

# LOOKING AHEAD WITH ST. JOHN'S:

Plans for fall 2024 and beyond

**As we come to the end of the summer, we write to let you know about upcoming celebrations, explorations, and enhancements at St. John's.** The Reverend Todd FitzGerald will be installed as our rector at a special worship service on Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. with Bishop Jeffrey Mello. All are invited to come celebrate Todd's ministry! Earlier this summer, the Reverend Margie Baker marked her first five years at St. John's since her June 2019 hire. We have welcomed a highly skilled and enthusiastic interim music director, Walden Moore, for the rest of 2024. Also in September, contractors will be on site to begin a major project to replace our heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment that was installed 30+ years ago. Amid all of these milestones, we are inviting all parishioners to gather this fall to dream, share, and discern where God is calling St. John's to direct its ministries. What is God inviting us to do next to further God's mission in our parish and community?

**In the coming year, St. John's will undertake our first major capital campaign since 1993,** the year after the church was largely destroyed by a fire and significant rebuilding was necessary. Conversations about once again undertaking a capital campaign came to the forefront this past June, when the vestry (after months of diligent research and faithful conversation among our House Committee, Finance Committee, wardens, clergy, and other lay leaders) voted to support the recommendation of the House and Finance Committees to install an updated and more efficient HVAC system.

We have hired a contractor for that work, which will begin in just a few weeks. But while these necessary HVAC upgrades provided a catalyst for a capital campaign, and funds raised will help cover the associated costs, the scope and vision of the campaign are much larger. **A capital campaign provides an opportunity for us to dream about and discover – together – where God is calling us to direct our ministries and resources in the years to come.**

Everyone is invited to be part of that process of dreaming, so we might discern what funds raised through the capital campaign could enable us to do over and above the necessary work of replacing our HVAC systems. **During the first two weeks of October, every parishioner will be invited to attend a small group "cottage meeting" to discuss what you love about St. John's and where we as a parish should focus and grow our ministries.** These meetings will be held at a variety of times and venues to enable everyone to attend one. Watch the e-news and bulletin for dates, times, and how to sign up.

These small group discussions will lay the foundation for the capital campaign, which will take place in 2025. Even as we focus on the future, however, it is important to keep our annual stewardship campaign as a top priority this fall. **Your annual pledges are what enable us to keep the church open and thriving day after day** – to maintain our building, pay our clergy and staff, and support our existing programs.

It is an exciting time to be part of St. John's Church. Thank you for joining us as we seek to join and further God's mission in and through this vibrant faith community!

**The Rev. Todd FitzGerald**  
Rector

**Eleanor Barnes**  
Warden

**Stewart Murchie**  
Warden



**Almighty and most gracious God, we give you thanks for the many blessings we enjoy, especially for this parish family of St. John's Church. Bringing us together as one, we pray in the power of your Holy Spirit that we may accomplish the great work you have given us to do in renewing this church, our earthly home, and that, through this and all our work, we may glorify the holy Name of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen**

*A modified version of the prayer used for St. John's last capital campaign in 1993.*

# Get involved this fall!

These are just a few of the ongoing ministries where new volunteers are always needed and welcome!

Name of ministry	What it is	How often	Who to contact
<b>Ushers</b>	Greet people, hand out bulletins, gather/sort/secure offerings, help with communion, respond to needs during worship	Once a month, occasional special services	Laura Roche ldakeroche@aol.com
<b>Layreaders/ Chalice bearers</b>	Read scriptures and prayers, and/or distribute wine during communion	Once every 4 to 6 weeks (8 or 10:30 a.m. service), occasional special services	John Kauczka jkauczka@gmail.com
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Set up for services; maintain linens, candles, and communion vessels	Once every 4 to 6 weeks, occasional special services	Buffy Ineson buffyineson@gmail.com
<b>Healing Prayers</b>	Pray confidentially with/for people at Sunday 10:30 services	Once every 4 to 6 weeks	Wes Winterbottom wesleywinterbottom@hotmail.com
<b>Livestream Team</b>	Run the computerized livestream equipment during services (does not require any special technical knowledge; training is provided)	One Sunday a month, occasional special services	Mary Honyotski maryhonyotski@gmail.com
<b>Loaves &amp; Fishes</b>	Support a local feeding ministry by making and/or serving a monthly hot meal	Whatever works for your schedule	Kate Eikel: kate.eikel@gmail.com Robert Eikel: reikel@reikel.org Rachel Baccio: rbaccio16@gmail.com

## Mark your calendar for key events this fall!

*Subject to change, so please read your bulletins and e-news for the latest information.*

### September



**8**

Return of regular service schedule, choirs, Sunday School, adult forum, nursery, EYC

**11**

Return of Wednesday Eucharist @ 5:30pm

**15**

Christmas Festival planning meeting after 10:30 service

**22**

Capital campaign discernment kick-off & facilitator training  
Sandwich making for Loaves & Fishes

**25**

Rector's installation service w/ Bishop Mello @ 7pm

**27**

Jazz at the Red Door @ 7:30pm

### October

**1 - 14**

Capital campaign small group meetings @ various times and places - Watch for sign-ups in September

**6**

Pet blessing @ 5pm

**13**

New World Trio concert @ 2pm

**27**

Sandwich making for Loaves & Fishes



### November

**3**

All Saints Sunday  
Pipes Alive! @ 12:30pm

**10**

Commitment Sunday:  
In-gathering of pledges for 2025

**24**

Sandwich making for Loaves & Fishes

**28**

Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist @ 10am



### December



**1**

Pipes Alive! @ 12:30pm

**7**

Christmas Festival fundraiser @ 10am

**15**

Advent Lessons & Carols @ 3pm

**22**

Christmas Pageant @ 10:30am

**24**

Christmas Eve Festal Eucharists @ 4pm and 10pm

**25**

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist @ 10am

## Capital campaign FAQs

### What is a capital campaign?

Churches and other non-profit organizations undertake a capital campaign to raise funds – over and above annual pledges, contributions, and other regular sources of income – to invest in the organization’s future. Campaigns usually include money for capital improvements to the organization’s property, but can also raise money for endowments or other purposes. Funds are raised from church members who make pledges to the campaign (separate from their annual stewardship pledge), typically agreeing to pay off campaign pledges over the next three years.

### Why is St. John’s undertaking a capital campaign now?

The clergy, vestry, and lay leaders have been considering a capital campaign for several years, to help sustain and build on the current growth and vibrancy of St. John’s. A much-needed replacement and improvement of the church’s 30+-year-old HVAC equipment, which will cost about \$900,000, was the catalyst to move ahead with a capital campaign now; however, we are also exploring other ways that funds raised through the capital campaign can support and build our ministries.

### What is the campaign timeline?

This fall, we are starting with the “discernment” phase of the campaign, in which we will gather parishioners to consider together where God is calling us in the years to come. In the “feasibility” phase that comes next, St. John’s leaders will incorporate the ideas that come out of these conversations into a plan for how much the capital campaign will raise and for what purposes. The actual fundraising portion of the capital campaign will not take place until 2025.

### Who is leading the capital campaign?

Our capital campaign co-chairs are Eleanor Barnes (current warden) and Virginia Van Dyk (past warden). We have also hired a campaign consultant, Leslie Pendleton of CORE Campaign Consultants, who helped our neighbor, St. James’s Church in West Hartford Center, with a successful campaign several years ago.

### How can parishioners be involved in the campaign?

Throughout the process, there will be many ways for parishioners to be involved. Most important for getting the campaign off to a good start is a series of “cottage meetings,” which will take place during the first two weeks of October 2024. These small group meetings will be held at a variety of times and places, with about 10 parishioners attending each one. This is your chance to discuss what you love about St. John’s, what you’d like to see happen in the coming years, and where you believe God is calling this community. Keep an eye on the e-news and bulletins for more information about how to participate!

## A brief history of St. John’s

- 1841** St. John’s Church is founded on Main Street in Hartford.
- 1907** St. John’s sells the building on Main Street to JP Morgan, who gives it to the Wadsworth Atheneum, and the congregation moves to the growing suburb of West Hartford.
- 1909** St. John’s consecrates the new church in West Hartford, designed by the New York firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson.
- 1992** A fire on Sunday morning, October 11, destroys major portions of the church.
- 1993** With the leadership of Joe Pace (the rector whose tenure at St. John’s began a year before the fire) and many dedicated parishioners, St. John’s undertakes its first-ever capital campaign to raise \$830,000 to refurbish and improve church facilities after the fire, including installing a new Austin organ and new stained glass.
- 1995** The refurbished church re-opens for worship and parish activities.
- 2013-** Joe Pace retires from St. John’s after 22  
**2015** years of ministry, and the church hires its first female rector, Susan Pinkerton.
- 2020** The Covid-19 pandemic leads St. John’s to move all worship and activities online; regular in-person worship doesn’t resume until spring 2021. Nevertheless, parish membership and programs continue to thrive and grow.
- 2024** St. John’s calls Todd FitzGerald as our 15th rector, and begins planning for its second-ever capital campaign.



**SAINT JOHN’S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



# Worship at St. John's

The regular worship schedule below resumes on  
Sunday, September 8.

## Sundays

8am Spoken Holy Eucharist

9:30am Christian education for all ages

10:30am Choral Holy Eucharist (also  
livestreamed)

*Professionally staffed nursery care for children up to age 6 is available  
from 9am to noon.*

## Wednesdays

5:30pm Spoken contemplative Eucharist

Photos: David McCary



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