

Amens & Alleluias – September 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 – September 2026

Dear People of St. John's,

As you read this, I will be walking along The Hadrian Wall Trail in England close to the Scottish border. The ruins date back 2000 years. Built in 122 by the Roman emperor Hadrian, the ruins are still visible today. Just think, as this wall was being built so was the early church. We see what was left of the Roman empire at the same time as we marvel at the growth, strength, and power of God in the person of Jesus!

In one of my final meetings with Katie she assured me that ... "you will be fine." I am here to tell you that we are doing fine. Canon Wilson came to speak with the vestry at our August meeting and reviewed the search process with us. She was supportive and positive about our next steps forward. It has been exciting to see the participation in our services and fellowship opportunities. A big **Thank You** to those who prepared the lemonade and cookies for "Lemonade Under the Tree" during the summer. It was a great success allowing for us to gather and enjoy a cool drink on a hot summer day. We are planning for the fall with the stewardship campaign, formation, and fellowship. Remember to check the weekly Happenings, as well as the monthly newsletter. Louise does such an amazing job keeping us all informed about our church family. As always, please keep St. John's and the vestry 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

YOUR HELP NEEDED TO UPDATE THE HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S

The history on the church website ends with the fire in 1981. We need to update this in anticipation of our search for our next priest. Please think about some important events in the last 45 years and send a few to the church office, or make a list on scratch paper and put it in the collection plate, or give your list to Anne Lott. Just a topic will do and the details can be added later to make sentences and paragraphs. All help with this project will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

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.



VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 10, 2026

- Canon Janey Wilson presented and discussed the search process. Topics included: conducting a survey; building a parish profile; writing a charge to the Search Committee; naming the Search Committee; vetting candidates; and presenting candidates to the vestry for consideration.
- Perri Peraza was welcomed having accepted the invitation to fill the vacancy on the vestry.
- Dixie Heating & Cooling has done some repair work recently on the HVAC for Zion Hall but the units may need to be replaced next year. The PTAC wall unit in Zion Hall is not working and will be replaced.
- Members were asked to think about how to continue the work that Katie began regarding Christian Formation, in particular for our youth.
- The vestry agreed to remain in place for consistency throughout the search process. This action will be presented at the congregational meeting held on the first Sunday in Advent.
- Supply priests for August, September and October along with some Sundays in November and December have been secured.
- Homecoming: All Saints'/Homecoming is November 1. It's time to get organized.
- The next vestry meeting will be Monday, September 14, at 6:30pm.

ST. JOHN'S SEPTEMBER CALENDAR AT A GLIMPSE

Sunday, Sep 6	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Monday, Sep 7	-Labor Day
Sunday, Sep 13	-ECW Fund-raiser brunch at 9:30am in Zion Hall
Sunday, Sep 13	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Monday, Sep 14	-Vestry Meeting at 6:30pm
Sunday, Sep 20	-ECW Meeting at 9:30am
Sunday, Sep 20	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, Sep 27	-Worship at 10:30am, Holy Eucharist Rite II
Sunday, Sep 27	-Covered dish luncheon at 11:45am

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE



"Welcome to September – the month of fresh transitions and new rhythms."

Here's hoping September brings some much-awaited cooler temperatures as we settle back into school schedules and daily routines.

The *Ukaloones Band* from St. Matthew's Anglican Church will be visiting St. John's again this year. The date is Sunday, October 18 at 5pm. I will be in touch so we can arrange some light refreshments following their performance.

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 September! ~ Debbie Davis

NEWS FROM YOUR EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

The ECW met on Sunday, August 16 at 9:30 am. Here are the highlights of our meeting:

- The "pounding" for Holly Brazitis was well attended and lots of fun. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this happy event.
- Lemonade Under the Tree was a cool treat and well attended this summer. Thank you to Corrie Blasi, who coordinated this event, and also to all the folks who prepared the delicious lemonade and cookies.
- Plans were made for the fundraiser brunch, scheduled for Sunday Sept. 13 at 9:30 am.
- The ECW will host an ice cream social in conjunction with our covered dish lunch on Sunday, Sept. 27. The ice cream treat is a big thank you for the congregation's faithful support of all of the ECW projects.
- Initial plans were made for the ECW bake and craft sale to be held at Mr. Bunky's on Saturday, October 17.

Our next ECW meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 20 at 9:30 am. All ladies are invited to attend and be a part of our fall planning.

ECW Fundraiser Brunch
Sunday, September 13, 9:30 am

The ECW is hosting a fundraiser brunch on Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 am. Come ready to eat! Join us for yummy breakfast casseroles, hot grits, fruit, biscuits, and lots of good fellowship. Thank you, in advance, for supporting our many outreach projects.

Episcopal Church Women news continued next page:

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.

GADSDEN MINISTRIES**Gadsden Backpack Ministry**

School began early this year and the first backpack bags were delivered to students on August 20th. We appreciate John Davis for delivering each week, and thanks to all who organize, pack, and donate to make this project happen. Please help to keep the program up and running with your donations of food, money, and time! Let's fill the red wagon each week and see who will pull it to the altar for a blessing at the offertory. The guidance counselor with whom we work tells us that the children love their bags (back packs) which they receive each Friday. We are doing a good thing. For more information go to the Ministries page on our website.

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

Gadsden School Supplies

We had a wonderful response to our Gadsden school supply drive. Eight boxes of pencils, notebooks, crayons, markers, Kleenex, wipes, and other essential school supplies were delivered on Thursday, August 13. The administration and teachers were so appreciative and very thankful for our continued support of their students. Thank you for making our Gadsden ministry possible.

ALTAR GUILD

Thank you to the Altar Guild members who served in August. We are in the season of Pentecost, which ends with Advent. Remember, you can sign up to give flowers for the altar at the bulletin board in Zion Hall. Sundays available for giving flowers in the month of September are the 20th and 27th. 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.

SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Sep 6 – Louise & Wendy; Sep 13 – Rita & Betsy; Sep 20 – Fran & Al; Sep 27 – Lisa.

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

WORSHIP TEAM SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

	<u>WORSHIP LEADER</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>VIDEOGRAPHER</u>	<u>GREETER</u>
September 6	Fran Burnett	Louise Barker	John Davis	Debbie Davis
September 13	Jim Hiott	Julie Claytor	Van Lott	Julie & Frank Claytor
September 20	Lisa Clarkson	Anne Lott	Frank Claytor	Mary Ann Hiott
September 27	Van Lott	Alex Peraza	Jose Peraza	Louise Barker

**SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS****BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER**

1	Selman Watson
3	Davis Holliday
6	Anne Lott
7	Matt Nichols
9	Rita McCaskill
14	Maggie Claytor
14	Aiden Hazen
15	Jane Rye
17	Ellie Cox

17	Tristen Hazen
22	LaBruce Alexander
22	Olivia Tatum
22	Levi Nichols
28	Katie Ayers
28	Zach Davis
28	Michael Thompson
30	Julian Rose

ANNIVERSARIES IN SEPTEMBER

22	Mary Alice & Scott Anderson
27	Mattie & Jeff Anderson

GOOD NEWS GRAPEVINE

After a great summer of camp and travel Cooper has started 7th grade. He'll be playing football for Hammond for the first time.

Holly Brazitis started a new job on August 24. She is now working at Sono Bello on Taylor Street. Congrats, Holly.

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

ALL SAINTS' DAY AND HOMECOMING NEWS

This year, All Saints' Day is on November 1, which means preparations will happen on October 31. It's not too early to let John Davis or Lisa Clarkson know how you would like to help. Mark your calendar and plan to join the activities!

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 REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT through July 31, 2026

No special gifts were received August 1-22.

Operating Fund Checking Account:

July income: \$9655.22

July disbursements: \$18,665.36

Difference: **-\$9010.14**

1/1/2026 through 7/31/2026:

Income: \$83,824.96

Disbursements: \$107,495.79

Difference: **-\$23,670.83**

Cemetery & Grounds Checking Acct:

July income: \$0.76

July disbursements: \$0.00

Difference: \$469.76

1/1/2026 through 7/31/2026:

Income: \$7786.83

Disbursements: \$4620.00

Difference: **-\$3166.83**

Building Fund Checking Account:

July income: \$0.16

July disbursements: \$650.00

Difference: **-\$649.84**

1/1/2026 through 7/31/2026:

Income: \$0.96

Disbursements: \$1234.14

Difference: **-\$1233.18**

FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

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:



Be on the lookout for special mail! October is Stewardship Campaign Month for 2027.

In Christ, Julie Claytor, Stewardship Chair

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 Tsahalís	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
David Rylee	Louise Barker
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.