



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# Contents

A Year of Celebration .....	3
Areas of Growth .....	4
Parish Statistics .....	5
Worship Attendance .....	6
Annual Campaign .....	7
Financials .....	8
Endowment .....	9
Cornerstone Society Members .....	10
Vestry Nominees .....	12



*Celebrating 75 years of St. George's at the Rhythm & Roots event*

# A Year of Celebration

In 2024, St. George's gathered for a year of celebration honoring the people who founded this congregation and cared for it faithfully for 75 years. On this anniversary, we honored founding members and past wardens, welcomed back eight clergy for a preaching series, revisited our shared history through a special installation in the Bradford Gallery, and came together for music and fellowship with the 75th Anniversary Concert and Rhythm & Roots event. Together we remembered that the people of St. George's are a family rooted in Christ, growing through generations.



These shared values extended to the vestry as their commissions were restructured to better address the needs of this growing community. The Welcoming Commission continued the work of reaching people new to St. George's, and the Fellowship Commission created opportunities for people to engage with ministries and one other. The newly named Friendship Commission began the work of building a culture of close-knit friendships among individuals and within small groups. Together, these commissions foster a place for people to thrive in Christian community.

The report that follows shares a number of vital statistics which reflect the ongoing health and vitality of St. George's, including growth in Sunday worship attendance, the most successful Annual Campaign to date, and a continued emphasis on supporting our outreach partners.

# Areas of Growth

- Essentials Small Groups engaged 327 people around Scripture with new studies on the book of Exodus and our topical series, Being the Church.
- Pathways Kitchen received a 2024 grant awarded through St. George's Enterprise Ministry (SGEM). Through their restaurant and award-winning training program, they transform young lives by equipping our community's justice-involved youth with skills and opportunities to thrive.
- Parishioners gave generously toward special collections in response to Middle Tennessee tornadoes and Hurricane Helene.
- The first program of the Lenten Dinners & Conversation series was offered in partnership with The Rabbit Room, bringing 400 individuals to St. George's for a free event presented by Christian songwriter Andrew Peterson.
- St. George's Church and Kindergarten continued to partner by bringing in guest speakers on critical topics related to parenting. In 2024, we welcomed David Zahl of Mockingbird Ministries.
- Vacation Bible School taught 99 campers about Diving Deep into friendship with God—our largest VBS to date.
- St. George's continues to invest in the intentional formation of young adults through our Duke Divinity summer internship and partnership with the Nashville Fellows Program.
- Pastoral Care offerings were expanded with a new monthly healing prayer service as well as new support groups for those experiencing or caring for loved ones with a life-changing diagnosis.
- The *In Excelsis* Concert Series experienced record impact with 735 attendees for a VOCES8 concert in the fall, drawing people from across the country.
- Church-wide Mission Days created opportunities to volunteer with 18 unique projects serving people all across our city.
- The 2024 Christmas offering was larger than ever, with more than \$43,000 collected for B.E. Academy and The Cookery.



# Parish Statistics

Membership in this community continues to have steady growth as new people are baptized, confirmed, and received. Our welcome dinner and program for new members, called St. George's 101, serves as an additional way for new members to formally join the church. The class continues to be a formative connection point at St. George's, with a 10% increase in new members as compared to 2023.

Members Reported in 2023: 4,262

Total Increases: 236

Total Decreases: 92

**Total Baptized Members in 2024: 4,406**

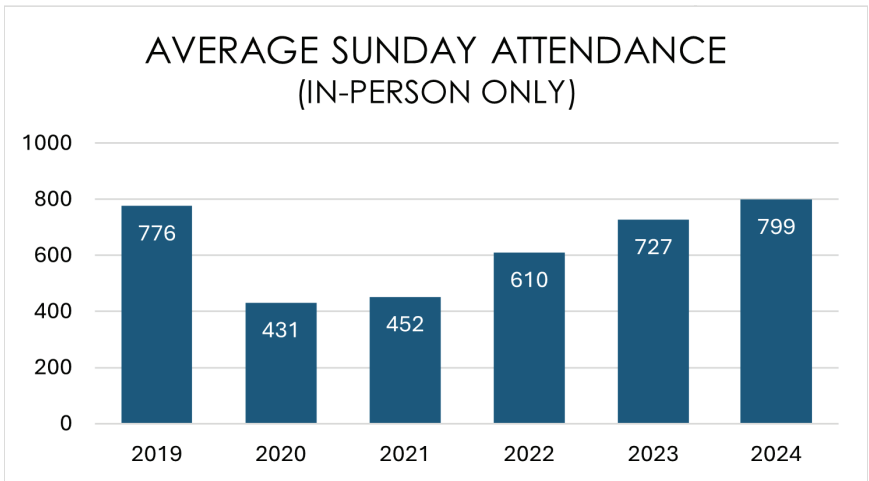


*New Christmas Eve Service at 10:00am*

# Worship Attendance

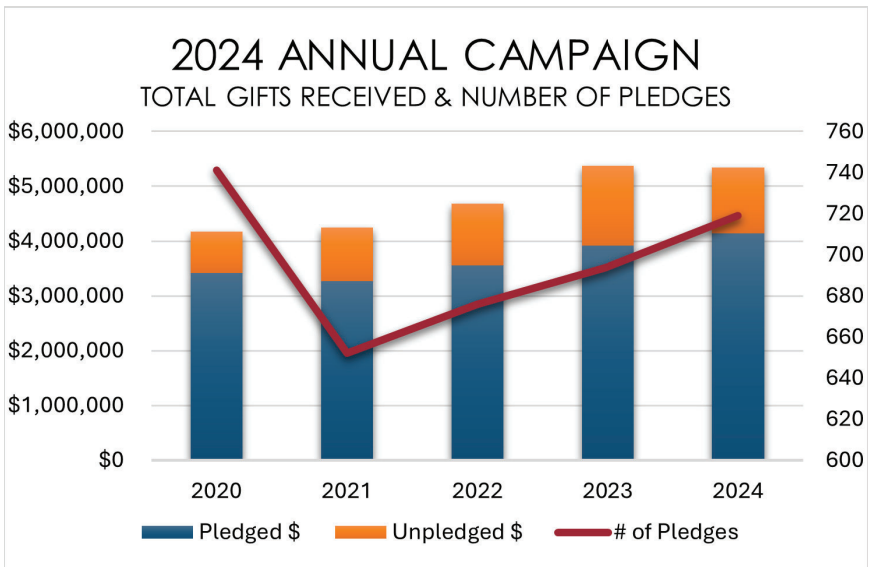
Last year St. George's surpassed pre-pandemic Sunday attendance levels. Our in-person Average Sunday Attendance was 799, with an additional 45 people worshipping online each Sunday. This represents 11% growth for our in-person Sunday attendance.

Of special note in 2024 was the opportunity to host Presiding Bishop Michael Curry for a Saturday morning Eucharist in September. The continued popularity of the annual 3:00pm service on Christmas Eve drove the addition of a similar service last year. The new 10:00am service with children's homily and festive brass music exceeded expectations with more than 500 people in attendance. The result was the opportunity to welcome an additional 300 worshipers for Christmas services—a 13% increase in attendance for that special day of the church year.



# Annual Campaign

We began the 2024 Annual Campaign with excitement and enthusiasm for the coming year of ministry. The goal of \$4.25 million was met and exceeded by \$75,000 thanks to the work of our campaign co-chairs, Paige & Henry Menge and Kim Patikas, along with their committee of more than 60 parishioners. St. George's members continue to give generously, though opportunities exist for growth in the number of families making an annual pledge. We thank our co-chairs and volunteers for leading us in our most successful campaign to date, preparing St. George's for an engaging year of celebration during our 75th anniversary.

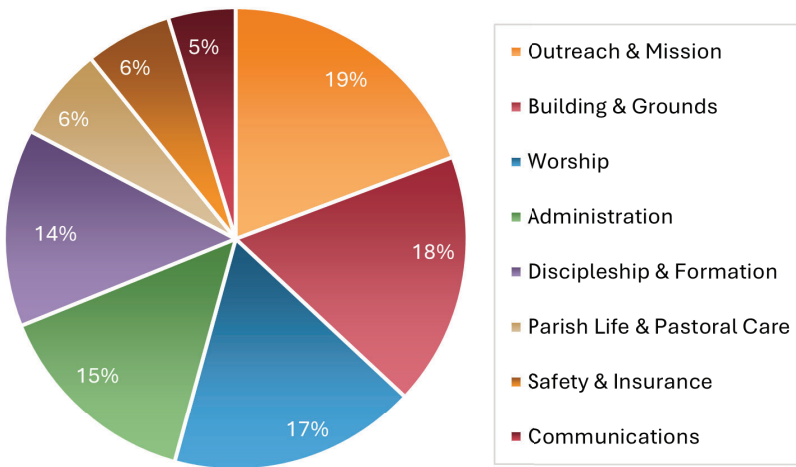


# Financials

Our 2024 receipts totaled just over \$5,616,000, including money received from pledges, unpledged gifts, and endowment funds. We offer thanks to members of the Finance Committee who helped ensure prayerful and responsible use of gifts made to the church: Shannon LeRoy (Treasurer), Hudson Walker (Junior Warden), Jonathan Morphett (Vestry Representative), Jim Ezzell, Allison King, Francie Logan, Peggy Craig, Morgan Hillenmeyer, and Porter Meadors.

The largest piece of our budget was Outreach and Mission, representing \$985,000. Those funds were distributed among 34 outreach grant recipients as well as diocesan support for their ministries and smaller churches. In addition, we continued to fund our partners through St. George's Enterprise Ministry (SGEM), and collected special offerings for Hurricane Helene relief, Nashville tornado relief, B.E. Academy, and The Cookery.

## WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



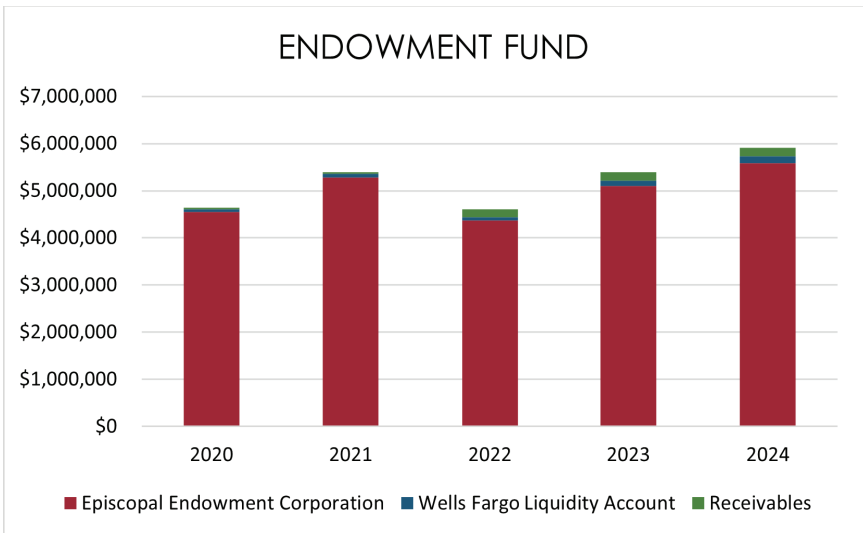


# Endowment

In 2024, St. George's endowment received gifts from **William H. & Eugenia H. Cammack, the Rev. Fred & Kathryn Dettwiller, Brandon & Mary Jackson, Dr. Eugene Harris Nelson, and Mr. O.B.Thomason.** Their generous contributions, as well as all previous contributions, allow the endowment to serve the church in four broad categories:

1. Emergency Funding after a natural disaster or crisis;
2. Building for St. George's Future such as leadership gifts toward capital projects;
3. Investing in Ministry by attracting highly talented clergy and helping them secure housing in a competitive market; and
4. Supporting Annual Operations with a gift of approximately 3% of the fund's balance, which prevents a cash flow shortage during months when giving is low.

Thanks to our Endowment Trustees for monitoring and making appropriate disbursements of these funds: the Rev. Malone Gilliam, Emily Walker (Senior Warden), Frank Downey (Chair), Bill DeCamp, Eb LeMaster, Sally Nesbitt, and Wes Stoddard.



# Cornerstone Society Members



**CORNERSTONE  
SOCIETY**

*for the Endowment of St. George's*

Thanks to those forward-thinking individuals who have made a planned gift to the Cornerstone Society for the benefit of St. George's endowment fund. To learn more about making a planned gift and to become a member of this generous group, please contact Laura Zabaski, Parish Administrative Officer at 615-385-2150 or [laura.zabaski@stgeorgesnashville.org](mailto:laura.zabaski@stgeorgesnashville.org).

Julia & Gareth Aden  
Dr. & Mrs. R. Benton Adkins, Jr.\*\*  
Drusilla L. Anderson  
Hart W. & Gail G. Applegate  
Betty Clements Armistead\*  
Anonymous  
Betty J.V. Arnold\*  
Dr. Jack R. & Kimberly N. Baker  
Drs. Alicia Batson & Bert Hartman  
Emily Nelson & James F. Baxter, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey M. Beemer  
Virginia Trotter Betts  
Linda Bernice Booth\*  
Jack & Barbara Bovender  
Mrs. James C. Bradford, Jr.  
Seawell & Marcy\* Brandau  
Mrs. Seawell Brandau\*  
Mrs. & Mrs. Stuart Brunson  
Geraldine Bryant  
Jason Whitt & Miller Wild Callen  
Joanne Hampton Callis\*  
William H. & Eugenia H. Cammack\*\*  
Eric\* & Monica Carlson  
Blake Jackson Cate, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. James Cheek, Jr.\*\*  
Ruthie Carpenter Cherry  
Pamela & Evans M. Clements III  
The Reverend Robin S. Courtney, Jr.\*  
Margaret C. Craig  
Brownlee O. Currey, Jr.\*  
Brownlee Owen Currey\*  
Mr.\* & Mrs. William Booth Davis

Steve & Jan Davis  
Mimi & Bill DeCamp  
Keith C. DeMoss\*  
The Rev. Fred\* & Kathryn Dettwiller  
Mrs. J. McGavock Dickinson\*  
Lawrence & Margaret Dortch\*\*  
Judith A. Echols  
Anonymous\*  
Anonymous  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Essary  
Duncan Eve\*  
Ethel Janet Thomson Fehl\*  
John & Mary Trabue Fitzgerald  
Richard & Margaret Fitzgerald  
Max S. Fones\*  
Dudley C. Fort\*  
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Spence Graham, Sr.\*\*  
Eric & Pamela Grasman  
Donald R. Greene  
Susan & Frank Hammer  
Mrs. Ella Bullard Hayes\*  
Anita\* & John Hayes  
Macon W. Hilton\*  
Julie Hullett  
Bronson Ingram\*  
Brandon & Mary Jackson  
Anonymous\*  
Clay T. & Catherine T. Jackson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack F. Jacques  
David E. & Grace K. Johnson  
Wanda & Edward\* Jones  
James R. Kellam III\*

Richard & Rosemary\* Kew  
Bob & Emily Kitchel  
Dr. & Mrs. Morse Kochtitzky\*\*  
Craig & Rebecca Laine  
Dr. Roland D. & Florence C. Lamb\*\*  
Mr. Thomas B. Lee\*  
James H. & Lisa L. Littlejohn  
Martha H. Livengood\*  
W. Lawrence & Claire H. Long  
Mary B. & Douglas C. McLaughlin  
David & Marilyn McMackin  
Anne Britt Meiers\*  
Charles Nelson, Jr.\*  
Dr. Eugene Harris Nelson\*  
Agatha Nolen  
Ann Gayle Norvell\*  
Patty Outlaw\*  
Lulu Hampton Owen\*  
Anonymous  
Anne Caldwell Parsons\*  
Elinor B. Peek\*  
Anonymous  
Betty & Jimmie Perkins\*\*  
Mrs. James W. Perkins\*  
Mrs. Harrietta Post\*  
Anonymous  
Robin & David Puryear  
Betty M. Ramsey  
Anonymous  
Julie & Robert Riggat  
Mrs. Joe Bryan Robertson\*  
Martha & Dyer Rodes  
Frankie & Bill Rutledge\*\*  
Mrs. Charlot Schaffner\*  
Cooper M.\* & Helen T. Schley  
Drs. David & Katharine Schull  
Dr. Nancie Schweikert  
The Rev. & Mrs. Roger Senechal  
Cathy & Bill Shell  
Sally & Geoff Smallwood  
George W. & Jane A. Smith  
Rob\* & Ashley Smith  
The Rev. R. Leigh & Susalee Spruill  
Vicky & Bennett Tarleton  
Anonymous

Martha W.\* & Paul E. Teschan  
Brad Thomason  
Mr. O. B. Thomason\*  
John G. & Gail N. Thompson  
Virginia T. Toler\*  
Caroline Gray Trabue\*  
Laurence O. Trabue, Jr.  
Lucinda Thornton Trabue\*  
Mrs. William Trabue III\*  
Robert D. & Susan C. Tuke  
Luanne & Gary Waltemath  
Dr. Charles & Ann Wells\*\*  
Mrs. Elise C. Whalley\*  
Anonymous  
Dudley Morgan White  
John G. Williams, Sr.\*  
Celeste Wilson  
Lucianne F. Wilt\*  
Laura & Pete Zabaski  
Robert & Ann Zelle\*\*

*\*Deceased*

# Vestry Nominees

Please join us in gratitude for this year's slate of nominees. Nominees for the vestry have been thoughtfully and prayerfully chosen by your vestry nominating committee and are presented to the church for election to a 3-year term beginning in 2025. Committee members were Jan Callen (Committee Chair), Emily Walker (Senior Warden), Hudson Walker (Junior Warden), Louis Garrard, Amy Harwell, Kate Meriwether, Sterling Price, Charlotte Ward, and Breck Wheeler.



## Lewis Agnew

*President of the Charles Hawkins Co., a local commercial real estate services company*

**What brought you to St. George's?** My wife, Katie, and I are lifelong Episcopalians, and after our wedding 17 years ago, we started visiting churches around town. We eventually stumbled into St. George's—and then we never

left.

### **What excites you about St. George's today and in the future?**

First, I believe that St. George's is one of the brightest stars within the greater Episcopal Church and that our lay and clergy leaders have a chance to positively impact the broader church body. Second, as a dad of three daughters, I'm encouraged and excited to see that the youth ministry seems to be thriving these days. Growing up in Mississippi, my youth group was not very good, so I'm excited to see that my own children actually want to attend youth events and Sunday School. Third, I'm impressed by the number of new members and visitors that continue to come to St. George's.

**How do you hope to serve as a leader on the vestry?** I'm willing to serve wherever and whenever I'm needed. St. George's is deeply important to our family, and I'm happy to give back in any way possible.

**How do you model Christian leadership at St. George's and in the greater Nashville community?** I'm not sure if I live up to that standard, but I believe in grace and forgiveness and the gospel, and because of that belief, I'll show up and work hard to do my part on the vestry.



## Janie Berry

*Full-time mom & volunteer*

**What brought you to St. George's?** Before moving to Nashville, my husband, John, and I were members of an Episcopal church in Franklin. When we moved to Nashville, we wanted to join a church closer to our new home. We attended St. George's a few times

and fell in love. Our two children were very small at the time, and I was excited about all the programs for children and families.

### **What excites you about St. George's today and in the future?**

I am always excited to see the diverse opportunities for people of all ages and interests. There are so many ways to get involved and connect with other members. I think that is why so many people call St. George's home. There are so many opportunities to form new relationships and feel closer to God. I especially think this is important for children and older kids to help them feel at home in their church. It is so special to cultivate friendships with peers while having the opportunity to laugh with God, to have fun with God, and to have a friendship with God.

**How do you hope to serve as a leader on the vestry?** I have really enjoyed getting involved with the Children's and Family Ministries. I love meeting new families and helping welcome those who are new to St. George's. I am excited to help create opportunities for people to make connections and for relationships to grow.

**How do you model Christian leadership at St. George's and in the greater Nashville community?** This is a hard one for me. I definitely see myself modeling more of a service role than a leadership role. Hopefully, I am a leader by being a faithful servant of Christ—a welcoming face to newcomers, a kind friend, and a dependable volunteer. Maybe through these actions I can motivate others to trust in what God calls us to do. I want to encourage people to take the extra step when asked, to help others when needed, or to reach out and invite new friends to join. I want to inspire people to make sure that those around us feel cared about and welcomed anywhere they might be, and especially at St. George's.



## Robert Stewart

*Semi-retired business consultant*

**What brought you to St. George's?** My wife, Sarita, and I began attending St. George's in 2020. We had been active at our previous church since before we married there in 1998, including service on the vestry. We were attracted to St. George's because of its more open and robust approach during the

pandemic. The warmth and welcome from clergy and a strong sense of cooperation amongst the congregation was compelling. We decided to join St. George's on Christmas Eve 2020 when St. George's added a fifth service to accommodate the demand. We took this to be the leading hand of God and are indeed grateful to be part of the St. George's community.

### **What excites you about St. George's today and in the future?**

There are many reasons to be excited about St. George's, including the Essentials Bible Studies and the impact this program has on the congregation and larger community. We enjoy The Table and appreciate its impact on worship at St. George's. We value the music ministry overall and support this via the In Excelsis Concert Series. The Bradford Gallery and its emphasis on artistry is indeed inspiring. I am also energized by my roles with the ROGUES and St. George's Enterprise Ministry (SGEM).

**How do you hope to serve as a leader on the vestry?** In whatever way I am called. I have a desire to love and serve others. I have gained some wisdom over the past 71 years. Although young at heart, this will make me one of the oldest members of the vestry, and I look forward to sharing in any capacity that is needed.

**How do you model Christian leadership at St. George's and in the greater Nashville community?** My best self emerges when thinking of others. I enjoy people. My college, Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama, is known as "The Friendliest Campus in the South." And this motto has significantly influenced my approach to life.





## Leslie Ann Wilson

*Full-time commercial interior designer at Esa*

**What brought you to St. George's?** My parents, Tommy and Carol Ann, joined friends at St. George's and moved our memberships from St. Paul's in Franklin to St. George's while I was in college at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. We have always worshipped as a family, and it was a natural adjustment for me after returning to the Nashville area post-

college. Over time, I really found my place here and am so grateful to be part of this parish.

### **What excites you about St. George's today and in the future?**

St. George's continues to be an active, growing, and vivacious community. Somehow our large parish still feels welcoming and personal, and most everyone can find their "place" within. The exciting part is the opportunities we have as a parish to connect, serve, and worship together, in traditional ways and new. My hope is that we will continue our lasting legacies within our community and find new ways to make important impacts on our parish and those we serve, and that we would continue to be a place that feels welcoming, safe, and available to all.

**How do you hope to serve as a leader on the vestry?** It is a true honor to be considered to serve our church as a vestry member. I hope to help St. George's continue to be a place where we embody our mission statement to "receive, live, and share the abundant life of Jesus Christ." My professional experience is of working on projects with teams with common objectives in mind, so I am well practiced in sharing ideas and finding the ones that work best for the end goal. I believe my passion for design, hospitality, and community will support this effort as I work with the clergy and vestry to serve our parish.

**How do you model Christian leadership at St. George's and in the greater Nashville community?** In the community, I am a board member (2018-2023) and longtime volunteer at Ronald McDonald House Charities Nashville. Within St. George's, I am most proud of my involvement with Our Little Roses, having traveled to Honduras with our church since 2016, and where I now serve on the leadership team for that missional community. On Sunday mornings, I volunteer as a greeter at the 8:45am service, as well as for special services throughout the year. In more recent years, I have served with the Building & Grounds Committee and as the Clerk of St. George's Vestry. And like so many others at St. George's, I joined an Essentials group in 2020 made up of fantastic women in our church, led by Laura Crawford, where I collect and lead our prayers.



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