



**ST. JOHN'S**

**2018 PARISH PROFILE:**

ENRICHING OUR LIVES  
BY HELPING OTHERS



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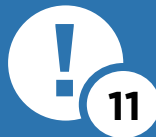
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# WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE SEEK – A BRIEF OVERVIEW



Located in the historic yet hip city of Lancaster, Pa., St. John's Episcopal Church is **a welcoming 165-year-old faith “family”** of over 450 baptized members of all ages and backgrounds with countless gifts to share. Composed of city residents and suburbanites, our congregants come from many parts of the county and this mix produces a lively and broad-minded church character.

As Christ's baptized ministers – from long-time parishioners to our budding number of young families and youth – we believe our collective mission is to **“Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.”**

Together, we live out our faith in the community through our various Jubilee Ministries, and in the world through our commitment to global partnerships inspired by the legacy of the Millennium Development Goals.



We are seeking a rector who will **embrace and enhance our unique combination** of engaging in local and global social issues, while continuing to value a moderately high-church liturgy.

We are looking for a well-read theological teacher, with a spirituality that can lead us and a spirit that can help us build on our enduring strengths of inclusiveness and diversity of thought.

As we aspire to maintain and grow our vibrant parish, we need a rector who is both an able administrator and a confident delegator.

And we want someone who will further develop our Christian formation programs and lay leadership to enable us to better carry out the church's mission.

# ST. JOHN'S **PAST** AND LANCASTER'S **PRESENT**

**St. John's has always been the Episcopal Church where everyone is welcome.**

Established in 1853 at its present location at the corner of Mulberry and Chestnut streets, the parish was initially called St. John's Free Church, as it was the first Episcopal congregation in Pennsylvania without a pew rental system – a crucial decision in ministering to a neighborhood of newly-arrived German immigrants and working-class families.

This is part of the legacy left by our founder, Dr. Samuel Bowman, who was then rector of nearby St. James Episcopal Church, and that spirit of all being equal before God is one that continues to permeate St. John's today.

*As a whole,  
the Lancaster  
area is blessed.*

Dr. Bowman served as rector of both St. James and St. John's for our first four years, and St. James supplied our parish with leadership, parishioners, and financial support in its early years.

In 1938, a fire destroyed much of the original structure, but the main altar emerged undamaged and a dedicated congregation rebuilt and returned to worship on this holy ground in the fall of 1939.



Inspired by our tradition of welcoming all, major renovations were completed in 2017-18 that significantly enhanced our accessibility and improved our campus.

A four-level elevator and new ramps opened up the entire parish complex to those with physical limitations, and prior gathering spaces were upgraded with an enclosed all-glass atrium connecting the parish hall and church and a refurbished courtyard complete with labyrinth and expanded columbarium.

**Such progress is in keeping with today's Lancaster County.**

Located in south central Pennsylvania and now home to a growing population of over 540,000, the county features not only our famous Amish heritage and beautiful countryside, but also a thriving city, wonderful family attractions, walkable small towns, loads of recreational activities, and a wide array of dining options, wineries, and craft breweries. Baltimore and Philadelphia are within 75 miles, and Harrisburg International Airport is a 40-minute ride.

The city has a diverse population of approximately 60,000, including 38% who identify as Hispanic and 14% as African-American. St. John's sits just two blocks off the city's downtown core, with its robust art gallery scene, performing arts venues like the Fulton Theatre and the Ware Center, four upscale hotels, a symphony and opera, museums, national Top 25 indie shopping, a modern convention center, fine dining (as well as the nation's oldest farmers market), and entertaining nightlife. And the downtown continues to grow, both in population and in new/expanded businesses.

As a whole, the Lancaster area is blessed with high quality education and health care at all levels, a wide-ranging economy, renowned agriculture, a well-kept housing stock, and a vibrant civic life. Like any American community, we have our share of challenges in the city and countywide, and part of our church mission is to help broaden the opportunity for all to enjoy this bounty.

We undertake this work as an individual parish, within our county convocation, and within our diocese – the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, which is centered in the state capital of Harrisburg, headed by the Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, and encompasses 60 congregations in the middle third of Pennsylvania.





## MOVING WORDS, JOYFUL TUNES

Worship and music form a core experience in the life of St. John's Church. With prayer, song, and sacraments, we give thanks for the blessings we receive and renew our commitment to carry God's message into the world. As we exit the nave, we pass under a sign which reads, "You are entering the mission field."

There are two worship services on Sundays. Our 8:00 am service is Holy Eucharist, Rite I, with a spoken liturgy and a prelude and postlude of organ music. The 10:15 am service is Holy Eucharist, Rite II, including sung liturgy with organ, hymns, and choir music from September to early June.

Average attendance at both services totals approximately 160. All baptized persons, including children, are invited to the Eucharist. St. John's is an active and engaged congregation. This comes through in each service and produces **a welcoming atmosphere that embraces the positive hubbub of young families.**

A Healing Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II, takes place every Wednesday at 12:05 pm, and there are additional services on Easter and Christmas, yielding total attendance of around 400 at four celebrations on each of those occasions. Other Holy Days are observed during the year.

We are fortunate to gather for this time together in such a beautiful building, highlighted especially by the marble altar, marvelous stained-glass windows, and buttresses in the Gothic style reminiscent of an English parish church. (For those unable to join us in person, audio and/or video recordings of selected sermons are [available online](#). Our [Facebook page](#) also has video of some sermons.)

**Within this majestic space, we celebrate our life in Christ with glorious song.**

Valued and enjoyed by the entire congregation, St. John's wonderful **music ministry** revolves around the liturgy of the Rite II Sunday service. Paul Reese, our talented and energetic Organist and Minister of Music, leads the dedicated group of volunteers who make up the chancel choir. Marilyn Winfield directs our growing handbell choir, which regularly participates in the liturgy.

Music is from the traditional hymnal, with supplementation from *Wonder, Love and Praise*, all of which sounds amazing as it emanates from our magnificent and recently-enhanced pipe organ.

Choral Evensong is offered quarterly; other offerings include occasional in-house and guest musical accompaniment at services and a weekly discussion of hymnody with our children and youth.

At St. John's, our vision is that music be engaging, emotional, and excellent. We strive to select pieces that are accessible, understandable, sometimes a bit challenging, and that capture interest and imagination. Our hope is that together, we will delight in this form of worship and be moved toward renewed spiritual living by it.

***St. John's  
is an active  
and engaged  
congregation.***

# MINISTRIES – SERVING THE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY

God is doing wondrous work among us at St. John's. Our ministries intertwine in an exciting, varied, and vital story of sowing seeds of gratitude. From Christian formation and communications to financial management and welcoming newcomers, **we all contribute in making St. John's a spiritual center** of reflection, dedication, learning, service, and growth for each other and our visitors.

One of these calls to serve takes the form of a robust education and activity program for children and youth, which has been a beacon at St. John's for many years, drawing families across the greater Lancaster community. We have a devoted team of caring and creative teachers and leaders that have received appropriate training, as well as background checks via the SafeChurch program.

Our youngest Christians find a warm welcome in the cheery nursery, while pre-schoolers and kindergartners receive an enjoyable and interactive introduction to God's word through Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Primary and elementary students utilize the Seasons of the Spirit curricula, and the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) program instructs and nurtures our teens in three segments: Rite 13, J2A, and YAC (Young Adults in the Church).

**St. John's has been blessed to maintain an active teen community** within its congregation because of this program, perhaps because of the highlight of a fundraiser-supported pilgrimage every two to three years undertaken by each class of the J2A segment during the summer before they graduate to YAC. Combining service, spiritual exploration, and some touring fun, past pilgrims have embarked with adult leadership from the church to destinations in Brazil, Ireland, Alaska, and Peru. The Summer 2018 class recently returned from a wonderful relationship-building trip to Costa Rica.

While our adult formation and enrichment programs may not typically travel so far afield, a number of us have been *spiritually* transported during each of the past two years during our Transfiguration Weekend Retreat. Artfully planned by Mother Barbara Seras, the weekends have been marked by stirring music, prayerful liturgy, quiet contemplation, and lively discussion and fellowship with our guest speakers.



Other adult forums are offered periodically and for varying audiences, although a series on *The Book of Common Prayer*, presented by Mother Barbara last winter and meant primarily for novices in the church, was enjoyed by lifelong members of St. John's as well. Adult Christian formation is an area that the congregation would like to see strengthened and expanded.

Outside of education, there are many other ways we serve Christ and each other within our parish. While the list of those committees and communities is too long to detail all of them here, more information is available in the Ministries section of our website. To provide a flavor of this commitment through a few examples, however, **we give continued thanks for . . .**

. . . the many Coffee Hour volunteers, Episcopal Church Women contributions, and Voyager gatherings in our Community ministry.

. . . the dedicated Lay Eucharistic Visitors, college care packages, and rides, cards, and meals in our Pastoral Care ministry.

. . . the steadfast maintenance, seasonal clean-ups, and pro-active planning in our Property ministry.

. . . the numerous acolytes, lay ministers, altar and flower guild members, lectors, and ushers in our Worship ministry.

**... a robust  
education  
and activity  
program  
for children  
and youth.**







*...we strive to put the active “walk”  
into the simple “talk” of our faith.*



## JUBILEE – REACHING OUT DOWN THE BLOCK AND AROUND THE WORLD

For the past 30 years, St. John's has been designated by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church as a Center for Jubilee Ministry because of the “direct and dynamic link between its theology and its ethics.” Put simply, we strive to put the active “walk” into the simple “talk” of our faith, and **our entire church family has come to identify with these outreach ministries as a vital heart of St. John's.**

Jubilee Ministry Centers integrate advocacy, empowerment, evangelism, and outreach into church life in a determined effort to improve the lives of poor and oppressed people. Consequently, our Jubilee programs aim to minister within the neighborhood, the community, and the world.

As a center city parish, our location has led to an enriching relationship with many of our neighbors through the nearby Robert Fulton Elementary School. We support students, parents, and staff in various ways throughout the year, such as clothing drives and reading sessions, and we've been hosting for over 20 years a day-long Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration in which children explore and honor the lessons of Dr. King on the national holiday commemorating his birth.

The focal point of this neighborhood bond is the 16-year-old Eagle's Nest After-School Program. Every Wednesday afternoon, October through April, St. John's volunteers mentor 4th and 5th graders from Fulton Elementary in personal responsibility, academics, and . . . food! Cooking is a favorite part of the program, where the children learn the basics all the way up to preparing a full meal, and once a month parents and guardians join us to enjoy a student-prepared meal.

Within the broader Lancaster community, our Jubilee efforts are vigorous, ranging from the offerings of our Food Pantry and the hand-knit items of Martha's Ministry

to donated gifts under our ECW's annual Angel Tree and green thumbs laboring in the Betty Finney AIDS Memorial Garden.

Especially rewarding is a monthly opportunity to provide a Community Breakfast through our partnership with the Lancaster County Council of Churches. On the third Saturday morning of every month, 15 to 20 St. John's parishioners arrive early at First Reformed Church in the city to prepare and dish out a full breakfast for up to 200 people in need. The work is non-stop, but it is this meaningful service that leaves us feeling like we are the ones who are blessed.

When it comes to our Jubilee commitment, **St. John's sights are not limited to the local horizon but aspire to make an impact internationally as well**, through participation in such initiatives as the convocation's ALERT program and the national CROP Walk campaign. This worldwide orientation is particularly highlighted by our Global Partnership Committee (GPC), which is carrying on the spirit of our years-long support of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000.

A current GPC emphasis is our partnership with Rafiki Africa, where we work with a local Kenyan couple to sustain a school they've established in their home country and have raised nearly \$3,000 toward a desperately-needed water well to serve the school and nearby villagers. We also have a strong relationship with Soles4Souls, which creates sustainable jobs and provides relief through the distribution of shoes and clothing around the world. Our shoe collection takes place throughout the year until Maundy Thursday, when our J2A youth line our canvas labyrinth with them during a reflective part of their overnight lock-in and then pack and load them up for shipping the following morning after our Good Friday service.

# FOUNDATIONS – OUR FACILITIES, PERSONNEL, AND FINANCES

God has given us individually and corporately an abundance of resources. We need to appreciate what we have as a reflection of His majesty and goodness. It is through these resources that we are able to carry His message to others, thus we are called to be good stewards of what He has bestowed upon us.

St. John's today has 457 baptized members, with a total average attendance at its Sunday services of 161. There are 34 children and youth enrolled in the overall Sunday School program, nine teens of which were confirmed by Bishop Scanlan in May 2018. Nonetheless, our education numbers have fallen a bit recently, just as everything ebbs and flows, and we are looking for a rector who will help us find our future young friends and families that we just haven't yet met.



## FACILITIES

Situated at the corner of Mulberry and Chestnut streets, St. John's Church occupies about one quarter of our block and is located within the Heritage Conservation District covering Lancaster City. The complex includes the church, parish house, a rectory converted to offices and meeting rooms, a courtyard, and parking areas.

*Inspired by our  
tradition of  
welcoming all.*

The church is a well-maintained red brick building whose construction dates back to its founding in the mid-1850s. (Following the aforementioned fire in 1938, the new interior was rebuilt inside the old walls, reinforced by Gothic-style buttresses.) It has a seating capacity of 275 in the nave, which features beautiful stained-glass windows and an elegant marble altar. A small chapel and sacristy are also part of the main body of the church. Downstairs are the choir vesting and practicing rooms, restroom facilities, and storage and utility space.

Inspired by our tradition of welcoming all, **major renovations were completed in 2017-18** that significantly enhanced our accessibility and improved our campus. A four-level elevator and new ramps opened up the entire parish complex to those with physical limitations, and prior gathering spaces were upgraded with an enclosed all-glass atrium connecting the parish hall and church and a refurbished courtyard complete with labyrinth and expanded columbarium. In addition, our baptismal font has been moved into the new atrium.

The main floor of the parish house is a large assembly/meeting room with a sizeable commercial-grade kitchen. There are also smaller meeting rooms, an infant nursery, and restroom facilities. The second floor is an auditorium space with stage. The Sunday School rooms comprise the basement level. Becker House, the former rectory, is connected to the parish house and contains the parish offices, meeting rooms, and storage facilities. St. John's owns two residential properties across the driveway from Becker House. All of the facilities are climate-controlled. The Property Committee is diligent in attending to preventive maintenance, repair, and restoration – stretching our current resources as effectively as possible around the complex.



## CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY

Following Father John Morris' retirement in late winter of 2018, we have been very fortunate to be so ably and enjoyably served by our Interim Rector, Father Glenn Miller.

Our valuable Associate Priest, Mother Barbara Seras, is slated to retire in September 2018 as well, but through the guiding leadership of our experienced Vestry, St. John's intends to hire a future ministerial assistant that is, at minimum, half-time.

When this new assistant joins our new rector, both will benefit from the work of several retired priests who are members of the congregation and provide ministerial and pastoral support, as well as a robust Lay Eucharistic Ministry that is a rich resource in pastoral care and Sunday services.

They, and we, are all **blest to be supported by a wonderful paid staff of talented individuals.**

Paul Reese is our Minister of Music, leading the choir and playing the organ, and Marilyn Winfield directs our growing handbell choir. Bill Gross is our ever-present and resourceful Property Manager. Patti Means keeps good order in the office and our facilities as Parish Secretary, and the key role of Financial Secretary is carried out by Gina Keiser. Our youngest Christians always receive a warm welcome from our Nursery Caregiver, Maria Weaver-Hollowniczky.

## FINANCES

Operating income for the last fiscal year (2017) was \$572,068, and our endowment fund ended the year at \$1,646,108. Contributions to operating income drawn from the endowment have exceeded the fund's annual interest earnings in recent years, but there is strong Vestry and parish commitment and movement to end this practice in the near future.

Our Stewardship ministry conducts an active and creative annual campaign, culminating on Ingathering Sunday in October when financial pledges are made for the upcoming year. For 2018, 50% of the parish pledged, comprised of 120 pledging units with an average pledge of \$2,548. Special offerings are collected periodically for such initiatives as Episcopal Relief & Development, United Thank Offering, and The Episcopal Home in Shippensburg.

Our biggest "special collection" in recent memory, however, is **our current capital campaign - *Honoring Our Past, Welcoming Our Future*** - to finish paying for our recent campus renovations. The cost of the project is approximately \$1.65 million. As of July, we have received \$930,000 of the \$1 million that was anticipated to be paid over the first phase of the campaign (2016-18). We are preparing to raise the remaining \$650,000-700,000 during the second phase (2019-21), with the aim of paying off this line of credit as early as possible in this three-year period to ensure that it doesn't become a continuing drain on the church's time and resources.





## WHAT WE SEEK – A FULLER PICTURE

Caring, diverse, friendly, and mission-focused are terms people use frequently when talking about St. John's Church. We have a rich heritage and we highly value full liturgical celebration, so tradition and stability are treasured. Yet, at the same time, newcomers are warmly welcomed and soon tapped to share in service work or participate on committees.

Their ideas, as well as those of our active youth program, provide a fresh perspective and energy that is also highly valued – especially in light of our status as a Jubilee Ministry Center, where we work to share God's love, as revealed through Jesus, in a variety of outreach ministries.

**Today St. John's seeks a rector to lead our church and its multiplicity of resources, people, and aspirations** – someone who is energetic, accessible, and personable to carry on and enhance our vibrant history of sharing the “Good News” with all people.

Above all, we are looking for a rector who will infuse our church family with a passion for Jesus and a passionate desire to know and be like Him. We need someone who is both a theological teacher and a spiritual leader, with an outlook that is open-minded and a preaching style that blends conversational and authoritative styles.

St. John's has long straddled the border between being a pastoral church and a program church. We are looking for a rector who can lead such a parish by direction and example. **We need someone with the skills to guide the parish in a new round of growth**, particularly in younger families, while remaining responsive to those with more pastoral needs.

Helping to further develop our Christian formation programs, for both youth and adults, will be crucial in these growth and pastoral aspects, as will advancing our efforts to reach out to the immediate neighborhood through ministry and worship.

Our recent congregational exploration identified the desire for **a leader who is adept at administration, but is also an able and collaborative delegator**. St. John's has a long history of lay leadership, thus recognizing the talents of laypeople and staff and supporting their taking initiative is a strongly held value.

This is especially true for our Jubilee ministries, many of which originated from parishioners who saw a crucial unmet need and worked to fill it. Being empowered by our new rector to undertake these projects “with discernment” is very important to us, for by taking part in these projects, we give of ourselves, our spiritual gifts flourish, and in turn we are the ones enriched.

***... a rector who will infuse our church family with a passion for Jesus.***





# INFORMATION SOURCES AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Much of the information included in this profile came from three distinct steps in gathering the thoughts of our St. John's family: an after-church Appreciative Inquiry session that nearly filled 12 eight-person tables, 10 separate Focus Groups over several weeks on all facets of our church life, and 140+ responses to a comprehensive survey emailed and mailed to the entire congregation, including youth. All of this added up to approximately 310 individual instances of parishioner input regarding who and where we are, where we want to go, and the type of person we want to help get us there.

No one format could adequately capture the spirit and perceptions of St. John's Church, and the results of these steps indicate a diversity of opinions and perceptions. The common denominator that pulls us all together is the desire to know, love, and serve God through Jesus Christ.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SOURCES

### St. John's Church

[www.stjohns-lancaster.org](http://www.stjohns-lancaster.org)

### Lancaster County

[www.co.lancaster.pa.us](http://www.co.lancaster.pa.us)

### Lancaster City

[www.cityoflancasterpa.com](http://www.cityoflancasterpa.com)

### Discover Lancaster

[www.discoverlancaster.com](http://www.discoverlancaster.com)

### School District of Lancaster

[www.lancaster.k12.pa.us](http://www.lancaster.k12.pa.us)

### Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

[www.diocesecpa.org](http://www.diocesecpa.org)

[SEE HERE](#) on the national Episcopal Church website for access to our Diocese and Church charts and the three-mile radius Community Profile around St. John's.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This profile has been a team collaboration of the spirit-filled parishioners listed above. The Search Committee wishes to gratefully acknowledge the leadership of Leslie Morgan, our Chairman. Special thanks is also given to Drew Dorgan and globalHMA for their superior design work on this project.



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