht. The purpose of this team is to support all our ministries that are focused on people outside of our congregation. We had four goals for 2023 and each of them were completed. Working closely with the Outreach Committee, a process was developed to involve the congregation in deciding how to use the Community Project Funds. Applications for projects were collected from the parish and were discussed at several Forums. The parish voted and selected Canterbury Homes to be the first project to use the funds. Forums, several Minute for Ministry, and other events were held to educate the congregation on outreach ministries throughout the year. We involved Cub Scout Pack 609 to be part of several projects with our church, including beach clean ups, Independence Day parade, and movie nights. The Helpful Shop had a successful year and celebrated 70 years of operation. The Aptos Community Youth Program (ACYP) was very active with junior high and high school students. See the separate reports for more details on the accomplishments of all our external ministries.

2023 Internal Ministries Team: Kathy Butler, Joanna Phillips, Susan von Schmacht

Internal Ministries Support Team Report

The Internal Ministries Team is comprised of the Vestry members that focus, develop, coordinate, support and budget funds for the parish committees and ministries of Formation (adult and youth), Architecture & Space Use, Newcomers, Hospitality, Compassionate Pastoral Care, Annual Events, and Small Groups. Most of these committees/ministries run well on their own momentum. A few got extra attention from us this year. We found new leadership for the Newcomers Committee in Jon Showalter, who established a core group of enthusiastic partners. We clarified the separate responsibilities of Hospitality (hosting receptions and coffee hours) and Annual Events (creating and organizing fundraising events, seasonal activities and celebratory special meals). Summer movie nights were a new addition to our list of Annual Events. To promote Small Groups, we authored a best practices piece on forming small groups. Neighborhood Lenten Study groups may lead to the formation of new ongoing small groups.

2023 Internal Ministries Team: Antonette Wood, Liz Lindsley and Anne Baker

Ministry Reports

Adopt-A-Family Report, Loris Gielczyk

3 families, 19 individuals, 60 Christmas presents, 20 parishioners = a wonderful Christmas that would not have happened without you opening up your hearts and yes pocket book. What a wonderful Holiday for our 3 adopted families. Thank each and every one of you.

Adult Formation Report, Debra Spencer

We endeavor to provide the parish with opportunities to broaden their scriptural knowledge, exchange faith stories, and hear how others put their faith into action.

- We continued the Sunday 9am Bible Study, where participants read whole books of the Bible together and discuss them.
- We compiled a list of people who would like to do forums on how they put their faith into practice, and some of them spoke at forums after the 10:30 service.
- We held a Lenten Study series using the book Holy Currencies by Eric Law.
- For the second year, we installed Stations of the Resurrection (thanks to Rick Becton and others), with additional art (painting, sculpture, poetry with auditory component) by parishioners and interested outside artists.
- Ann Henry created a brochure for Stations, with QR codes for auditory art; Jane Dawson served as a guide for the Stations.
- Rev. Mary Craig Caruthers, Amma Eliza Linley, and Rev. Mary Lou McKenney led an Aging and Spirituality series after the 10:30 service.
- Brian Raney and Susan von Schmacht initiated Movie Night, welcoming mostly Cub Scouts in cardboard cars to watch movies and eat popcorn.
- Amma Eliza Linley led an Advent Day of Music and Meditation.
- We held two Advent forums, one featuring Karen and Charles Greenleaf's Salvador Dali illustrations of Dante's Paradiso, and the other a brief film, with scriptures and discussions about Christ's coming and the afterlife.
- We staged a Christmas pageant at the 4pm Christmas Eve service based on Susan von Schmacht's telling of Las Posadas.

We look forward to serving the parish in 2024.

Amma Eliza Linley, Susan von Schmacht, Liz Lindsley, Jane Dawson, and Debra Spencer

Altar Guild Report, Eileen Fernald

2023 was an amazing year for St. John's and our parishioners showed their support and resilience in the face of major changes. For the Altar Guild, it was another challenging year, beginning with more outdoor services. While there were many improvements (a more movable altar, a courtyard sound system, more tents), creating organized and spiritual services was difficult.

On Easter, Mother Tracy Wells Miller blessed a new white set of paraments: cope, chasuble, lectern fall and altar frontal), and we moved back inside for services. After a month off, Mother Tracy realized she needed more time to deal with depression. Fortunately, we have four wonderful assisting priests who helped. As the Altar Guild serves the priest, we were thankful to have such good leadership from all our priests.

In August, we celebrated the wedding of Rebecca Peet and then came the news that Mother Tracy would not be returning. Bishop Lucinda came to St John's in September to bring closure

to Mother Tracy's ministry with us. Amma Eliza Linley was then appointed Interim Priest until April.

The year closed with several memorials and much rain. I want to thank the faithful and hardworking members of the guild: Cindy Phillips, Wilma Staver, Andrew Pudan, Kathy Butler, Lise Crowley, Tina Grubbe, Meg Campbell and Judy Verbeck.

Eileen Fernald, St. Elizabeth Altar Guild Director

Architecture & Space Use Committee Report, Jon Showalter

Dedicated to ensuring our campus looks good, stays safe and we where we agree on who gets what space, the ASUC in 2023 initiated and is overseeing our conversion to solar, finished the design for the columbarium and will help in designing Canterbury Homes. (John Melvin, Jon Showalter, and Anne Baker)

Association of Faith Communities Report, Jon Showalter

Each night we shelter those living in their cars, each week we shelter people with less than that sleeping on our floor (voted the number one floor!) with meals lovingly cooked by 16 St. John's members sublimated by 13 other members who give directly to the AFC. This outpouring is joined by 26 other congregations who have cooked 5,000 meals for the 137 folks that have been part of the Faith Community Shelter in 2023.

Beach Cleanup Report, Bart Coddington

A few years back when we were going through our discernment process a couple of us on the PR team came up with the idea of doing beach cleanups to publicize that St. John's was a good citizen. Laura Caldwell and I came up with the idea of becoming a sponsor at Seacliff State Beach. The Adopt-A-Beach program is run by the Coastal Commission and locally administered by Save Our Shores. There is an annual \$150 donation for the sponsorship. As part of the sponsorship St. John's agrees to do three cleanups. For 2023, the beach cleanups were scheduled for 2/18, 7/8, and 10/21. For 2024 they will be on 5/11, 7/6 and 10/5. Since I had already run cleanups for Save Our Shores I took responsibility for heading up the actual cleanups. People who own a St. John's T-shirt or hoodie are encouraged to wear them. St. John's shares a sign on the wooden railing along the beach with Live Like Coco. The sign is at the bottom of the stairs.

Big Sur Camping Trip Report, Michael DeArmond

The St. John's Big Sur camping Trip has been yearly institution since the early 80s. Early every summer we gather at the Santa Lucia Campground owned by All Saints Carmel for a weekend of fellowship and fun. Generations of families have attended and many bring back their own kids. The highlight of last year's event was having three of our new St. John's families attending for the first time! Of course, a great time was had by all.

Canterbury Homes Report, Jon Showalter

After an energizing presentation of seven different projects, the parish voted to devote \$20,000 of the fund to build ultra-low housing on our property. Partnering with nonprofit builders, People's Housing, a core committee of parish ministries will select an architect and guide the process to implement our vision of serving 6-8 ultralow-income members of the community. Once we understand the parish's preferences on who we house, creating architectural drawing, the Core Committee will report back to the Vestry and the parish.

Core committee: Amma Eliza Linley, Anne Baker, Jon Showalter, Micah Posner, Director People's Housing, and awaiting Outreach Committee's choice.

Children's Church & Godly Play Report, Liz Lindsley

Each Sunday of the year, even during Summer, a group of trained volunteers deliver a Bible story with accompanying manipulatives. Afterwards children have what is called "work time" to interpret the story in an artistic medium of their choice or even invent their own God focused story. The Godly Play curriculum covers Old and New Testament stories as well as the Parables of Jesus and introductions to the Liturgy, the church calendar, and Sacraments.

Given state mandated guidelines we have two volunteers each Sunday. One delivers the story and the other assists in various ways to create an atmosphere conducive to an experience with God. The volunteers in 2023 included: Liz Lindsley, Meg Campbell, Loris Gielczyk, Jenny Bellik, Sarah Simms, Dee Roe, Debra Spencer, Peter Goodman, and Susan von Schmacht.

A detailed intro to the Eucharist was provided by our Priest. interactive family Christmas and Easter services were designed with our Priest and the Worship Committee. Children learned songs under the guidance of Andrew Carter and Loris Gielczyk which were sung during the Offertory on two Sundays. The children also performed the short Parable of the Pearl for the annual Stewardship Dinner.

Attendance on Sundays ranges between 2-10, with an average of 6. Children's ages range from 4-10.

Compline Report, Anne Baker

"Preserve us, O God, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in your Peace."

Compline night prayer is thriving. We never missed one weekday night, and even had some extra on a weekend night, plus Vestry retreat. That is 263 nights, regularly three or four persons each time saying Compline prayers together. A total of 916 persons in attendance! We vary the sources for our prayers, and change the books and individual selections nightly during the week. We also share leadership each evening in a round-robin fashion so that our prayers remain fresh.

In the space we reserve for intercessions our thanksgivings, supplications and special intentions were wide ranging. From the challenges of the day, new names on the prayer list, peace among nations, joy at the visits from family members, safe travel, weather concerns, thanks for loving neighbors, we share our worries and happiness each weeknight from 10 to 10:15 Pacific Time. Drop in and see if it's for you too!

Daughters of the King (DOK) & Prayer Shawl Ministry, Karen Greenleaf

The St. Clare chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King currently has seven members and meets twice a month for formation and prayer. We pray together for all on our parish prayer list at our meetings and also individually on our own. Each meeting, one of the Daughters brings to the group a reading or activity of a spiritual nature that she wishes to share as the focus of the meeting. She also serves as facilitator for that meeting.

This year we completed the National Daughter's Study Guide with a parishioner who is discerning regarding membership. It was a beneficial renewal of the basics of Daughters for all of us.

St. John's prayer shawl ministry is the Service component of Daughters. Chapter funds (most of which come from Helpful Shop grants) support the purchase of yarn for the shawls. As of Jan 1, 2024, a total of 308 shawls have been knitted, blessed and gifted. Each shawl has a small cross attached and is blessed by clergy at the altar. During 2023, eleven shawls were gifted. Seven shawls went to parish members and four to friends or family of parishioners. Typically shawls go to persons grieving, facing illness or surgery, or dealing with trauma, addiction, or some personal crisis. Any member of the parish can acquire a shawl for a loved one. However, when the number of shawls is limited, preference is given to parishioners.

This year's knitters were Meg Campbell, Pat Dorr, Sherrie DeWitt, Nancy Goehring, Karen Greenleaf, Jeanne O'Grady, and Anne Sherwood. We miss Anne, who moved to Portola Valley and was a major contributor to the program. More knitters are always welcomed. Contact Karen Greenleaf (728.3044) if you wish to join in this ministry. One need not be a Daughter to join in.

Karen Greenleaf, DOK President

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Report, Barbara Raney

During 2023, ECW met on the third Wednesday of every month at 11:45. Our meetings are informational, convivial, and creative. We enjoyed a talk by the Reverend Mary Craig Caruthers about her supply job in Oaxaca, Mexico, we heard about the non-profit Live Like Coco from Kate Lazenby, and we shared reviews of books we had recently read. We had three luncheons including a visit to Sierra Azul Nursery. We made fleece blankets and decorated tiles to be used as coasters. We enjoyed fellowship and good food, as well.

Evening Prayer Report, Cindy Phillips

We meet for Evening Prayer every Monday at 4:30PM by Zoom. The Zoom ID can be found in the weekly email called "This Week at St John's." I find this a wonderful way to transition from the busyness of the day. Please feel welcome to drop in or give me a call if you have questions. Cindy Phillips, 688-6632

Events and Hospitality Report, Antonette Wood

Events

- Stewardship Dinner: Chris Rowen and crew prepared a lavish Mediterranean meal with a range of global influences.
- St. Patrick's fundraiser: We sold corned beef dinners and vegan Irish stew dinners. We would have benefited from advertising in local publications.
- Shrove Tuesday Dinner: Tom and Kathy Butler prepared a festive New Orleans Gumbo Dinner. Desserts were provided by parishioners.
- Maundy Thursday dinner: We served a vegetarian dinner. Approximately 30 people joined in dinner, communion and foot washing.
- Easter: We served a sunrise breakfast and a buffet breakfast after our second service. Both were well attended.
- Three summer movie nights were well attended. Brian Raney and the Boy Scouts were the key organizers.

- Christmas Craft Fair: Successfully organized by the Baker/Rowan family. We offered online preordering. Sales were augmented by new offerings of frozen cookie dough and frozen meals. It was well attended. The total received for the day was \$3,556.50 with additional income from frozen meals sold in January. We benefited advertising in local publications and a banner on site.

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Hospitality

Many parishioners stepped up to serve coffee hours, memorial receptions and a wedding reception. Antonette Wood kept the kitchen stocked. Christmas Eve we handed out oranges to all after service.

Fix-It Gang Report, Jon Showalter

What's worth more, our money or our time? The Fix It Gang have answered "our money". Well not **their** money, but **our** money, because every clogged toilet, burnt out, dead thermostat and new paint job for the Youth Room would have required hiring a contractor.

Tom Butler, Leonard Foreman, Rick Becton, Jon Showalter, Cal Giaimo, Anne Baker

Friday Morning Men's Group Report, Tom Butler

The Friday men's Bible study group continues to meet weekly in Seascap. We often have up to 8 members participating. We regularly review the three lessons for the upcoming Sunday service and discuss each one and how it impacts our lives and what our interpretations are. It is a good time of fellowship and friendship enjoyed by all. The group is open to any other participants that want to join.

Friday Morning Women's Group Report, Cindy Phillips

Our Friday Morning Women's Group begins with a reading and discussion of the Gospel for the coming Sunday. We also enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and mutual support. The group gathers at the Capitola Diner at 8:00AM Fridays. Please feel free to drop in or call me ahead if you'd like. Cindy Phillips, 688-6632

Friday Noontime Prayer Report, Allie DeArmond

NoonTime Prayer began because Joanne Peterson recruited me to a Friday commitment for the Weeknight Evening Prayer services. When I closed The Word Shop in 2018, I shifted the service to Fridays at Noon, using the short BCP Noonday Service.

We have 4-5 regulars, who meet outside on the Back Patio or in the Youth Room during dicey weather. One regular says, Best Bang for a Buck. You get scripture, prayer, music, and sharing of what comes up, all in a half-hour service.

We are always thrilled when someone joins us. Most often we have the BCP, scriptures appointed for a particular saint's-day, and the Parish Prayer list in hand. The day's saint and scriptures are posted on Realm, so you can receive a taste of the odd-ducks who have gone before us and connect in prayer — or at least enjoy some cool quotes and pictures.

Gaffer's Men's Group Report, John Duncan

The Gaffers still meet Thursdays at 9:15am on Zoom. For more information, please contact John Duncan +.

Grounds Report, Tina Grubbe

This is time of new beginnings for St John's landscaping. In 2023, we changed landscape contractors. Sheryl McEwan and her company, Vision Gardens began their contract in January 2024. Sheryl is a long-time member of St Philip's Episcopal Church, Scotts Valley. She's been working with me (Tina Grubbe) on St Philip's gardens since 1998. I am excited that my friend will be working with me at St John's to help the outdoor spaces at the church look their best. She is familiar with the church calendar, and times we are likely to be outside, e.g. blessing of the animals. Sheryl will plan her work accordingly. Being a long-time Episcopalian, she knows how to listen to the church, and make sure the church's needs are met.

Fall of 2023, we had a very successful mulching day. We worked with Sheryl and her crew, to spread over 40 yards of mulch that day. We got the mulch for free. The result was saving the church over a thousand dollars on materials. The focus going forward will be on ecologically friendly gardening, free of toxic chemicals. Sheryl has extensive community networking with ecologically friendly gardening methods. We will still have some volunteers working on irrigation and a few other projects. I am really excited about getting the gardens of St John's looking good for 2024.

Kairos Prison Ministry Report, Bill Kell

Kairos Prison ministry is a Christian retreat for inmates in our state and federal prisons. Here on the Central Coast we have two events; one in the Spring and again in the Fall. They are held at Salinas Valley State Prison. Another ministry is a weekly meditation group that meets with men at CTF, Soledad. These outside teams are from local churches. There is also a regular program at the Santa Cruz County Main Jail. These ministries are supported by members at St. John's and also an annual grant from St. John's Helpful Shop.

Newcomers Committee Report, Jon Showalter

How we engage those the Holy Spirit bring to our church is the ministry of the Newcomers Committee reestablished this year. We've embraced talking with those who come to our services. We do a gentle touch that may extend introducing them to people in the congregation with share interests leading toward a member of the committee partnering with the newcomer and helping as they decide whether St. John's is their spiritual home. (Liz Lindsley, Sherrie DeWitt, Jon Showalter, Alliee DeArmond, Bill Kell, Wendy Stevens, Mary Craig Caruthers +, Loris Gielczyk, Jacklyn Johnston)

Outreach Committee Report, Mary-Nona Hudson

As we noted last year, St. John's Outreach Committee is YOUR Outreach Committee and we encourage all parishioners to join us as we try to fulfill Christ's mandate in Matthew 25:40 — "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." We meet via Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm. You can join us by logging in at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85978544318>

The "committee charge" of Outreach includes funding from our limited budget international or national charities that help the poorest of the poor as they struggle from hunger, war, famine, dysentery, malaria, oppression. We do not fund local charities because the Helpful Shop, with a budget many times Outreach's, gives grants to local charities only.

In 2023, we focused our support on the Middle East giving ½ of our \$1700 budget to the United Nations Food Program to help provide food in Gaza and the other ½ to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

An international group we support is: **South Sudanese Scholarships**. This is a program in which we provide educational funding for South Sudanese student refugees living in exile in Kenya. This is achieved 100% through private donations generously given by members of our parish and beyond. We always are looking for more support.

In February, Outreach proposed guidelines and application forms to the Vestry as to how to use the Community Outreach Fund previously set aside as a tithe of undesignated gifts. Later in the year, we hosted forums to present the various proposals to the entire congregation.

While Outreach focuses on funding international and national entities, it is nevertheless very involved in local activities that help the hungry, imprisoned, and homeless and provide clothing for the poor.

Some of these groups will report separately in this Annual Report. Others include:

Habitat for Humanity. For almost three decades, St. John's has been providing healthy lunches one day a month to the volunteers who build the houses for Habitat. Mary Jane Chamber's 90-year-old husband, Jim, is one of those builders and he really appreciates those lunches!

Homeless Shower Program Overseen by Mid-County Homeless Coalition, their portable shower trailer can provide showers for 50 to 60 persons a day. St. John's parishioners regularly volunteer at the Saturday Resurrection Church shower days.

Again, please join us and tell us about what projects you are interested in that fulfill our parish mission.

Pastoral Care, Brian Raney

Pastoral care is anything the church does to contribute to the well-being of its parishioners outside of the actual services. All of us participate in some way or another in the well-being of church members, so we are ALL members of the pastoral care team.

While pastoral visits to a parishioner's home or hospital room are the center of pastoral care, and many parishioners do this privately, at this point St. John's does not have an organized method to make sure no one slips through the cracks. We need to do better at this. Another common feature of pastoral care is delivery of meals to homebound parishioners. Again, though there are many people at St. John's who do this; we don't have an organized way to make sure we serve everyone in need.

What we do have organized are the calling and card ministries. We attempt to call everyone in the parish at least once a quarter, but recently we've slowed down a lot due to a paucity of people making calls, and a little hiatus of the organizer (yours truly). We also send at least two cards to everyone on their birthday.

In conclusion, thank you for all you do to make your fellow parishioners feel loved and not alone. To me, this is the most important aspect of church, that is, to be a loving community that

takes care of its members. If you'd like to get more involved in making sure people don't slip through the cracks, please contact me at braneyboo@gmail.com or (831) 222-0564.

Prayer List Ministry Report, Kathy Butler

The parish prayer list is maintained and is published on Realm, with a link included in the biweekly eNews. The prayer list is organized by category and individual prayers stay on the list for a set period of time, depending on the category. Prayers are collected from parishioners via a group email to parishioners committed to praying for your requests. Sometimes prayers are requested through direct contact of one of the many pray-ers. Regular updates are welcome and help keep the prayer list current. Several groups use the prayer list regularly, including Monday Evening Prayer, Friday Noontime Prayer, and Daughters of the King.

During the Prayers of the People in the Sunday services, several names of parishioners from the current prayer list will be included. If you would be like to be added to this list of pray-ers, please contact Chrys Sparks in the office. If you have any prayer requests, please send them to the group email, prayer@st-john-aptos.org.

Rector Transition Team Report, Rick Becton

St. John's Vestry approved a new Rector Transition Committee for 2024. The members were commissioned during the 10:30a.m. Sunday worship service on January 7, 2024. Members of your team are: Andy Pudan, Antonette Wood, Barbara Raney, Bill Kell, Chris Rowen, Liz Lindsley, Renee Roberts, Rick Becton – Chair, Tom Butler, and Wendy Stevens.

The early part of the team's work will be drawing from our church family the issues, concerns and priorities that are important to us, and to discern why we are motivated to serve our community. The Transition Team will create a parish profile that brings the personality of our parish to life and provides a complete and vivid narrative about us to prospective clerical candidates.

Assisting us during this process is Canon Martha Korienek from The Diocese of El Camino Real, with whom I am scheduled to meet continually throughout the process. Also, Canon Martha intends to facilitate several Forums with our congregation as the process progresses.

Scouts Report, Susan von Schmacht

Cub Scout Pack 609 meets regularly at St John's, on the last Wednesday of the month. All are invited to visit and see the Cubs in action.

In 2023, the Pack has

- Grown to 20-plus youth, in grades K-5
- Hosted Scout Sunday coffee hour
- Participated in St John's beach clean-ups
- Participated in Movie Nights—and thoroughly enjoyed them!
- Marched with the St John's contingent in the Aptos 4th of July Parade, while proudly displaying their new Pack flag

Thank you, St John's, for all your support of this ministry to our larger community:

- Being willing to take on this ministry
- Providing meeting space
- Providing funds for the Pack flag and annual charter registration
- Being open to Cubs' participation in parish activities

A special thank you to Brian Raney as he takes over the Charter Organization Representative position for 2024 and beyond!

Susan von Schmacht, Outgoing Charter Org. Rep., Unit Commissioner

Stewardship Committee Report, Tom Butler

Members of the Stewardship Committee are: Charles Greenleaf, Susan von Schmacht and Amma Eliza Linley. Adjunct helpers are Sherrie DeWitt, Annie Henry and Jim von Schmacht.

2023 was full of ups and downs and surprises. In February, the Annual Giving Dinner was held and the inaugural Honored Steward Award was presented to Karen Greenleaf for her tireless commitment to St. John's through the years.

The Fall Pledge campaign was the major emphasis of our summer planning meetings. It kicked off September 24th and culminated with the ingathering and celebration on October 29th. Total pledgers were 67, but total amount pledged was \$326,000, down by \$3,000 from last year.

Also on October 29th, we held our 2nd Craft Day, encouraging fellowship and creating items for the Christmas Craft Fair. This year it was an overwhelming success with many crafters making and bringing items. Several families also participated and the kids wanted to make their own crafts. All the extra items were displayed at the Christmas Fair in December.

December saw us preparing to host the Annual Gratitude and Giving Dinner in February 2024. Chris Rowan will provide a gourmet feast for all that attend.

Worship Committee Report, Anne Baker

Everything about Worship that keeps it exciting, moving, inspiring, challenging, organized, beautiful, consistent, staffed, timely, accessible, colorful, and more words than these, is planned by those in Worship Committee meetings. We discussed which Prayers of the People to use, aspects of music and special musicians, changes to the liturgy at the change of seasons, seasonal events (advent wreath making), and how to stage the animal blessing to involve the children.

This year we began mostly with services outside, so to reduce the labor required for set-up we purchased an outdoor table for an altar. An improved dedicated sound system for the courtyard services combined amplification of spoken word as well as musical leadership. The new furniture allowed us to experiment with changing layout of the space to maximize shade and other considerations.

With thankful hearts, mid-year we moved the majority of services back inside. We continued to offer the cup from both chalice and cruet, and a consistent online presence on Zoom. Late in the year we improved the video production by adding two cameras and mounting them high on the walls. This removed the computer and cables from cluttering the central space in front of the altar, and brought the Ambo back into use with a second microphone.

We want to give our thanks to Amma Eliza Linley. She kept us centered, and hopefully the congregation felt the worship planning was seamless and inspiring. (Though the actual baptism was in January of 2024, we spent lots of time in Worship Committee '23 planning the pool for a desired "full immersion" experience for one of our young parishioners).

Financial Reports:

- 1. 2024 Parish Budget (approved Dec. 19, 2023)**
- 2. St. John's 2023 Statement of Activities vs Budget**
- 3. St. John's 2023 Statement of Financial Position**
- 4. Helpful Shop 2023 Statement of Activities**
- 5. Helpful Shop 2023 Statement of Financial Position**
- 6. ACYP 2024 Budget**
- 7. ACYP 2023 Statement of Activities**
- 8. ACYP 2023 Statement of Financial Position**
- 9. Rebele Endowment 2023 Statement of Activities**
- 10. Rebele Endowment 2023 Statement of Financial Position**
- 11. LMK Trust 1 2023 Statement of Activities**
- 12. DOK 2023 Statement of Activities**
- 13. DOK 2023 Statement of Financial Position**

2024 Parish Budget approved December 19, 2023

Date Range: Jan 1st 2024 - Dec 31st 2024 | Filtered by: Fund

Accounts	Annual Budget Jan 01, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024
Revenues	
4000-0000 Existing Resources	18,132
Support	
Pledges	
4001-0000 Current Year Annual Pledge	311,696
4002-0000 Prior Year's Pledge Paid This Year	5,000
Total Pledges	316,696
Unpledged Gifts	
Spontaneous	
4007-0000 Anonymous Cash & Coin	3,870
4011-0000 Unpledged Unrestricted Gifts	24,780
Total Spontaneous	28,650
Holy Day Gifts	
4203-0000 Ash Wednesday	280
4205-0000 Easter	210
4206-0000 Christmas	65
4207-0000 Other Holy Days	50
Total Holy Day Gifts	605
Special Service Donations	
4131-0000 Gifts in Memory of	2,000
Total Special Service Donations	2,000
Total Unpledged Gifts	31,255
Fundraiser Proceeds	
4140-0000 Fundraiser - Generic	2,000
4143-0000 Fundraiser, Pride	1,000
4149-0000 Xmas Crafts Fair	2,500
Total Fundraiser Proceeds	5,500
Total Support	353,451
Revenue	
4601-0000 Interest	230
4602-0000 Facility Rental	2,890
4604-0000 Helpful Shop Tithe	7,500
Total Revenue	10,620
Total Revenues	\$ 382,203
Expenses	
Ministry	
Worship	
Altar	
Consumables	
5020-0000 AG Consumables	1,000
Total Consumables	1,000
Total Altar	1,000
Music	