

Amens & Alleluias – August 2025

St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree

1151 Elm Savannah Road, Hopkins, SC 29061

Sundays, 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II; **Wednesdays**, 12:00 pm - Holy Eucharist Rite II and healing prayers

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 Rector's Desk – August 2025

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe we are already staring down the beginning of another school year! For most of us who are out of school, August brings simply more hot weather. But for those students and teachers who are returning to their routines this month, many blessings and prayers from your friends at St. John's.

I am excited that we will once again transform into a concert venue on August 6th! The Ukuloonies band from St. Matthew's in Fort Motte are coming to play a set for us and the community on August 6th at 5:00pm. Please come out to hear some really fun music and stick around for dinner afterwards! Invite your friends and neighbors, the more the merrier.

I am thrilled to announce the creation of a new committee at St. John's that is focused entirely on ministry towards children and youth. Danielle Floyd, Julie Claytor, Molly Floyd, and I have met once and are researching ways to further include younger kids and teenagers into the life of St. John's. I ask that you please pray for us as we try to discern the proper fit and keep an eye out for any communications about upcoming events. There is no date yet, *but* we are going to be organizing a clean-out of the two nursery rooms in the parish hall. More information will be forthcoming! And thank you to these wonderful women for volunteering to help research and brainstorm the future of the church!

It is even harder to believe that August 1st marks my second anniversary of being at St. John's! Time really flies when you are having fun. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for being so welcoming, kind, and up for new things. There is a remarkable energy at our little country parish, and I am so grateful to be a small part of it. Let's bring on year three!

I am, as always, praying for you. And I am available for any pastoral or personal need. Simply reach out to me via email, give me a call, or contact the office. A link to my calendar is in the weekly email if that is helpful for you.

I'm excited for fall at St. John's! We have a ton to look forward to.

In Christ,

Katie+

SENIOR WARDEN'S THOUGHTS

It is great to have more people involved in our services. Cooper Edens has been acolyting for a while now and he adds a lot to our services. Ayden Floyd has started serving as a lector and he also adds a lot to what we do here at St. John's. Have you thought about serving in a new or different capacity? St John's offers many opportunities and we are strongest when the most people are involved. Look at the "help wanted" list and see what you would like to do. We will all be better for it.

The rectory seems in pretty good shape now, since we have installed a new heat pump and had the plumbing improved. Thanks to Rusty and Dixie Heating and Cooling for all of their work. Thanks to Treye Byars and Rusty for treating the area outside the cemetery wall with herbicide. We have some firmly entrenched wisteria which will take constant attention to get under control.

On the other hand, the icemaker in Zion Hall is on the fritz and may need to be replaced.

I am very excited about the Ukuloonies concert coming up August 6th at 5pm. I have seen the song sheet and it is good music with something for everyone. Please come and enjoy good music and good food. If I can help in any way, please give me a call.

See you in Church.....Jim (803)783-4214

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

July was a little busy. The following projects have been or are being handled:

-Edisto Gas has been scheduled to pick up the propane tank that is no longer being used.

-Carolina Boys Plumbing rebuilt the water heater at the Rectory.

-Also at the Rectory, while the A/C is currently working, there are issues with the wiring. Scheduling repairs with Dixie Heating and Air to replace wiring.

-The dead bolt lock has been replaced on kitchen door due to a lost key. The key for the new lock is hanging in the same place, with a spare key stored in the church office.

-I am currently reviewing options to replace the ice maker. The ice maker is almost 30 years old and has had issues of late making ice.

If you are aware of any of issues or concerns around the property, please let me know.

Rusty Davis, 803-422-2882

Vestry Meeting Highlights

July 7, 2025

- There will be Christian Formation opportunities in the Fall on Sunday mornings prior to church.
- The rector and the Youth/Children's Ministry committee (Julie Claytor, Danielle Floyd, Molly Floyd) met to consider long-term goals to attract families and children. It was suggested that cleaning out and updating the first two classrooms in Zion Hall should be done. In addition, new furniture and supplies would brighten up the rooms.
- Training for worship leaders, lectors, and acolytes will likely happen in August to emphasize the structure of the service as well as to provide licensing through the Diocese.
- The outside perimeter of the cemetery was sprayed to control vines. (continued on Page 3)

- Another oyster roast will be held at St. John's in 2026 if the Eastover Ruritan will once again partner with us. Suggested dates of February 28 and March 7 will be presented to the Ruritan.
- A musical group, the Ukuloonies, from St. Matthew's Anglican Church in Ft. Motte, will present a concert at St. John's on August 6 at 5:00 pm. A reception will follow the performance.
- The next vestry meeting will be scheduled for Monday, August 4, at 6:30pm.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

"Breathe the sweetness that hovers in August"

...Denise Levertov



As summer draws to a close and the back-to-school schedules begin again soon, I hope everyone is enjoying the last minutes of a relaxing summer routine.

A big "Thank You" to everyone who brought food and helped with set-up and clean-up for the reception following Miriam Claytor's funeral. Many great memories were shared and the love for the family was apparent.

Looking forward, the Hospitality Committee will provide a reception on **Wednesday, August 6th** following an evening of fellowship and music provided by the *Ukuloonies Band* from St. Matthew's Anglican Church. Dust off your favorite recipes and bring a dish to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

As always, if any needs arise, please email me, rdandz@gmail.com or call/text 803-622-2929 or contact the church office for assistance.

Thank you....Debbie Davis

NEWS FROM YOUR ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The next meeting of the ECW is scheduled for Sunday, August 17 at 9:30 am in Zion Hall. Please join us on the 17th to help with the planning of our September fundraiser brunch, ice cream social, and fall bake sale. Many hands make light work! (And more fun.)

Peace and Love - Julie Claytor, Rita McCaskill, Fran Burnett and Mary Ann Hiott

LEMONADE UNDER THE TREE

Lemonade Under the Tree will continue through August 24th. It has been a great social time and good for catching up! Please join us outside under our beautiful oak each Sunday after church as the ECW serves cold lemonade and cookies. See you under the Oak!

ECW FUNDRAISER BRUNCH

The ECW's second brunch of the year is scheduled for Sunday, September 7 at 9:15 am. Join us for a delicious breakfast and fun fellowship. The funds we raise from hosting these brunches allow us to support many, worthwhile community outreach projects. So . . . take a break from fixing breakfast. We greatly appreciate your attendance.

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. There will be a basket in the parish hall for the food collection. Thank you for your help with this project! P.S. Senior Resources also desperately needs drivers to deliver Meals-on-Wheels! If you are willing and able to help, please call 803.252.7734.

HELP WANTED!

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to fill several available positions – a great opportunity to be involved!

We are searching for folks to step up and fill some much-needed helping roles in the life of St. John's. Have you wanted to be more involved but aren't sure how to start? Here are some "openings!"

For those who are interested in helping with worship and learning more about how we gather together on Sundays, you can consider:

Altar Guild
Worship Leader – 2 interested
Lector – 1 new
Videographer

For those interested in pastoral ministry and spreading kindness to our community, you can consider:

Birthday Card Note Writer
Volunteer – Debbie Davis

For those who love hunting down sales and deals, you can consider:

Zion Hall Supply Purchaser
Volunteer – Molly Floyd

For those who are good with numbers and love a spreadsheet, you can consider:

The Audit Committee
The Parochial Report Committee
Volunteers – Katharine Kendall and Aaron Floyd

ALTAR GUILD

Thank you to the Altar Guild members who served in July and helped prepare the church for worship during a hot, busy month. We are in the Pentecost season which continues throughout the summer and ends on November 23. The behind-the-scenes work you perform each week, including the Wednesday noon service, to prepare for worship and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, is an act of love.

August Volunteer Schedule: Aug 3 – Louise Barker; Aug 10 – Fran & Al Burnett; Aug 17 – Corrie Blasi; Aug 24 – Rita McCaskill & Betsy Cate; Aug 31 – Lisa Clarkson.

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

GADSDEN MINISTRIES**Gadsden Backpack Ministry**

The 2025-26 school year will begin soon. Modeled after the “Feeding America Backpack Program,” we supply weekly supplemental meals to 20 children at Gadsden Elementary. Each child receives 18 items in his/her bag that includes protein, drinks, breakfast, fruit, and snacks. Thanks to all of you who contribute one way or another to the success of the Backpack Ministry. Although we have been collecting healthy, easy-to-prepare food for kid-friendly meals during the summer weeks, now is the time we need to increase our efforts for the beginning of school. Our gifts will be needed, will be important, and will be appreciated. Thank you.

For the next few weeks, try putting these on your grocery list:

- pre-packaged fruit (apple sauce or mixed fruit cups)
- snacks (salty and sweet)
- breakfast items (cold/hot cereals, Pop Tarts, grits)
- 100% fruit drinks (Capri Sun, Juicy Juice, Sunny D)
- lunch/dinner items (Chef Boyardee with a red top, Beanee Weenees with a yellow top)

Items should be individually packaged and easy for elementary students to prepare and handle. Please don't feel that you are limited to these items only, especially if there is a good sale on something else. Put your items in the red wagon or bring them to Zion Hall. Monetary donations are always a good choice too.

Suggestions can be found on our website at <https://www.stjohnscongarree.net/volunteer-opportunities>. Your support is important and greatly appreciated.

Gadsden School Supplies

St. John's will, once again, sponsor a school supply drive for the students and teachers at Gadsden Elementary. Here is a short list of some of the items that would be most useful in the classroom.

1. Pencils – Ticonderoga brand is preferred. They are the best quality pencils and do not get eaten by the pencil sharpener.
2. Glue sticks
3. Big, pink erasers
4. Composition books, black and white – wide-ruled with permanent pages, no spiral bound books.
5. Multi-colored markers
6. Colored pencils
7. Loose leaf notebook paper – wide-ruled
8. Hand sanitizer
9. Sanitizing wipes
10. Boxes of tissue

Please bring your school supplies to church by Sunday, August 3 and place them in the wagon or put them on the table in Zion Hall. We will get the supplies to Gadsden for the beginning of school on August 11. Thank you for your support of this project and Gadsden Elementary. The school staff is very thankful for all of our donations.

THE GOOD NEWS GRAPEVINE

John Lott proposed marriage to Holly Brazitas on July 26 and she accepted. Both sets of parents are almost as happy as the couple. A wedding date has not been set but John has assured us that it will not be in the fall during football season.

Cooper Edens has spent the majority of his summer at Camp Gravatt. He spent a day at Hickory Top learning how to care for horses and took a fishing trip to Oregon. Lots of fresh air and core memories.

Ayden Floyd had a busy summer attending wrestling camp and Camp Gravatt. Tegan has been enjoying swimming lessons and spent a fun-filled week with her cousins at Litchfield. What a joyful season of growth and adventure for the Floyd kids.

If you have news about yourself or your family you wish to share for the September newsletter, please send it to the church office no later than August 22nd at: stjohnscongarree@gmail.com.

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS**BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST**

2	Marion Crane	15	Terry Catoe
2	Aaron (AJ) Floyd	16	Butch Addison
3	Tom Moore	18	Danielle Floyd
5	Jim Hiott	20	Ayden Floyd
6	Fr. Meadowcroft	20	Ryan Peraza
7	Annabelle Thompson	21	Jed Holliday
7	Stephanie Thompson	23	Scott O'Brian
8	Wesley Byars	26	Audra Nichols
8	Joey Thompson	29	Lewis Rye
11	Ann Harding		

ANNIVERSARIES IN AUGUST

4	Julie & Frank Claytor
6	Betsy & Billy Cate
10	Rita & Bud McCaskill
14	Vickie & Tom Moore
19	Fran & Al Burnett
26	Sharon & Terry Catoe
27	Brenda & Ed Manning
29	Marion & John Crane

SERVANTS IN AUGUST

	<u>WORSHIP LEADER</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>VIDEOGRAPHER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>
August 3	Van Lott	Anne Lott	Jose Peraza	John Davis
August 10	Bud McCaskill	Rita McCaskill	Selman Watson	Mary Ann Hiott
August 17	Jim Hiott	Julie Claytor	Van Lott	Louise Barker
August 24	Van Lott	John Lott	John Davis	Debbie Davis
August 31	Fran Burnett	Ayden Floyd	Frank Claytor	Julie & Frank Claytor

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please update your church directory to reflect the following:

Sara & Lloyd Ash – 239 Dunn Road, Cordova, SC 29039

Anniversary: Gina & Treye Byars – July 17

Gifts received from June 21 through July 20, 2025

In memory of Miriam Parris Claytor

Given by Louise Barker

Biff Boyer
James E. Claytor
Linda P. Claytor (Mrs. Hugh)
Denise and Kenneth Green
Mary Ann and Jim Hiott
Anne and Van Lott
Ruth and Rusty Mustard
Andrew Lamar Shields
Carolyn Claytor Shields
Gary J. Swain
Cindy and Johnny Temple
Jeffrey Lee Wills
Patricia Claytor Wills

FINANCIAL REPORT through June 30, 2025

Operating Fund Checking Account:

June income: \$13,625.27
June disbursements: \$10,206.86
Difference: \$3418.41

1/1/2025 through 6/30/2025:

Income: \$67,323.10
Disbursements: \$83,593.62
Difference: **-\$16,270.52**

Cemetery & Grounds Checking Acct:

June income: \$0.13
June disbursements: \$670.00
Difference: **-\$669.87**

1/1/2025 through 6/30/2025:

Income: \$4478.92
Disbursements: \$4970.00
Difference: **-\$491.08**

Building Fund Checking Account:

June income: \$100.04
June disbursements: \$9225.00
Difference: **-\$9124.96**

1/1/2025 through 6/30/2025:

Income: \$250.65
Disbursements: \$18,777.57
Difference: **-\$18,526.92**

ST. JOHN'S PRAYER LIST

<u>Please Pray For:</u>	<u>Requested by:</u>
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
Maria Brady	Debbie Davis
John Train	Selman Watson
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
Roy Brazzell	Tammy Brazzell
Heather Tsahalís	Corrie Blasi
Danny Cox	Van Lott
Mike Chastain	Van Lott
Joseph Brazitis	Holly Brazitis
Jane Rye	Parish
Bill Spoonhoward	Lisa Clarkson
Betty Thompson	Parish
Nellie Taylor	Parish
Nancy Vosbaugh	Sarah Murphy
Jimmy & Brandy Hughes	Rita McCaskill
Ann Harding	Parish
Lisa Clarkson	Parish
The McGovern Family	Corrie Blasi
Allen Echols	Louise Barker
John Davis	Parish
Dorothy Kendall	Carol Fowles

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 important news as well.