

ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2026



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ESSEX, CONNECTICUT
JANUARY 25, 2026

Annual Meeting
St. John's Episcopal Church
Essex, Connecticut
January 25, 2026 at 9 a.m.

1. Call to Order, Opening Prayer The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas **(5 mins)**
2. Appointment of the Clerk Stephanie Patterson **(5 mins)**
3. Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting held 4-6-25 The Rev. Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas **(10 mins)**
4. Treasurer's Financial Reports John Rogers **(15 mins)**
 - Year End of 2025
 - Treasurer's Report
 - 2026 Budget
5. Wardens' Report Wesley Henry & Jan Perruccio **(10 mins)**
6. Rector's Report The Rev. Elaine E. Thomas **(5 mins)**
7. Report of Nominating Committee for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates Patti Pickering
8. Election of new vestry and delegates
9. Recognition of outgoing Vestry Members and Delegates The Rev. Dr. Elaine E. Thomas **(5mins)**

Officers: Stephanie Patterson
Vestry: Nat Eddy and Patti Pickering
Delegates: Rebecca Honan and Sandy Loether
10. Elections Report (if needed)
11. Closing Prayer The Rev. Elaine Ellis Thomas **(2 mins)**
12. Dismissal **9:55 a.m.**



St. John's Episcopal Church
3 Cross Street
P.O. Box 422
Essex, Connecticut 06426

(860) 767 8095

"Giving Grace in God's World"

Annual Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: Sunday, April 6, 2025

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church

1., 2	Opening Prayer & Appointment of Clerk	Scott Konrad
	The meeting opened at 9 AM with prayer with 110 people in attendance: sufficient for a quorum. Stephanie Patterson was appointed clerk. A video presentation accompanied written materials.	

3.	Consent Agenda: Minutes of the 2023 and 2024 Annual Meetings held on 1.29.23 and 1.28.24	Scott Konrad
Points Raised:	<i>After brief discussion, Tony Custodio moved to accept the consent agenda, Charlie Walden seconded. Motion passed unanimously. See Meeting Materials.</i>	

4.	Treasurer's Report	John Rogers
	For 2024, projected budget and actual spending, the actual spending was less than budgeted. Market income on investments has been used to meet the shortage in pledge income. Pledge data shows a substantial drop in amount pledged as well as history of pledged dollars not received dating back to 2022. We run a deficit due to rising costs of operations and programs with a pattern of reduced pledge income. However, the cash flow and net worth overall are still positive and have allowed us to manage the leaner summer months when regular pledges typically drop. The 2025 budget was passed as a commitment to the community with the intention of increasing stewardship education year-round rather than a matter that is at the forefront during capital campaigns. The pledge ladder illustrations breakdown the number of pledges and levels of giving. As a congregation, we need to be very mindful of our role as stewards, with gratitude for those who have cared for St John's before us and to be ready for future generations. The new rector is aware of the budget and comfortable with our status. A question was raised from the floor if we use professional investment advice. Charlie Walden,	

	answered on behalf of the Investment Oversight Committee that we do, and review regularly. The church finances are in final audit for the year, a customary practice.	
5.	Warden's Report	Scott Konrad
Points Raised:	Scott Konrad provided a summary of the year, with supporting data in the video presentation. He and co-warden Sandy Loether expressed profound gratitude for Chelsea DiDonato, Meghan Wrinn, Allison Fresher, Anthony Pandolfe, interim clergy Wilk Miller and Carol Gadsden, Buildings and Grounds and vestry for the outstanding effort and additional time devoted to St. John's to keep services, programming and property in good hands during the interim transition period.	
6.	Interim Rector's Report	Wilk Miller
Points Raised:	<i>See Meeting Materials.</i>	
7., 8, 9.	Report of Nominating Committee & Election	Wesley Henry
Points Raised:	<i>See Meeting Video. Nominees: Wardens: Wesley Henry and Jan Perruccio, John Rogers, Treasurer, Stephanie Patterson, Clerk, Lois Blood Bennett, Leigh Dorrington, Peter Holland, Linda Board, Jane Riggio. Delegates: Donna Moeller, Dan Welsh, Rebecca Honan, Sandy Loether. With gratitude for the service of outgoing members: Carol Beisser, Scott Konrad, Anne Littlefield, Sandy Loether and Rob van der Horst. Outgoing delegates: Mark Hedge-Terreri, Kirsten Wnedell, Allison Fresher, Ellen Pfarr. and outgoing Stewardship Chair Greg Perruccio.</i>	
10.	Closing Prayer	Wilk Miller
	John Rogers presented a review of the current financial standing and a summary of the roles of the Investment Oversight Committee and the Hayden Trust. <i>Tony Custodio made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Patti Pickering seconded. Motion passed unanimously. See Meeting Materials.</i>	
	Dismissal	



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3 CROSS STREET / P.O. BOX 422
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Annual Report from the Rector

*Do not remember the former thing or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
(Isaiah 43:18-19)*

An annual report is supposed to be, well, just that - a review of the past year in the life of the congregation as I have experienced it from the kind of broad perspective I am privileged to have as your rector. Given that I am just short of seven months into my tenure, you might expect that I would be looking more forward than backward. And so I am. There are five areas to which I have given the most attention because they are, in my view, the most vital to assure that we are fulfilling our vocation as a worshipping Christian community living not only for ourselves but for Christ who died for us (paraphrase 2 Cor. 5:15).

Worship

*I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Psalm 122:1)*

Coming together to hear God's word, confess our sins, receive the sacraments, and get sent out into the world is the central act of the faithful Christian life. To be a person of faith is to be a person in community with others as we learn together, serve together, and care for one another in all seasons of life. The consistently steady attendance numbers, along with a stream of visitors and newcomers who find their way through our doors, are a good indication that what we are about here has meaning, that we are offering welcome and hospitality that does not expect anyone to be an "expert" in doctrine or scripture. No, what we are inviting people to do is to explore with us, to ask questions, and to try to figure out what Church and Jesus and scripture have to do with the world we inhabit the other six days of the week.

Christan Formation

*Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path. (Psalm 119:105)*

Tuesday bible study (morning and evening) and weekly contemplative prayer are the most consistent formation activities that we offer. The introduction of a Speakers Series and regular offerings at Sunday forums are another way of helping form us all as disciples of Jesus so that we are equipped to go into the world seeking and serving as we have promised in baptism. There are a few families with children who attend church regularly, and I look forward to finding ways include them in our

formation schedule beginning with Second Sundays at St. John's, an intergenerational meal and casual worship offering that will begin in March. Stay tuned for more details on that.

Mission & Justice + Community Engagement

*Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; *
love and truth go before your face. (Psalm 89:14)*

This fall, our annual giving campaign theme was *Faithful~Grateful~Generous*. Understanding that we live out our faith in gratitude and generosity leads us to caring for those near and far who are in need. We have long-standing traditions with our participation in Shoreline Soup Kitchen and Pantries, Habitat for Humanity, and our Military Ministry. A Sacred Place offers nurturing support for women incarcerated in the York Correctional Institution. We collect school items and gifts for children and families in need from time to time during the year as well as providing financial support for the Essex Oil Fund. Our international ministries are paused for the moment as we discern how best we can partner and build mutually beneficial relationships beyond our region.

Buildings and Grounds

*Unless the LORD builds the house, *
their labor is in vain who build it. (Psalm 127:1)*

St. John's is blessed to have a talented group of people dedicated to keeping our facilities in good order. It is important to emphasize that we do not simply care for our buildings so that we have a place to worship. No, maintaining our property is an act of service, of stewardship of the legacy of all those people whose time and effort made our presence here possible, and of thanksgiving for God's good provision to us. Our buildings are part of our mission as we open our doors to the community for events, liturgies, meals, and other activities. Of course, maintaining aging buildings is an expensive proposition, so using budgeted funds wisely and effectively is always at the forefront of our considerations, something made easier with our own resident repair and maintenance volunteers!

Vestry

My eyes are upon the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me... (Psalm 101:6a)

One of the ways the whole congregation participates in the decision-making of St. John's is through the election of vestry members who are willing to serve as leaders for a period of time, taking responsibility for oversight of the many ministries and financial matters that are vital to the health of this parish. I "inherited" faithful and steadfast wardens, a clerk, a treasurer, and vestry members and look forward to building relationships with a new body to be elected at this annual meeting. I ask your prayers for those standing for election or re-election as we launch our first full year together. I am also grateful to members of the Investment Oversight Committee, a standing committee of the vestry, whose members manage our financial investment accounts and report to the vestry.

Conclusion

*The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore. (Psalm 121:8)*

One of the blessings of St. Johns to me is the capable and delightful people I get to work with. Getting to know Chelsea, Meghan, Anthony, and Manuel has helped acclimate me more quickly to the ins and outs of this place. Losing Chelsea is a challenge on many fronts, not least because of her long tenure here and the knowledge she accumulated over almost ten years. I look forward to finding just the right person to become part of this team, learning alongside them what we need to know to help St. John's function as smoothly as possible. I am so grateful to have been called as your rector.

*Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those that travel the road with us,
so be swift to love and make haste to be kind.
(Adapted from Henri-Frédéric Amiel)*

With my gratitude and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elaine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Treasurer's Report
12/31/2025**

INCOME	12/31/2025	2025 Budget
Loose Offering	\$ 32,299	\$ 26,000
Pledges Next Year	\$ -	
Pledge Income	\$ 440,978	\$ 421,116
Other Operating Donations	\$ 18,345	\$ 22,200
Disc Fund	\$ -	
Total Operating Income	\$ 491,621	\$ 469,316
EXPENSES		
Clergy	\$ 162,604	\$ 208,473
Non-Clergy Taxes/Benefits	\$ 41,528	\$ 38,638
Property	\$ 88,783	\$ 114,594
Office & Admin	\$ 98,209	\$ 102,774
Music	\$ 64,011	\$ 63,005
Educ & Cong Life	\$ 29,974	\$ 33,118
Worship	\$ 10,637	\$ 14,700
Diocesan Contrib	\$ 64,026	\$ 64,026
Misc	\$ 1,337	\$ 1,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 561,109	\$ 640,328
Net Operating Income (less pledge next year)	\$ (69,487)	\$ (171,012)
Transfers in from Hayden/D&B	\$ 50,495	\$ 55,431
Net Operating Income	\$ (18,992)	\$ (115,581)
Non-Operating Donations	\$ 62,519	\$ 46,500
Non-Operating Expenses	\$ 69,845	\$ 65,931
SJEC Net Realized Income	\$ (26,317)	\$ (135,012)

St. John's Church - Essex CT
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2025

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Page 1 of 1

Account Name	Beginning Balance	YTD Balance
Assets		
Essex Savings - Second Account	9,892.41	5,841.78
Essex Savings Bank - Operating Account	79,120.59	58,186.11
Liberty Bank - Rector's Discretionary Fund	22,718.95	24,284.95
Wells Fargo- Investment Account	218,934.42	249,058.49
Total Cash & Equivalent	\$330,666.37	\$337,371.33
D&B BG 1081 unrestricted	444,058.39	471,170.55
D&B BG 1082 restricted	90,379.93	95,919.00
MAI Capital	534,029.72	603,601.96
Total Long Term Investments	\$1,068,468.04	\$1,170,691.51
Total Assets	\$1,399,134.41	\$1,508,062.84
Liabilities		
Accrued Disability Insurance	159.08	224.96
Accrued Payroll taxes	3,484.84	5,015.44
Accrued Pension Payments	445.86	1,860.38
Accrued State Withholding	598.57	685.91
CTFMLA - Family Medical Leave	163.36	410.55
Total Withholdings	\$4,851.71	\$8,197.24
<i>Accounts Payable/Vendors</i>	0.00	0.00
Other Liabilities	0.00	4,697.05
Payroll Clearing Account	0.00	0.00
Prepaid Pledges	19,700.00	13,210.00
Total Liabilities	\$24,551.71	\$26,104.29
Fund Balance		
D&B General Expense Account	444,058.39	471,170.55
D&B Rector Expense Account	90,379.93	95,919.00
General Account	203,204.34	190,941.37
Helen S. Chatman Fellowship Account	25,161.53	23,472.68
Memorial Fund	0.00	2,405.50
Memorial Garden & Prepaid Funeral Account	14,295.68	14,220.68
Rector's Discretionary Account	22,718.95	24,059.95
Rector's Sabbatical Account	3,950.18	3,950.18
St. John's Heritage Endowment Account	534,029.72	603,601.96
St. John's Outreach Account	36,783.98	52,216.68
Total Fund Balance	\$1,374,582.70	\$1,481,958.55
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$1,399,134.41	\$1,508,062.84
Hayden Trust	\$788,675.74	\$846,855.80

*The Hayden Trust is solely for Rector Housing expenses. The Vestry serves as Trustees.
The Fund is not included as an asset of St. Johns.*

Year	Total # of Pledges	Total Amount Pledged	Actual Amount Received
2026	130	\$476,328	TBD
2025	130	\$425,887	\$440,978
2024	147	\$470,908	\$482,242
2023	136	\$423,535	\$435,634
2022	147	\$429,259	\$416,171

**St. John's Episcopal Church
2026 Budget**

ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT NAME	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET
OPERATING INCOME			
401.000	Loose Offering	\$26,000	\$26,000
410.000	Pledge income-Next Year	\$9,400	\$0
411.000	Pledge Income-Prior Year	\$0	\$0
412.000	Pledge Income-Current Year	\$476,328	\$421,116
	Total Unrestricted Operating Gifts:	\$511,728	\$447,116
430.000	Organist Funeral/Wedding Fees	\$4,500	\$4,500
433.000	Designated Contribution - Flowers	\$6,000	\$7,200
434.000	Designated Contribution - Music	\$2,000	\$500
436.000	Designated Contribution - Other	\$2,000	\$2,000
437.000	Other Operating Income	\$750	\$1,500
438.000	Other Contributions	\$750	\$2,500
440.000	Contributions for Building Use	\$2,500	\$4,000
442.100	D&B Rector's - Distribution	\$4,115	\$4,115
442.200	D&B General - Distribution	\$20,316	\$20,316
446.000	Hayden Trust Distribution	\$31,000	\$31,000
	Other Gifts for Operations:	\$73,931	\$77,631
	Total Operating Income:	\$585,659	\$524,747
OPERATING EXPENSES			
501.000	Rector - Salary	\$73,271	\$37,470
502.000	Rector - SS Allowance	\$12,665	\$7,198
503.000	Rector - Housing Allowance	\$52,000	\$33,723
504.000	Rector - Insurance (Life, Health & Dental)	\$39,083	\$33,565
505.000	Rector - Pension Assessment	\$24,829	\$14,110
506.000	Rector - Utilities incl. Telephone	\$820	\$478
508.000	New Rector Costs	\$0	\$25,000
509.000	Rector Search Costs	\$0	\$10,000
510.900	Visiting Clergy	\$2,500	\$2,500
524.000	Interim Supply Clergy	\$0	\$41,600
572.000	Rector - Continuing Ed	\$1,100	\$1,079
574.000	Rector - Professional Expenses	\$1,750	\$1,750
	Total Clergy Expenses:	\$208,018	\$208,473
520.000	Staff - Payroll Tax	\$10,665	\$10,330
521.000	Staff - Insurance	\$19,255	\$17,665
522.000	Lay Staff - Insurance LTD	\$500	\$500
523.000	Lay Staff Pension	\$13,963	\$10,143
	Total Non-Clergy Staff Taxes & Benefits:	\$44,383	\$38,637
511.000	Sexton	\$23,055	\$22,329
530.000	Utilities - Church	\$28,500	\$28,500
531.000	Projects - Church/Grounds	\$27,450	\$27,450
533.000	Property & Liability Insurance	\$15,800	\$15,800
534.000	All Other Property Expenses	\$5,000	\$5,000
534.500	Ongoing Church Expenses	\$20,278	\$15,515
	Total Property Expenses:	\$120,083	\$114,594
513.000	Secretary / Administration	\$54,799	\$53,074
540.000	Office Supplies	\$11,000	\$11,000
541.000	Postage	\$2,250	\$2,250
542.000	Equipment Expense	\$8,000	\$8,000
544.000	Telephone - Church	\$4,000	\$4,000
545.000	Bank Service Charges	\$2,500	\$2,500
545.500	Brokerage Fees	\$750	\$750
546.000	Bookkeeping & Auditing	\$19,200	\$19,200
546.500	Pastoral Support	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Total Office & Administration Expenses:	\$104,499	\$102,774

**St. John's Episcopal Church
2026 Budget**

ACCOUNT #	ACCOUNT NAME	2026 BUDGET	2025 BUDGET
512.000	Music Director	\$36,969	\$35,805
547.000	Music / Guest Performers	\$20,000	\$20,000
547.500	Organist Fees Wedding/Funerals	\$2,500	\$2,500
548.000	Music - Other Expenses	\$2,200	\$2,200
549.000	Piano / Organ Tuning	\$2,500	\$2,500
	Total Music Expenses:	\$64,169	\$63,005
514.000	Prog. & Events Coordinator	\$24,593	\$23,818
550.000	Church School	\$1,500	\$1,500
551.000	Adult Education	\$5,500	\$1,500
553.000	Evangelism & Hospitality	\$6,000	\$6,000
576.500	CE Director - Professional Expenses	\$0	\$300
	Total Educational & Congregational Life:	\$37,593	\$33,118
552.000	Worship Aids & Forward Movement	\$2,750	\$2,750
561.000	Acolytes / Chalice	\$750	\$750
562.000	Altar Supplies	\$3,000	\$3,000
563.000	Flowers	\$7,800	\$8,200
	Total Worship:	\$14,300	\$14,700
579.000	Miscellaneous	\$1,000	\$1,000
590.000	Diocesan Contribution	\$59,934	\$64,026
	Total Miscellaneous Operating Expense:	\$60,934	\$65,026
	Total Operating Expenses:	\$653,979	\$640,328
	Net Operating Income:	(\$68,321)	(\$115,581)
DONATIONS TO BALANCE SHEET ACCOUNTS			
455.000	Memorial Garden - Plot Sales	\$2,500	\$2,500
479.500	St. John's Outreach Account Income	\$15,000	\$15,000
481.000	Rector Discretionary Fund Income	\$9,000	\$9,000
499.000	Pass-Thru Income	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Total Donations to Balance Sheet Accounts:	\$46,500	\$46,500
EXPENDITURES FROM BALANCE SHEET ACCOUNTS			
542.100	D&B Rectors - Disbursements	\$4,115	\$4,115
542.200	D&B General - Disbursements	\$20,316	\$20,316
585.000	Memorial Garden Expenses	\$1,500	\$1,500
592.000	St. John's Outreach Expense	\$10,000	\$10,000
593.000	Rector Discretionary Fund Expense	\$10,000	\$10,000
599.000	Pass-Thru Expense	\$20,000	\$20,000
	Total Expenses from Balance Sheet Accounts	\$65,931	\$65,931
	Net Income from Balance Sheet Accounts:	(\$19,431)	(\$19,431)
TOTAL NET GAIN/LOSS (Cash in/Cash out)		(\$87,752)	(\$135,012)

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MUSIC REPORT

Dear St. John's,

I'm pleased to share this year's annual report from the Music Department, highlighting key developments and moments from the past year.

Music Library Completion

This year, we completed the long-term music library project. All music has now been fully cataloged and carefully stored, ensuring both accessibility for seasonal planning and long-term preservation of our collection. This important work would not have been possible without the generous help of volunteers Linda Board, Sandy Loether, Linda Bierrie, Jess Willing-Pichs, and Sharon Smith, whose time and care made this milestone possible.



Special Services and Lenten Offerings



We continued to offer musically rich services such as Choral Evensong, Taizé, and Lessons & Carols. During Lent, our Thursday Evening Prayer series explored a wide range of musical styles and featured outstanding musicians from across the state, offering meaningful and varied expressions of worship throughout the season. As part of these Lenten offerings, our Good Friday service included a Bach cantata featuring soloists Richard Pittsinger and Patricia Schumann Pittsinger, deepening the solemnity and beauty of the day.

Choir Update

Our choir remains a dedicated and spirited group of 14 singers. Their commitment and musicianship continue to bring depth, warmth, and energy to our worship services week after week.

Section and Vocal Support

We have continued our flexible approach to supporting specific voice parts as needed, using section leader funding in a thoughtful and responsive way based on the demands of the repertoire. Collaboration with skilled guest singers from across the region has further enriched our choral sound while maintaining a sustainable model for the program.

Repertoire and Musical Direction

This year's programming reflected a broad and intentional range of sacred music, from enduring hymnody to contemporary liturgical works. Each selection was chosen to serve the liturgy and support the spiritual life of the parish.

In Closing

Music at St. John's continues to thrive through the dedication of our choir members, guest musicians, volunteers, and the ongoing support of the parish community. I am deeply grateful for all that we have accomplished together and look forward to the musical and spiritual opportunities ahead.

Warmly,
Anthony Pandolfe
Music Director

Mission and Justice Report

- **Middlesex Habitat for Humanity:** St. John's sponsored construction of MHFH's 19th housing project on Brown St. in Middletown. It helped to turn hope into action and made homeownership a reality for a new partner family, Katie, Josh and their 6-month-old daughter. We have recently sponsored a second project, building a home for a veteran which will start this winter in Cromwell.
- **A Sacred Place:** St. John's donation helped A Sacred Place reinstate its "Houses of Healing" program at the York Correctional Institution, Connecticut's only penitentiary for women. Fifteen women are participating in this 13-week counseling curriculum which helps participants move from pain toward healing and forgiveness. A Sacred Place has also been able to launch a new, bi-weekly healthcare education program, expand its family reunification program and fund inmate tuition.
- **Lyme / Old Lyme VFW:** St. John's has helped the Post serve veterans in our area. A sample of their service includes: helping pay for funeral expenses, helping a Marine Corps vet replace his truck to continue his contracting business, outfitting a van with a new lift system for a double-amputee Vietnam vet, repairing a car air conditioner for a 90-year-old Air Force vet, and helping a vet with 9 children pay rent during the government shutdown so that he could focus his funds on feeding his family.
- **Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries:** Our \$2500 annual donation is leveraged by SSKP to help provide food for 7500 meals. This has been particularly important as we have seen an increase in food insecurity. This past December, the Mission and Justice committee purchased \$2000 in gift cards to Walmart for our Soup Kitchen guests to ease their need for food and household necessities during the holiday season.