

Amens & Alleluias – October 2026

St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree

1151 Elm Savannah Road, Hopkins, SC 29061

Sundays, 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II

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.

From the Senior Warden – October 2026

Dear People of St. John's,

"All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well" is a quote from Julian of Norwich (1342 - 1416), a mystic who emphasized her deep trust that God holds all of creation in a loving plan. I feel we at St. John's can hold this thought as we move forward.

The vestry has selected a Search Committee with Van Lott as chairman. Julie Claytor, Danielle Floyd, Rusty Davis, and Lisa Clarkson are the other members. We will begin the search process with a survey. This will be your opportunity to have input into our search process. We will share how it will work once the survey is set up. Please take time to complete it as it will help guide the search committee.

There is a busy fall lineup for St. John's. October will bring the ECW bake sale at Mr. Bunky's on Sat, Oct 17th, the Ukaloones will return on Sunday, Oct 18th, and Homecoming Oct 31st/Nov 1st.

October is also Stewardship month, an opportunity to take time to consider how you can share your gifts with St. John's. Thank you to Julie Claytor, our Stewardship Chairman, for preparing a thoughtful letter for you to consider. Your pledge will help the Finance Committee, which meets in October, make decisions for St. John's 2027 budget.

We are also in the planning stages for adult and children's formation opportunities later in November. I would like to ask for your suggestions for adult formation topics. Is there something you would like to study or discuss? Please let me know.

As always, keep St. John's, the vestry and the Search Committee in your prayers.
In Christ, Lisa Clarkson

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH:

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, page 817)

A PRAYER FOR OUR VESTRY AND SEARCH COMMITTEE:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, page 818)

FROM YOUR JUNIOR WARDEN

Please see the vestry highlights for news. My thanks to everyone who willingly offers their help in day-to-day duties. If you are aware of or see any issues or have any concerns regarding the property, please don't hesitate to bring it to my attention. Rusty 803-422-2882

OCTOBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH



STEWARDSHIP *Month*
OCTOBER AT ST. JOHN'S

"Our purpose, much like the mustard seed or the kingdom of heaven, is to be a sanctuary of God's love for the world's broken, and it is our blueprint and our prayer."

— Rev. Katie Ayers, Sermon, July 26, 2026

October is Stewardship Month at St. John's, a time for us to reflect on the many blessings and gifts God has graciously entrusted to us.

As we give thanks for God's abundance in our lives, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you would like to express your gratitude through your financial commitment to the ministry and mission of St. John's.

Please complete your pledge card and return it to the church by **Sunday, November 1**. Pledge cards may be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering plate during worship. Additional pledge cards will be available in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support of God's ministries at St. John's through your faithful stewardship. We are blessed by a congregation of dedicated and generous people who seek to share God's love and make a positive difference in our church, our community, and our world.

Faithful Together
GROWING IN FAITH.
SHARING GOD'S LOVE.

Many gifts. One purpose. Growing God's kingdom together. ♥

Thank you for your continued support of God's ministries at St. John's through your faithful giving. If you would like to donate online, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/stjohnspledge2026> or scan this QR code:



Please remember to send in your pledge cards for 2027 by November 1st. Thank you for your response and your "heart" work. If you have any questions, please let me know (803.606.2369).

In Christ, Julie Claytor, Stewardship Chair
October 2026 Newsletter

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BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!

The Ukaloones Band from St. Matthews will return to St. John's with another wonderful concert. The date is Sunday, October 18 at 5pm. The concert is free. Please post your calendar and plan to attend. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Please watch for an opportunity from Hospitality Chair, Debbie, to help!



HOMEcoming/ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY COMING SOON.....

We all know that Home Coming Day is an annual celebration at St. John's, but do you know how it began?

The Rev. G. Croft Williams became rector at St. John's in 1921 and it was he who inaugurated Home Coming Day at St. John's. All Saints' Day was chosen as the day for the congregation to assemble and for those baptized and reared in St. John's but living elsewhere to return to their Mother Church to join in Communion and fellowship one with the other. A picnic lunch always followed the services where relatives and friends renewed old acquaintances. Eventually, a barbecue lunch took the place of the picnic with the meat being prepared on the church grounds.

This information was taken from the booklet History of St. John's Episcopal Church 1858-1958 by Laura Jervey Hopkins.

This year, St. John's All Saints' Homecoming and BBQ is on November 1, 2026, about a month away!

We will need the help of everyone to once again make this a successful day! We will need cooks, bakers, decorators, table set-up and clean-up.

John and Rusty Davis will organize and head up the Pit Crew. Please reach out to John, Rusty, Debbie Davis (Hospitality), and/or Julie Claytor (ECW President) to volunteer your help with your talents and gifts.

The weekend will begin Saturday, October 31, with the traditional Chicken Bog prepared by Drew Robb and pit crew helpers. We would like to encourage everyone to bring friends and family to enjoy the fun. Chicken Bog will be served at 6:00 pm and has always been a great gathering with lots of fun and hospitality, not to mention good food.

On Sunday morning at 8:30am, there will be a short Eucharist by the BBQ pit for the workers who won't be able to attend the 10:30 service.

We will soon be preparing a preorder form for hams and chopped BBQ to better gauge the amount of meat needed. There will be no extra whole hams for sale at Homecoming other those preordered. There will be pulled pork in 1lb and 5lb containers available for sale the day of the BBQ. Please keep your eyes open for the preorder form as well as any new information.

Come and enjoy the fellowship, as all are welcome all the time!

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September 14, 2026

- The website and other social media were discussed with Debbie Davis and Danielle Floyd who will continue working on these areas. It will be important to be up-to-date during the search.

- Finding some sort of sound system to enhance the speakers' volume in church was discussed. It was agreed that we needed to do something soon, and Rusty Davis, Debbie Davis, and Perri Peraza will research a solution.
- The Search Committee was named: Van Lott, Chair; Lisa Clarkson, Julie Claytor, Rusty Davis, Danielle Floyd.
- The PTAC wall unit in Zion Hall is not working and will be replaced.
- Julie Claytor will lead Christian Formation for five weeks beginning in November for youth. Adult formation will occur at the same time and will be participant led.
- All Saints'/Homecoming is November 1. Rusty Davis will head up the pit crew. The other duties will remain the same as last year.
- The Stewardship letter will go out in late September. October will be our stewardship month and pledge cards will be due November 1.
- The next vestry meeting will be Monday, October 5, at 6:30pm.

ST. JOHN'S OCTOBER CALENDAR AT A GLIMPSE

Sunday, Oct 4	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Monday, Oct 5	-Vestry Meeting at 6:30pm
Sunday, Oct 11	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Saturday, Oct 17	-ECW Bake/Craft Sale, Mr. Bunky's at 8:30am
Sunday, Oct 18	-ECW Meeting at 9:30am
Sunday, Oct 18	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, Oct 18	-Ukaloones Band Concert, 5pm; reception to follow
Wednesday, Oct 21	-Sallie's Garden clean-up, 8:30am
Sunday, Oct 25	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, Oct 25	-Covered dish luncheon at 11:45am
Wednesday, Oct 28	-Sallie's Garden prep for Homecoming, 8:30am
Saturday, Oct 31	-Prep for All Saints' Day/Homecoming, all day
Saturday, Oct 31	- Chicken Bog Supper at 6pm; All Saints' Day/Homecoming Nov 1

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

	<u>WORSHIP LEADER</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>VIDEOGRAPHER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>
October 4	Jim Hiott	Aaron Floyd	Van Lott	Julie & Frank Claytor
October 11	Fran Burnett	Rita McCaskill	Selman Watson	Debbie Davis
October 18	Louise Barker	Julie Claytor	Frank Claytor	John Davis
October 25	Van Lott	Anne Lott	Jose Peraza	Mary Ann Hiott

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE OCTOBER NEWS

"Leaves are falling, opportunities are calling"



After a long hot summer, here is hoping October will bring some cooler temps and month-long embrace from the beauty of nature.

October promises to be a busy and exciting month, beginning with a visit from the *Ukaloones Band* from St. Matthew's Anglican Church on October 18th at 5pm. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us for this free and entertaining concert. We will be providing refreshments for all in attendance following the performance.

Thank you in advance for helping to make our guests feel welcome.

As we prepare for Homecoming at the end of the month, desserts will once again be needed. It is the perfect time to dust off those favorite recipes and share them with our church family!

As always, if any needs arise, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can email me at rdandz@gmail.com, call or text **803-622-2929**, or contact the church office.

Wishing everyone a wonderful October! ~ Debbie Davis

GADSDEN MINISTRIES

Gadsden Backpack Ministry

Our Backpack program at Gadsden Elementary has its origins in "Feeding America" which is the largest charity working to end hunger in the United States. All of us at St. John's support the program with our yearly pledges through the "Mission and Outreach" budget item. A big thank you to those who support this program additionally by bringing items for the bags or by donating monetarily. Your donations are important and appreciated. It is also helpful if you would check to see if assistance is needed to pack the bags on Sunday. The pantry is organized to make this task easy. Individual thanks go to John Davis who delivers the bags and Julie Claytor who is John's back-up. Thanks to the Lotts who shop to supplement the donations to complete each bag. Thank you, St. John's. Thank you all.

A list of suggested items can be found on our website at <https://www.stjohnscongaree.net/volunteer-opportunities>. There is also a hard copy list of suggestions on the Narthex table for your convenience.

Gadsden Elementary Little Free Library

School has started, and students have begun to read, read, read! The first delivery of books for the Gadsden Elementary Little Free Library was made on Friday, August 28 and another delivery will be made by the beginning of October. We have been blessed to obtain funding for this ministry from our church, church members, and the ECW. We have also received generous donations of used books from the Cumberland County Public Library in Fayetteville, NC and the Millbrook Library in Dutchess County, NY. Please let me know if you or a group you belong to would like to donate books to the Gadsden Little Free Library. I will be happy to answer any questions. Our goal is to provide books to the children at Gadsden Elementary in order to foster their love for reading. Thank you for your support!

NEWS FROM YOUR EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The ECW met on Sunday, September 20 at 9:30 am. Here are the highlights of our meeting:

- The ECW fundraiser brunch was a huge success. Donations totaled \$611. Thank you, everyone, for your generosity.
- Plans were made for the ECW Bake and Craft sale that will be held at Bunky's on Saturday, October 17 beginning at 8:30 am.

- Clean up of Sallie's Garden is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21 and October 28 at 8:30 am on both days. Our next ECW meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 18 at 9:30 am. Join us to begin planning our Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach projects. Can you believe we're already thinking about Christmas?

ECW Bake And Craft Sale

Saturday, October 17, 8:30 am at Mr. Bunky's

The ECW Bake and Craft sale will be held at Bunky's on Saturday, October 17 beginning at 8:30 am. We will have lots of yummy cookies, cakes, pies, bread, and holiday crafts for sale. If you would like to contribute a baked good or craft, please get it to Mr. Bunky's by 8:00 am on October 17. Make sure your items are packaged and priced. Join us at the bake sale for lots of sweet treats, and support the ECW's many projects. Thank you!



Sallie's Garden Update

Have you noticed the pumpkins in Sallie's Garden? How fun is that! The ECW is going to clean out the pumpkins and spruce up Sallie's Garden in preparation for Homecoming. Please join us on Wednesday, October 21 and Wednesday, October 28 (anytime after 8:30 am on both days) to help in the garden. Bring your gardening gloves and your green thumb.

Camp Gravatt Scholarships

Gravatt Camp and Conference Center, located in Aiken, SC, is home to the Episcopal summer youth camp. Registration for the 2027 summer camp sessions will open in November. If you have a child who is interested in attending Gravatt's summer camp you should complete the online registration as soon as it opens. Camp slots fill up quickly. You can go to www.campgravatt.org to learn more about camp registration, cost, and the 2027 session dates. You can also google

Camp Gravatt 2027 summer camp registration. The 2027 camp registration application will probably be available by the end of October.

The ECW will be offering scholarships to help cover some of the cost of a summer camp session at Camp Gravatt. Please let Julie Claytor or any ECW member know by the end of October if you would like your child to be considered for one of our camp scholarships.

Food Collection For Senior Resources

The ECW continues to collect non-perishable food items to help stock the pantry at Senior Resources. This food will be shared with people who are on a waiting list to begin Meals-on-Wheels. The food you donate should be single serving and easy to open or pop-top items. Senior Resources is also accepting donations of pet food for cats and dogs. Please bring your donations to our monthly covered dish lunches.

ALTAR GUILD

Thank you to the Altar Guild members who served in September. Flowers were given on September 6 (in thanksgiving for Anne Lott) and on September 13 (in memory of James Fowles). All Sundays in October are available for giving flowers. Remember, you can sign up to give flowers for the altar at the bulletin board in Zion Hall. We are in the season of Pentecost, which ends with Advent. As always, thank you to all the volunteers who work each week to prepare the altar for worship and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

OCTOBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Oct 4 – Fran & Al Burnett; Oct 11 – Lisa Clarkson; Oct 18 – Corrie Blasi; Oct 25 – Louise Barker & Wendy Thompson.

Please prayerfully consider joining this important ministry and call Lisa at 803.237.2892 to volunteer. Training will be available. Lisa Clarkson, Altar Guild Director



OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS IN OCTOBER

1	Louise Barker
3	Parris Claytor Balazs
4	Sara Ash
6	Lynn Davis
8	Abby Claytor
8	Logan Dubose
8	Jose Peraza
9	Carol Fowles
9	Nicklos Tafel
10	Frank Claytor
10	Alicia Mikell

14	Drew Robb
17	Tegan Floyd
20	Rusty Davis
23	Gina Byars
24	Blanche Holliday
25	Corrie Blasi
27	Charlie Blasi
28	Biff Boyer
29	John Grimbball
30	Mattie Anderson

ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER

17	Olivia & Scott Tatum
19	Dorothy & Ed Kendall
21	Holly & Jason Davis

GOOD NEWS GRAPEVINE

If you have something you would like to share for the November newsletter, please send it to the church office by October 21.

A BLESSING

*Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts
of those who travel the way with us.*

So, be swift to love; make haste to be kind.

*And may the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be with you today and remain with always.*

-Henri-Frederic Amiel

FINANCIAL REPORT through August 31, 2026

Gifts received August 23 through September 26.

In memory of Mitzee Posey Teague

Given by Anne and Van Lott

Operating Fund Checking Account:

August income: \$23,511.35

August disbursements: \$9045.21

Difference: \$14,466.14

1/1/2026 through 8/31/2026:

Income: \$107,336.31

Disbursements: \$116,540.91

Difference: **-\$9204.60**

Cemetery & Grounds Checking Acct:

August income: \$325.17

August disbursements: \$670.00

Difference: **-\$344.83**

1/1/2026 through 8/31/2026:

Income: \$8110.66

Disbursements: \$5290.00

Difference: \$2822.00

Building Fund Checking Account:

August income: \$500.16

August disbursements: \$0.00

Difference: \$500.16

1/1/2026 through 8/31/2026:

Income: \$501.12

Disbursements: \$1314.14

Difference: **-\$813.02**

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

<u>Please Pray For:</u>	<u>Requested by:</u>
Brenda Manning	Ed Manning
Mary Clarkson	Parish

Debby Watson	Parish
Judy Addison	Parish
Michelle	Jane Rye
Holly Davis	Parish
Maria Brady	Debbie Davis
John Train	Selman Watson
Don Burton	Selman Watson
Tom Moore	Carol Fowles
Austin Mintz	John & Lynn Davis
Lesley Antley Marshall	Annie Antley
Roy Brazzell	Tammy Brazzell
Heather Tsahalis	Corrie Blasi
Betty Thompson	Parish
Penny Teague	Debbie Davis
Jewell Sams	The Floyd Family
Laura Timmons	Lisa Clarkson
Charlie & Phyllis King	Julie Claytor
Jacob & Angela Pendleton	Lisa Clarkson
The Owens Family	Bev Watkins
John Grimball	Parish
Liz Grice	Sheryl Moureaux
Susan Grice	Sheryl Moureaux
Janet McKinney	Bev Watkins
Our Military	Parish
Nick Brady	Debbie Davis
Morris Tajman	Van Lott
Andrew Knight	Bev Watkins
Paul	Rita McCaskill
Stephen	John Lott
Deacon Ann Pilat	Parish
Ally Lambert	Nikita Floyd/Parish
Jim Parker	Van Lott
Susan Voelker & family	Marion Crane
Alicia H. & Isaac J. Mikell IV	Jenks Mikell/Parish
Jason Gant	Rita McCaskill
Patricia	Bev Watkins
Margaret Dydecka	Corrie Blasi
Brooke Moran	Corrie Blasi

Please let us know if you have someone to add to the Prayer List. If there are folks who have recovered, please let us know that important and happy news as well, and we will take them off the list. Thanks so much for your help in keeping our Prayer List updated.