

Amens & Alleluias

St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree

1151 Elm Savannah Road, Hopkins, SC 29061

10:30 am - Celebrating Holy Eucharist Rite 1 on Sundays; celebrating Holy Eucharist Rite II last Sunday of each month

Phone: 803.776.9292 - Website: www.stjohnscongarree.net – Office email: stjohnscongarree@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT

We, as members of St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree, are an open, caring, nurturing community, committed to living the Word of God by witnessing through Christ and growing in grace through prayer, fellowship, education and service.

NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2024

From the Rector's Desk – November 2024

Dear friends,

Happy Homecoming week! There is such a wonderful energy around this event – the Spirit moves so freely as this community prepares to do what it does best. I am thrilled that we have been able to invite old, current, and new friends to join us in worship and in eating BBQ as we have done for so many years. Thank you to everyone who has helped to make it happen. From chopping wood, to ordering meat, to baking desserts, to setting up tables, to ordering coleslaw, to making sauce – folks have really stepped up and *I am so thankful* for all of you.

November is, of course, a time of gratitude.

I am thankful for this Diocese and The Episcopal Church. Please pray for the Diocese and St. John's delegates as we meet from November 8-9 at Diocesan Convention. Please pray for The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe as he is installed as our new Presiding Bishop on November 2.

I am thankful for this nation where all of our voices matter. As we prepare to join the whole country in a day of Thanksgiving at the end of the month, we are also keenly aware of a national election that will happen next week. The Very Rev. Dane Boston, Dean of Trinity Cathedral, has invited all clergy and lay people in this diocese to join Trinity in a prayer vigil in observance of our national election. It will run from Monday Nov. 4 at 6:30 with The Great Litany, remain open overnight and all day on Tuesday, and then conclude on Tuesday Nov. 5 at 6:30 with Choral Evensong. The event is strictly non-partisan and all people are welcome.

I am thankful for Trinity for opening its doors for this important ministry. Though we all are careful to live out our faith in non-partisan terms, we also endeavor to pray for our nation, its leaders, and for the peace and welfare of the world. I encourage you to drop in at Trinity on your way to or from the polls on November 5 for a time of prayer. See the Happenings email for more information.

I am thankful for your loving witness to the ministry of Jesus Christ in a turbulent and conflict-ridden world. I am proud of this community for staying committed to the Gospel instead of national political parties and for always acting with respect.

I am thankful that our Creator has blessed us with abundance and bounty this season. As we load up our plates on Homecoming and on Thanksgiving, let us always remember with gratitude the incredible miracle we have in our Lord. I pray that you will find rest and express your gratitude to those around you this month – we need it more than ever.

God's peace, Katie+



SUNDAY MORNING FORUM

Rev. Katie and Lisa Clarkson began leading 9 sessions of Episcopal Church 101 on October 13! The sessions are being held from 9-10:15 each Sunday. Topics include: Introduction, Book of Common Prayer, Church History, Church Year with sacraments, colors and liturgy, Global Anglican Community, Social Issues and Spirituality. These classes will be helpful to anyone who wishes to be confirmed or would like a refresher course on the church. The remaining opportunities to attend are Sundays, November 10, 17 & 24, and December 8, 15 & 22. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. If you have been unable to attend thus far, please join us when you can.

STEWARDSHIP SEASON

Julie Claytor, Chair

We have had a wonderful response during our stewardship season. If you have already sent in your pledge card for 2025 thank you for your support of St. John's. Your response to God's generosity will help our church remain healthy and continue His work in our church and community. If you are still considering your 2025 pledge, we ask that you fill out your pledge card and send it through the mail or put it in the collection plate at church as soon as possible. The Finance Committee and vestry will use this information to plan for 2025. You can find extra pledge cards in the church narthex or call the church office.

Thank you, again, for your continued support of St. John's through your time, talents, and resources.

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 7, 2024

- John Davis and David, his protégé, have continued to make repairs on the outside of the church, and Patrick Sullivan, our painter, has been contacted to come in to paint.
- There doesn't appear to be any storm damage on any of our buildings.
- RE the "Little Free Library" Gadsden project: There is a Matthew 25 grant available from the diocese. Julie Claytor will take care of the paper work to be submitted by October 31. Three thousand dollars is the maximum award which can be used to purchase books or the materials to construct the library.
- Julie Claytor reported that the Stewardship Committee has mailed letters with pledge cards. All pledge cards received will be blessed at the altar on November 3.
- Plans for Homecoming weekend were discussed and the rector is looking forward to another special day at St. John's.
- The meeting concluded with Compline.
- The next meeting will be November 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Attention church leaders and committee chairs: Please begin thinking about what you plan to submit for your annual report. Your report will be due by November 20 so that the information can be compiled for distribution to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for December 1st. Please send your report via email to the church office at stjohnscongargee@gmail.com. Thank you for your kind attention!

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

In October, the Hospitality Committee assisted in providing a lunch reception following the memorial service for Thomas Carros, Lisa Clarkson's father. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed not only food but also compassion and kindness to the family during this difficult time.

Looking ahead, our committee members will be ready to assist at this year's Homecoming BBQ on November 3rd. We hope to see you there!

If you have any needs the Hospitality Committee could help with, please do not hesitate to reach out. Additionally, if you feel called to volunteer in this special ministry, we would love to have you join us!

Thank you,
Debbie Davis, 803-622-2929
rdandz@gmail.com

GADSDEN MINISTRY

Gadsden Backpack Project

Donations for the Gadsden Backpack program were suspended during October when we asked you to bring books to stock our "little library" that we are placing on the school grounds. Nevertheless, we continued to support the program with our yearly pledges through the "Mission and Outreach" budget item. Being November, we now are ready to accept additional donations to fill the bags each week. Each week we give 20 students 18 items: 5 meals, 5 drinks, 2 breakfasts, 3 fruits, and 3 snacks. Suggested items can be found using this link:

<https://www.stjohnscongaree.net/ministries>

Your donations are important and appreciated. Remember to check to see if assistance is needed to pack the bags on Sunday. The pantry is set up to make this process easy and quick. Thank you all.

Gadsden Elementary Little Free Library

A big thank you goes to everyone who contributed to our October book drive. We now have a good supply of children's books that we will use to stock the Gadsden Elementary Little Free Library. We will also be able to buy some new books for the library with the monetary donations. Our goal with this ministry is to encourage the love of reading in the Gadsden students by putting books into their hands. We hope to have the library installed and ready for use by the end of November.

St. John's will make sure that the Little Free Library always has books for the students to choose from. That being said, donations of money or books appropriate for children between the ages of 3 and 12 will be accepted at any time. Thank you for your part in the success of the students at Gadsden Elementary.

On our website (www.stjohnscongaree.net) go to the Ministries page for more information.

ALTAR GUILD

Director – Lisa Clarkson

Please consider joining this important ministry and call Lisa at 803.237.2892.

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov 3-Rita & Altar Guild; Nov 10-Julie & Frank Claytor; Nov 17-Sara & Lloyd Ash; Nov 24-Rita McCaskill & Betsy Cate

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in Zion Hall for those who wish to donate flowers on a given Sunday in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Please fill out your information completely. If you are unable to sign up, please send an email to the church office at stjohnscongaree@gmail.com. The cost is \$45. Your check should be made payable to St. John's Congaree. Here is a list of dates that have been requested for giving flowers as well as dates available:

November 3 – Vestry (Homecoming); November 10, 17 & 24 – Available for donation

NEWS FROM YOUR ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The ECW meeting was October 27 following covered dish luncheon in Zion Hall. Here are highlights and available opportunities. Your efforts contribute to our success in fulfilling our budget for the year. Our humble thanks!

- Contributions and donations of goods helped to make the October bake/craft sale a huge success. We collected \$1000+ to apply to our outreach projects. Thanks and blessings to everyone, especially the family and staff at Mr. Bunky's Store for sharing their space with us and our dedicated women!
- Sallie's Garden is spruced up and will be beautiful for Homecoming. Thank you, Fran and Betsy and others who have contributed.
- We plan to set up and decorate Zion Hall in preparation for Homecoming activities on Saturday, November 2 at 10am. "Many hands make light work." Please join us.
- The ECW will sponsor a "Pounding" shower for Katie and Garrett on Saturday, January 11 at 11am. Please plan to attend this fun event honoring Katie and Garrett.
- Members of the ECW will acquire information from Women's Shelter and Gadsden School for outreach programs to include the Christmas "Adopt Families" projects.
- The next ECW meeting will be held on Sunday, November 24 following covered dish luncheon. This change is to accommodate the Adult Forum.
- Congratulations to Julie Claytor who was nominated and elected president of the ECW for 2025. Thank you, Julie.

Peace and Love, Louise Barker, Rita McCaskill, Fran Burnett and Mary Ann Hiott

THE GOOD NEWS GRAPEVINE

Tegan Floyd celebrated her 4th birthday on October 17th. She had a birthday party at Cottle Strawberry Farm – birthday fun! Happy birthday Tegan! Her big brother, Ayden Floyd, recently received his driver's learning permit. Exciting milestones for both. Thank you, St. Johns, for keeping them in your prayers as they continue to grow.

Cooper Floyd's fall ball team won their championship game! He also came in second for youth division in the Herndon Lacerne fishing tournament.

If you have news about yourself or your family you wish to share for the December newsletter, please send it to the church office no later than November 20th at: stjohnscongarree@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

1	Jason Davis	11	Debby Watson
2	Betty Thompson	22	Debbie Davis
3	Eva O'Brian	24	Molly Floyd
4	Cooper Edens	25	Libby Byars
6	Scott Anderson	30	Natalie Hazen
9	Amanda Nichols	30	Gray Thompson, Sr.
9	Debbie Morris		

ANNIVERSARIES IN NOVEMBER

7	Blanche & Jed Holliday
30	Wendy & Gray Thompson

SERVANTS IN NOVEMBER

	<u>WORSHIP LEADER</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>VIDEOGRAPHER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>
November 3	Bud McCaskill	Rita McCaskill	Selman Watson	Mary Ann Hiott
November 10	Fran Burnett	Julie Claytor	John Davis	Debbie Davis
November 17	Van Lott	Anne Lott	Frank Claytor	Louise Barker
November 24	Jim Hiott	John Lott	Lloyd Ash	John Davis

Memorial gifts received from August 22 through October 20, 2024

*In memory of **Thomas Nicklos Carros***

Given by: Judy and Butch Addison
Kathy Burriss
Mary Ann and Jim Hiott
Anne and Van Lott
Rita and Bud McCaskill

*In memory of **Hansel Leo "Bucky" Carter***

Given by: Rita and Bud McCaskill

*In memory of **Edward Darrell "Bud" Hopkins, Jr., M.D.***

Given by: Anne and Van Lott

FINANCIAL REPORT through September 30, 2024

Operating Fund Checking Account:

September income: \$6133.12
September disbursements: \$9331.83
Difference: **-\$3198.71**

1/1/2024 through 9/30/2024

Income: \$70,886.40
Disbursements: \$86,212.02
Difference: **-\$15,325.62**

Cemetery and Grounds Checking Account:

September income: \$0.07.17
September disbursements: \$670.00
Difference: **-\$669.93**

1/1/2024 through 9/30/2024

Income: \$7474.25
Disbursements: \$14,180.00
Difference: **-\$6705.75**

Building Fund Checking Account:

September income: \$0.08
September disbursements: \$8183.79
Difference: **-\$8183.71**

1/1/2024 through 9/30/2024

Income: \$901.07
Disbursements: \$15,644.10
Difference: **-\$14,743.03**

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

<u>Please Pray For:</u>	<u>Requested by:</u>
Kimberly Brown	Bev Watkins
Miriam Claytor	Parish
Sandy Yuille	Parish
Shay Burnett	Mary Ann Hiott
Brenda Manning	Ed Manning
Chris McVey	Debbie Morris
Jo Curtis	Parish
Mary Clarkson	Parish
Debby Watson	Parish
Judy Addison	Parish
Stan Ingram	Debbie Morris
Michelle	Jane Rye
Holly Davis	Louise Barker
Chris	Lloyd & Sara Ash
James Donahue	John Lott
Maria Brady	Debbie Davis
John Train	Selman Watson
Jack Carmichael	Bev Watkins
Sylvan Plaia aka Lucky	Butch & Judy Addison
Don Burton	Selman Watson
Susan Azukas	Corrie Blasi
Tom Moore	Carol Fowles
Austin Mintz	John & Lynn Davis
Lesley Antley Marshall	Annie Antley
Corrie Blasi	Parish
Mitzee Teague	Rev. Katie
Libby Byars	Parish
Barbara Thames	Holly Davis
Penny Sparrow	Holly Davis
Pat Dowling	The Beaver Family
Debbie Cloninger	Tammy Brazzell
Austin White	Parish
Heather	Corrie Blasi
Barratt Murphy	Sarah Murphy
Trey & Cassidy Murphy	Sarah Murphy
Debbie Morris	Parish
Lee Sheorn	Drew Robb

Please let us know if you have someone to add to the Prayer List, and if there are folks who have recovered, please let us know that as well.