



## REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### SUNDAYS

- 8:00a Holy Eucharist, Church
- 9:00a Breakfast
- 9:20a Nursery available
- 9:30a Adult Forum, Middle and High School Formation, Chapel Chat and Sunday School Prek-5th
- 10:30a Holy Eucharist, Church & [Livestream](#)

### TUESDAYS

- 8:00a George Bean Men's Group, Magill Hall

### WEDNESDAYS

- 11:00a Bible Study, Magill Hall
- 12:10p Holy Eucharist, Chapel

### THURSDAYS

- 4:00p Evening Prayer, Westminster Canterbury Chapel
- 7:00p Parish Choir Rehearsal

### LOOKING AHEAD: NOVEMBER

- 14 5:15p COA Meeting, Library
- 5:30p Outreach Meeting, Chapter Room
- 6:30p Craft Meeting, Magill
- 16 5:30p Yoder Center Thanksgiving Dinner, Yoder Center
- 5:30p SJDS Board Meeting, Chapter Room
- 19 9:30a No Breakfast
- Combined Adult Forum and Chapel Chat, Chapel
- 11:45a Bazaar, Magill
- 20 5:30p Vestry Meeting, Chapter Room
- 23-24 Office Closed for Thanksgiving
- 27 SJDS Book Fair through Week
- 30 5:30p Wild Game Dinner, Magill

### LOOKING AHEAD: DECEMBER

- 3 9:45a Combined Holy Eucharist Service
- 11:00a Annual Meeting, Magill
- 5:00p Youth Group
- 6 5:30p St. Nicholas Day Party, Magill
- 7 11:45a Westminster Canterbury Luncheon, WC
- 4-22 8:00a Morning Prayer via Zoom

## MESSAGE FROM THE REV. CHRIS ROUSSELL, RECTOR

Dear Saints of St. John's,

A blank page. A flashing cursor. My mind filled with so many things to write about this month. Often, the subject of these letters to you comes quickly and specifically. But, here in the first week of November, my mind is cluttered with a thousand things I could write to you.

Giving thanks is always appropriate at this time of year. Of course, that can quickly lead to a reminder of the importance of our weekly Thanksgiving – the Eucharist. Perhaps a reminder of our mid-week Eucharist on Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m. and a challenge for you to join our dedicated group.

Just over the horizon is December. Do I write about the special services coming up? The Annual Meeting on December 3, with a combined service at 9:45 a.m., as well as the unique situation this year where Advent 4 and Christmas Eve fall on the same day, or the fact that New Year's Eve falls on a Fifth Sunday – yet another combined service at 9:45 a.m.? Perhaps that can wait until next month.

My mind always drifts towards a message about Jesus Christ whom I adore and worship alongside you. Without him, we would not be here together. Do I write of the time as a freshman in college when I had an hours long argument with Jesus and how that drew me closer to him? Or my 36-day silent retreat in 1999 where I got to experience the human side of Jesus? Or how I saw him in one of you this week?

Perhaps I should share my recent experiences of connecting with the Holy Spirit during my prayer time. My acknowledgement of the Spirit's presence at St. John's these days sounds like a broken record in my head, but maybe it needs to be said over and over again.

Or I could simply express the deepest gratitude that Alison and I feel to be part of your lives – and you as part of ours.

The truth is that I'm not quite sure what our Lord Jesus Christ through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit wants me – as your pastor – to say to you. How do I simply say "thank you and keep doing what you're doing, because you're doing it so well"?

The page is now filled with a blast of ideas all over the place. Yet, they originate from one place: my heart.

In Christ's Joy,

*Chris*



# TIME - TALENT - TREASURE - WISDOM - WORKS - WEALTH

The Stewardship season allows each of us to consider our giving and the priority we place on the mission and work of St. John's in our lives. A sincere thank you to those of you who have already submitted a Stewardship pledge this year, and for those of you who have not yet had a chance to pledge there is still time!!

Your annual pledge allows the Vestry to approve a budget each December to support our ministries, facilities, and staff for the coming year. Historically, we receive about 2/3rds of the pledges by Pledge Sunday in October, and continue to receive pledge commitments through the year, with the reality that the budget will be based on the totals reached in early December.

This year, as of Pledge Sunday on October 15th, we received 141 pledges totaling \$635,626. As a comparison, by December of last year we collected 208 pledges for a full year total of \$816,339.

	12/1/2022	10/15/2023
Total Pledges in Dollars	\$816,339	\$635,626
Total Number of Pledges	208	141

While our year-to-date totals are comparable to last October, we pray that by December we will exceed last year's totals to meet the needs of our growing and vibrant church community. The Stewardship Committee will be working over the next several weeks to increase the pledge numbers.

As Chris mentioned in his Stewardship letter to the congregation, the St. John's Annual Budget has been nearly the same for 20 years and even as inflation and expenses have risen, our income has not kept pace.

Exciting things are taking place at St. John's and by combining our gifts we can make a meaningful difference together. Please contact any member of the Stewardship Committee with any questions or concerns.

Gratefully,

*Pam Bradford*

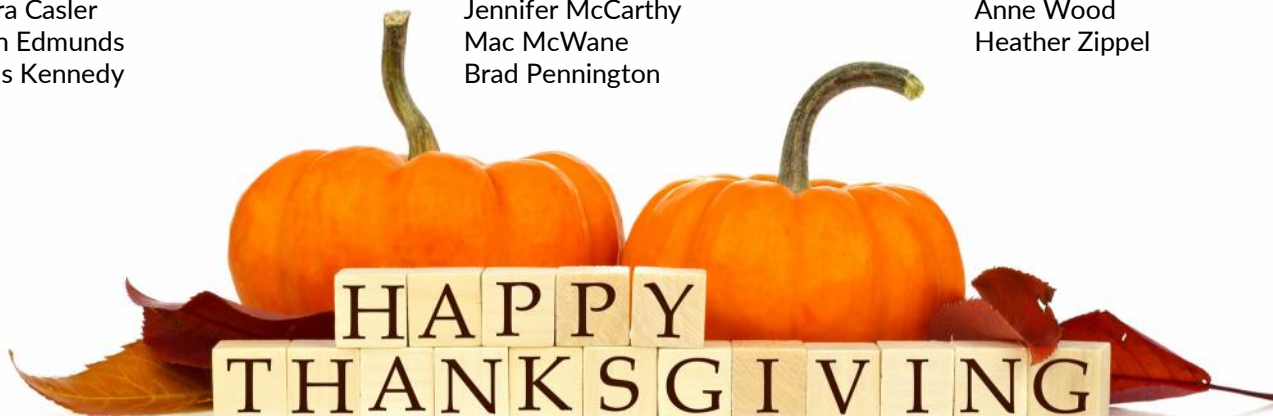
*"And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do..." (BCP, p.366)*

## 2024 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:

Tommy Battle  
Pam Bradford  
Laura Casler  
John Edmunds  
Chris Kennedy

Brenda Kincaid  
Joe Krakora  
Jennifer McCarthy  
Mac McWane  
Brad Pennington

John Stone  
John Welker  
Anne Wood  
Heather Zippel



# ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

BY THE REV. BENJAMIN COWGILL, ASSOCIATE RECTOR FOR FORMATION

Dear Siblings in Christ,

I can't believe it is almost Advent! As we wrap up our November classes, I am excited for "Christ the King Sunday" after two weeks of deep study on this topic. I know that our recent Bible studies have enriched the Sunday morning worship for me and for those who have participated. Will you join us this December for a Bible Study, Adult Forum, or Morning Prayer in Advent to prepare for Christmas?

Our next Bible Study will be another special focus as we dive into the topic of Incarnation. Join us as we examine both Old and New Testament to understand why Jesus became human, and what difference the incarnation makes. Often, Episcopalians and Anglicans alike place a large emphasis in their theology on "incarnation;" so it is fitting that we begin to unpack that term with a Bible Study. Classes will be at 11:00a on Wednesday Nov 29, December 6, and December 13.

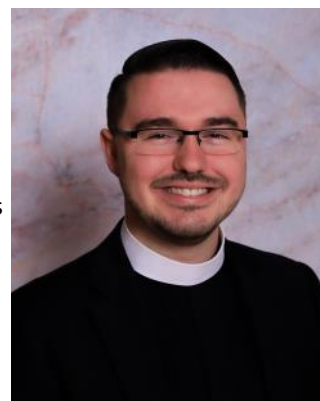
Our Adult Forum in Advent will meet December 10 and 17 for a two-part conversation on John the Baptist. We will explore John's story through scripture and discuss how we are called to be like John in pointing the way to Jesus Christ. This class will be a mix of lecture and discussion.

Finally, Morning Prayer returns via [Zoom](#) Monday-Friday December 4-22 at 8:00a. We have a faithful group who attend this prayer daily and experience it as a transformative practice. Start your day with 20 minutes of prayer in community from wherever you are. Even if you cannot join every day, choose one day of the week and join us 3 times over the 3 weeks. I look forward to this prayer so much during Advent and Lent; so I hope you will make plans to join us!

God bless you!

*Ben*

[ben@stjohnslynchburg.org](mailto:ben@stjohnslynchburg.org)




St. John's  
Episcopal Church  
LYNCHBURG

*Save the Date*  
**St. John's Holiday Bazaar**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

*Homemade food items!*

**BOSTON AVENUE CREAM PIES  
ARE BACK THIS YEAR! SCAN THE  
QR CODE TO ORDER ONLINE.**





## Happy Thanksgiving!

BY AMY PANZER

We have much to be thankful for down here in the Day School. Joyful children, dedicated teachers, wonderful families, and a supportive congregation. We are very blessed indeed.

We are also very busy! The walls are decorated with disguised turkeys hoping not to be eaten for dinner, we had our annual petting zoo as Little Critters came to visit, we had a huge turnout for our annual Halloween parade, and we are looking forward to our Scholastic Bookfair at the end of the month. We will be set up in the commons area, so stop by, get some Christmas shopping done and support SJDS at the same time!

We thank each of you for the impact you all have on our school and we wish you all a wonderful season of gratitude.



Come to our

**SCHOLASTIC**

**BOOK FAIR**

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**St. John's Day School Book Fair**  
**November 26-December 1**

Stop by for the St. John's Day School Scholastic Book Fair Nov. 26 - Dec 1! It will be open after both Sunday services and 9:00a-12:00p MON-FRI. It will be located in Fauber Gallery.

**St. Nicholas Day Party**  
**Wednesday**  
**December 6**  
**5:30p-7:00p**  
All parents & children  
PreK-3rd grade.

A St. John's children's tradition of stories, crafts, treats, pizza and a special visitor! Children are invited to wear their pjs! Please enter through the Magill Hall door on Boston Ave. [More -> https://tinyurl.com/2b75chx3](https://tinyurl.com/2b75chx3)



# CHILDREN AND YOUTH

BY LALLA SYDNOR JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES



## Greetings Children, Tweens, Teens, Parents and Grandparents!

October was a great month from beginning to end. Ann Vest's farm was the perfect setting for our St. John's Parish Picnic! The children painted faces, got plenty of exercise running through fields and spent time together, just sitting on the fence. What a picturesque spot for the beginning of Autumn!



Youth Group had a busy month. I am pleased to announce that the Episcopalians gave the Presbyterians a whooping at our Spottswood Field Kickball Game. We have some very athletic kids who are fun, fair, and ooze good sportsmanship. A sprinkling of youth was present at our Day of Sharing to help Kum Ba Yah spruce up for an Addison's Amphitheater event and we also spent a low-key evening in the Youth House carving pumpkins and baking Halloween cookies.

Club 54 and our PreK-3rd graders had a wonderful time at the St. John's Autumn Spooktacular. The evening was filled with art projects, baking, spooky stories, and dance! A big thank you to our guest artists, readers, bakers and all who helped by donating supplies or volunteering.



The holidays are here and sadly, SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS LOW. Please remember during this busy season to make church, Sunday School, and the youth activities we provide a priority. You will thank yourself as you watch your children form positive relationships and build a strong Christian foundation. Text, call or email any time!

*Lalla*

Cell: 434-944-3407 | Office: 434-473-7521  
[lalla@stjohnslynchburg.org](mailto:lalla@stjohnslynchburg.org)





# OUTREACH

BY CATHY DALTON, OUTREACH CHAIR

Plan to join us at our last meeting for 2023 on November 14, at 5:30p in the Chapter Room. If you cannot join us for the meeting, please join us with our coat collection, Tinbridge Hill Yoder Center Thanksgiving, November 16, and Angel Tree in December!

**St. Andrew's Society and Salvation Army:** We are looking for two volunteers for the committee to be liaisons with the St. Andrew's Society and Salvation Army.

**One Community One Voice Share the Warmth Coat Drive** was established to collect new and gently used coats to meet the need of many people in our community who lack enough warm clothing to stay protected throughout winter and lack the money to buy that clothing. The box is in the Commons. The coat drive ends November 25, 2023.

**Tinbridge Hill Yoder Center Angel Tree is coming soon.** Look for the tree in the Commons in December!

**The Salvation Army needs bell ringers.** This year the sign up will be different. Please find a partner from St. John's and sign up together. It is a wonderful way to get to know a fellow parishioner, even someone who attends a different service than you do! Sign up dates: November 24-December 23. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0a48adaf2eabf49-sign2>

**Daily Bread:** Wednesday, December 6, we need 5 volunteers. Please contact Molly Jenkins (845-1321) or [euniceroper@comcast.net](mailto:euniceroper@comcast.net) to ask questions or to sign up to experience this rewarding opportunity.

**Day of Sharing.** Our Day of Sharing was a great success! Thank you Bill Burruss, Clay Coleman, Laura Coleman, Nicolle Cundiff, Lalla Johnson, Heather Zippel, and Chris Roussell for planning the work and picnic lunch at Camp Kum-Ba-Yah, St. John's Day School, NoWalls Open Table House, and Miller Home. We had a great turnout of lunch providers and adult and youth participants! Thank you for filling a car with the Day of Sharing request for Miriam's House!





# ST. JOHN'S MUSIC

BY PEGGY HAAS HOWELL

## Casting Call for St. John's Christmas Pageant Children and Youth of St. John's K through 12th Grade

It is time to gather the cast for the annual Christmas Pageant, which will take place on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, at 4:00p. If you would like to participate, please email Perry Payne at [perry@perrypayne.com](mailto:perry@perrypayne.com) by Dec. 1 (on the subject line please write "St. John's Christmas Pageant").

- Kindergarten children will be animals.
- Girls and boys will be angels and shepherds.
- Older participants will be Narrators, Mary, Joseph, Gabriel, King Herod, and Wise Men.

The schedule is as follows:

### Costume Fittings

#### Sunday, Dec. 10

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Angels (Sunday School, 2nd level hallway) - All angels are needed at 9:00 because we line them up by height and then assign their costumes.

11:45 a.m. Shepherds and animals

#### Sunday, Dec. 17

9:00-9:30 a.m. Main Characters (Mary, Joseph, Herod, Wise men)

### Rehearsals (in the church)

#### Thursday, December 21

10:00a- 10:30a Narrators and Main Characters

10:30a-12:00p Rehearsal for all

#### Saturday, December 23

10:00a-12:00p Dress rehearsal for all

### Sunday, December 24: Christmas Pageant Service

3:00p Call for all participants (Sunday School, 2nd level hallway)

4:00p Christmas Pageant Service (Church)



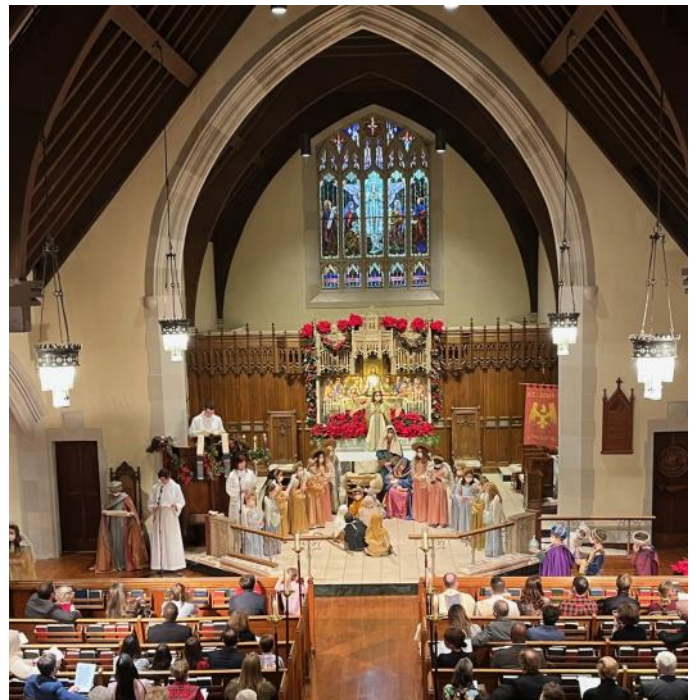
## ST. CECILIA CHOIR

The St. Cecilia Choir for middle and high school students will meet on Dec. 10 from 8:45a - 9:25a in the choir room and on Dec. 17 from 8:55 until 9:25 in the church. They will sing at the 10:30 service on

December 17. The Christmas Pageant Choir (St. Cecilia Choir, Children's Advent Choir, plus several adults from the Parish Choir) will rehearse on Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 4:30 until 5:30 in the church. They will meet at 3:00 in the choir room on Sunday, December 24, before the Christmas Pageant.

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CHOIR FOR ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILDREN

Children from second through fifth grades are invited to sing in the Advent and Christmas Pageant Choir. They will meet on three Wednesdays in December from 4:30 until 5:30: December 6, 13, and 20. They will sing in church on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 17. On Wednesday, December 20, they will be joined by the St. Cecilia Choir and some adults from the Parish Choir.



# A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 17, at 4:00p



**St. John's Parish Choir  
Cantate Children's and  
Youth Choir  
Peggy Haas Howell and  
Randall Speer, Conductors**

*Carols by David Willcocks,  
Jim Leininger, Regina Pearsall,  
Michael-John Trotta, Matthew  
Owens, Franz Biebl, John Rutter,  
Bob Chilcott, and  
Morten Lauridsen*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

BY GENE KIDD, TREASURER

Increased pledge and non-pledge receipts in September and October pushed year-to-date revenue well above budget.

Administration costs are running over budget due to staff increases. Utility expenses, as in prior months, continue to exceed budgeted amounts.

St. John's Episcopal Church Statement of Activities October 31, 2023			
Description	YTD Result	YTD SOM	Variance
Pledge Income	\$ 677,189	\$ 617,916	\$ 59,273
Other Contributions	45,247	17,577	27,670
Other Revenue	108,694	105,065	3,629
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 831,130</b>	<b>\$ 740,558</b>	<b>\$ 90,572</b>
Administration	\$ 548,414	\$ 537,380	\$ (11,034)
Property	\$ 124,793	\$ 114,040	\$ (10,753)
Christian Formation	\$ 3,970	\$ 6,505	\$ 2,535
Worship/Music	\$ 14,405	\$ 15,100	\$ 695
Parish Life and Care	\$ 7,391	\$ 8,730	\$ 1,339
Greater Church - Diocesan Pledge	\$ 80,068	\$ 80,070	\$ 2
Outreach/Missions	\$ 10,280	\$ 10,050	\$ (230)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 789,321</b>	<b>\$ 771,875</b>	<b>\$ (17,446)</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 41,809</b>	<b>\$ (31,317)</b>	<b>\$ 73,126</b>





## Seeing and Believing

Symbols Found in  
St. John's Episcopal Church  
Lynchburg, Virginia

### ► Seeing and Believing

Written originally as a series of articles by Marge Freeman for our monthly newsletter, *The Tidings*, this book documents in photos and text, the many symbols, icons, and images of our faith found at St. John's. Release date November 2023. Available for purchase at our Annual Bazaar, \$13.



### ► Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will be December 3, following a 9:45a combined service.



## The Annual Men & Boys

### Wild Game Dinner

Thursday, November 30  
5:30 p.m. in Magill Hall.

Sign-up in Fauber Gallery  
or Scan QR



Anyone who has wild game to donate,  
please call Alan Williamson at 434-660-9305



## Honor a Loved One Through Christmas Music!



St. John's has a tradition of festive and exciting Christmas music, both in holiday concerts and for Christmas services. Support our special music by giving an offering in memory or in honor of a loved one. Please cut out and return this form to Nicole Cook by Sunday, December 10. Your check should be made out to St. John's Episcopal Church, note "Christmas Music " on the memo line.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift for Christmas music at St. John's is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift for Christmas music at St. John's is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of gift: \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*To assist us with accurate record keeping, please use this form.\*\***

## Christmas Greens and Poinsettias



St. John's Flower Guild members are planning now for the Christmas Season and the decoration of the church with greens and Poinsettias. Your gift in honor or in memory of a loved one will enable our team to again adorn Holy spaces. There is no set amount for a donation. Please cut out and return this form to Nicole Cook by Sunday, December 10. Your check should be made out to St. John's Episcopal Church, note "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line. Thanks for your support of this ministry!

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift for Christmas flowers at St. John's is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift for Christmas flowers at St. John's is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of gift: \_\_\_\_\_ **\*\*To assist us with accurate record keeping, please use this form.\*\***





# HAPPY Anniversary

## NOVEMBER

### November 6

Kennon & Charlie White (24 yrs)

### November 8

Joanne & Letcher Newcomb (26 yrs)

### November 11

Sara & Vaden Hunt (17 yrs)

### November 13

Cathy & Matt Sackett (30 yrs)

### November 17

Cindy & Matt Joyner (14 yrs)

### November 19

Beth & Daniel Payne (18 yrs)

### November 20

Lea & Billy Barksdale (41 yrs)

### November 22

Paula Ryan & Paul Feinman (37 yrs)

### November 23

Reva & Robert Fox (62 yrs)

Nicole & Segar Jordan (10 yrs)

### November 24

Jodi & Philip Showalter (23 yrs)

### November 27

Sarah & Tim Hellewell (24 yrs)

### November 28

Clare & Greg Weaver (36 yrs)

### November 29

Nina & Jerry Salmon (37 yrs)

## DECEMBER

### December 10

Mary Kathryn & Bill McIntosh (57 yrs)

### December 11

Holly & Mosby Perrow (58 yrs)

### December 12

Christie & Kevin Hooper (25 yrs)

Anne & Alex Winstead (14 yrs)

### December 18

Marge & Joe Freeman (57 yrs)

### December 20

Sallie & Brett Carson (20 yrs)

### December 28

Laura & John Casler (32 yrs)

Lisa & Sky Pacot (21 yrs)

Dana & Jim Redmond (63 yrs)

### December 29

Julie & Allen Chipley (50 yrs)

Sally & Trey James (5 yrs)

Betty & Dick Leary (69 yrs)

### December 30

Lynnett & Charlie Schindler (28 yrs)

Betsy & Dennis Howard (6 yrs)

### December 31

Emily & Scott Smith (19 yrs)



**St. John's**  
Episcopal Church  
LYNCHBURG

## IN SERVICE

### CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas,  
Bishop of Southwestern Virginia  
The Rev. Christopher Roussell, Rector  
The Rev. Benjamin Cowgill, Associate for  
Formation

### LAY STAFF

Peggy Haas Howell, Organist and  
Choirmaster  
Nicole Cook, Executive Assistant to the  
Rector  
Pam Reynolds, Parish Administrator  
Amy Panzer, Director of St. John's Day  
School  
Lalla Sydnor Johnson, Director of  
Children, Youth and Family Ministries  
Gracie Johnson, Sexton  
River Segel, Sexton

### VESTRY 2023

#### Commission on Administration

Betsy Worthington (Sr. Warden) (2024)  
Neal Davidson (Jr. Warden) (2024)  
John Casler (Sr. Warden Elect) (2025)  
John B. Morgan III (Jr. Warden Elect)  
(2025)  
Scott Kowalski (2023)  
Charlie Pryor (2023)

#### Commission on Christian Formation

Christie Hooper (2023)  
Julie Andrews (2025)

#### Commission on Outreach

Heather Zippel (2023)  
Tom Eppes (2025)

#### Commission on Liturgy & Music

Eleanor Dovel (2024)  
Anna McWane (2024)

#### Commission on Parish Life and Care

Judy Arthur (2023)  
Walker Sigler (2024)  
Brenda Kincaid (2025)

Office: (434) 528-1138

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can follow St. John's Lynchburg on all of your fave social media platforms to receive updates, announcements, watch live events, get reminders and much more.  
Just search for @stjohnslynchburg

St. John's Episcopal Church  
205 Elmwood Avenue  
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Lynchburg, VA 24503  
434-528-1138

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**St. John's**  
Episcopal Church  
L Y N C H B U R G

*TIDINGS*

**NOVEMBER 2023 | [STJOHNSLYNCHBURG.ORG](http://STJOHNSLYNCHBURG.ORG)**