

Amens & Alleluias

St. John's Episcopal Church, Congaree

1151 Elm Savannah Road, Hopkins, SC 29061 803.776.9292 - Website: www.stjohnscongarree.net

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, growing in grace through prayer, fellowship, education and service.

NEWSLETTER FOR MAY 2024

From the Rector's Desk – May 2024

Dear friends,

I am hopeful that you are having a joyful and hopeful Eastertide! April has seemingly evaporated in the weeks since Easter, and I am excited for all that is coming up this spring.

Easter was such a joyful day. The flowers on the cross, the incredible breakfast, the lilies on the altar, the music, the banners, the family, and friends – we packed 70 people into the church! The resurrected Lord felt so close to us, and I still feel blessed by it.

April has been rather active for St. John's. Several folks have been working hard to purchase and assemble the **20 bicycles** we will donate to Gadsden Elementary students! We hosted a group of parishioners from St. John's Wheat Street on Monday, April 15, and Van Lott gave an informative and humorous tour of the church and cemetery which was a crowd-pleaser! I am happy that other churches in our Diocese are taking interest in our beautiful and beloved parish. The vestry had a wonderful retreat on the 20th, during which we reflected on our gifts and personalities as a group and dreamed up fun ideas for the future of St. John's. I am very grateful for their willingness and energy to lead us all through the coming years. The ECW hosted a fabulous brunch on the 21st, and we had a special youth activity on the 28th. Both our Hospitality Committee and Altar Guild transitioned leadership (thank you to Rita, Debbie, Betty, and Lisa)!

May will bring us to the Ascension of Jesus, the Day of Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday – some of my favorite days in our liturgical year. On the Day of Pentecost, **May 19**, we will resurrect (ha!) our Parish Picnic and Youth Sunday celebration! We will have hamburgers and hotdogs and lots of food and fellowship to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the energy and youth it brings. Bring your sneakers – we will also have a softball game: “Whippersnappers vs. Geezers.” (I'm not in charge of the age parameters around this, so you can play for whichever team makes the most sense to you.)

I will be on vacation for a bit in May and June. On May 8, I leave for a family vacation in Italy and will return on May 16. In June, two dear friends are getting married out of state and so I will not be with you for two Sundays during that time: the 2nd and the 30th. Supply priests are in the works, but I can confirm that The Venerable Janey Wilson, Archdeacon of the Diocese, will be preaching and presiding on the 30th. I am very thankful to you and to the vestry for the gift of some time off and for keeping things running smoothly while I am away.

Each month I say it, and each month it's true: I am so thankful for all of you and what you bring to our community! Enjoy this spring weather, invite some friends to church, and say your prayers.

In the love of Christ,

Katie+

Senior Warden's Thoughts

The vestry enjoyed a pleasant and productive retreat April 20th. Thanks to Betsy and Billy Cate for the use of their lovely home. We talked about the four years since COVID and we did quite a bit of goal setting for the future of St John's. I'm excited about what lies ahead for our Church. One of the first things I'm excited about is Youth Sunday, May 19th. Wear your shorts to Church, enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs provided by the Vestry, sides and desserts provided by the Church membership. Oh yes, we have a little ballgame to play. I hope the Whippersnappers are ready-I'll bet the Geezers are. A big thank you to Lisa Clarkson for agreeing to lead our Altar Guild. I know she will do an excellent job, as she always does! See you in Church.

Jim, 803.783.4214

Junior Warden's Report

On Wednesday April 10, wind blew a tree down onto the rectory's carport demolishing it. Fortunately, there was nothing in the carport at that time. Church Insurance, our insurance provider, was advised of the loss and an adjuster was on the scene Tuesday the 16th. Church Insurance Co. has deemed the loss at \$4,113.96 for the carport and tree removal minus our deductible of \$1,000.

An inspection of the rectory property by Eric Gardner of Gardner's Tree Service revealed there were two dead trees threatening the house and twenty limbs of varying sizes and heights all around the rectory in need of removal. Additionally, a stand of large azaleas blocking the view of the house was in need of removal, the other hedges around the rectory needed to be trimmed up and leaves covering the roof need to be blown off. The work to cut, trim, blow off and haul away was \$8,000.

You may also have noticed that the rotten wooden benches by the playhouse have been removed. Additionally, the leaning basketball goal by the parking lot has been removed courtesy of John and Rusty Davis. Many thanks!

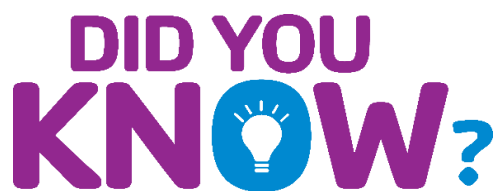
Our property looks much nicer and is much safer now.

Van Lott, Junior Warden

Vestry Meeting Highlights

April 20, 2024

- A mesh wireless router WiFi system that will improve signal strength and overall connectivity throughout the church and parish house will be installed. This will ensure that our live streaming of church services is of good quality as well as ensure that our security system will relay necessary messages.
- During the storm on Wednesday, April 17, a tree fell on the carport at the rectory and destroyed it. Nothing was in the carport. This tree will be removed from the carport as well as 2 dead trees on the property and limbs over the roof of the house. Insurance will cover some of this cost.
- Holy Week and Easter Day were reviewed and deemed very meaningful and joyous.
- The Parish Picnic/Youth Sunday will be held on May 19. The vestry will supply hamburgers and hot dogs.
- The next meeting will be May 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm.



Did You Know . . . Watch for an article in the June Newsletter!!

GADSDEN MINISTRY

The last day for Richland School District 1 is May 31. Believe it or not, we need to pack bags for our students only a few more weeks. We can use all items but especially Mac and cheese, Beanee Weenees with yellow tops, snacks like Nutra-grain or Fruit snacks, and Horizon milk in the red and white boxes of 8 ounces. Keep your donations coming all through the summer too. As always, we thank you for your continued support which is needed and appreciated.

Food suggestions can be found on our website at: <https://www.stjohnscongarree.net/volunteer-opportunities>.

GADSDEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BICYCLE PROJECT

St. John’s is participating in an incentive program to donate bicycles to Gadsden Elementary School. The vestry agreed to donate one bicycle and to open the opportunity to all members of St. John’s. The tremendous response from our members and friends has been overwhelming and we are able to donate 19 bikes to the program!!! Thank you all!!!

Statewide testing for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades happens at the end of April. The bikes are rewarded to the students making the most improvement.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please update your church directory to reflect the following:

- **Julian Adams, 4304 Exum Drive, W. Columbia, SC 29169; phone 803.315.8303
- **Al Burnett, phone 803.600.5822
- **Drew Robb, phone 803.206.1720
- **Nikita Floyd, 9400 Goodman Road, Apt 2812, Olive Branch, MS 38654; phone 803. 960.5276
- **AJ & Molly Floyd, please add Tegan Floyd; Molly’s email is mkfloyd10@gmail.com
- **Zachary Davis, 128 John Ammons Road, Eastover, SC 29044; email Davisza928@gmail.com

If there are any changes in your personal information, please let us know at 803.776.9292 or stjohnscongarree@gmail.com.

SERVANTS IN MAY

	<u>WORSHIP LEADER</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>VIDEOGRAPHER</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
May 5	Fran Burnett	Tammy Brazzell	Lloyd Ash	John Davis
May 12	Van Lott	Anne Lott	John Davis	Debbie Davis
May 19	Lloyd Ash	Louise Barker	Jose Peraza	Tammy Brazzell
May 26	Jim Hiott	Bev Watkins	Frank Claytor	Frank & Julie Claytor

NEWS FROM YOUR ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

An ECW meeting was held on April 14th. The March minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report was presented and a thank you note was received from one of the recipients who received financial aid for seminary books.

- Plans were finalized concerning the first ECW brunch fundraiser being held on April 21.
- The project to provide refreshments for a faculty meeting at Gadsden Elementary on May 6 was discussed by Julie. She will secure the time to deliver the goodies and Fran will help Julie get them to the school.
- Julie reported that 20 bicycles have been donated for the Gadsden bicycle project. The bicycles are being assembled by Frank and he is asking for assistance on six of them. A message has been placed in the bulletin.
- Plans for Lemonade-Under-the-Tree were discussed and finalized. Lemonade will be served each Sunday in June, July and August following the worship service, with the exception of covered dish Sundays. Be on the lookout for a sign-up poster being prepared by our resident artist, Fran Burnett.
- A second brunch is scheduled for July 14 with tomato pies as the main event.
- An ice cream social to appreciate the support of everyone at St. John's will be held following covered dish in either August or September.
- Members of the ECW will assist with altar guild duties in April and May.
- Debbie Davis has set up a "Meal Train" so that members of St. John's can furnish meals to Holly and Jason Davis following Holly's back surgery.

The next ECW meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 19 at 9:30 am in Zion Hall. Please plan to attend our meetings and offer your suggestions and support. We need your voice.

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

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Hello St. John's, Congaree!

I look forward to serving, alongside the wonderful members of St. John's, as the new hospitality chairperson. I have some very big shoes to fill. I am not sure we can thank Rita McCaskill enough for her commitment to this role for literally decades! Over that time period she has provided numerous meals and refreshments for countless people in both happy times and sad times with the utmost "hospitality." Thank you, Rita!!

As we move through this transition I ask for your patience and openness to try new ideas. One thing that will not change is the commitment to the mission our gracious volunteers provide to those who enter our church. This was demonstrated once again on April 13th during the funeral reception for Churchill Curtis' family and friends. Thank you to everyone who helped from setting up through clean-up. Thanks also to those who provided meals to Holly Davis in April as she recovered from surgery.

We need volunteers for the month of May. If you feel called to volunteer in this special ministry please call or text Debbie Davis at 803.622.2929.

ALTAR GUILD

Director – Lisa Clarkson

I'm excited to take the baton from Betty who has done an amazing job serving St. John's as head of the Altar Guild for these many years. According to the glossary of terms of the Episcopal Church *"The Altar Guild is a lay ministry to serve God in His house by preparing the Sanctuary for worship, maintaining and caring for the sacred vessels, altar linens, and vestments, and serving the clergy and the parish."* Many thanks to those who have served. If you feel called to continue this ministry, (remember that both men and women can serve on Altar Guild), please contact me (email me or the church office, call or let me know on Sunday) so that I can begin to create a schedule that meets our needs.

SOME UPCOMING ALTAR GUILD EVENTS:

There will be a "cleanup day" in the sacristy to take inventory of what we have, what we need and what we "wish for" as well as generally clean. Please consider helping with this once a date is set. We will also have a short meeting once I get a list of those who are willing to serve.

Thank you for your continued ministry.

Lisa's email: carros54@bellsouth.net

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY

May 5-Louise Barker; May 12-Fran Burnett; May 19-Julie Claytor; May 26-VACANT

BIRTHDAYS IN MAY

1	Katherine Kendall	13
7	Judy Addison	14
10	Glenda Crouch	15
11	Jessica Byars Hoover	22
12	Dorothy Kendall	24
13	Mark Seely	30

ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY

Wendy Thompson	31	Perri & Jose Peraza
Julie Claytor		
Alexander Peraza		
Nikita Floyd		
Frannie Neal		
Susanna Wilson		

THANK YOU, BETSY AND BILLY CATE

You invited the vestry into your beautiful home for its annual vestry retreat on April 20th. Thank you for such a lovely welcoming. We all enjoyed the warm atmosphere and your generosity.

From our hearts, we thank you!

The St. John's Vestry

ST. JOHNS PRAYER LIST

<u>Please Pray For:</u>	<u>Requested by:</u>
Kimberly Brown	Bev Watkins
Lesley Antley Marshall	Annie Antley
Miriam Claytor	Parish
Sandy Yuille	Parish
Shay Burnett	Mary Ann Hiott
Brenda Manning	Ed Manning
Chris McVey	Debbie Morris
Jo Curtis	Parish
Alma Garick	Betty Thompson
Mary Clarkson	Parish
Debby Watson	Parish
Geneva	Mary Ann Hiott
Judy Addison	Parish
Stan Ingram	Debbie Morris
Michelle	Jane Rye
Tom Carros	Lisa Clarkson
Ed Brady	Louise Barker
Holly Davis	Louise Barker
Cathy Sparks	Debbie Davis
Wendi Davis	Holly Davis
Chris	Lloyd & Sara Ash
James Donahue	John Lott
Maria Brady	Debbie Davis
Betty Thompson	Parish
Brett Addison	Judy & Butch Addison
Treye Byars	Rusty Davis
John Train	Selman Watson
Joe Ben Weeks	Jim Hiott
Brenda Floyd	Debbie & Rusty Davis
Amy Bizzarro & Family	Corrie Blasi
Anne Wright	Bev Watkins
Jack Carmichael	Bev Watkins
Sylvan Plaia aka Lucky	Butch & Judy Addison
Don Burton	Selman Watson
Susan Azukas	Corrie Blasi
Dolores	Mary Ann Hiott

Memorial gifts received from February 22 through April 14, 2024

In memory of William D. "Wick" Byars

Given by Rita and Bud McCaskill

In memory of Richard Churchill Curtis

Given by Louise Barker

Anne and Van Lott

In memory of Faye Tidwell Phipps

Given by Rita and Bud McCaskill

In memory of Julia Wingard Raines

Given by Louise Barker

Anne and Van Lott

FINANCIAL REPORT through March 31, 2024

Operating Fund Checking Account:

March income: \$12,144.30

March disbursements: \$11,638.07

Difference: **\$506.23**

1/1/2023 through 3/31/2023

Income: \$29,596.12

Disbursements: \$43,949.44

Difference: **\$14,353.32**

Cemetery and Grounds Checking Account:

March income: \$100.15

March disbursements: \$1340.00

Difference: **\$1239.85**

1/1/2023 through 3/31/2023

Income: \$3031.54

Disbursements: \$2010.00

Difference: \$1021.54

Building Fund Checking Account:

March income: \$0.14

March disbursements: \$600.00

Difference: **\$599.86**

1/1/2023 through 3/31/2023

Income: \$0.37

Disbursements: \$4890.60

Difference: **\$4890.60**