

2023 Annual Report

We joyfully gather
to pray, worship, learn and serve
as we seek to follow Jesus,
and invite all to join us
on a sacred journey of hope and transformation.

Phone 989.631.2260 Fax 989.631.4261

St. John's Episcopal Church 405 N Saginaw Rd Midland, MI 48640

Parish email office@sjec-midland.org Website www.sjec-midland.org



St. John's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2024 Agenda

11:00 am (following 9:00 am combined service)

Williams Hall

A Continuing Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan,

A Diocese of the Episcopal Church

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR VESTRY

Election of 4 Vestry Members (voice vote)

For 3-year terms: Eric Heglin, Sue Rye, Fred Schuster For a 2-year term: Angela Garcia

INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES

Election of 4 Delegates and 2 alternates (voice vote)

Delegates: Eric Carlson, Anthony Germain, Chris Lauckner, Chris Schuster

Alternate: Ellen McVey

INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Election of 4 committee members (voice vote)

Marnie Bash, Emily Garlinghouse, Pat Roush

VOTE: BYLAW CHANGE

(To update dates of service for diocesan convention delegates to match diocesan canons)

VOTE: BYLAW CHANGE

(To alter Vestry size requirements, allowing ongoing function with occasional vacancies)

REPORTS

Rector's Report, Wardens Reports

TABLE DISCUSSIONS: APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

FINANCIAL REPORT

Final 2023 Report

Presentation of 2024 Budget

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Adjourn

Table of Contents	<u>Page</u>
Minutes from Annual Meeting for year 2023	6
Elected Lay Leadership Servants in 2023	8
2023 Rectors Report	9
2023 Convention Delegate Report	10
Loving God Worship	
Altar Guild	13
Announcers	13
Element Bearers	14
Eucharistic Ministers	14
Ushers/Greeters	14
Intercessors	14
Lectors	14
Music Ministry Loving God Adult Formation Bible in the Basement Women's Bible Study Women Journeying Together.	17 18
St. John's Library	19
Loving God Children and Youth Formation	
Children and Youth Ministries	21
Loving Neighbor Outreach	
Hosted Ministries	23
ACT Uganda	
Endowment Committee	
Garden Boxes	
Knit Pickers	
Learning Tree Preschool	
Love Knots	
Samaritan Fund	

	SAMS Pantry	29
	St. Andrew's Flint	33
	Vacation Bible School	34
ا (oving Neighbor Pastoral Care	
	Funeral Reception Committee	35
	Pastoral Care Committee	
	Pastoral Care Committee	33
Lc	oving Neighbor Fellowship	
	Loaves & Fishes	37
	Men of St. John's	
	St. Martha's Ladies Guild	
Λ.	/ith Everything We've Got Stewardship and Administration	
v	Buildings and Grounds	20
	-	
	Office Support	
	Vestry	
	Worship Committee	
	Stewardship	
	Finance Committee	
	2022 Year End Statement	45
	2023 Annual Budget	56

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, DISABILITY, SEX, NATIONAL ORIGIN, MARITAL STATUS, FAMILY MAKEUP, SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS, OR POLITICAL PERSUASION. St. John's Episcopal Church is a COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO GATHER TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR NEED FOR DIVINE AND HUMAN LOVE, AND TO RESPECT OUR COMMON HUMANITY.

AT ST. JOHN'S, ALL ARE WELCOME.



St. John's Episcopal Church Minutes from the Annual Meeting for Year 2023 January 29, 2023

The meeting was a hybrid and held remotely using Zoom as well as in person due to large snowfall and poor road conditions.

Welcome & Overview: Jim Harrison, Rector-in-Charge, opened the meeting at 12:35 p.m. with prayer. A quorum was declared present.

<u>Priest-in-Charge Address:</u> Corinthians 13 and a short video highlighting RIP Medical Debt were shared. Jim gave a call to share and show the love of God through this initiative as well as a thank you for huge success that the 2022 campaign was.

<u>Elections</u>: Chris Lauckner, presented the slate of candidates for Vestry, Endowment Committee and Convention Delegates. Pat Rousch moved and Paul Tolly seconded that since there were no contested elections, we select the entire slate of candidates. Motion passed. It was also noted that we still have one unfilled position for a Vestry term, 2023-2024. Elected lay leaders going forward are:

Vestry:

Through January 2024	Through January 2025	Through January 2026		
Toshia Albright	Paul Tolly	Deborah Blackhurst		
Ellen McVey	Gina Wilson	Tony Germain		
	Bill Kent	Gail Hoffman		

Endowment Committee:

Through January 2024	Through January 2025	Through January 2026		
Jenny Estabrook	John Adams	Basil Clark		
Charlotte Jacqmain	Tony Germain	Roger Moll		
Jeff Pennex	Lydia Nyabul	Barb Tazelaar		

2023 Diocesan Convention Delegates: Eric Carlson, Gail Hoffman, Tom Lane, Ellen McVey

Ministry Updates and Outlook

- Formation: Missy Harrison gave an update on Youth and Children's formation as summarized in the Annual Report.
- SAMS Pantry: Dana Pressnall provided a brief update on SAMS. Open 3 days a week currently due to the lower need. In April, clients were able to return to "you pick" service. Last year, 530 families were served which is a 10% increase from 2021.
- Worship: Rev. Jim Harrison highlighted his absence and how well the parish responded and moved forward in his absence. Return to the church was slow after opening back up, numbers are climbing with average Sunday attendance ~60. From Generation-to-Generation Advent program was a success and will be replicated for Lent in 2023. Jim

- also indicated that more volunteers are needed in worship ministries such as Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Guild.
- Music: Amon Eady reported that the music program had not missed a beat and been
 extremely active. The passing and lose of Mair Alsgaard left a huge hole in our music
 program. However, the music ministry rallied and developed a path forward with
 bringing new voices into the ministry.
- Endowment: Chris Lauckner highlighted several of the amazing projects and programs that were selected as 2022 grant recipients. See the Annual report for more details.

2023 Budget and Outlook

Lee Smith reported that revenue was down due to leaving funds in the endowments that were not needed. Endowment was down ~12.5% due to the market conditions.

Search Committee Report

Ellen McVey provided an update of the Rector Search activities. It was anticipated that the process would take 1.5 -2 years, and progress currently is on track with that expectation. She expressed thanks to Jim for serving as Priest-in-Charge during the interim. Our Welcoming Statement has been very well received and is attractive to candidates.

<u>Q&A/Discussion/Outlook:</u> This discussion by the Co-Wardens did not occur since questions were addressed throughout the meeting.

Rev. Jim closed the meeting in prayer at 2:15 p.m. While we likely would have preferred the meeting to be completely in person, the hybrid format was well attended and worked smoothly!

Respectfully submitted. Toshia Albright, Clerk, 2023

Lay Leadership Servants

Vestry:

Through January 2024	Through January 2025	Through January 2026
Toshia Albright	Eric Carlson*	Deb Blackhurst
Eric Heglin*	Bill Kent*	Tony Germain
Ellen McVey	Paul Tolly	Gail Hoffman

^{*}vestry appointment

Endowment:

Through January 2024	Through January 2025	Through January 2026
Jenny Estabrook	Tony Germain	Basil Clark
Charlotte Jacqmain	Lydia Nyabul	Roger Moll
Jeff Pennex	(unfilled)	Barb Tazelaar

Delegates to Diocesan Convention - 2023

Eric Carlson Gail Hoffman Tom Lane Ellen McVey
--

2023 Rectors Report

Well, here we are!

I said something like that in my first sermon at St. John's, just a few months ago. After all the waiting, wondering, praying, and planning—here we are together! I am so grateful to be part of your community here at St. John's Midland, and I'm looking forward to all the ways we're going to learn and grow together over the next year. I'm excited about all the ways we will worship, learn, serve, and grow in the year (and years) to come.

The previous year was a significant one for all of us. It was a period of transition, marked by heartfelt goodbyes and hopeful greetings. We bid farewell to Jim and Missy Harrison, mourned the loss of Curt Zimmerman and Mike Wilson, and joyously welcomed a new chapter with my arrival as your rector. My journey from St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Plant City, Florida to here was a literal and figurative journey of change, mirrored by personal transitions in my family as August and Avonlea embarked on new endeavors of their own.

Change, while essential for growth, demands considerable energy and resilience. As we reflect on the year gone by, I encourage each of us to practice compassion and gentleness with ourselves and others. Completing 2023 was a testament to our collective strength and adaptability.

As we enter 2024, my focus is on engaging in "core work" for St. John's, an initiative aimed at fortifying and nurturing our core ministries. This endeavor is essential for laying a robust foundation for future growth and aligns with my objectives for the year, collaboratively set with the vestry:

Objective 1: Build Relationships.

Objective 2: Strengthen church structure and organization for a solid foundation.

Objective 3: Cultivate spiritual growth and a spirit of formation at St. John's.

Objective 4: Incorporate learnings from the College for Congregational Development formation week.

Objective 5: Prioritize personal wellness and healthy boundaries to support sustainable ministry.

These objectives are broad categories for more detailed goals, which I am more than happy to discuss with anyone interested, but I think they offer some framework for what I'm looking at in the year to come.

I invite each of you to actively participate in our shared mission. Whether through participating in one of our ministries, contributing to discussions, or supporting various initiatives, your involvement is vital. Together, we can forge a path that honors our history, embraces the present, and looks forward to a future filled with hope and faith.

As we embark on this year, let us do so with a spirit of unity, purpose, and joy. I am enthusiastic about the possibilities that lie ahead and am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve as your rector.

A Report from 2023 Diocesan Convention Delegates

The Fourth Joint Convention of the Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan was held on Oct. 27-28 at the Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw. This was the 29th Convention of the Diocese

of Eastern MI (EDEM) and the 149th Convention of the Diocese of Western MI (EDWM). The theme "Collaborative, Innovative, Courageous Discipleship" was taken from the Mission Statement developed by the Building Bridges Steering Committee. About 400 people from both dioceses attended the convention.

The lay delegates from St. John's (SJEC) were Eric Carlson, Gail Hoffman, Tom Lane, and Ellen McVey. Rev. Alissa Anderson also attended. A number of others from SJEC were also in attendance:

MISSION STATEMENT

Called by Christ to proclaim and embody God's boundless love for all creation, we grow:

- COLLABORATIVE communities of faith, walking the journey together;
- INNOVATIVE ministries, stretching beyond our walls;
- COURAGEOUS DISCIPLES, striving to transform systems of injustice.

We nurture relentless hope for a world longing for mercy, restoration, and peace.

- Deb Blackhurst panel member
- Bill Kent panel member
- Lynn Pottenger & Ann Moll staffed an exhibit table for ACT Uganda and sold crafts
- Greg Gwaltney pianist and assisted in worship planning
- Chris Lauckner cantor
- Alicia Watt assisted with child care
- Sara Philo CFO for the Dioceses

Friday morning was an optional attendance time filled with various workshops:

- Chris, Eric, and Alissa attended the workshops "Simple, Not Easy: Cultivating Vital Congregations" led by The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, Bishop in Minnesota and "Online Worship with Heart" led by Canon Chandy.
- Greg attended "Standing Up for the Dignity of Every Person" led by The Rev. Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven, and "Let Justice and Peace Flow: A Year-Long Season of Creation" led by a panel of lay and clergy practitioners.
- Deb was a panelist in "Developing New Congregational Ministries" and talked about the RIP Medical Debt campaign initiated & supported by SJEC in 2021-2022.
- Bill participated in "Online Worship with Heart" and discussed SJEC's use of technology in worship.
- Ellen staffed two workshops hosted by the Building Bridges Steering Committee.
- Rev. Alissa also attended the new delegate orientation workshop led by the Chancellor for the Dioceses, Bill Fleener.

Friday afternoon the Joint Session was called to order. During this time the Building Bridges Steering Committee presented their work and findings to date. The written report to the dioceses

and the slides used in the presentation are on the diocesan website under "Building Bridges Report and Materials for Sharing". https://eastmich.org/convention/. We recommend you review these materials. A timeline of next steps was outlined including a Special Joint Convention that will be held on March 16 at St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc. The purpose of the convention will be to determine if the dioceses will pursue "juncture" (the canonical term for merging).

During this session and the joint session on Saturday we heard about various ministries and initiatives throughout the dioceses. Many of these ministries provided reports that are included in the convention booklet, pgs. 72-108. This is available on the diocesan convention webpage under "2023 Convention Booklet". https://eastmich.org/convention/

The keynote dinner speaker was The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. His talk was titled "All the Trees of the Field Shall Clap Their Hands: Rediscovering a Diverse Church Ecology." One of his main points was that the church should stop being anxious about being like we were in the past (membership levels, etc.) and instead focus on the future. He quoted Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, "Jesus is coming back, the 1950's are not!." He urged us to 1) return to focusing on forming disciples (When people worship with us, do they see Jesus?). This involves a return to bible studies, a focus on ministries serving the poor and marginalized, etc., and 2) cultivate a diverse "ecology" – he likened congregations to a forest ecology where diversity is a strength based on dependency and synergy. It is his belief that "apprenticing to Jesus" will take place in small group environments. A written copy of his address can be found under "Media & Content" on the diocesan convention webpage. https://eastmich.org/convention/

The EDEM's Business Session began Saturday morning. There were no resolutions to consider. The results of the business meeting, including the financial report and election results, can be found under "Business Meeting" on the diocesan convention webpage: https://eastmich.org/convention/

We celebrated Eucharist together and witnessed the dedication of a person taking annual vows as a Monastic Solitary, the reception of a Lutheran Pastor as Priest in our Communion, and the Installation of Canons for the Central and Southern Collaboratives. The sermon by the Rev. Canon Tracie Little, Canon for the Southern Region and Adult Formation, can be found under "Media & Content" on the diocesan convention webpage.

More information about the convention, including pictures, can be found on the diocesan convention webpage. Please also feel free to talk with us to learn more about our experience.

Submitted to Vestry by: Eric Carlson, Gail Hoffman, Tom Lane, Ellen McVey

Below is an individual delegate report submitted by Gail Hoffman:

Friday, October 27, 2023

Tom Lane and I arrived at the 4th Joint Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan with time to look at the banners and displays. St. John's did not have a banner at Convention—hopefully that will change in the future!

Although we have been delegates in the past, both in person and virtually, we started with the New Delegate Orientation from 1-1:30 pm. The presenter was very knowledgeable. Unlike the content presented in previous orientations, he focused more on the signs and symbols in the liturgy as well as the structural organization of the church.

The Convention started at 1:30 and continued until 5 pm. The following agenda items were included:

- Call to Order
- Presidents' Address
- Building Bridges Report
- Ministry Presentations and Reports
- Prayer and Songs with Camp Kids

It was well attended and interesting in that it addressed the extensive discernment that has taken place related to the possible juncture between EM and WM. Dinner and the keynote speaker started at 5:30. The food was delicious, and the fellowship among us St. John's parishioners was enjoyable. Craig Loya, Bishop of Minnesota, provided an interesting keynote. He talked about priority setting for the diocese, encouraging us to think about smaller gatherings to promote community. Friday's schedule ended at 7 pm.

Saturday, October 28, 2023

The day began at 9 am with the EM Business meeting. Simple and straightforward with no voting, it lasted about 45 minutes.

The Convention Eucharist started at 11 am. It began with a processional of church banners followed by the familiar Eucharist. The Rev. Canon Tracie Little provided a relevant, inspirational homily. Near the end, dedication of a solitary, reception of a priest, and celebration of new ministry for our Collaborative Canons took place.

After a tasty lunch, the Joint Session of EM & WM took place from 1:30 to 3:30. It consisted of more presentations and reports, awards and recognitions, and courtesy resolutions.

I found the entire experience to be well worth the time spent, not only for new insights but also for the table discussions and connections.

Loving God . . . Worship

Altar Guild

Ministry Contact: Marcy Kirksey (989-832-8517 / doctorsixvet@aol.com)

The Altar Guild at St. Johns continues to be comprised of dedicated members in this most important ministry responsible to care for the altar, altar linens, vessels and vestments for weekly

services and special church holidays within the episcopal church.

We purchased additional vessel coverings and purificators for both the sacristy and Elliott Chapel. In addition, a new fair linen was purchased for the altar.

In October we welcomed Rector Alissa Anderson and her family to St. Johns! Alissa and the altar guild are working together to preserve our current practices and brainstorm new ideas and practices that will enhance our ministry. Jenny Estabrook donated a sterling silver plate for distributing pita bread for communion.



In November Jenny Estabrook, Chris Lauckner, and Greg Gwaltney purchased new greens and ribbon for Advent and Christmas. Jenny made all the bows for these decorations.

Sincerely,

Marcy Kirksey, Mona Cline, HJ Smith, Jac Randoulet, Kathy Loyer, Jenny Estabrook, and Margo Nielson

Announcers

Ministry Contact: Pat Roush (989-631-4149 / horusnod@charter.net)

<u>Activity</u>: Announcers greet the congregation at the beginning of the 10 AM service on Sunday. This includes welcoming any visitors, reviewing coming events published in the Sunday bulletin and communicating any other information provided by the Rector or other church members immediately before the service.

Many thanks to our Sunday announcers for their on-going faithful service. They are Toshia Albright, Marnie Bash, Chris Lauckner, Pat Roush, and Dave Whisler. These are the first people that St. John's congregation encounters on Sunday morning. Their warm and inviting welcome is a constant reminder of the friendship and love that is part of our life at St. John's. The 10AM service continues to be broadcast live from the sanctuary (via Facebook Live) for those unable to attend in person.

WORSHIP MINISTRIES: Element Bearers, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers/Greeters, Intercessors, and Lectors

By: Karen Newhouse (989-631-3418 / kbnew40@yahoo.com)

During 2023 I have been the contact for the Worship Ministries as noted above [this is not an

exhausted list]. Anytime I have received a message from an individual interested in being trained, I have taken the time to return the message and discuss the ministry the person was interested in and set up a date for training. This year, I combined the Ushers/Greeters into one group; now, with the Welcoming Committee having been organized the Ushers/Greeters fall under the Welcoming Committee. It is the task of Ushers/Greeters to 'WELCOME' visitors and members to Worship. To be prepared to offer information about St. John's to those persons who walk into our church building expecting to be greeted by an individual with a smiling face, offering respect, and being courteous.



St. John's continues to need church members to accept roles in the Worship/Liturgical space. Your contribution of time, being a part of a roster of individuals willing to serve your parish brothers and sisters, has its positive rewards in affirming your very goodness and sense of belonging to a church family ... St. John's Episcopal Church – Midland.

Please contact me, Karen Newhouse, if I can be of assistance in answering any questions you might have. 'Thank You'; it has been my pleasure to serve St. John's.

Loving God . . . Vocal/Instrumental Music

Music Ministry

Ministry Contact:

Music Director- Amon Eady, 205-999-3128 / <u>amon@sjec-midland.org</u> Organist/Pianist - Travis Fader, 989-492-6378, travis@sjec-midland.org

The Chancel Choir at St. John's rehearses every Sunday morning from 8:30 AM to 9:45 AM before the weekly service at 10:00 AM. Anyone wishing to lend their time and talent is welcome to join the choir, regardless of age, experience, or training. The choir plays an integral role in leading worship each Sunday, and performs a diverse repertoire throughout the entire year, including extra services at Christmas and Easter.

In the post-Covid world of church music, we consider ourselves so fortunate to have not only survived the pandemic as a church, but to once again be growing in our music area and offerings. Our CMU (Central Michigan University) Choral Scholars program continues to thrive, engaging young adults from within the CMU student body in weekly worship at SJEC, as they offer their talents and leadership to our Chancel Choir and worship experience.

We are also very excited to have added several new members from within our Parish in 2023. The choir loft is practically full each week, and includes individuals of all ages, races, and backgrounds. Our chancel choir truly reflects the diversity and inclusiveness we strive for as a church and community, both in our membership and in the repertoire, we prepare for each service.

Regarding instrumental music, we are blessed to have several individuals who regularly contribute to our services through instrumental music. Though not all, but most of them come from within our chancel choir, and include keyboardists, two brass players, a cellist, a flautist, and several who play the guitar. This contributes to the variety of musical sounds and styles we can offer within a given service, and the number of people we are able to involve.

We are also incredibly excited to have added Travis Fader to our music staff in 2023 as our pianist/organist. Travis is a brilliant musician, and his presence each Sunday adds so much to the overall worship experience at SJEC.

We look forward to another year of unprecedented growth in the music area at SJEC. Be on the lookout for an announcement concerning a concert/recital given by the music area at SJEC later this year!

Joyful Noise Music and Motion

Ministry Contact: Jen Gruhzit (989-495-1098/joyfulnoise48640@gmail.com)

I am going to begin my report with a word to reflect on my year. I can easily say that word is "Joy." Joy is the word that has really resonated with me, personally, this year, as well as professionally. And to be sure, Joyful Noise brings me/us joy. I see joy in the children and their parents. I see the joy in the congregation when we sing on Sundays. The children laugh, play, and enjoy the 45-minute classes. The children, truly, made a JOYFUL NOISE!

Joyful Noise is a free children's music and motion program facilitated by Jen Gruhzit and Angela Garcia. Jen and Angela have developed the program and continue to refine the program as they go. Every week, the children participate in music lessons. The children examine the teachings of Jesus through song, prayer, and sermons. Craft projects and other activities are a part of the experience. The children love to dance and learn about music by having fun together. One of my personal favorite projects is to listen to music and then have the children draw what they feel, see, hear, or imagine. Their imaginations go right to work! In a church service, once a month, Jen and Angela lead the children in song; they practice songs in class to prepare for the Sunday service.

Highlights

- Mini-Sermons
- 5-Minute Music Lessons
- Crafts
- Games
- Church Performances

A year in review/2023

- Angela and Jen volunteered their time to contribute music for Vacation Bible School in 2023 and anticipate continuing to do so in 2024.
- Joyful Noise had a display table at Kid's Day at the Midland Mall alongside St. John Episcopal children and youth ministry. They handed out drumsticks for the children to decorate. The children used their new drum sticks to learn rhythms. They performed several songs at the mall stage, with children joining them onstage and learning several songs.
- Joyful Noise leadership participated in the Great Lakes Bay Pride event in Bay City taking place in June. As well as Pride Night at the Loon's stadium. Joyful Noise leadership informing baseball enthusiasts about the program.
- Jen manages an online Facebook group page for parents offering various announcements. The Joyful Noise program is advertised via Facebook, St. John's Bulletin and electronic road sign, and flyer distribution.

See Children and Youth Ministries for more details

Loving God . . . Adult Formation

Bible in the Basement

Ministry Contact: Alicia Watt (989-513-1213/aliciawatt@yahoo.com)

Activity: This study group invites everyone to join us as we explore spiritual readings that help us live the Gospel of Jesus in our everyday lives. The group chooses readings that will help us meet that goal. The group meets the first and third Sunday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Activity Room. All are welcome!

The Bible in the Basement group began in September 2019 to meet the need for a spiritual study group outside of typical daytime work hours. Our meetings are held in the Activity Room in the lower level of St. John's, thus the very descriptive name for the group! The group picks the books to use; we rotate discussion leadership.

During Lent 2023 we used the book & DVD study of Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday by Amy Jill Levine. Levine, a practicing Jew and Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt University, shows how the people at the cross each play a distinct role. In the late fall we started another book by Levine, Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi. In this book Levine offers a fresh perspective of several of the parables Jesus taught. She helps us understand how the original Jewish audience would have understood them and makes connections to 1st century life. She also helps us connect the parables to life in the 21st century.

If you or a friend(s) are interested in this group, it would be very easy to join – just show up! During the current study each session is independent; you can either purchase a book on your own or a copy is in the church library. If you join now, then you can also be a part of selecting the next study!

Please contact Alicia Watt, Sara Philo, Deb Blackhurst, Laurie Hull, or Ellen McVey if you have any questions.

Women's Bible Study

Ministry Contact: Karen Newhouse (989-631-3418 / <u>kbnew40@yahoo.com</u>)

Activity: An opportunity to meet with other women to study Scripture. We begin our time together sharing our lives, thanksgivings, and prayer requests for our group and our church family. All women are invited to join us.

We presently are meeting in the McNab Room every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Karen Newhouse, the church office or just come and join us.

Women Journeying Together

Ministry Contact: Marnie Bash (989-839-9364 / mpbash@ameritech.net)

Activity: An opportunity for women of all ages to view and discuss a mutually chosen video presentation – generally augmented by a self-purchased book – or a book study, on a religious or biblically based topic. Members freely share in a wide-ranging discussion of the material. Three to 5 or 6 topics will be chosen during the year. Additionally, time is spent in sharing our lives and voicing prayer requests for friends, family, and ourselves, as needed.

Women Journeying Together meets Thursday afternoons through the school year, doing book studies – most often with a video component – of Biblical and/or religious subjects.

We began in January 2023 with *The Epic of Eden: Psalms*, by Sandra Richter, a study of the types of psalms and the history which was behind what we might read in a psalm. Richter came at this study from a very different perspective than we were used to, and it made for a fascinating study. After our study of the psalms, we went back to an old friend, Adam Hamilton, and his *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, a study of Jesus' actions in the Gospel of Luke. The final few weeks of Spring were spent looking at a variety of presenters and possible studies for the Fall.

In September we began with *To Exile and Beyond* by Wayne Ballard, a look at the later history of the Old Testament and how it affected the Jewish people. We used several different DVD presenters and a great deal of reading in the Old Testament! It was an interesting look at some material in the OT that is rarely studied. Following that study, we began *When the Game Is Over, It All Goes Back into the Box* by John Ortberg (he likes long catchy titles). Intended to be a video study, we wound up depending on our books for this study as we were not able to pick up the DVD in a timely fashion! Although it required a considerable amount of reading each week, members thoroughly enjoyed Ortberg's humor and light hand in making his excellent points.

Beginning 2024 we are working with a presenter new to us, Dr. Jaime Clark-Soles, who will lead a study of 1 Corinthians; we are anticipating good things from her DVD and book.

This year we were delighted to welcome new members again to our gatherings. *Women Journeying Together* meets Thursday afternoons in the Activity Room (downstairs) from 1:00 to about 2:30PM. We study, share, laugh a lot, and pray for one another, and we usually include luncheons in our schedule.

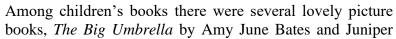
Financing as needed is under the Adult Christian Formation budget; members purchase their own books which allows use of e-books or audio books as well as print. Discussions each week are fairly independent of one another, so members can join a study at any time or miss a week or more as necessary and still easily join the conversations. Women are also welcome to join us for a particular study that attracts their attention – our schedule is found each month in the *Epistle*. Come and learn about *Women Journeying Together*!

St. John's Library

Ministry Contact: Marnie Bash (989-839-9364 / mpbash@ameritech.net)

With the sorting and reorganizing of the library complete, the emphasis for the library this year has been to encourage members of the congregation to be aware of the variety of materials available through regular changes to the Feature Shelves and articles in the *Epistle*. Some examples of special collections shown this year were materials for Black History Month, for Women's History Month, and the Celtic Spirituality books; one unusual display was "Bible Tales", stories only very loosely based on Biblical stories or people - fun but often thought-provoking.

The library has also acquired some interesting new books this year. *Chasing Wonder*, by Ginger Stache, is about being truly alive to and in God's beautiful world. *Rough Sleepers*, by Tracy Kidder, was the fascinating story of a medical doctor and his team who took care of homeless people in Boston, MA; it showed both the attempts at helping these folks as well as the problems they faced. Excellent and informative reading! *God and Race* was written by John Siebeling and Wayne Francis, a white pastor, and a black pastor, each in their own congregation, who talked about HOW to talk about race and bringing together different congregations. There is both the book itself and a separate study guide (book) for following up on their ideas, a very important addition to the library.





Bates, *There's No Wrong Way to Pray* by Rebecca Ninke and Kate Watson, and *What Is Heaven Like?* by Beverly Lewis. Located among the Young Adult books is *Hope in the Valley* by Mitali Perkins; it is the story of an interracial eighth grader learning to accept herself, her background, and her talents and abilities. Although aimed at middle and high school students, it is also a fun and helpful book for parents and grandparents, not just the kids.

Books and other materials may be accessed from the Waring Room at any time as well as the shelves in Williams Hall. Please be sure to sign up for any materials taken from either site. Ideas of books or other materials that might be added to the library are welcome; contact Marnie Bash at mpbash@ameritech.net or leave a note in my mailbox outside of Williams Hall.

Funding is through a line item in the budget under Adult Formation.

Loving God . . . Children and Youth Formation

Children and Youth Ministries

Ministry Contact: Linda Germain (989-631-2260 / linda@sjec-midland.org)

This year has been a year of change for our Children and Youth programs. As many know, Missy Harrison was the children and youth ministries director until August and Linda Germain was appointed the interim children and youth ministry director in August. With the support of many already involved in all the children and youth programs I was able to transition easily into the role. The nursery care staff, children's Sunday school volunteers, Joyful Noise staff, and youth group volunteers are a wonderful group to collaborate with. They have embraced the change and are trying new things.

The staff of St. John's enjoyed our time in October when the staff hosts a Learning Tree Preschool costume parade in the courtyard.

SAMS Pantry and the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network allowed us to offer a place to set up a hot cocoa cart. Free cocoa was distributed before and during the Santa Parade.

In January Allison Thompson took our free library on the road to Kids Day at the Midland Mall. Several St. John's parishioners joined in on the project, giving out over 300 books that day.

January to April Missy Harrison and Denee Koonce co-lead the Middle and High School Youth group on Sunday afternoons. This was started back up in September with Linda Germain and Denee Koonce co-leading. The youth have been planning out fundraising events to help cover the costs of their June 2024 CAP mission trip to Kentucky. The youth group hosted a Fall Festival game night in November with a silent cake auction. The youth group is currently collecting pop cans and bottles as a fundraiser. We have two youth currently going through Confirmation Classes to be confirmed into the church in the Spring of 2024. This is amazing as we haven't had a confirmation class in many years.

In February we had several events happen. One popular event for all ages, the Shrove Pancake Supper was hosted by the Men's Group and a great success. Missy ran a very successful Intergenerational Lent Project that brought Sunday school together for all ages. This included a lesson each week, craft, and great conversations.

February also brought a new program to life for the children called Joyful Noise Music and Motion. This program is led by Jen Gruhzit and Angela Garcia. Jen and Angela have been bringing music classes to children aged 4 years through 5th grade. Since St John's hasn't had a children's music program for a while this was a pilot program to gage interest. The children have Monday night classes that teach them the basics of music, songs, motions, and crafts to create their own

instruments. In June the program hosted a Campfire Night under the covering of our courtyard. It may have rained, but smores and music were still enjoyed by all generations that came to participate. The program re-started in September for the fall Monday night music classes. We have also incorporated one Sunday a month song at the end of church services. This shows off all the hard work the kids are doing in music classes and allows the congregation to enjoy singing along with the children.

We connected with our Scouts in the congregation with a Scout Sunday service in April. Many Scouts from the community joined in after service activities, including a Pinewood Derby Track activity. The Scouts hosted a pancake supper after service to thank St John's for their continued support of local Scouts. St John's started in October hosting a local Girl Scoot troop 50402 for their meetings. St John's also hosted a community talk in March on Juliette Gordon Low. This brought past and current Girl Scouts from the community to learn a little more about the founding leader of Girl Scouts.

Vacation Bible School returned in August as Change Makers Lab. Missy Harrison collaborated with Gina Malczewski from the American Chemistry Society of Midland to facilitate VBS. So many individuals came together to make these four wonderful days successful. Our actors for the daily skits were very entertaining and brought the children to laughter each day. We also enjoyed music time with our Joyful Noise instructors Angela Garcia and Jen Gruhzit.

Fall brought blessings...the Blessing of the Backpacks, the Blessing of the Animals, and the Blessing of the Trick or Treaters. These events and the people and animals involved were indeed a blessing. Our intergenerational events like these are always a great way to bridge the gap between generations. We even had a dog join in on our children's choir song at the end of service.

Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year and an end to the calendar year. This year we had intergenerational gatherings at 9:00am on Sundays to understand "How Does a Weary World Rejoice." These intergenerational gatherings are wonderful for hearing God's message, making creations, and reflecting on the messages heard. We also enjoyed some skits throughout the Sundays of Advent. The children and youth participated in the Christmas Eve evening service by serving in various roles. This was a great way to expose them to new service options within the church they could do.

May we continue to embrace change and come together to share the love of God with the world and each other.

Loving Neighbor . . . Outreach

Hosted Ministries

Included in St. John's outreach efforts during 2022 was hosting and providing resources for the following community groups:

- ACT Uganda
- Adult Children of Alcoholics
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Alpha Kappa Alpha
- Barbara DuRussel Piano Studio
- Dahlia Hill Society
- Daughters of the American Revolution
- Great Lakes Bay Moms Demand Action
- Grove Music Festival
- Harmony Diversity Choir
- Heather DeGroot Studio

- Learning Tree Cooperative Preschool
- Midland Area Interfaith Friends
- Midland County Emergency Food Pantry Network
- Midland Genealogical Society
- Midland Quilters Squared
- Narcotics Anonymous
- PEO Club
- Physical Therapy Center
- SOGI YAC

ACT Uganda – Agape Community Transformation

Ministry Contact: Lynn Pottenger (11lhpott@gmail.com)

ACT has had another wonderful and challenging year in 2023. Thanks to wonderful support from our volunteers, our staff in Muko, and our donors, we have had many accomplishments in all our programs. Some of the biggest accomplishments include:

Celebration of our 20th anniversary with fund-raising events in both the US & Muko: Fund-raising dinners in Midland and in Traverse City in September resulted in considerable support for the ACT Future Fund (~\$10,000!). A celebration event in Muko in December was a joyous event, with over 600 community members participating from Muko Subcounty and a surprise visit from Sue & John Waechter. Dancing, singing, and worship were all part of the celebration in Muko!

HANDS: Training in Perma gardening, funded by the Midland Allen Foundation grant awarded in June 2022 (following the successful pilot program), and in continued partnership with the Peace Corps, has continued at a rapid pace, with over 715 participants trained to date. The follow-up monitoring visits to farmers who received iron-rich beans have shown that folks are implementing their training effectively and incorporating these new, highly nutritious foods into their regular diet.

HEAL: The shift to dramas in schools and churches continued into 2023, but with the realization that, although this approach was well-received, it was expensive and somewhat limited in scope. A new initiative of a monthly journal club discussion, held over Zoom, was initiated late in 2023 and these have been well-received and include many Muko High School students. The journal club meetings will continue while HEAL teams consider additional goals.

HONORS: There were several transitions to HONORS in 2023, including very grateful recognition of Karen Viele's efforts leading this successful program for so many years. HONORS is now led by Karen Lee Knight, who took up this challenge at the very end of 2023. We are looking to continue to accomplish great things with Karen Lee at our helm. This program remains an important contribution to the future of all Muko Sub-County residents.

MUSIC: This program remains somewhat in transition, with the expected rehire of Howard Biryomuriiwe to lead the efforts, and Karen Viele to continue with regular Zoom-based lessons. Muko High School is seeking a Music teacher, who would add to the musical opportunities in Muko.

TEACH: The Science Lab construction is nearly completed, and the building is in use, although not all the desired accourrements are available yet. The first week of January they will tile the whole interior. Enrollment at Muko High School has increased to over 600 students. Given that the MOU between ACT and the Diocese of Kigezi has only one more year (ends December 2024), the TEACH team has been sunset and Dave Viele will lightly oversee the administration in 2024 as MHS staff employ the training they received on budgeting and financial record-keeping. With the current enrollment, MHS should have adequate resources to manage all aspects and plan for additional physical improvements!

Uniquely Ugandan Handcrafts (formerly Muko Empowerment Program) had a banner year in 2023, after many years of limited sales events due to Covid and fewer (and aging) volunteers. These sales provide much needed, undesignated, revenue to support new projects and ACT's US administrative costs such as paying for office supplies, mailings, website fees, and bank transfers. Beth Martin stepped down as our hard-working Inventory Manager after many years of dedicated service, and we were fortunate to find Sue Bergeson to take up those duties.

Our support teams (**Communications, Facilities, and Resource Development**) have worked hard to keep us all on track and our **FUNDS** (Financial Ugandan Needs for Development & Sustainability) **task force** guided the effort to set up a hardware store in Muko as a social business, targeted to help ACT become sustainable long-term. The hardware store has made a small profit every month of operation—a real success compared to most starting social businesses!

Finally, the ACT US Board continues to be guided by our Mission and Vision statements with our efforts to more fully transition idea-generation and decisions to our Ugandan partners. We recognized the many contributions and hard work of Diane Busch, Karen Viele, and Dave Viele, as they stepped off the ACT Board after many years of service; we are grateful they will all remain involved in ACT efforts. We were fortunate to add a couple new Board members: Gail Hoffman and Karen Knight (treasurer).

Thank you to all who supported us in so many ways. If you want more information, especially if you are interested in becoming involved in these efforts, please contact Lynn Pottenger (11lhpott@gmail.com) or Sue Waechter (waechtersue@gmail.com) with any questions.

Endowment Committee

Contact: Tony Germain (germainaj@gmail.com)

Activity: The Endowment Committee at St. John's reviews grant applications from 501c3 non-profit organizations that assist individuals at a local, national, and international level. The committee receives grant application requests via an online form accessible through St John's website. Once the committee makes a grant award, there is follow up on the money that the committee granted. A report is submitted by the organization for review as required. The Treasurer of the Endowment Committee tracks organizations that are awarded a grant and updates the committee monthly on the state and balance of the Endowment budget.

During 2023, the committee prayerfully reviewed each grant request with careful analysis and compassion. Together, we made quality decisions based on need and what we thought our parish family would support as we reviewed the documentation we received for review.

Over the course of the year, nineteen grant applications were reviewed and eleven of those grant applications were funded. In addition to the eleven current year grants funded in 2023, funds were paid out to the recipient of a multi-year grant from 2022 to fulfil the multi-year commitment. Funds distributed in 2023 totaled \$183K.

Once again, to the parish family at-large: 'Thank You' for your generosity in 2023 and throughout the 2024 new year!

Below are the organizations that received funding during 2023:

- Plainsong Farm & Ministry (Grand Rapids area)
- RIP Medical Debt (US National organization)
- His Restoration Ministries (Saginaw, MI)

- Canterbury House Episcopal Association for College Work (Houghton, MI)
- Phoenix Community Farm (Midland, MI)
- Legacy Center for Community Success (Midland, Mi)
- Michigan Interfaith Power & Light. (Detroit, MI)
- Home to Stay (Midland, MI)
- Open Door (Midland, MI)
- Holy Family Episcopal Church (Midland, MI)
- The Breaking Bread Village (Midland, MI)
- AuSable Inclusion Center/Project of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan (Mio, MI)

Garden Boxes

Ministry Contact: Lee Smith (989-832-2440 / optimalvalue@att.net)

Activity: The Garden Box Project helps in the effort to be good stewards of God's bounty and seeks an outreach ministry to individuals in the St. John's neighborhood. Both stewardship and outreach are part of the St. John's mission statement, Linking Lives in the Love of Christ. Begun in 2010, currently nine boxes are in the area adjacent to the playground on the northwest side of the church. From 2010 to 2023 fresh vegetables grown in these boxes have been provided to the SAMS Pantry and also enjoyed by Parish members and neighbors of St. John's who tend their own boxes.

People who generously gave of their time in 2023 to help grow the food in the garden boxes were greatly appreciated.

Knit Pickers

Ministry Contact: Anne Moll (512-636-9963 / amquilts4kids@gmail.com)

Activity: Ever wonder what St. John's Knitpickers are/does? Well, Knitpickers is a group of knitters and crocheters who meet at St. John's on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3 pm. We chat while creating hats, scarves, blankets, prayer shawls, baby sweaters and more.

The organization gifts the items they create to local charity organizations for those who need them. Recently, Knitpickers donated a collection of knitted baby items to Babies Clothed by Faith.

Anyone can join us whether you craft with yarn, or want to learn, or just want to hang out.



Contact: Ciera Rill-Program Director (989-259-5412/mscieraltcp@gmail.com)

This past year has been amazing in multiple ways. The biggest change is how we are continuing to do our work in the community to build awareness of the Early Childhood field. We are also building an amazing team of 5 teachers on staff, all the way from our 'Two's and You' to Program Director.

- We are excited for St. John's members welcoming their new Rector. We are looking forward to meeting with her.
- For the 2023/2024 school year we have 19 students enrolled with the preschools Early Learners and Prekindergarten classrooms. Our Two's and You class has 27 students.
- Each year it seems that we can provide quality first experiences in education for children in the Midland Community.
- As a Great Start Collaborative (GSC) member we have been able to provide a full scholarship to 3 students and a partial to 1 student. We have also been grateful to receive endowment funds from St. Johns a couple years ago that provided 2 students with scholarships this year. That makes a total of 6 families that have been able to benefit from donated funds to our amazing program. We are so incredibly thankful for these donations as they provide our families' child/ren with a quality early childhood education.
- This is our 2nd preschool year making use of our great playground! Our previous Preschool President, Toshia Albright, raised the funding for the project. The students LOVE having the equipment to explore and learn social skills.
- We are also members of the MBA which provides the Program Director the opportunity to network with other businesses and talk about how amazing our program is, offers an opportunity to let the business community know that we are located in St. John's Episcopal church- a welcoming and inclusive church in Midland.
- We are looking forward to what 2024 will bring to our small school and its' programs.
 We can provide anything with the assistance of our children, their parents, and the Greater Midland community.

Love Knots

Ministry Contact: Carole Adams (989-631-0662 / tcadams2@yahoo.com)

Love Knots is a group of ecumenical quilters who work at home as well as meeting the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at 10am in Williams Hall. We welcome new members any time. The quilt tops are made at the quilters' homes and layered and finished at the church. All quilts have a flannel side to provide a cozy feel to the recipient. Much of the fabric for quilt tops is donated. If you have a donation of 100% cotton fabric it can be dropped off at the church office. The cost of the quilt batting and flannel backing was close to \$1,200 in 2023 and is covered by income from the Vestry.

Love Knots had another year of expanding out outreach. The baby pantry, Babies Clothed by Faith (Faith Christian Assembly), asked us to make baby Burp Cloths to be given to Moms who visit their baby pantry. We provided them with 75 burp cloths in 2023.

Our quilt donations in 2023 included 25 to North Midland Family Center, 80 to Babies Clothed by Faith, 30 to Heartland Hospice/Pro Medica, and two to newly baptized children at St. John's. There is great joy in knowing that 137 babies, kids and adults are cuddling up with a Love Knots quilt this year.

Carole Adams

Samaritan Fund

Ministry Contact: Mark McCartney (989-430-2303 / mccrtny7544@gmail.com>)

Activity: Supported by the Endowment Funds of St. John's, the Samaritan Fund provides assistance to Midland County residents in need. Fund volunteers meet with clients coming to St. John's for assistance. The volunteer listens, prays with the client, and determines if financial help is warranted. The vast majority of assistance requested and met regards utility and rent payments.

Mission (How we will accomplish the Vision)

The Samaritan Fund and Team will request and receive its budget from the St. John's Endowment committee.

We will personally meet those in need once a week at St. John's for one hour – typically with two to five applicants. We will also assist when requests are received from Midland Area Homes, DHS, Salvation Army or other area agencies. Financially, we will primarily service needs that are basic, temporary, and capable to be shown as "fulfilled" with our donations. This includes:

- Home utilities (Heat, electricity, phone)
- Rent
- Medical procedures and documented pharmaceutical needs
- Auto repair

Other needs will be considered with care and discernment.

Financial assistance will be limited to once every two years per individual and family. We will work with the staff of St. John's to assure:

- Those seeking help are treated graciously and team members are primarily responsible for care and are easily reached for follow-up.
- Those seeking help have a comfortable and secure place to be at St. John's while also allowing other ministries at St. John's to carry on effectively.
- Appropriate paperwork for record keeping and follow-up is maintained by Team members

Team members will pray for God's help to enable them to be with those in need in a manner that:

- Shows honor, love, and respect
- Provides a safe and loving environment for hearing their needs
- Allows for God's guidance and discernment in how best to help
- Creates a feeling within those in need of God's grace and hope
- Opens hearts to God's love, embraces prayer, and an opening for invitation to be part of our Parish and worship

The Team will meet periodically to share how God is working through them and discuss new ideas and activities to fulfill our vision.

The Team will seek ways to share the experiences of service with others including parishioners at St. John's to bring glory to God's works and to encourage others to serve on the team.

SAMS Pantry – Share A Meal Service Pantry

Ministry Contact: Dana Pressnall (989-859-3756 / dpressnall53@gmail.com)

Activity: St. John's SAMS Pantry is an important member of the Midland County Food Assistance Network (MCFAN). The MCFAN is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization established in 1984 as a cooperative effort of area churches and other organizations to provide food and personal care supplies to people in Midland County. The network name changed from Midland County Emergency Food Panty Network (**MCEFPN**) to Midland County Food Assistance Network (**MCFAN**) in 2023 to better reflect the wide range of assistance the network provides. The network provides food through eight member pantries, but also assists through the Backpack Buddies Program, Community Outreach, Elderly Assistance, Emergency Boxes,

Medical Assistance Program, Mobile Food Pantry, and Student Assistance Program. St. John's has two members serving on the MCFAN board.

The MCFAN provides client screening and scheduling for the network pantries, including SAMS. The MCFAN pays for the food SAMS orders from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, provides many of the donated food items, and provides grocery gift certificates for clients.

SAMS Is a faith-based organization. Our volunteers include St. John's members and volunteers from the local community. Volunteer activities include:

- Assist clients in selection of food and personal care items from the SAMS shelves, refrigerators, and freezers. Clients select items to meet their family's needs for one week.
- Provide spiritual care including hospitality, a compassionate listening presence, and support to clients receiving food.
- Re-stock client shelves prior to client appointments
- Maintain food and personal care item inventory by ordering from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, transferring donated items from the MCFAN warehouse, making local purchases, and collecting church donations.
- Assist with receipt and processing of items from the National Letter Carriers annual food drive.
- Receive and store bi-weekly food deliveries from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan
- Pack food for monthly senior citizen boxes in April, May, June, and July. Other MCFAN pantries cover the other eight months.



St. John's volunteers established SAMS in 1984 as a ministry of St. John's to provide food and personal care items to people in need in the Midland area. It is one of eight member pantries in the Midland County Food Assistance Network (MCFAN). SAMS is currently open three days per week, Monday through Wednesday, and can serve up to fifteen families each week. SAMS serves about 35-40% of MCFAN clients. The MCFAN provides grocery gift certificates to clients based on family size so they can

purchase items that SAMS does not have in stock. The standard \$4,000 quarterly SJEC outreach payments to provide financial support for SAMS were not made in 2023 due to a sufficient balance in the SAMS checking account. Reports of donations directed into the SAMS checking account were not provided in 2023.

Giving Thanks To Our Many Helping Hands... Approximately 20 people share their time on behalf of the SAMS ministry. Just over one-third of this corps come from St. John's; the rest come from other churches and the Midland community. This number also includes St. John's office staff. Volunteers manage the pantry operation, maintain inventories, package and distribute food and personal care items to clients.



Pantry client volunteers greet clients and provide a listening and caring ear while helping them select items. Client volunteers count, bag items, and complete paperwork. Pantry restocking volunteers restock shelves from the SAMS and MCFAN warehouses prior to client

appointments. Other volunteers assist with procuring and storing items in the SAMS warehouse. SJEC office staff fax the daily client information from the MCFAN coordinator to the pantry.

Meijer Simply Give... Meijer sponsors several campaigns each year to provide gift card donations to local food pantries. During each Simply Give campaign, customers are encouraged



to purchase a \$10 Simply Give donation card upon checkout. Once purchased, the donation is converted into a Meijer Food-Only Gift Card and donated directly to the local food pantry selected by the store. Meijer makes a 100%

matching contribution, and 200% on certain bonus days. Meijer selected MCFAN during several campaigns in 2023. MCFAN divided the gift cards received between the member pantries. SAMS used these cards to purchase \$5,500 in food items from Meijer during 2023.

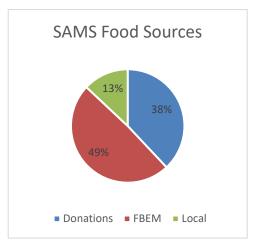
Unique gifts... SAMS received grocery store and restaurant gift cards from Sharing Tree. These are distributed based on instructions from the MCFAN Coordinator.

U-Pick Operations... SAMS continued to offer client appointments on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. A small but loyal group of volunteers made this happen. They are to be praised and thanked! Without their ingenuity and selfless service our neighbors in need would have gone hungry.

Inventory... In 2023, pantry inventory was maintained using donations to the MCFAN warehouse and SAMS, items purchased from the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM), and items from local purchases.

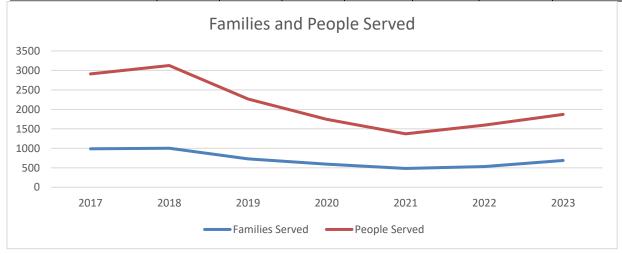
SAMS incoming inventory item counts:

- food and non-food donations = 18,087 (38%)
- FBEM purchases = 23,193 (49%)
- local purchases = 6,210 (13%)
- TOTAL = 47,490 items



2023 vs past six years...... 2023 saw an increase in the number of people and families served. This was true for all pantries in MCFAN, not just SAMS. This was especially true for the last 4 months of 2023.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Families Served	986	1,002	730	593	483	530	687
People Served	2,912	3,126	2,265	1,743	1,372	1,594	1869
Items Distributed	75,064	77,493	55,836	46,940	44,380	39,709	47,870



Throughout Midland, individuals, groups, organizations, and corporations held food drives for the Midland Food Assistance Network. The Network and our hungry neighbors are blessed by such generosity. The Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive was held in May. SAMS received approximately 3,300 items.

We thank all who help make SAMS a meaningful ministry. If you are interested in linking lives through Christ's love through any aspect of our food assistance ministry, please contact the Church Office at 989-631-2260.

2023 SAMS PANTRY OPERATING STATISTICS

Families served: 687 Representing: 1,869 people				
		From churches, organizations, schools, individuals made directly to SAMS		
Meijer Simply Give Donations	\$5,500	Meijer Simply Give gift cards		
FBEM purchases	\$22,145	Funded by MCFAN		
Gift certificates to clients	\$26,300	Funded by MCFAN		
Local purchases	\$5,500	Funded by Meijer Simply Give cards		
Local purchases	\$4,959	Funded from SAMS checking account		
Advent Gift Cards	\$1,000	Funded from SAMS checking account		

2023 COSTS FOR 503 SOUTH SAGINAW ROAD BUILDING

Rent	\$7,200
Utilities and Services	\$5,204
2023 TOTAL BUILDING COSTS	\$12,404

Dana Pressnall, SAMS Coordinator

St. Andrew's Flint

Ministry Contact: Dave Whisler (989-751-2747 / <u>dwhisler54@gmail.com</u>) and Jacques Randolet (989-835-9563 / <u>jacquesusa@charter.net</u>)

Activity: St John's Episcopal Church in Midland has partnered with St. Andrews Episcopal Church of Flint for over 12 years providing clothing, food and working in their soup kitchen alongside local volunteers. Father Jay Gantz's vison is "Feed my Sheep. They stive to bring the reality of God's mercy to the people of Flint's Eastside by feeding people spiritually, providing meals and ministering to those in recovery. St Andrews fellowship hall offers a safe place people can get out of the cold, have a warm meal, and free clothing.

Soup Kitchen -St Andrews currently serves lunch on Friday and Saturday mornings. They serve an average of 150 people every week. Food is prepared in their kitchen and served, treating people with kindness and respect. Showing mercy and compassion to our sisters and brothers in need. We have made many friends working together doing God's work. St John's volunteers serve in the soup kitchen 4-5 times a year during months with five Sundays. We also participate occasionally on Saturday serving lunch and handing out clothing.

Clothing - St. John's enjoys a partnership with The Open Door of Midland providing food,



clothing, boots, hats, and personal care needs. Our congregation has been very generous in giving of their clothing, bedding, and the basic need of socks throughout the year. Volunteers at St. Andrews help people find clothing during the soup kitchen

meals.



Jacques, others, and I enjoy the fellowship with the local people. We enjoy the warmth and heartfelt feelings of working with our friends in Flint. The need is great, and we feel blessed to be a part of helping others in the Flint area.

Vacation Bible School

Ministry Contact: Linda Germain (989-631-2260 / linda@sjec-midland.org)

Activity: Adult and youth volunteers offer activities, stories, and snacks.

Vacation Bible School returned in August as Change Makers Lab. Missy Harrison collaborated with Gina Malczewski from the American Chemistry Society of Midland to facilitate VBS. So many individuals came together to make these four wonderful days successful. Our actors for the daily skits were very entertaining and brought the children to laughter each day. The time machine and its "crazy professor" were a great source of amusement. The ACS of Midland provided four days of science experiments to test young and old minds on the basics of chemistry. We also enjoyed music time with our Joyful Noise instructors Angela Garcia and Jen Gruhzit.

Loving Neighbor... Pastoral Care

Funeral Reception Committee

Ministry Contact: Jan Marcou (989-835-3620 / janmarcou50@gmail.com)

Activity: The committee, a branch of St. Martha's Women's Guild, serves St. John's when it comes time to have a reception following a traditional funeral, celebration of life, or memorial service at the church. The ladies work with the family and Rector to provide a warm and loving atmosphere following the above-mentioned services. The funeral Reception Committee is open to all members of St. John's whether a member of St. Martha's Guild or not.

Pastoral Care Committee

Ministry Contact: Roni Rogers (989-859-6268 / veronicarogers184@gmail.com)

Activity: The Pastoral Care Committee serves as a resource and support to the congregation, and from time to time may offer opportunities to explore topics including healing, gifts, forgiveness, etc. In addition, the team encourages the "noticing" of needs for caring friendship as they have been developed by the congregation at large.

As of December 31, 2023, our committee membership is: The Rev. Alissa Anderson, Charles Bash, Faye Ebach, Jan Marcou, Pat Roush, Chris Esquivel & Veronica Rogers

<u>Visitation</u> to parishioners in senior housing facilities or respective homes occurs with contacting parishioners prior to each visit.

Monthly Meetings: Pastoral Care Committee were in-person meetings

The Pastoral Care Committee is committed to providing quality support leading to emotional and spiritual well-being. The pastoral care team is made up of people who know how to help in time of need. The clergy and lay volunteers (members listed above) are experienced in giving assistance in times of change. The Pastoral Care Committee can make appropriate referrals to when financial assistance is needed. Most pastoral ministries occur without record keeping and acknowledgment. It simply is the normal interaction of people who love Jesus and want to assist individuals who would be helped by a visit.

Activities: St. John's Episcopal Church had the blessings and service of Rev. James & Missy Harrison serving our parishioners from February 2021 – August 6, 2023. We were also blessed with the service of Rev. Curtis Roy Zimmerman who stepped in when Rev. Jim was recovering from an accident.

We are now blessed with the leadership of The Rev. Alissa G. Anderson and to participate in the Pastoral Care meetings. Together, with her husband, Josh; son, August-5; daughter, Avonlea-9 months began their journey in Midland on October 1, 2023.

A calligraphy set was donated to St. John's Episcopal Church from the Estate of Mair Alsgaard.

St. John's Parishioners that died in 2023:

Cynthia Kinnear 1.29.23 Dr. Betty Jones 3.28.23

Nellie Harrison 9.10.23 The Rev. Curtis Roy Zimmerman 10.12.23

The Rev. Michael Hoover Wilson 11.24.23

We invite any St. John's member to join our Pastoral Care Committee. It is worthwhile and personally rewarding to assist and letting our parish family and friends know that they are in our thoughts and prayers. Contact any Committee member and we will provide you with more information.

Submitted by: Veronica Rogers, Chairperson

Loving Neighbor . . . Fellowship

Loaves & Fishes

Ministry Contact: Bob Stoney (989-835-2494 / rlstoney@hotmail.com)

Activity: Loaves & Fishes is a fellowship opportunity for St. John's members to get to know one another in smaller groups, over a good meal. Groups of about 6-8 fellow parishioners are formed with an eye to shuffling participants as much as possible year to year, so you get to meet new folks. In a given year, each member or couple hosts a pot-luck dinner once for their group at their home or organizes a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Men of St. John's

Ministry Contact: Lee Smith (989-832-2440 / optimalvalue@att.net)

Activity: This group meets at a local restaurant (currently Big Boy on S. Saginaw) for breakfast on the first Monday of each month. All men of St. John's are invited to participate, whether they can make the breakfast gatherings or simply pitch in for special events the Men's Group decides to organize and/or lend their hands. Current events: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Quarterly brunches during coffee hour following the 10am service.

St. Martha's Ladies Guild

Ministry Contacts: Jan Marcou (989-430-2563 / janmarcou50@gmail.com) Tina Dasbach (989-430-7045 / ptkcdas@sbcgobal.net)



St. Martha's is a multi-functional ladies group open to all members of St. John's. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month September through June. Planning for the year begins in September.

Highlights in 2023:

Carole Adams coordinated the donation for "Life Clinic" in celebration of Mother's Day. Response was tremendous with over 215 items collected to help new mothers.

Carole Adams ordered a plaque in memory of Mair Alsgaard to be placed on the piano in Williams Hall. In Mair's memory, we continue to support Windover alternative high school with clothing, personal care items, and chef's hats that Anne Moll made.

In the fall, we provided a local teacher with some needed school supplies. We also signed up to provide treats quarterly following the 10:00 am service. We began brainstorming for our silent auction. Thanks to the generosity of many, we raised over \$400 dollars and enjoyed some fun with the final winners announced at the luncheon on the Sunday before Christmas. Thanks to the generous donation of a special member, several of us enjoyed a holiday concert in December at Midland Center for the Arts. We sent gift cards to the college students to provide a little cheer before finals. At Christmas time we donated to SAMS Pantry to honor the staff at St. John's.

Other activities include providing food and workers for funeral luncheons, a prayer beads workshop, sending birthday cards to members, staying connected with our college students, and planting flowers by the Columbarium. We also supported the Welcome Committee, Animal Shelter, and SAMS Pantry.

Although we coordinate various projects throughout the year, we could not do them without the contributions we receive from the congregation. We appreciate all the support.

With Everything We've Got . . . Parish Support

Building and Grounds Committee

Ministry Contact: Jerry Nielsen (989-631-7027/jerrymargo@charter.net)

Activity: This Committee oversees the maintenance of the church building and the property, including all gardens. Bids are obtained for maintenance, repairs, and recommendations of vendors to provide work at St. John's. Long-term projects are also prioritized.

The Building & Grounds committee is made up of six volunteers, Jerry Nielson, Dave Whistler, Ralph Rye, Gordon Roush, Bill Kent, and John Marcou from St. John's including one Vestry member, Bill Kent and our sexton, Nick Lothian. Our goal is to maintain the church building and grounds. We present a budget to the Vestry that we adhere to, as close as possible, to maintain our church. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am in the McNab room.

These are sample projects that we believe make operations of our church run smoother and safer. We discuss and vote on projects that help support the daily operations of St. John's. We keep the safety and security of the church and those who use the building and grounds as a function of our committee.

Sample projects of work from our committee in 2023 include:

- We worked with the City of Midland to coordinate the drainage and planting of new trees on the out lawn on Saginaw Road.
- Received a quote from Artisans Landscaping of Auburn to 1) relandscape the south side [St. Andrews] underneath church windows and along brick facing of the church building [work to begin, Spring 2024]; 2) a second quote was offered by Artisans Landscaping to relandscape the cloister garden. This project has vestry approval; however, it will need direction and assistance by members of the parish community to move forward.
- Prioritized major capital expenditures over the next 3 years with the finance/investment committee with approval of the vestry.
- Contracted with Kawkawlin Roofing to start Phase 2 of the Church roofing project in the spring of 2024.

Office Support

Ministry Contact: Ellen Woodard (989-631-2260 / office@sjec-midland.org)

Activity: Morning and/or afternoon volunteers help in the parish office. Activities could include any of the following:

- Answering phones routing phones calls; handling requests for financial assistance; processing food pantry orders.
- Handling foot traffic into the office.
- Processing the monthly Epistle mailing folding, and labeling, stamping and stuffing envelopes for the approximately 40 snail-mailed copies.
- Processing other periodic mailings.
- Other miscellaneous office duties as directed by the Administrative Assistant.

Volunteers are welcome to assist and are especially needed and appreciated to cover the office so the Administrative Assistant is able to take some time off periodically throughout the year.

Vestry

Ministry Contact: Rev. Alissa G. Anderson (989-631-2260 / alissa@sjec-midland.org)

<u>Activity</u>: The St. John's Vestry consists of between 9 and 12 members who are elected for 3-year terms and who are the agents and legal representatives of the parish in all matters concerning its property and the relations of the parish to its Rector, the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America.

The officers of the Vestry are two Co-Wardens (members of the Vestry elected by the Vestry for a term of one year), a Vestry Clerk (member of the Vestry elected by the Vestry), a Treasurer (member of the parish elected by the Vestry), and other officers as the Vestry may determine.

The Vestry meets monthly, on the third Tuesday of the month or as determined by the Vestry, and at other times when a meeting is deemed necessary.

The duties of the Vestry are:

- Stewardship of parish finances
- Stewardship of parish buildings
- Choosing individuals to fill various positions of parish leadership and representation, including nominating individuals for the Vestry, Endowment Committee, and as delegates to Diocesan Convention, and the election of a Rector
- Regular participation in parish worship
- Attendance at Vestry, annual, and special meetings of the parish
- Availability to members of the parish to address questions and concerns

- Work with the Rector to develop a strategic plan for the parish
- Establish and support committees deemed essential or conducive to strengthening parish life
- Approve parish mission, vision, welcoming, and other official statements
- Oversee parish communications

Worship Committee

Ministry Contact: Rev. Alissa G. Anderson (989-631-2260 / alissa@sjec-midland.org)

Mission: To advise and collaborate with the Rector on all things liturgical and related to worship at St. John's, with all final decision regarding the liturgy being made by the Rector.

Activity: The committee meets monthly to discuss, plan, and review Christmas, Holy Week and Easter, and other special services throughout the church year.

Stewardship Committee

Ministry Contact: Gail Hoffman (gailhoffmanhome@gmail.com)

The Stewardship Committee is chaired by a Vestry member and constituted *ad hoc* annually to organize and conduct the Fall Commitment Program (FCP). Ann Wright, Bob Stony, Gail Hoffman, Jesse Donahue, Lee Smith, Lynn Pottenger, Mark McCartney, Roni Rogers, and Toshia Albright served during the 2023-2024 year. Gail Hoffman, Vestry, chaired; Chris Lauckner was a frequent visitor.

The Stewardship Committee began its fall campaign with an organizing meeting on August 27. Co-warden Deb Blackhurst opened with a prayer and then explained that stewardship is a discipline within the church, a time of renewal of our hearts and minds for discernment about how we serve the Kingdom of God vs. the secular world. Gail followed with an introduction to the 2023-2024

TENS theme:

Rooted

Abundance

Our generosity is informed by the simple theological truth that God has blessed us infinitely with all the gifts of Creation. Our lives, our labor, our love is devoted to the mission of the Church when we take stock and realize that our lives and our response to God's generosity are Rooted in Abundance.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussing strategies, goals, and action items: the September 17 kick-off speech with enhanced coffee hour, updating pledge cards, drafting thankyou letters and cards for use during the campaign, updating the time/talent survey, and creating awareness of St. John's financials including the operating budget.

The *Rooted in Abundance* theme was regularly communicated during the fall by including *Stewardship Weekly Reflections* in the weekly Bulletins and in the October and November *Epistles*. To further emphasize the RIA theme, an "apple tree" (graphic) was placed in Williams Hall. Each pledge resulted in the addition of a red apple to the tree. It was interesting to note the weekly changes as the campaign unfolded. To add an individualized touch and encourage pledges of time and talent, Committee members gave bi-weekly 2-minute testimonials during both the 8am and 10am services. A signed thank-you note from the chair was sent to each pledge unit.

The Committee met regularly throughout the campaign. During the September 17 meeting, members reviewed progress toward goals and stuffed envelopes with the Stewardship Committee Letter and pledge cards for the kick-off mailing on September 18. On October 8 Vestry members Bill Kent and Gail Hoffman hosted a 2nd Sunday Sharing focused on the FCP. It provided an opportunity for parishioners to learn more about the campaign and to ask questions. The Committee met again on October 15 to review progress toward goals and to stuff envelopes for the second mailing: (1) "How Can I Share My Time and Talent at St. John's?" with a half-note message (2) We are inspired to give because so much has been given to us. There are so many ways that all of us can share our time, talent, and treasure.

The FCP was concluded on November 19. The Men's Group prepared and served a delicious brunch; Rev. Alissa Anderson, Co-Warden Deb Blackhurst, and Stewardship Chair Gail Hoffman expressed their gratitude to those present for what has been shared in time, talent, and treasure.

The final meeting of the Stewardship Committee was held on December 3. The purpose was two-fold: (1) To individually sign notes of appreciation for every parishioner, whether they pledged or not, as a closing gesture for the 2023-2024 Campaign and (2) To debrief and discuss what we could do better. Discussion included the following:

• How do our pledge statistics compare to this time last year (formal end of campaign)?

- Chris provided a brief update on pledges. To date, seventy pledge units promised \$136,455.
- Chris asked the committee for feedback on this year's theme and metrics. There was agreement on the overall effectiveness of the theme, and some discussion was had about using other graphics to illustrate progress toward the goal. Specifically, a thermometer-like graphic was suggested.

• Observations from our Reverend:

- Alissa shared her thoughts on getting the budget and stewardship started earlier in the year, as early as July.
- She reinforced the importance of effective communication throughout the process and underscored the importance of regular updates on progress toward the goal.
- She advocated that the Rector and Vestry complete their pledge before the official launch of the Fall Stewardship Campaign as a sign of their commitment.
- Evaluating Our Campaign: It is about more than the financial performance of our campaign:

o Gail will write a summary of the Fall Stewardship Campaign for the 2023 Annual Report, including participation rate, total pledges, and a comparison to last year's numbers. The report will also highlight how many volunteers identified themselves for engagement in ministry.

Pledge Statistics as of December 18, 2023:

	FCP 2022	FCP 2023	FCP 2024	Change from
				Last Year
Total Pledging Households	65	68	66	-2
Total Pledge \$\$ (Operating)	\$176,745.00	\$183,685.00	\$196,170.00	\$12,485.00 (6.7%)
Average Pledge per Household	\$ 2,719.15	\$2,701.25	\$2,972.27	\$271.02

Note: In the FCP reporting above, total pledges and amounts only represent those intended for St. John's general operating Pledges.

A total of twenty-eight people responded to the time/talent survey indicating an interest in ministry. The Stewardship Committee is indebted to Ellen Woodward, Church Administrative Assistant, for her invaluable support of the FCP. We also wish to express our gratitude to Colleen O'Dell, Church Bookkeeper, for providing updates on pledging when requested.

Finance Committee

Ministry Contact: Lowell Youngquist (989-941-9607/<u>lorrimer@sbcglobal.net</u>)

Activity: Committee is comprised of SJEC members with backgrounds in accounting, finance, investments, management, and/or insurance. Recent committee work includes participating in the annual budget setting process; development of recommendations for endowment draws; updating Investment Policy Statement for SJEC. Also, SJEC Finance/Investment Committee held regular quarterly meetings with our investment firm representative, BNY Mellon – Cara Wood thru April of 2023 and Jason Adams (May – Dec of 2023), to review quarterly and year to date performance against agreed upon benchmarks in the SJEC Investment Policy.

Members of the Committee in 2023 were Charles Bash, Eric Carlson, Paul Dasbach, and Lowell Youngquist (Chairman/Treasurer). Eric Carlson served on the committee in 2023 as the Vestry representative. Rev. Alissa Anderson, Chris Lauckner SJEC Administrator, Colleen O'Dell bookkeeper (June thru December of 2023) were invited to attend, and they continued to provide their important contributions in helping to track the finances of St. John's. Although John Marcou is not a member of the Finance Committee, he graciously continues to help us with his expertise on insurance matters. Many thanks to all for their contributions.

The plan for 2024 is to continue to meet virtually or in person each quarter.

Work accomplished by the Committee in 2023 was:

- Met quarterly with our representative from BNY Mellon to review the status of the St. John's endowment funds against benchmarks in SJEC Investment Policy.
 Presently,
 underperforming benchmarks with present conservative, value based, portfolio mix.
- Prepared draw recommendations from Endowments for the Vestry in 2023 and 2024.
- Moved Money Market account from Horizon Bank to BNY savings account at the request of Vestry. Still in progress adjusting movement of Investment yield to best location (Horizon checking account)
- Reviewed financial statements of SJEC, Spending vs Budget
- Worked with Chris Lauckner and Jerry Nielson Chairman of Building and Grounds Committee to determine how best to finance on a yearly basis the 3 year proposed infrastructure spending plan for sustaining a 70 year old building.
- Updated and received approval from Vestry in October of 2023 for St. John's Revised Investment Policy that had not been updated since 2017 allowing draws up to 6% per year to cover budgeted dollars for Operations and Non-Operations Expenditures, not covered by pledges.
- Formed a Budget sub-committee (Toshia Albright, Charles Bash, Chris Lauckner, Lee Smith, and Lowell Youngquist) at the request of Vestry in October. Reported back at the November and December 2023, and January 2024 Vestry meetings to recommend a Draft 2024 Budget for Vestry review, which was approved at the January 2024 Vestry meeting.

Work scheduled for 2024 is to continue a quarterly review of the investment performance of the endowment funds and to do a long-term projection of the balances held in the endowment funds.

2023 Year End Statement (Actuals vs Budget)

Category	%	2024 Bdgt.	2023 Actuals	2023 Bdgt.	Budget Change
Sources of Revenue for 2024 vs 2023					
Membership Revenue	19	221,866	\$217,038	209,551	12,315
Endow Draws for Non Oper/Oper Budgets	57	677,860	809,257	861,755	183,895
Misc. Revenue Sources	3	25,323	24,263	19,517	5,806
Endow Draw Bldg Infrastructure (RDD and VG)	12	140,000	0	0	140,000
Cloister Garden (\$100K) – 30% Fund Raiser	3	30,000	0	0	30,000
Prior 2023 Endowment Draws in Savings (Roof)	6	75,000	0	89,505	-14,505
Total Revenue Sources	100	1,170,049	1,050,558	1,179,823	- 9,774
Expenses					
Salary and Benefits (3% Pay raise)	43	506,370	430,344	496,632	9,738
Operating /Non Exp	22	263,959	353,336	265,499	-1,540
Outreach (Reduced Grants from \$183 to 60K)	14	164,296	248,829	303,533	139,237
Infrastructure (Roof, WH Floor/Bathrooms, etc)	21	245,000	89,505	60,000	185,000
Overbudget					
Total Expense	100	1,179,625	1,122,014	1,125,664	

2024 Annual Budget (To be provided at annual meeting)

