

# *St John's Episcopal Church*

415 South Lexington Arlington, Virginia 22204

## **Annual Meeting Rescheduled to 3 p.m. Sunday, February 8, 2026**



### **Opening Prayer**

**Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us who take counsel this day for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **AGENDA**

**2025 Ministry Reports Received by Acclamation for Parish Archive**

**2025 Financial Report and 2026 Budget Presented**

Peter Olivere

**Rector's Report, including Actions of the Vestry**

The Reverend Julie D. Bryant

**Minister for Congregational Vitality, Diocese of Virginia**

**Presentation and Counsel**

The Reverend Shirley Smith Graham

**Ministry Reports and Financial Reports begin on the next page.**

## **2025 Ministry Reports**

### **Senior Warden's Message**

St. John's parish owes its accomplishments this year to the dedicated efforts of its members. Our collective learning curve was varied but our hearts and spirit were in the right place. We can take what we've learned this year to guide us into the future.

*Submitted by Christine Williams*

### **Deacon's Report for St. John's**

I have worked to support the parish over the past year in multiple areas, including in its relationship with the Glencarlyn neighborhood. Activity around the Little Free Food Pantry (LFFP) has been a key focus in this regard. I have been a back-up to the lay organizers, placed orders to restock, written thank-you notes for donations, and taken unneeded items to AFAC. I have also arranged for the LFFP to be included in the next update of Arlington County's food assistance flyer, which lists available resources for people in need. Besides the LFFP, I have taken part in all other community outreach activities, including stepping in for the rector at the Blessing of the Animals in October and at the carol sing in December. I also initiated an annual service project to craft valentines for the residents of Sunrise at Bluemont, an assisted-living facility where a parishioner now lives.

- With regard to the life of the parish, I supported the working group that developed the collaboration agreement between St. John's and St. Patrick's. In addition, I engaged in all of the parish's spiritual formation activities as well as fellowship. During Lent, I led a session on lament for the formation series on prayer. In the fall, for the series on liturgy, I provided a tutorial about the church calendar and the process for amending it. The latter topic was based on my own experience in November, when I presented a resolution to the diocesan Annual Convention proposing additions to the calendar. (Our diocese passed the resolution and so it will now go to General Convention for consideration in 2027.) I also preached approximately monthly, led Morning Prayer when the rector was away, and took part in the Breathing Space gatherings on Sunday evenings.

*Submitted by the Reverend Mary E. Cushing, Deacon*

### **AFAC Support**

The people of St. John's again continued supporting the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) food pantry with contributions of food, money, and labor in 2024, but the amount of food goods donated and financial contributions were less in 2025 than in 2024, perhaps because of the effort being put into the Little Free Food Pantry and also because there was no Thanksgiving drive for AFAC at the church. In 2025 parishioners gave AFAC \$300 in financial donations through the church (\$150 less than in 2024) and a modest quantity in pounds of food goods.

A team of volunteers from St. John's continued to bag produce and staples at the AFAC

warehouse on the second Friday of every other month. Thank you to Dave Dunlap, Pete Olivere, Sandy Winger, Lynn Robinson, Christine Williams, Robert Herman, Virginia Pearson, Kevin McWeiner, and Bill and Faye Pritchard, Deacon Mary Cushing, and our Rector, Julie Bryant, who have all helped as part of our volunteer team.

Our challenge in 2026 is to increase our contributions of food and financial assistance, especially since the need has grown. AFAC fed over 4,200 families each week in 2025, an increase of about 900 families over 2024. Getting the Thanksgiving Drive up and running in 2026 should help.

*Submitted by Faye Pritchard*

### **Bailey's Crossroads Shelter Lunches**

On the third Sunday of each month attendees at the morning service gather in the undercroft to pack bag lunches for Bailey's Shelter and Supportive Housing. Special thanks go to Sandy Winger, who coordinates this service and buys food supplies using church funds, and to Marshall and Ginger Adair, who most often deliver the packed lunches to the shelter. The Bailey's Shelter is open 24/7 and provides 48 beds for adult men and women and 4 medical respite beds for homeless adults discharged from the hospital, as well as services that include case management, employment assistance, housing assistance, meals, a day program and connection to community services.

*Submitted by Faye Pritchard*

### **Buildings & Grounds**

The Building and Grounds Committee accomplished multiple tasks. Within the church buildings, Christine Williams, Lynn Robinson, Rev Julie Bryant, and OAR workers cleaned out rooms and closets to create organized and inviting spaces. The Vestry generated to do lists. Pete Olivere secured basic maintenance repair including tasks required to pass the fire safety inspection.

Externally, Christine Williams monitored the gutter clean out to alleviate the water filling the window wells causing pooling in the undercroft. Lin Novak, Louisa Bennett, Christine Williams, Rev Julie Bryant and OAR workers weeded the flower beds, removed debris and completed general lawn care. We used an outside company to mulch in the spring but realized it was not cost effective hence the return to OAR workers and volunteers for groundwork.

Three grant applications were submitted to reduce the drainage issues on the grounds including parking lot. EcoAction has planted shrubbery and trees on the main property beside the church and around the parking lot. An agreement with the neighbors using the asphalt parking pad alongside the parking lot was negotiated by Christine Williams and Rev Julie Bryant.

*Submitted by Christine Williams and Pete Olivere*

## **Communications**

The primary communications vehicles at St. John's are the Weekly Update email and the LOGOS newsletter. The Weekly Update highlights upcoming events and both new and ongoing announcements. LOGOS is published bimonthly and primarily distributed by email. The newsletter includes articles about congregational news and events, a Words on Hymns column written by Carol Dunlap, and a Parish News feature. Coverage also includes announcements about joint St. John's and St. Patrick's activities. Lisa Pope serves as LOGOS editor.

Communications updates are also posted on the St. John's website at [www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org](http://www.stjohnsarlingtonva.org). The website features the message that "We welcome children of God of all races and nations who are young and old, gay and straight, rich and poor, believing and doubting. You have a home with us." Other features include news items, a Calendar of Events, details on worship services and parish life, information for visitors, information about the Little Free Food Pantry, and a link to make online donations to St. John's via PayPal. Peter Olivere serves as St. John's Webmaster.

Brief announcements about outreach activities and upcoming events are included each week in the Worship Bulletin. In addition, St. John's periodically runs an ad in the Glencarlyn Village View newsletter and posts special signs about upcoming events outside the church. Through all of St. John's communications forums, the goal is to reach parishioners and community members with news of parish life and the many ways they can worship and participate in activities and ministries at St. John's.

*Submitted by Lisa Pope*

## **Little Free Food Pantry**

Use of St. John's Little Free Food Pantry, which was set up near the end of 2024, increased throughout 2025. Sandra Winger, Patricia Broida, Susan Thompson, Eileen Tallent, Barbara Olivere, Faye Pritchard and Bill Pritchard took separate days of the week to make sure the pantry was properly stocked from the contributions of food left by the community. Deacon Mary Cushing and parishioner Faye Pritchard ordered \$979 in additional food online, using financial contributions from both parishioners (\$880) and the greater community (\$385).

Since a Little Free Food Pantry operates informally, it is difficult to measure its use or in-kind contributions of food goods, but it seems that both use and contributions increased throughout the year. However, there have been times throughout the year when the supply of food seemed to lag behind demand. In addition, the number of St. John's volunteers stocking the pantry does not have any depth so that any health issues with one or two volunteers can put a strain on keeping the pantry properly stocked. St. John's plans to reach out to the Glencarlyn Community in 2026 for help and suggestions in meeting these challenges.

*Submitted by Faye Pritchard*

## **Music Ministry Report**

### Ministry Overview and Participants

The music ministry at St. John's continued to serve as a cornerstone of our liturgical life throughout 2025. As organist, my primary focus has been providing a prayerful atmosphere through preludes, occasional postludes, and the accompaniment of congregational hymnody in coordination with the Rector Dr. Julie Bryant and Deacon Mary Cushing. We are grateful for the dedication of the congregation that sings to enhance our worship. Highlights of this past year were the expansion of the congregation's repertoire to include a few pieces outside of the Hymnal 1982 and the piano-accompanied solo vocal performances at Easter and Christmas by parishioner Lynn Robinson.

### Next Plans and Future Goals

Looking ahead to 2026, we aim to expand our repertoire to include more ecumenical hymns and worship music to accommodate the diverse Christian background of the Congregation. It would be fruitful for the congregation to make more recommendations for hymns that they would like to use in worship that are currently not a part of our repertoire.

### Challenges and Stewardship

Our primary challenge continues to be the accommodation of the congregation's preferences for sacred music from diverse traditions. While some parishioners are lifelong Episcopalians, others come from various Christian churches with different musical traditions. Regarding our instruments, the organ is an electric Allen organ which requires very little maintenance compared to a wind-supplied pipe organ. However, it will be important to consider that the fidelity and integrity of an electric organ's sound is wholly reliant on speakers. Speakers have a useful service life, and this could pose a financial need in the near future to allow the instrument to serve St. John's for decades to come. The upright Yamaha piano requires little maintenance beyond occasional tuning and is in excellent condition. Finally, the Hymnal 1982 accompaniment editions are showing significant wear and will likely need to be replaced soon.

*Submitted by Organist Zane Price*

## **OAR - Offender Aid and Restoration**

The OAR program was reorganized late in the year. OAR participants worked with parishioners to support improvements to the building and grounds. Additionally, workers supported parishioners during the Christmas mini bazaar.

*Submitted by Christine Williams*

## **School Supplies Drive**

Each August the people of St. John's gather school supplies for Carlin Springs Elementary School, contributing what the school lists as its most needed supplies, a fact that was noted in the school's thank-you letter for 2025: "Your gift of a wide variety of our most needed school supplies has already made a meaningful difference for our students."

Carlin Springs is both a Title I school and a Community School that relies on a partnership with individuals and community organizations like St. John’s to provide extra support for their students’ educational, social, emotional, and health needs.

Thank you to all who contributed financially – \$195 for the drive this year – and to Faye Pritchard, who coordinated and used the contributions to buy supplies that filled in any gaps.  
*Submitted by Faye Pritchard*

### Treasurer’s Report – Financials 2025 and Budget for 2026

Below is a summary of the 2025 budget and actuals and the 2026 budget:

	2025 Budget*	2025 Actual	Difference	% of Budget	2026 Budget
<b>Income</b>					
Pledges	\$74,500	\$90,389	\$15,889	121%	\$64,550
Plate	2,700	1,610	-1,090	60%	1,400
Other Contributions	1,600	450	-1,150	28%	0
Building fees	33,040	32,940	-100	100%	33,040
Other Income	2,775	1,945	-830	70%	1,875
Total Income	\$114,615	\$127,334	\$12,719	111%	\$100,865
<b>Expenses*</b>					
Clergy Related	\$67,988	\$68,602	614	101%	\$70,747
Staff Related	26,343	24,877	-1,466	94%	26,650
Facilities Related	20,788	18,750	-2,038	90%	24,496
Other	10,132	10,719	587	106%	10,287
Total Expenses	\$125,251	\$122,948	-\$2,303	98%	\$132,179
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-\$10,636</b>	<b>\$4,386</b>	<b>\$15,022</b>	<b>-41%</b>	<b>-\$31,314</b>

\*Expenses include non-designated minus net of designated

#### Highlights

The budget for 2025 projected a deficit \$10.6 thousand. Largely because of an unexpected significant one-time contribution in the pledged amount, we ended the year with \$15 thousand in income over expenses. The proposed budget for 2026 has a deficit of \$31.3 thousand. The 2025 differences from the budget and changes for 2026 are summarized below.

#### Income

Contributions – The table below shows that the pledge and plate have been dropping significantly over the past several years. This is because we have lost members and others need to reduce their support because of changes in their financial situation .

The budget for 2026 reflects the pledge amounts submitted by all the members. As described above, the reasons for the downward trend continue in 2026.

(in thousands)	2022	2023	2024	2025	Budget 2026
Budgeted Pledge and Plate	\$89.2	\$81.4	\$71.5	\$77.2	\$66.0
Actual Pledge and Plate*	\$92.6	\$88.7	\$74.6	\$92.0	

Building –Revenue from the use of the building represents one third of the income. We are fortunate to have the Seventh Day Adventist’s congregation using our space on Friday evenings and Saturdays. Almost all of the building revenue is from them.

## Expenses

Clergy – The increase for 2026 reflects the Diocese’s recommended 3% cost of living increase and a 5.8% increase in the health care premiums.

Staff – The total staff cost is \$26.7 thousand and covers the sexton, the organist and Deacon Cushing. St. John’s continues to operate without an administrative person. Although a few members of the congregation are covering some of the duties performed by the parish administrator, most duties are either being left undone or are being performed by the rector. There are no plans to refill that position in 2026. Considerable more support from other members of the congregation is needed to perform these activities.

The amount budgeted for the organist is the same as the 2025 budget. We are providing a small increase for the sexton, the first in several years. Deacon Cushing is provided a very small stipend and is reimbursed for the cost of select activities.

## Financial Position

<b>Assets (1)</b>	<b>End of 2024</b>	<b>End of 2025</b>
Checking and Certificates of Deposit	\$48,699	\$53,712
Money Market	13,922	14,509
Unrestricted	157,139	182,656
Restricted King fund for RDF	22,663	25,230
Other assets	2,700	251
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>245,123</b>	<b>276,358</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>\$4,581</b>	<b>\$3,138</b>
<b>Assets minus Liabilities</b>	<b>\$240,542</b>	<b>\$273,220</b>

(1) Assets above include only funds, not the building, grounds or contents.  
The market value of all the investments increased by \$28 thousand during 2025.

The Vestry approved the budget for 2026.

*Report submitted by Peter Olivere, Treasurer on January 26, 2026*

