

**2023 Annual Report
for the
Annual Parish Meeting**

Sunday, January 28, 2024



**St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church
Breckenridge, Colorado**

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Agenda: 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

Opening Prayer

Welcome

- Establish Quorum
- Appoint Recording Secretary

Approval of the Minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting (1-29-23)

Presentation of the Annual Reports with Open Q & A

Recognition of Outgoing Junior Warden and Vestry Member

Appointments

- John Evans, Senior Warden
- Stu Reed, Junior Warden

Vestry Nominees

- David Henderson

Vote on the Vestry Slate

Update on the Search Process – Jennifer and Johanna

Communication Update – Natalie

Other Announcements – Peter

Presentation of the 2024 Parish Budget – Wally

Additional Thoughts and Comments – Peter

Closing Prayer – Peter

Annual Meeting Minutes January 29, 2023

*The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
Annual Parish Meeting*

The annual meeting began at 11:05 am with a prayer.

A quorum was established.

Slideshow

Charlie showed a slideshow of pictures from the previous year. The slideshow included music.

Annual Report

Everyone has received copies of the annual report electronically through the eBlast.

Nancy Kinney moved, Mary Francis seconded unanimous approval of the 2022 minutes. Charlie asked if there were any questions about the annual report.

People expressed how impressed they were with the hospitality and service members of this church provide. The reports were incredible and wonderful.

Stu thanked the Parish for their overwhelming generosity and the grace of God for the renovation. It has been amazing that what we started in January 2019 and what we were able to accomplish.

Charlie encouraged everyone to look through the report and see if anything sparks an interest or intrigues you to be involved in the ministry of St. John's.

Vestry Nominations

John Evans has agreed to serve a second term for Senior Warden

Liv Syptak has accepted for Junior Warden

Ray Smith has agreed to serve a second three-year term

Kay Adamson has agreed to serve an initial three-year term.

Carol Vagnini, Joyce Mueller has seconded the slate of the Vestry. The slate was approved unanimously.

Give thanks to all the Vestry, current and new.

We celebrated Charlie's birthday and sang Happy Birthday to him!

2023 Annual Budget

Wally presented the 2023 annual budget and welcomed questions

To summarize, we have had another good year, in a year that was not typical.

Revenue

The budget includes actual 2022 expenses and the projected revenue for 2023. The projected revenue for 2023 is about \$10,000 less than 2022. Revenue is only down 2%, thank you to those who have pledged because they have made up the difference for those who have left.

102 pledges, thank you to Jim Brook for the pledge campaign. Last year was 111. Most who did not renew have moved out of the county.

Outreach Expenses

The outreach expenses target is 10% of our revenue. Last year we gave more than 10%, mostly due to giving to the Marshall Fire Relief, and larger general outreach that happened after the pandemic.

There was a clarification about the Regional Mission Pledge. This supports the churches in our region and is 5% of our revenue.

This year's budget does not include any money for the Jail Ministry. The person in charge of recidivism at the Summit County Jail does not feel they need our help. If they need our help in the future, we will allocate money to this ministry.

A thank you to our parishioners who serve at the Diocesan level

- Karla Schapansky is on the standing committee of the diocese (basically the Vestry of the Diocese).
- Nancy Kinney is the Regional Missioner and is doing an amazing job in this role.

Operating Expenses

Most of the anticipated expenses are similar to 2022.

Office expenses are up, and compensation and benefits are down because Natalie works as a consultant, not as an employee. There is no net difference overall.

Building and grounds expenses are up, partly because 2022 was not a full year. The 2023 line item represents a full year of anticipated expenses. The snow melt on the sidewalk seems to be reasonable at this time. The snow melt was a big issue for accessibility to the church through the renovation.

A comment was made that our outreach expenses are down and this is going in the wrong direction. Another comment was made that our budget is down \$10,000 and all of this money is coming out of our outreach expenses. Wally said that we can revisit the amount of funding we have for outreach as the year continues.

A suggestion was made to award an NRO scholarship on behalf of St. John the Baptist. Wally clarified that often scholarships don't come out of the operating budget.

The outreach expenses are all variable expenses, not fixed expenses.

There was a question about which expenses were variable. Wally went through and identified which expenses were fixed and which are variable.

There is about 130,000 to pay off the rectory at about 4% rate. We have about 7 years to pay that off.

The loan balance is \$157,000. Wally expects the loan to be paid off sometime before June 2024. A comment was made that there is still an opportunity to pledge toward this expense. The loan has to be paid off by 2025.

Our rectory will be a project over the next several years. It is 30 years old and will need a little bit of work and updating.

A huge thank you to Wally for his dedication and diligence to our fiscal health.

Charlie said a few words of thanks. This Parish is so heavily involved in the mission of this church. So grateful to the renovation committee and the staff who continued throughout and after the renovation.

Charlie reminded us that these are still difficult times for our church and churches across the country. We have seen a dip in church attendance, and Charlie is not concerned about this. He is confident we will move forward in faith.

Charlie closed the meeting at 12:10 pm with a prayer.

Clergy, Vestry, and Search/ Profile Committee Reports

Interim Rector's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting – The Rev. Peter Munson



I began my tenure with you on August 1, 2023. I was immediately struck by the hospitality and the faithful service you demonstrate each week in hosting, serving, and being with the folks who come to the Tuesday night Community Dinner. I also noticed right away the warm welcome you give to each other every Sunday... to year-round members, seasonal members, visitors, NRO musicians - everyone! I have been on the receiving end of that warm and gracious welcome; you are sharing the light and love of Christ with others, and seeing the Christ in them, and I thank you for that. It brings healing in its wings!

Here are some of the things I did with you in the latter half of 2023 and the beginning of 2024:

THE SEARCH PROCESS

- With input from the Vestry and Wardens, I recruited Jennifer Bettridge and Johanna Gibbs to be the co-chairs of the Search Committee.
- I was present for the kickoff of the first meeting of the Search Committee, and helped give an overview of the process.
- I introduced the Search Committee and the Vestry to Holy Cow! Consulting and ultimately the decision was made to use Holy Cow's "Congregation Assessment Tool" (CAT) as we surveyed the parish. This led to us getting a snapshot of the parish and an assessment of how the parish was doing in eight different areas: hospitality, morale, conflict management, governance, spiritual vitality, readiness for ministry, engagement in education, and worship and music. A high percentage of SJB members participated in the survey - thank you! This provided very helpful information for the Search Committee and for those on the Profile Committee who were writing the Parish Profile, and will be used going forward as we interview candidates for the rector position.
- I have provided ongoing guidance to members of the Search Committee, Profile Committee, and Vestry as we have moved through the process outlined by the Bishop's Office and the Episcopal Church in Colorado.
- THANK YOU - members of the Vestry, Search Committee, and Profile Committee - for the faithful and hard work that you have already done!

STEWARDSHIP

- I have given input and collaborated with the Vestry on some new ideas as we initiated the fall stewardship campaign, including the visual of the aspen tree being filled with leaves as people turned in their pledges, and the Reverse Offering invitation (introduced in conjunction with the Parable of the Talents during my sermon on November 19th).
- I have also reminded the Vestry that financial stewardship is just one aspect of stewardship - that stewardship has to do with all the various aspects of our lives that God entrusts to our care, including our relationships with God, others, and creation; self-care and commitment to our own learning and transformation; serving the poor and the marginalized; etc.

WORSHIP

- In addition to leading worship and preaching on Sundays and at our well-attended, high-energy Christmas services, I have introduced a weekly Wednesday eucharist at 12:15 pm.
- With Music Director Jeanie Kramer, I have also formed a Worship Team which will begin meeting seasonally to plan our Sunday worship and special services, including music, prayers, readings, selection of Eucharist prayers to be used, etc.

EDUCATION AND FORMATION

- I led a few adult forums featuring different practices from the book, *The 15 Commitments of Conscious Leadership*, as well as introducing “The Inner Map,” a tool developed by Julia Colwell, Ph.D., based on the book *Power v. Force*, by David R. Hawkins, M.D., Ph.D.
- I lead a hybrid Lectio Divina group every Thursday morning and we listen to and discuss one of the readings for the upcoming Sunday. We have regular attendees joining SJB members from Christ Church in Aspen, St. Bartholomew’s in Estes Park, and St. Luke’s in Park City, Utah, and this makes for a rich fellowship.

PASTORAL CARE AND FELLOWSHIP

- In addition to being with and praying for people in our parish who are facing physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges, I have initiated:
 - Incorporating a Liturgy of Departure into worship for those who are leaving the SJB community.
 - With the Vestry, initiated a Newcomers’ Lunch so that we can get to know, welcome, and incorporate new folks into the life of St. John’s.
 - Initiated “Visits with Peter” - where St. John’s folks can sign up for a visit where we get to know each other better while we share coffee or a meal or a ski trail or conversation in some other way.
 - I have also enjoyed being invited into your homes, your lunch gatherings, the hiking group, the Men’s Bible Fellowship, and going cross-country skiing with some of you. Thanks for your invitations and your friendship!
 - I have tried to get to know as many of you as I can. This is an ongoing commitment of mine.

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEADERSHIP

- I have initiated having bi-monthly staff meetings with Natalie Boyer, Sheila Brockmeier, and Jeanie Kramer, so that we can be on the same page, keep the communication channels open, and plan together. I have also met with staff members 1:1 to offer support and supervision.
- I have met with the Wardens and Treasurer in different configurations - 1:1 and as a group.
- I have presided at Vestry meetings each month and worked on putting together the agenda for those meetings.
- I’m sure I’ve done some other administrative stuff, too, that doesn’t need to be detailed here!

I pause here to give thanks to both God and you - the members of St. John the Baptist - for the opportunity and the privilege of being able to serve as your interim rector. You have contributed to my healing journey and welcomed what I have to offer, and I am deeply grateful.

Christ’s grace and peace,

Peter Munson+

2023 Member Statistics

2023 Member Statistics (as required for the Parochial Report of the Episcopal Church)

Two years are given for comparison: 2022 & 2023.

	2022	2023
Active baptized full-time members	131	108
Increases during 2023 (new members, baptism, confirmation, etc.)	20	24
Decreases during 2023 (moved away, inactive, death, etc.)	68	37
Far-Flung Friends (active, but primarily live elsewhere)	140	126

2023 Worship Attendance

Sundays	4,696	4,016
Weekdays	3,851	2,916
Total	8,547	6,932
ASA (average Sunday attendance)	90	77
Easter Day	81	163
Christmas Eve	333	380
Christmas Day	53	27

2023 Worship Services

* Easter Eve – 2	* Easter Day – 2
* Christmas Eve – 3	* Christmas Day – 1
* Sunday Holy Eucharist – 101	* Weekday Holy Eucharist – 44
* Private Home Communion – 40	* Weekday Daily Office – 365
* Contemplative Prayer – 52	* Holy Baptism – 3
* Holy Matrimony – 1	* Burial of the Dead / Last Rites – 3
* Mass on the Grass – 1	* Blessing of the Animals – 1
* House and Ranch Blessing – 1	* Blessing of the Skis, Boards, and Shoes – 1
* Reconciliation of a Penitent – 1	

Report of the Senior Warden – John Evans



The work of the Vestry this past year has been dominated by addressing the transition issues related to the retirement of our Rector in July and the beginnings of the search process for our new rector. After much thought, we were able to select members of the profile and search committees. With the help of the Canon for Transition, these committees were quickly organized and are doing fantastic work. The parish profile will be completed on time and we should be receiving applications soon after posting. I am confident that our search process will be very successful. As Canon Vanessa has reminded us, the search is Holy Work. It will end well.

St. John's has been very blessed to have Peter Munson as our Interim Rector. It has been a pleasure for the Wardens and the Vestry to work with him. His pastoral and

leadership skills have made this transition time much less anxious than we might have anticipated. This church is very lucky to have Peter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Liv Syptak for her service on the Vestry and as Junior Warden during the past several years. Her wisdom, leadership and energy has been a blessing to the Vestry, me personally, and to this church.

Report of the Junior Warden – Liv Syptak

According to common knowledge and Episcopal Church lore, a Junior Warden is the person who looks after parish buildings and grounds. (Recently, I read the fun fact, that in days gone by the Junior Warden, as a holder of the keys, would've also been the one unlocking the church doors for worship every Sunday.) Perhaps lesser-known role definitions for Junior Warden, include being tagged as “the people’s warden” (in contrast to the Senior Warden as “the rector’s warden”) and vice-president of the parish board of directors.



In this past year being Junior Warden has called me to take the shape of each of these definitions, albeit in different measures. Decisions we've made as a Vestry with Charlie and Peter, have begun to shift the percentages of future Junior Wardens' time inhabiting these definitions.

In the realm of buildings and grounds, this year was marked with continued challenges. A few examples include the ongoing poor responsiveness from the contractors on whom we depend to address things like our infamous air handler and our finicky A/V system, and the perplexing issue of the continuous running of our sprinkler system on a mid-summer Wednesday.

Because of things like this, and because the inner workings of this building are more technically complex than in the past, we the Vestry have outsourced this aspect of the Junior Warden role to a building management company. Thanks to Vestry member Ray Smith, we identified and contracted with someone locally who is now doing bi-weekly oversight of our building. On top of this regular service, when regular maintenance or unexpected fixes are needed our manager will address those or engage the appropriate service on our behalf. (Note: For simplicity, only the Wardens, Natalie, and the Rector are to be in contact with our building manager.) Our building manager is also set up to be on call for the Rector. (He is not, however, contracted to do bi-weekly checks on that property.)

On the topic of the rectory, we have had a small group of parishioners step up to assess the needs and opportunities for renovating this future home of our future priest. Scoping and prioritization of work is underway so that this team can determine budget needs and think about scheduling.

As for supporting the people of the parish and serving in the more administrative areas of the Junior Warden role, together with Senior Warden, John Evans, and the rest of the Vestry, a significant focus of our mid-year was to lay a pathway for our rector transition. As disconcerting as it was to accept Charlie's resignation in July, I'm proud of how we have supported one another, and leaned on the Holy Spirit to navigate the immediate uncertainty, and to abide in this long-term in-between time of transition. Our commitment as a Vestry from those first untethered days in July to our current steady-and-hopeful state has been to share information and stay in conversation with all of you all about this time.

This report marks the close of my time in this role. I thank all of you for your support and grace during the last two years, and especially want to thank the following (in addition to those named above) for support aligned with each of the Junior Warden definitions: Natalie Boyer, Amy Evans, David Love, Allen Schapansky, Karla Schapansky, Jim Brook, Stu Read, Paul Burnham, Jeff Taylor, Wally Ducayet, Rev. Vanessa Stickler Glass, Rev. Charlie Brumbaugh, and Rev. Peter Munson.

Search Committee and Profile Committee – Jennifer Bettridge and Johanna Gibbs

The Search Committee has been meeting throughout the fall and early Winter to help define the process, gather input from the Holy Cow survey, and focus group meetings to consider and integrate input received into our process and profile portfolio. The profile and accompanying documents have been submitted in collaboration with the Profile Committee. The Profile will be open January 23 – March 1, 2024. In January and February, the Committee will be working to develop interview questions and accompanying processes to support the next phase of our work.

The Committee will be asking our church community to use their networks to help spread the word that our posting is open and to please continue to pray for the process that it uncovers the new rector our community needs. Information about the Search process and timeline can be found under the Rector Search tab of the website. This resource will continue to be updated as the process progresses.

If you have any questions about the Search Committee, contact either co-chair: Jennifer Bettridge betrij@icloud.com or Johanna. Gibbs johannargibbs@gmail.com.

Prayer for the Search Process – written by Frances McWilliams

Loving God, awaken in us the reality that you are always present in us and in our world. Energize us in heart and mind and spirit to look for and find you here and now. As we consider our church's future, enable our committees and all of us to quiet our personal concerns and listen for your leading. Through silence, prayer, and consensus building may we hear your will for us. Thank you for the love which you have nurtured in this community that spreads out into the world. With gratitude and hope for the new life we have through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Giving

Report of the Treasurer – Wally Ducayet

2023 Operating Results

The year ending December 31, 2023 was a successful financial year. Pledged Giving and other revenues totaling \$526,872 significantly exceeded the 2023 Budget. While expenses of \$502,817 also exceeded Budget, many of the excess expenses were opportunities to take advantage of the additional Revenues. These included replacing the Rectory roof, replacing damaged siding and painting of the Rectory. In addition, we added to the furnishings of the Rectory



left by Charlie and Anne, so we could use the Rectory for our interim Rector. Cash flow from operations of \$31,047 is very close to Budget and is sufficient to comfortably pay the \$15,000 in principle on our Rectory mortgage. There are 7 years remaining on this mortgage and the balance remaining is \$117,000.

2024 Budget

We had a successful fall annual Pledge Campaign. We received 105 pledges and have budgeted Pledged Giving and other offerings at \$480,000 for 2024. Of course, while expenses are also rising, recurring expenses are beginning to stabilize. Any additional Rectory updating expenses will be paid this year from our Renovation and other Reserves accounts. New expense items for 2024 include the cost of our new Property Manager, and an amount for moving expenses for a new Rector. Our Mission Outreach expenses are budgeted at 13% of Revenues for 2024, the same percentage as the actual 2023 amount. Our budgeted cash flow from operations of \$30,500 is close to the previous year.

We will pay the remaining balance of our Renovation Construction loan in early 2024.

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church - 2023 Results and 2024 Budget

	2024 BUDGET	2023 RESULTS
REVENUE		
Pledged and Non Pledged Giving	464,000	510,883
Open Plate Giving	16,000	15,989
Interest, Other	<u>4,000</u>	6,992
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>484,000</u>	<u>533,864</u>
MISSION OUTREACH AND MINISTRY OPERATING EXPENSES		
General Outreach	7,000	9,918
Jubilee Committee	20,000	20,000
Community Dinners	500	1,815
Discretionary Fund	2,000	2,300
Summit in Honduras	4,000	4,000
St George's Leadville	5,000	4,000
Regional Mission Pledge	<u>24,000</u>	<u>24,790</u>
TOTAL MISSION OUTREACH	<u>62,500</u>	<u>66,823</u>
MINISTRY OPERATING EXPENSES		
Worship Expenses	16,550	13,522
Education Expenses - Youth and Adult	1,950	142
Vestry, Convention and Social Expenses	6,000	5,017
Diocesan Pledge	48,000	52,380
Office Expenses	65,300	71,065
Rectory Operating Expenses	23,650	76,154
Building and Grounds Expenses	38,900	51,389
Compensation and Benefits	<u>190,650</u>	<u>166,325</u>
MINISTRY OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>391,000</u>	<u>435,994</u>

CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS	30,500	31,047
RECTORY MORTGAGE PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS	<u>15,900</u>	<u>15,000</u>
NET CASH FLOW	<u>14,600</u>	<u>16,047</u>

Endowment Fund & Legacy Society

Jim Brook (Chair), Wally Ducayet, Chris Elcan, Pam Piper-Yeung, and Katherine Sutherland

Our Endowment Fund was initiated in 2011 to provide long term financial stability for our church and its mission. Many of us have since expressed our prayerful intent to make a financial gift from our estates, and are thereby recognized as members of our Legacy Society. Several donations have already been made, to be held in perpetuity with annual income available to SJB.

Our Endowment Fund assets are invested through The Episcopal Foundation of Colorado, operated by our Diocese. The values of the funds December 31, 2023 were:

- Ltd. Maturity Bond Fund \$ 24,461
- Medium Term Bond Fund \$ 15,597
- Equity Fund \$ 112,498
- Total \$ 152,556

Gifts to the Endowment Fund are made from donors' estates as well as during our lifetimes when special opportunities arise, such as an inheritance or significant appreciation of securities or the sale of a home. Gifts can include cash, securities, or insurance proceeds, and may be named memorials. Prospective donors are encouraged to consult with their income tax advisors about Qualified Charitable Distributions and other effective giving strategies.

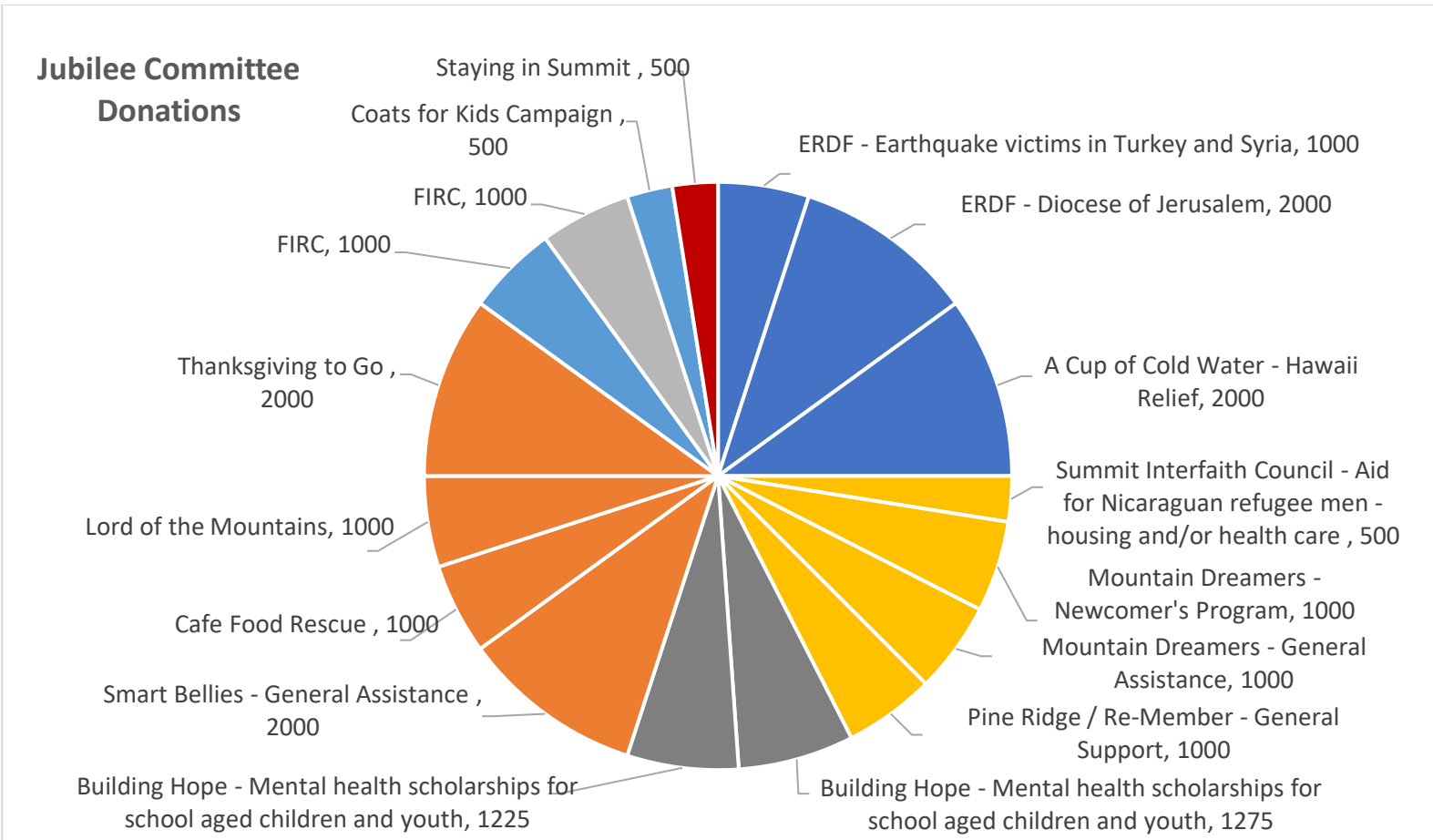
Our Endowment Fund provides excellent opportunities for each of us to gift a permanent legacy in thanksgiving for this church, supporting and expanding its continuing mission. Please contact any Committee Member for more information.

Jubilee Committee – Frances McWilliams

The Jubilee Committee began the year by reviewing the definition of the Jubilee Ministry given us by the denomination, and presenting it during an Adult Forum: “A ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs and to build a just society.” It is called to help the church live out its prophetic vision of empowering people to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly before their God.” (Micah 6:8) Our local work has been to distribute the money designated by the Vestry for outreach, to educate ourselves about Summit County non-profit organizations and network with them, and to encourage St. John’s parishioners to volunteer as a part of their faith commitment. Members of the committee serve as liaisons with organizations with whom they are involved. With Natalie’s help we have been able to meet virtually, and keep better records of our actions using a “Donation Consideration” form.

The year began with \$15,000 from the Vestry, and we were given an additional \$5,000 later in the year for donations. In Summit County, we contributed to FIRC, for rental assistance; Building Hope for therapy

scholarships; Smart Bellies, for school-aged children’s meals; Timberline Adult Services for cots and lunches; Day Services program at Lord of the Mountains Church for homeless people; Staying in Summit, for their plans to build housing and services for Seniors; Thanksgiving To Go, for gift cards enabling needy families to buy food; Mountain Dreamers, for their “ Newcomers Program”, Summit CO Interfaith Council, for programs; Jail Ministry; Coats for Kids; Cafe Food Rescue. Regionally, we as well as the Vestry have contributed to St. George’s Episcopal Church in Leadville. Nationally, we have made contributions to Episcopal Relief and Development and to the Re-Member Organization working at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.



Missioner’s Report: The Northwest Region of the Episcopal Church in Colorado – Rev. E. Wendy Huber

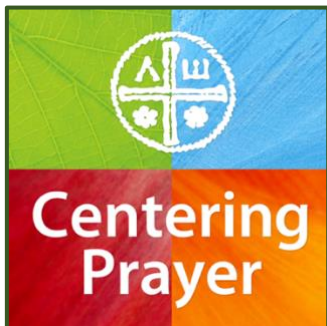
Bishop Kym appointed a new Regional Missioner during Fall 2023. Rev E Wendy Huber from St Peters of the Valley assumed the role September 1, 2023. We celebrated the ministry of Nancy Kinney as an amazing and committed Regional Missioner at our Annual Convention in Grand Junction. Thank you to St Johns for sharing her talents with the wider region.

The NW Region continues to lead the church in its percentage of contributions to the Region. This allows the region to provide funding to assist our smaller congregations; feeding those hungry members of our community in Leadville; as well as other local needs. Thank you to St Johns for supporting the local work of the church through regional contributions.

Respectfully submitted, Rev E Wendy Huber

Worship Services

Tuesday Centering Prayer Group – John & Amy Evans



Centering Prayer is a long-established method of silent prayer where we attempt to clear the consciousness and listen for the presence of God.

The practice is not complicated but can lead to a life changing spiritual awakening.

The St. John's centering prayer group continues to meet in the nave on Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. for 20 minutes of quiet. Our group has several, regular "far-flung" members who join on Zoom.

All are welcome.



Eucharistic Visitors – Karla Schapansky

The Eucharistic Visitor ministry takes consecrated communion to our folks at home. The Eucharistic Visitor receives the elements from the priest at the altar and goes to the communicants' home.

Joyce Mueller and Allen Schapansky served in this role until summer and fall of 2023. Presently, Karla Schapansky is the active visitor. Jennifer Bettridge is currently training for licensure in this ministry.



It is meaningful and a special connection with those who can't attend church in person.

Evening Prayer

The St. John's Evening Prayer Group meets virtually every day at 5:00 p.m., MST.

We have continued this practice seven days per week since the beginning of the pandemic in March of 2020. It is a lay led ministry and lasts about 20 minutes. Members have found that Evening Prayer (page 115 in the BCP) is a very satisfying way to spiritually bring an end to the hectic day and begin a quieter more peaceful night.

Of course, everyone is welcome and leadership is not expected. There is a Zoom link to Evening Prayer in every eBlast.

Report of the Director of Music – Jeanie Dedrick Kramer

Serving as the Music Director at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church is a very rewarding experience. The support of the Vestry and the congregation for the music program is greatly appreciated.

In order to accommodate the diversity of our congregation, we utilize uplifting traditional and contemporary music from the 1982 Hymnal and the Renew Book. New music, from various sources, was sung by the choir. The selection of music expresses our spirituality.



Since Breckenridge is a resort community, we are blessed to have a year-round choir.

The St. John's Choir currently has 25 members. There are 18 permanent, full-time residents and 7 seasonal, part-time residents in our choir. The St. John's Choir met on a regular weekly basis for rehearsals at 7:40 am and 10 am. We have a choir at the 8 am and 10:30 am services. Choir membership is open to all who enjoy singing. The ability to read music is helpful, but not necessary. We always welcome new members! The choir's efforts and abilities have provided meaningful spirituality for our services. The choir offers praise through music and supports the congregational singing.

A variety of guest musicians provided special music throughout the year, including Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Mass on the Grass and Christmas Eve.

During the summer season for the National Repertory Orchestra, 20 musicians performed at the 8 am and 10:30 am services. St. John's provided a faith community, as well as a Tuesday night dinner for the NRO musicians during June, July and August.

The Mass on the Grass was held on July 16 at Carter Park. Meghan Kusiak, vocalist, the St. John's Choir, Jeanie Kramer, organist, and a string quartet from the NRO performed special music.

Christmas Eve services were enriched with contemporary and traditional music provided by Meghan Kusiak, vocalist, Sam Jarvis, violinist, and Jeanie Kramer, organist. On Christmas morning, Jeanie Kramer provided Christmas carols for all to sing.

Music enriches the meaningful worship experience of our parish. During 2023, the St. John's Choir, vocalists, guest musicians, as well the National Repertory Orchestra contributed toward creating a rich and meaningful worship experience for all.

Serving at St. John's

Altar Guild – Amy Evans

Our Altar Guild is responsible for the care of the linens for Eucharist Service, setting the Altar, cleaning the vessels for Eucharist, filling the candles, and making sure the Sanctuary Lamp is lit. It is a ministry that is often behind the scenes, hidden away in the Sacristy where all is prepared and cleaned. We work in tandem with our Verger and the Floral Guild on a lot of occasions.



This year we added a funeral pall for cremains and more purificators were ordered since many were worn out.

I am so thankful for our team who make sure all is well each Sunday as well as special occasions. The 2023 members included Kay Adamson, Sheila Brockmeier, Andy Searls, Spotswood Shotton, Katherine Sutherlin, and Karen Turner.

We welcome anyone who is interested in becoming a member. Benefits include access to the Sacristy, learning the names and meaning of the linens so you can impress your friends, the secrets of getting wine out of linens and clothing, extra wine and bread on Sunday, and best of all serving Christ in a beautiful way.

Facilities Management Committee – Allen Schapansky

The Facility Management Committee was dissolved in March, 2023. No projects were completed between January and March.

Floral Guild – Karla Schapansky



For 2023, the Floral Guild team was steady and reliable. The members of the Floral Guild are Rhoda Barr, Jennifer Bettridge, Cynthia Doerr, Jenn Hardy and MJ Wurster. Every Saturday, a member picks up the altar flowers from Bloom Florist and delivers them to St. John's and places them in our brass vases in the flower niches. On Thursdays, the altar flowers are broken down and made into bouquets which are placed around the church for beauty and enjoyment.

A member of the team coordinates with Cindy, Bloom Florist, for the flowers appropriate throughout the liturgical year. These flowers are supplemented with lilies around the church at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas. During Lent, the altar vases are filled with branches and "sticks", as they are affectionately called, representing a dormant and pensive time before Easter.

There are opportunities to dedicate these flowers weekly for family, friends or a special occasion. Dedications for lilies at Easter and poinsettias at Christmas are also opportunities.

I appreciate their commitment and responsibility to this ministry.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – Maggie Ducayet



The prayer shawl ministry is a “quiet, behind the scenes ministry” that is also very powerful! We have been meeting and knitting and crocheting shawls, lap blankets, baby hats, buntings, and much more for over 25 years. The group has met in many different places; the House with the Red Door, St. John’s, The “Next Page”, and our present home is at Common Spirit / St. Anthony’s hospital (in the second floor gathering space.)

The shawls were initially given out through St. John’s and are also now given out at the hospital and to Domus Pacis Family Respite. Additionally, we make hats and scarves for a homeless outreach in Denver through the Franciscan order of St. Timothy in the Episcopal Diocese of Denver. The recipients are so grateful! Nothing says “I care” more than a homemade hat or scarf!

We meet on Wednesdays at the hospital, second floor gathering space from 1:30-3:30 and we also have knitters and crocheters who knit at home! It has been a very special ministry of St. John’s. Our knitters and crocheters are dedicated and prolific but our numbers are small and getting smaller. We invite you to join us (even men can knit!). We have yarn, needles, crochet hooks, patterns, and patient knitters and crocheters who would love to teach you to do their craft as you start on a simple project!

Tuesday Community Dinner – Kathy Landon

When asked in July to become the coordinator of the Tuesday Night Community Dinners, how could I say “No” to Anne Galluzzo?! Having shopped for and organized our wonderful new kitchen, Anne left our rewarding ministry in great shape. Our team leaders are Natalie Boyer, Jayme Aragon, Carol Vagnini, Michelle Bushey, Kathy and John Landon, and Barb Snyder from St. Mary’s Catholic Church (fifth Tuesday.) We are supported by dedicated volunteers who purchase ingredients (average cost of \$150-175 per dinner) set up, cook, serve, and cleanup. In the fall, we changed our hours to 5:00 to 6:30 pm hoping it would not only increase our numbers but also make it more convenient for everyone.



In 2024, we hosted 1,200 hungry guests and served 3,600 dinners only made possible by our 450 volunteers. This summer we invited the NRO musicians to join us on Tuesdays in lieu of their traditional Thursday dinners previously held at SJB. We have been truly blessed by food donations from Cafe Rescue, a local non-profit that collects and delivers leftover prepared food from local resorts and restaurants, Hearthstone Restaurant, and Mountain Top Cookie Shop. We are also grateful to parish family, dinner guests, Christ Lutheran Church, and Knights of Columbus for financial donations to our community dinner fund for a total of \$2,550.00.

Ushers, Lectors, & Intercessors – Sheila Brockmeier

Ushers are a critical part of our church's hospitality. Their warm welcome to visitors helps us live into our mission statement. Readers or Lectors make the Scripture accessible to the congregation through their thoughtful reading.

It has been my privilege to schedule our ushers and readers over the past 12 months. These are critical ministries supporting our worship and I am grateful for all our volunteers, both year-round and seasonal. This ministry can always use new volunteers, so please feel free to express your interest to Sheila Brockmeier, one of our vestry members, or Peter.



Verger/Sacristan – Karla Schapansky



Our lay team continued our service at the altar throughout 2023. Our team consists of Kay Adamson, Sheila Brockmeier, Jim Brook, Judy Burnham, Patrick McWilliams, Brianna Richter, Karla Schapansky, Spotswood Shotton, Liv Syptak, and Janet Ulrey. Our newest members (2024) are Jennifer Bettridge and Tyler Stricklin. Welcome!

We faithfully assisted Charlie at 8:00 and 10:30 through Lent and Easter as well as July 16 at Mass on the Grass which was Charlie's retirement day. We carried on until Peter arrived and haven't skipped a beat. We were part of a meaningful Advent and celebratory Christmas. We served at two weddings and one funeral in 2023.

Peter was not accustomed to St. John's having a Verger but he embraced the idea and I verged on Palm Sunday and Easter, Charlotte Weiler's funeral, and Christmas.

We support each other and our loyalty and commitment to this sacred ministry is unanimous.

It's my privilege to serve as your Verger/Sacristan.

Growing

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries – Sheila Brockmeier

Our congregation was happy to welcome one new family in 2023 and to have another family who had participated virtually begin to come to church and Sunday School. During the 2022-23 school year Sunday school was offered during the 10:30 worship for ages 4 through middle school. In the fall of 2023, the ministry coordinator and several of the families decided that gathering once a month on a Sunday evening would better serve everyone's schedule and provide an opportunity to build community. We are now meeting in the church's Gathering Place from 5:00 to 6:30 on the first Sunday of the month. All ages of children are welcome as are both parents and guests. We have a 20 to 30 minute lesson for the children followed by a potluck dinner and time for both children and adults to socialize.

We are also trying to make the children more visible to the congregation with a Children's Worship during the 10:30 service on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Children are invited to participate, as they feel comfortable, through reading Scripture, assisting the ushers and of course, ringing the church bell at the end of the service. Following the Gospel, Mrs. Brockmeier offers a sermon prepared with both children and adults in mind.

The Christmas Pageant was, as always, a high point of the year. We had many children from SJB have leading roles with short speaking parts and a few visiting children join us as angels and various farm animals.

Our Youth Group is currently comprised of two middle school students. For a variety of reasons, we were unable to participate in Quest or the Young Episcopalians in Service (YES) trip in 2023. However, our Youth members have engaged in volunteer work in the county, particularly helping to pack meals for Smart Bellies patrons and helping to deliver the food bags. These two have been very helpful keeping the younger children engaged during our family dinner/socialization time and have proven themselves to be excellent readers during the Children's Worship Sundays. We hope to participate in the YES mission trip in 2024.

Lectio Divina – Rev. Peter Munson

The Rev. Peter Munson, interim Rector, leads a hybrid Lectio Divina group every Thursday morning and we listen to and discuss one of the readings for the upcoming Sunday.

We have regular attendees joining SJB members from Christ Church in Aspen, St. Bartholomew's in Estes Park, and St. Luke's in Park City, Utah, and this makes for a rich fellowship.

Men's Bible Fellowship – Jim Brook



The Men's Bible Fellowship meets in-person in the Gathering Place and on Zoom every Wednesday from 8:00 to 9:00 am, continuing our tradition of informality and inclusiveness with no prerequisite study. The Zoom link is published in the eBlast.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend and participate whenever able. We especially enjoy the many guests and seasonal residents who add significantly to our discussions. Weekly leadership of our discussions is shared among several of our members, with the objective of stimulating thoughtful conversation, observations, questions, and comments relating to selected readings. Our typically small group size in the mid-

teens makes it possible for everyone who wishes to speak to do so, helping us all with our struggles to better understand the Word, and to enjoy great fellowship. We share through prayer our thanksgivings and tribulations, in confidence and mutual respect.

During 2023 our discussions continued to follow a "harmony" of the gospels, progressively reading and comparing the many parallel messages while considering the differing focus and orientation of the writers of each of the four.

Our group once again hosted the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner in February, as well as the barbeque meat portion of the "Mass on the Grass" luncheon in July, and we look forward to doing it all again in 2024.

Spiritual Sisterhood / Women's Bible Study – Judy Burnham

We meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am (8:45 social time) in person and on Zoom. During 2023, we finished our interesting study of *The Bible in Ten Words* by Deron Spoo. Next, we discussed *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller where we could relate to the elder brother and the younger brother. Over the summer we learned about some strong and courageous women, reading *Bible Women, All Their Words and Why They Matter* by Lindsay Hardin Freeman. We will continue reading this book next summer as well. We ended the year by learning how Mary Magdalene had a unique spiritual connection with Jesus in the thought-provoking book, *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene: Discovering the Woman at the Heart of Christianity* by Cynthia Bourgeault.



We welcome new members and are so thankful to learn so much from each other and to have a special prayer community. For Lent this year we are going to take a break from Mary Magdalene and use the Forward Movement Lenten program, *Will You? a Lenten Study of Baptismal Promises*. We have ordered extra study guides that can be purchased from the church. Come join our friendly and engaging group!

Sunday Forum



The Sunday Forum is offered nearly every Sunday at 9:15 am in the Gathering Place.

Grab a cup of coffee and something to eat, then join us for stimulating conversation and reflection!

Serving in the Community

Canned Goods for FIRC and Father Dyer Church – Andy Searls & Ricky Daly

Another year has passed and Ricky and Andy have enjoyed their joint service to the Summit County community. We both arrange for canned goods to be available and delivered to the community through Father Dyer's food pantry in Breckenridge and the Family and Intercultural Resource Center's (FIRC) food market in Dillon. Our St. John's congregation has been very supportive of these monthly donations of canned goods to the community. The donations of free canned goods to each organization are done on an alternate monthly basis.



Ricky is in charge of the donations to Father Dyer, providing a note in our eBlast offering suggestions of needed canned goods for that month. Canned goods for Father Dyer are left in their Fellowship Hall, and are most welcome. Andy collects the needed canned goods for FIRC. Suggestions of needed canned goods also appear in the eBlast. The FIRC canned goods can be dropped off at church in the large plastic container in

the coat closet or delivered directly to Andy’s home in Frisco. The FIRC canned goods are delivered on the first Monday of alternate months throughout the year. Watch our eBlast for needed items and updates.

Both FIRC and Father Dyer appreciate our help as we at St. John’s have been doing this for over 20 years. The contact people are Ricky Daly, 970-393-3534 for Father Dyer and Andy Searls, 970-668-0625 for FIRC.

Food Deliveries to St. George – Sheila Brockmeier

Several SJB members continue to pick up donations from Whole Foods Market, Frisco and deliver that food to St. George Episcopal Church in Leadville.

These donations are used by staff and volunteers at St. George to serve meals at lunch time four days each week. Some food is also contributed to the food pantry which is open two times per week. Additionally, a mobile food pantry makes deliveries in and around Leadville once a week. We are honored and proud to support their ministries.

Additional volunteers are always welcomed!



Summit Colorado Interfaith Council – Frances McWilliams



The mission of The Summit Colorado Interfaith Council is “to work with diverse community partners to create dialog and action to address human needs.” It’s vision is: “As people of faith, we believe that all people have intrinsic worth and value. Our goal is to bring hope, help, justice, and wellbeing to our neighbors in Summit County.”

The Council hears monthly from its faith communities about specific new events going on in each, and helps to publicize these. It also hears from presenters from Community Organizations with an eye on how we might support them. On-going programs continue successfully: the Safe Parking Program has grown, providing a structure for working homeless to stay safely in their vehicles. A Council member has devoted significant time to networking around the possibility of finding transitional housing for homeless people. Two luncheons have been well received: the Faith Leaders’ luncheon, bringing together leaders from diverse faith communities; and the Law Enforcement Appreciation Lunch. Two new programs were birthed: a Community Service Day utilizing volunteers doing projects with the Dillon Ranger District; the Eagle’s Nest Wilderness area; the Dillon Historical Museum; and Smart Bellies

Thanksgiving to Go – Summit Interfaith Council

History:

Thanksgiving to Go (T2G) started eight years ago as a free community dinner at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Breckenridge. As demand increased T2G changed to delivery of bags filled with food for a Thanksgiving meal. In 2020, The Summit Colorado Interfaith Council became the sponsoring organization. The number of needy families continued to grow exponential and then the pandemic hit. In 2022, Thanksgiving to Go became a program raising money to purchase grocery gift cards and the referring agencies give the grocery gift cards to needy families.



Summary:

In 2023, twenty different agencies identified 987 families. Of that, 104 families were referred by more than one agency. The net number of families served was 888 families. \$81,679 was raised. This allowed every family to receive \$100 in grocery gift cards and every individual to receive \$50 in grocery gift cards.

2023 Goals:

- To identify as many needy families as possible while working with non-profits and other organizations throughout the County.
- Increase awareness in the community of the needs and concerns of our less fortunate neighbors.
- Involve more people in the program. Participation is a key to understanding.

Who Received Gift Cards:

- 715 – More than one person households
- 173 – One person households

Where the Recipients Reside:

Town	Number of Families	Percentage of Total	Town	Number of Families	Percentage of Total
Alma	2	0%	Farmers Korner	1	0%
Avon	1	0%	Frisco	39	4%
Blue River	2	0%	Keystone	50	5%
Breckenridge	137	14%	Kremmling	2	0%
Como	1	0%	Leadville	98	10%
Copper mountain	1	0%	Minturn	1	0%
Dillon	245	25%	Silverthorne	194	20%
Edwards	1	0%	Wilderness	4	0%
Fairplay	13	1%	Unknown	171	18%

Who Donated:

Summit County Senior and Community Center donated the printing services.

Major Donors:

- The Summit Foundation \$10,000
- The Catholic Community in Summit County \$10,000

- St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church \$10,500
- The Albertson/Safeway Foundation \$5,000
- Fr. Dyer United Methodist Church \$5,000
- Peter Stein \$5,000
- Town of Frisco \$5,000
- Pinnacle Companies \$5,000

What the recipients received:

Each family received a personalized envelope distributed by a referring agency. Inserted in the envelopes were the grocery gift cards, a Thanksgiving prayer, a history of Thanksgiving, a list of major donors, and the Summit County food resource guide. This guide shows by day where free food can be found in the county. All documents were in English and Spanish.

Families with one person households received a \$50 gift card. Families with more than one person received two \$50 grocery gift cards.

What to do Better in 2024:

We anticipate that the need will be greater in 2024. We should start our fundraising earlier. We should reach out to other foundations including Walmart and Whole Foods. We should again strive to reach more faith communities both to identify recipients and donors.

Conclusion:

Thanks to the generosity of so many individuals and institutions in Summit County, more families had a Thanksgiving meal free from hunger. All our goals were met. We are excited for 2024!

Timberline Friday Lunches – Carol Vagnini



This is the 5th year that St John’s cooks have provided delicious lunches to folks at Timberline Adult Day Program. The program serves individuals with developmental disabilities and those with cognitive and memory issues. Our

contribution provides nourishing meals and is truly a welcomed service, for both the Timberline guests and staff.

Meals might include soups, chili, casseroles or sandwiches or salads. Typically, cooks provide and deliver one meal every other month.

These people have been faithful cooks through the years: Natalie Boyer, Judy Burnham, Nancy French, Jeanie & Mike Kramer, Kate Neuschafer, Pauline Stein, Janet Ulrey, Carol Vagnini.

If you are interested, we would welcome you to our team. Please contact Carol Vagnini (kcmka@aol.com) to participate in this ministry.

Serving in the World

Re-Member: Working with the Oglala Lakota Sioux on the Pine Ridge Reservation – Carol Vagnini

September, 2023, was the 3rd year that members of St John’s volunteered on the Pine Ridge Reservation. During 2023 five people (Ricky Daly, Nancy Kinney, Barbara Young, Jane Van Baren, and Carol Vagnini) enjoyed a week of service and learning. With each visit, we feel the experience to be life changing as we learn from the elders and tribal people about the life they must live on the reservation.

The Jubilee committee donated \$1,000.00 to support the work completed during the week and participants pay for their involvement (approximately \$775 for food, lodging, and transportation.) Many members of SJB contributed self-care items and clothing as well as financial contributions.

Work on the reservation included building outhouses, ramps for limited mobility individuals, mobile home skirting, and bunk beds. Also, gardening work was completed. Learning comes from the Lakota elders who speak each evening to the volunteers.



The volunteer experience with the Lakota people has become a growing and meaning part of the outreach at SJB. We encourage others to consider joining. Deadline to commit for the 2024 September is January 30.

Please contact Carol Vagnini if you have questions.(kcmka@aol.com)

“Mitakuye Oyasin”. We are all related.

Summit in Honduras – Maggie Ducayet

Last fall, we celebrated 20 years of service in Honduras! We started with little except a passion to make a difference and we have worked hard to make it all happen. We have many partners both in Honduras and here in the United States. We are working mainly in health care and education and we are blessed to have many people and support organizations who help us make a difference!

Medical



In 2023 we were fortunate to take two Medical Teams to Honduras. Our volunteer teams of doctors, medical staff and support staff were able to visit 8 villages, as well as the Amigos de Jesus children's home. We provided much needed health care to over 500 village residents. Each patient received a health check, visit with a doctor, as well as clinic referrals and medication when needed. Our Health Guardian program also continued in 2023 with training sessions every other month. We now have 25 Health Guardians in 16 villages. We will continue our trips and Health Guardian program in 2024.

Our partnership with Service Materno Infantil Maya Chorti continued strong this year. The clinic provides care specifically for indigenous Maya Chorti women. Lives have been saved by the use of the new incubator we purchased. We also purchased a new birthing chair and have begun refinishing the metal beds. We completed the clean water project which consisted of three large water tanks capable of holding a two weeks supply of clean water. The clean water is provided by the city of La Entrada.

Schools

Professor Samuel Sandoval leads our education outreach in Honduras. We scholarship over 100 students from 4 villages where we have built schools. We provide uniforms, backpacks, school supplies, and in some cases shoes, socks and white T-shirts. Professor Samuel also works with the teachers and follows up with students who drop out of school. Plans are in the works for building an enclosed kitchen and middle school in El Cedral.



Food Support

The two chicken coop projects are well on their way to being completely sustainable. The village run chicken coops and provide eggs at a reduced price to the local villages. An additional chicken coop is in the planning stage for 2024. We continue to provide monthly food support to the Monastery for their rehabilitation program, as well as to the Maternity Clinic. Many of the expectant mothers come down from the mountains for delivery without supplies or money.

Outdoor Activities

St. John's Bike Group – Allen Schapansky

We discovered hard core peddlers in our midst in 2023.

We had two outings and fun was had by all.

- Jim Emery and Allen Schapansky went from the SJB parking lot to West Frisco and then returned.
- Our group with hard core peddlers started from West Frisco and went to the Vail Pass Summit. We then returned to West Frisco.



St. John the Baptist Hiking Group – John Evans



The St. John's hiking group has been an active part of the parish's fellowship for many years and 2023 was another busy year. Sherry Levin organized the group and kept the schedule moving smoothly. The hikes were "confidently" led by a number of people and we were never lost. Participation was very good again this year with many of our summer visitors and friends joining the walks.

We began hiking after the trails had mostly dried out in late June and continued our weekly adventures into mid-September. We walked all levels of difficulty and memorable hikes included a steep trail up Black Powder Pass, a misty, foggy and cold

Benrose Ski Circus and the colorful Aspen Alley.

2024 should be a fine walking season and, as always, everyone is welcome.

Nature Ramblers Snowshoe and Hiking Group – Judy Burnham

Our group enjoyed the beautiful outdoors this past summer. The snowshoe group did not happen, as we had wished. We set up a schedule, and appreciated how different members helped lead the hikes. We welcome men and women on Thursdays at 9:30 am.

Some trails we hiked were: B & B Turks, Officer's Gulch, Iowa Hill, Rainbow Lake, Old Dillon Reservoir, Cucumber Gulch and more.



Ya-Ya Sisterhood Snowshoe Group – Carol Vagnini



Our 8th year of "YaYa'ing" found "angels in the snow".

Each Thursday we continued to trek, no matter the numbers of sisters or numbers on the thermometer. Typically from 9:00 am to 11:00 am or even noon.

We always discovered beauty and awe in God's creation. And, four-legged friends are always invited.

St. John's Ski Gang – John Bishop

The group meets every Monday starting at 8:30 am at Sevens Restaurant on Peak 7 and we ski until noon.

After a brief prayer, we ski the many trails that Breckenridge Ski Resort has to offer. It is a time when St. John's parishioners enjoy fellowship and connect with Mother Nature.

Our group varies in numbers, but we always have great fun. Most skiers/boarders are locals or visitors from the US, but we also share our love for the mountains with friends from the UK and other countries.

Going forward, all are welcome to join us every Monday.

"For God saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth" JOB 37:6

