

St. John's Ministry Booklet

2025-2026



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & PARISH DAY SCHOOL

9120 Frederick Road • Ellicott City, MD • 410.461.7793 • www.stjohnsec.org



CLERGY, STAFF, & LAY LEADERSHIP

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Derek H. Miller
Rector

The Venerable Ruth Elder
Deacon

The Rev. J. Joseph Hart
The Rev. Gigie Sijera-Grant
Assisting Clergy

Ms. Georgi Funderburk
*Minister of Faith & Practice for
Children & Youth*

Ms. Kathy Hahn
Director of Finance

Mr. Warren Harris
Facilities

Mr. Brad Jones
Director of Facilities

Ms. Annie Kao
Stewardship Assistant

Mr. Justin Pechulis
Director of Music Ministries

Mr. Mike Ritonia
Facilities

Ms. Tracey Stone
Director of Communications

VESTRY

Gordon Knox
Senior Warden

Scott Geist
Junior Warden

Doug Hall
Treasurer

Clare Brooks
Registrar

Scott Geist
Katie Kelel
Lucia Martin
Marsha Trant
Class of 2026

Susan Fedors
David Hale
Kim Kerry
Janet Loughran
Class of 2027

Paul Casasco
Rick Conover
Tim Loomis
Dawn Rea
Class of 2028

COMMISSIONS

A Commission is a ministry group within a congregation that is led/chaired by a lay person.

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COMMITTEES

A Committee is a ministry group of the Vestry and accountable directly to the Vestry, and which is developed out of the bylaws.

Buildings & Grounds Committee	Page 9
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*Most commissions and committees meet monthly.
Please use the listed contact information for more details.*

*This booklet will be updated as needed and posted at www.stjohnsec.org/resources.
If you have trouble with any of the "@stjohnsec.org" emails, call the office at 410-461-7793
or send a message to blessings@stjohnsec.org.*

Christian Formation We encourage all people – adults, children, and youth – to participate in St. John's formation programs, known as St. John's Connect, in order to better know and be known by God.

ADULT CONNECT

We invite you to multiple opportunities to go deeper in your spiritual journey through study and service:

Lectionary Bible Study: Sundays, 8:00-9:00 a.m., Parish Life Center Conference Room (lower level) and Zoom

Come as you are able and deepen your spiritual connection by understanding and discussing the background and meaning of each week's lectionary readings. Contact: LectionaryBibleStudy@stjohnsec.org

Thursday Evening Bible Study: 6:15-7:15 p.m., Zoom

Engage scripture in a relaxing environment when you are able. There is no prep work required. All questions are welcome and honored. Contact: PMBibleStudy@stjohnsec.org

Women's Bible Study: Thursdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Auditorium

Be part of study and prayer in community with women from across the generations. Weekly participation is encouraged. Contact: WomensBibleStudy@stjohnsec.org

Small Groups: Various Times, Zoom

Join a Small Group for fellowship, learning, and prayer. In fall, winter, and spring, each session lasting 8 weeks. Zoom and in-person groups available. Contact: GeorgiFunderburk@stjohnsec.org

Annual Men's & Women's Retreats

Set aside a sacred time set aside to honor your spiritual journeys through meditation, fellowship, prayer, and worship.

Men's Retreat: Nov. 14-16, 2025

MensRetreat@stjohnsec.org

Women's Retreat: TBA

WomensRetreat@stjohnsec.org

The John L. Rabb Lectures in Contemporary Theology

Deepen your theological understanding in the fall and spring by engaging in conversation with prominent church leaders and theologians. Contact: RabbLecture@stjohnsec.org

CHILDREN'S CONNECT

We invite children and parents in creating a strong foundation in the Episcopal Church and with God. Children's Connect meets on Sundays, 10:10-10:50 a.m., from September through May. PreK-3rd grade use a combination of Godly Play and a workshop rotation model. 4th & 5th grades meet on their own in a class called "Survivor." Contact Children@stjohnsec.org

Registration

Register your children (age 3 up to grade 5) at any time throughout the year at www.stjohnsec.org/children

YOUTH CONNECT

We invite youth and parents in creating a strong foundation in the Episcopal Church and with God. Youth (grades 6-12) meet on Sundays, 10:10-10:50 a.m., from September through May.

Registration

Register your youth at any time throughout the year at www.stjohnsec.org/youth

We have four Youth groups every year:

- Breakfast Club: 6th graders
- Rite-13: 7th & 8th graders
- J2A: 9th & 10th graders
- YAC: 11th & 12th graders

College Connections

Join fellow parishioners twice a year in supporting our college students in their educational and faith journeys through fellowship events, cards, emails, and care packages. Contact: Georgi Funderburk, Youth@stjohnsec.org

The Guardian Angel

Support a St. John's college student through emails, notes, and prayer while they are away school. Contact: Georgi Funderburk, Youth@stjohnsec.org

Discovery Weekend

Engage in our yearly spiritual retreat for middle school students orchestrated by high school students and adult parishioners to provide a special opportunity for spiritual growth. Contact: Georgi Funderburk, Youth@stjohnsec.org

OUTREACH COMMISSION

Answer Christ's call to serve those in need beyond St. John's, through efforts to provide food, property, education and health care assistance.

To join the commission, offer an outreach idea, or inquire about an initiative, email outreach@stjohnsec.org. Learn more at www.stjohnsec.org/outreach.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & TRANSFORMATION COMMISSION

Increasing awareness and education on social justice issues to the St. John's community. To join the commission, offer an idea, or inquire about a social justice initiative, contact socialjustice@stjohnsec.org. More info: www.stjohnsec.org/social-justice.

NEW MEMBER MINISTRY

Equipping new members to learn about St. John's, its programs, and ways to get involved. If you are interested in becoming a member of the New Member Ministry, contact Newcomers@stjohnsec.org

PARISH LIFE

Administrative Volunteers

Assisting the office staff with front desk reception, special mailings and projects. Contact: Blessings@stjohnsec.org

The Living Crèche

Take part in a real-life nativity scene from Christmas Eve through December 31. Contact: Blessings@stjohnsec.org

Pieceful Quilters

Welcoming all who want to learn about quilting, as well as designing and making quilts for various church purposes. Contact: PiecefulQuilters@stjohnsec.org

Coffee Crew

Bringing much needed caffeine and snacks to provide fellowship for all between Sunday services. Contact: CoffeeCrew@stjohnsec.org

Shrine Mont Parish Weekend

Join us over Memorial Day Weekend for this annual three-day event in the Virginia Blue Ridge Mountains where we congregate to pray, play, relax, and share meals as an extended Christian family. Contact: ShrineMont@stjohnsec.org

PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION

Caring for one another is at the heart of our parish life, where we can offer support to members of our church and the greater community. Contact: pastoralcare@stjohnsec.org

The Flower Ministry

Spreading beauty and care by delivering flowers each Sunday and during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

Contact: Blessings@stjohnsec.org

The Sunshine Ministry

Mailing prayerful cards and notes to reach those on our weekly prayers lists and on our prayer chain.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Creating tangible signs of prayer, love, and support for those who are sick or bereaved. Daytime get-togethers are held monthly at the church for parishioners who know the basics of knitting or crocheting. Contact: PrayerShawlMinistry@stjohnsec.org

The Meals Ministry

Preparing and delivering meals made by parishioners for others in any kind of need. Contact: MealsMinistry@stjohnsec.org

Walking the Mourner's Path

Walking with others in their grief over 8 consecutive weekly small groups workshops led by trained lay facilitators and a member of the clergy. For more information, contact WalkingTheMournersPath@stjohnsec.org.

Stephen Ministry

Providing one-on-one spiritual care for our parishioners, Stephen Ministers regularly meet with their care receiver to support them through difficult times — grief, illness, divorce, the stress of parenthood, and other life transitions.

Contact: StephenMinistry@stjohnsec.org

Bereavement Ministry

Arranging receptions following funerals and offering opportunities to reach out in a tangible way to parishioners suffering the loss of a loved one. Participate as your schedule allows. Contact Bereavement@stjohnsec.org.

Eucharistic Visitors (EVs)

Becoming licensed by the Diocese of Maryland to administer communion to persons who, for reasonable cause, are unable to be present at a public celebration of the Eucharist. Contact: Deacon Ruth Elder, relder@stjohnsec.org.

Mental & Spiritual Wellbeing

Working with community partners to bring awareness to and offer support for mental wellbeing and spiritual growth with an emphasis on anxiety, grief, and depression. Contact: Wellbeing@stjohnsec.org

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Worship is at the heart of our gratitude for Christ's life among us and offers us the collective opportunity to affirm and deepen our faith. Visit www.stjohnsec.org/serving-in-worship for more information.

Acolytes

Serving at the altars of St. John's in Sunday liturgies. 4th grade and up. Contact: Acolytes@stjohnsec.org

Altar Flowers

Donating on various Sundays in the Church year to beautify the worship space and honor a loved one or for an occasion of thanksgiving.

Contact: Blessings@stjohnsec.org

Altar Guilds

Preparing each worship space for liturgies. Contact: AltarGuild@stjohnsec.org

Eucharistic Ministers (EMs)

Serving the chalice to the people during the Holy Eucharist.

Contact: EucharisticMinisters@stjohnsec.org

Lectors: Reading appointed scripture during worship. Contact: Lectors@stjohnsec.org.

PowerPoint Operators

Facilitating the PowerPoint slides used in worship in All Saints Hall (ASH)

Contact: gfunderburk@stjohnsec.org

Stream Team

Operating video and sound equipment for our livestream service on YouTube each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Training is provided. Contact: StreamTeam@stjohnsec.org

Vergers

Working closely with the clergy to ensure that all aspects of the worship service are well-coordinated.

Contact: Vergers@stjohnsec.org

The Labyrinth Ministry

Offering the community a spiritual path and garden to journey towards the center of God's love. This ministry provides guided walks and training for docents. Contact: Labyrinth@stjohnsec.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The music ministry at St. John's provides sacred music in the form of hymns, songs, anthems, and other musical offerings at the parish's 9:00 a.m. All Saints Hall service and the 11:00 a.m. Historic Church service. There are opportunities for musicians of all ages and instruments to regularly participate in worship and other performances in the following ensembles:

St. John's Choir

The adult choir sings weekly at the 11:00 a.m. Eucharist in the Historic Church from September to June, including the celebrations of Christmas and Holy Week. They sing a

variety of choral music spanning several centuries and provide at least one anthem a week. Membership is open to high school students and older. Rehearsals are in the choir loft on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., and on Sundays from 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. Contact: Justin Pechulis, jpechulis@stjohnsec.org

All Saints Hall Band

The ASH Band plays every week at the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist in All Saints Hall from September to June. The band plays a variety of music from the past sixty years of praise and worship music, and consists of singers, guitarists, keyboardists, and drummers. Membership is open to all ages. Rehearsals take place on Sunday mornings before the service, from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m., with occasional weeknight rehearsals scheduled as needed. Contact: Justin Pechulis, jpechulis@stjohnsec.org

Youth Choir

The youth choir sings once a month rotating between the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist in All Saints Hall and the 11:00 a.m. Eucharist in the Historic Church. Membership is open to young singers in grades four through eight, and rehearsals take place in the lower level of the church on Sunday afternoons from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m.

St. John's Ringers

The handbell choir generally rings once a month at the 11:00 a.m. Eucharist in the Historic Church, and on special days such as Christmas and Easter. Using their five-octave handbell set, they ring a variety of hymns and other musical selections. Membership is open to high school students and older who are comfortable reading music. Rehearsals are in the Music Office on the lower level of the church on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Contact: Justin Pechulis, jpechulis@stjohnsec.org

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Instrumental Ensemble

The instrumental ensemble generally plays once a month at the 11:00 a.m. Eucharist in the Historic Church, and on special days such as Christmas and Easter. The ensemble adds to hymn singing, choral anthems, and will also play on its own. It consists of woodwind, brass, string, and percussion instruments and membership is open to middle school students and older who have at least four years of experience on their instrument. Members are welcome to participate as often as they are able, but there is no monthly requirement. Rehearsals are in the choir loft as announced on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Contact: Ensemble@stjohnsec.org

ASIAN MINISTRY

Providing Korean worship services, pastoral care, and other support for Korean immigrants who want to live in God's grace and peace. A Korean-language service is held on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in Resurrection Chapel and all are welcome. Holy Eucharist is celebrated on alternate Sundays. The service is followed by a meal and a Bible study. Joint services are held throughout the year with the English-speaking congregation.

Prayer meetings, book studies, and social activities occur throughout the year. Contact KoreanWorship@stjohnsec.org

CREATION CARE COMMISSION

The Gardens of St. John's

Volunteer gardeners help maintain St. John's various gardens, including Alda's Chapel & Memorial Garden, Brittany's Garden & Historic Gate, the Garden Labyrinth, and the Gardens at Rose Hill as well as our five Rain Gardens throughout the campus. Tasks include weeding, watering, planting, and

occasional trimming. Members also help with Fall and Spring campus clean-ups. Contact: CreationCare@stjohnsec.org

COMMITTEES OF THE VESTRY

Buildings & Grounds Committee

Providing oversight and review of church and school facilities, and feedback on major construction and repair projects. Contact: JuniorWarden@stjohnsec.org

Finance Committee

Meeting monthly to create a budget that implements the mission of St. John's, which is then reviewed by the Vestry and parish. Contact: Treasurer@stjohnsec.org

Investment Committee

Providing oversight of the parish's investable assets, members are appointed by the Rector and the Vestry. Contact: Treasurer@stjohnsec.org

Planned Giving & Endowment Committee

Providing a means by which parishioners can include St. John's in their estate planning. Contact: PlannedGiving@stjohnsec.org

The Stewardship Committee

Encouraging the generosity of St. John's members in the form of financial, time, and talent commitments in support of ministries to which God calls us, as God's people. Contact: Stewardship@stjohnsec.org

ST. JOHN'S PARISH DAY SCHOOL

St. John's Parish Day School's mission is to educate a culturally diverse community of children — age 3 through grade 5 — with a stimulating and challenging curriculum in a safe and nurturing environment. We foster spiritual grounding in the Episcopal tradition with respect for the dignity and beliefs of everyone. Learn more at www.stjohnspds.org.

NOTES

Activities and events are subject to change.

Stay up to date by reading
Blessings e-news each Friday and by
visiting our website at www.stjohnsec.org.

If you do not receive *Blessings*,
please sign up on the home page of our website
or email Blessings@stjohnsec.org.

Like Us, Follow Us, Watch Us Online:

Facebook: [Facebook.com/StJohnsec.org](https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsec.org)

Instagram: [@StJohnsECMD](https://www.instagram.com/StJohnsECMD)

YouTube: <https://bit.ly/SJEC-YouTube>



At St. John's all are welcome! Wherever you find yourself on your faith journey; whatever you are believing or doubting; whether you are married, partnered or single; whatever your physical or mental abilities; no matter your age or economic status, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity: we welcome you here to be met by God, who already knows you and loves you.

