

ST JOHNS

St. Johns Presbyterian

2018 Annual Report

And

Annual Congregational Meeting

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Jonathan Montgomery, Cliff Thomas

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

The mission of St. Johns is to connect with Christ, Church, and Community. We are blessed to have a dedicated staff with a true heart for Jesus Christ and a passion for making those connections.

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff	Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lovelady
Director of Music Ministry	Kevin Crainshaw
Organist	Tom Gunn
Director of Youth and Families	Chris Kellam
Director of Children's Ministry	Mollie Lackey
Youth Assistant	Bekah Wilson
Office Administrator	Brittany Harris
Bookkeeper	Sue Keefe
Sexton	Jesse Bozeman
Assistant Sexton	Hoi Lee
Nursery Workers	

We also give sincere thanks to God for a generous congregation that supports the work of the church.

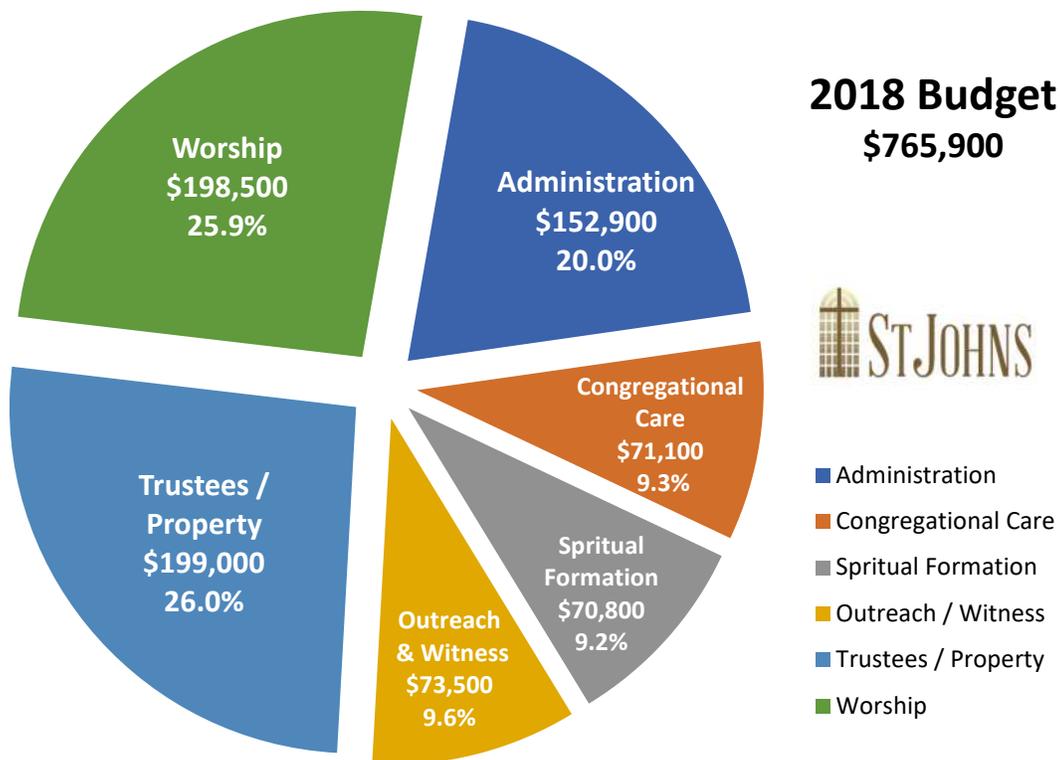
Items of note for 2018:

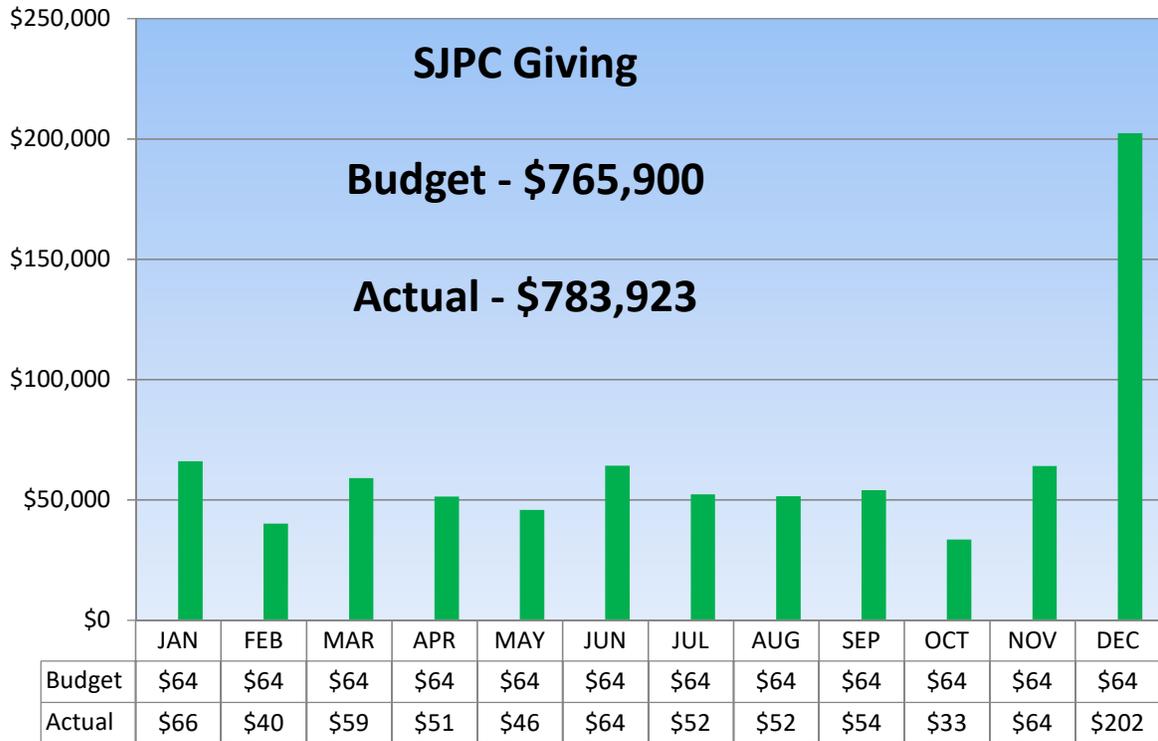
- Stephanie Taylor left the role of Director of Children's Ministry towards the end of 2018 when her family relocated to Salt Lake City, Utah;
- Mollie Lackey assumed the role of Director of Children's Ministry, into which the Pre-Kindergarten Ministry position was merged;
- The position of Youth Assistant was added to support a growing Youth Ministry;
- The library was moved to the Session Room in order to create space for a growing infant and toddler ministry;
- Carpet, lighting, painting, ceiling, and plumbing renovations were made in the common hall areas adjacent to the Peterson Fellowship Hall; the replacement of the boiler was completed.

We are truly thankful for everyone's faithfulness in giving during 2018. We operate on a "faith budget" which is not based on stewardship campaigns or pledge drives.

Giving in late December resulted in a modest surplus for 2018. This surplus will allow us to provide raises for staff and increase spending in outreach, spiritual formation and congregational care. Thank You!

Faithful giving and support enable us to have impact on people in the name of Jesus.





CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

Julie Cofran and Erin George.

This committee oversees the needs and concerns of the congregation including the Diaconate, Stephen Ministry and Seniors with A Testimony (SWAT).

2018 Congregational needs were met by the following:

- Provided communion to home-bound members, as desired.
- Annual church picnic held in May. Both Tru-Way and SJP Kindergarten were invited. Up in Smoke catered the barbeque. Entertainment included a petting zoo, bounce house and the pastor dunk tank.
- Assisted with Rally Day food and decorations, serving. Chicken and waffles along with honey were served, and we decorated with a bee theme.
- Celebrated Thanksgiving with a pot luck luncheon the Sunday before Thanksgiving. This luncheon was very well attended.
- Supported New Member classes as needed
- Sent grieving families the Stephen Ministry grief series of books.
- Supported members in need in conjunction with the Deacons.

Goals for 2019:

- Continue to minister to the needs of the congregation being mindful of our changing needs and adapting appropriately.
- Increase communication with Deacons to address Congregational needs. Assist with meal planning and visits as needed.
- Devise a means to engage repeat visitors and new members.
- Assist in the reestablishment of the Stephen Minister Training Program.
- Establish a congregational prayer group to support and pray for members.
- Annual Picnic planned for Sunday, April 28th.
- Coordinate Thanksgiving Pot Luck luncheon.
- Support new member classes as needed.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Becky Mentz and Ashley Smith

St. Johns continued to have two Sunday services this year, a traditional service at 9:00 AM and a contemporary service at 11:00 AM. Attendance at the early service averaged 68 and late service averaged 158. That was a slight increase in the early service and a slight decrease in the late service. The only joint service this year was on May 6th with the annual church picnic following.

The attendance exceptions were Scout Sunday in February and the Easter and Christmas services where attendance was greater. Christmas Eve services were again well attended with the cumulative attendance being 488.

The topics of Pastor Jon Lovelady's sermon series this year were:

January: "3 Words for 2018: Relationship, Relevance and Rigor"

February – Lent: "Transforming Grace ..."

Easter - April: "Meeting the Resurrected Jesus"

May-June: "False Pictures...."

July: "Certain Hope in an Uncertain World"

August-September: "The Power of Community..."

October: "Keep Calm and ..."

November: "The Art of Thanksgiving ..."

December - Advent, "Stealing Christmas...."

December 30: The Importance of Prayer led to the 2019 emphasis on prayer

In Jon's place or absence preaching was by Chris Kellam, Director for Youth and Families, and Elders or Deacons from the Church.

The Lenten season was begun with an evening Ash Wednesday service ending with the Imposition of Ashes to those attending. Services were also held on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Due to scheduling issues, we did not share services with Tru Way Church of the Risen Christ this year, but they were invited to attend St Johns services. A joint Sunrise service was once again held at Stockton Park with Ortega Methodist and St Mark's Episcopal. This year members and staff of St Johns collected the offering, lead the music and helped serve communion.

Partnering with Outreach, the Worship group participated in Christmas in Avondale this year with music video and greeters again handing out cotton candy to many who attended.

A revised and updated Usher procedure handout was distributed to help clarify and remedy some inconsistencies.

Kevin Crainshaw, Associate for Worship and Arts, continued to lead worship at both services and coordinated and managed musicians, singers, equipment (with its failures, repairs and

replacement) as well as staffed and instructed tech teams needed for all services. SDI video lines were run from the Sanctuary tech booth to the tech booth in the fellowship hall; equipment needed to complete the project was purchased. This project allows the fellowship hall to be used as an overflow room with live video capabilities. A Dante audio distribution network was installed and a computer upgraded to capture multitrack recording of services in the sanctuary. The Dante network will allow audio distribution anywhere on the church campus through network cabling. We replaced the four sanctuary speakers with identical models. The Renkus-Heinz STX4 speakers, that were installed, are identical to those removed. Kevin continued to improve acoustics in the sanctuary by constructing and installing more sound baffling panels for the rear wall. Several Session members are investigating alternatives and pricing for replacing the pew cushions in anticipation of that happening in 2019.

WITNESS COMMITTEE

Chip Wickenden and Christine Hughes

In Review, the Witness Committee, focused on several main mission and outreach areas:

- Local Missions
- Outreach
- Publicity
- Evangelism
- Racial Reconciliation
- Global missions

The budget for 2018 remained the about same from 2017 levels. Funds were used to provide additional support to global missions and to increase our publicity and community outreach during the Easter and Christmas holiday seasons.

Global and Local Missions Supported: Our church supported numerous local and global missions during 2018. Among these mission efforts were the following:

- Living Waters for the World
- Murray Hill Theater
- Sanctuary on Eighth Street
- Westside Christian Outreach
- Turkey missionary serving in Muslim culture
- Clara White Mission
- Westside Christian Outreach

Community Outreach Efforts: Outreach efforts were focused in four main areas:

- **Children's Ministries:** Vacation Bible School, Boy Scouts and D-Life.

- **Our neighborhood:** The Fall Festival Trunk-or-Treat and Christmas in Avondale.
- **The needy in our community and globally:** Sanctuary on Eighth Street, Sulzbacher Center, WSCO monetary donations on the first Sunday and non-perishable food donations, monetary donation to Westside Christian Outreach, and fundraising for Living Waters for the World mission trip.
- **Tru-Way Church of the Risen Christ:** racial reconciliation through our relationship with its members. We come together for our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services and the annual church picnic in September.

Additional Local and Global Ministries of St. Johns:

- **Boy Scout Troop 2 and Cub Scout Pack 2:** Continues to be an important outreach to the community. They meet on Monday nights in Peterson Hall. Troop 2 participated in Scout Sunday again this year. The annual spaghetti dinner was held in November. There are about 50 boys that are registered in Troop 2 and there were 9 Eagle Scouts in 2018. Cub Scout Pack 2 has about 60 registered cubs. During the year the BSA announced that Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts would be open to girls starting in 2019. The session gave clear direction as the chartering organization that Troop 2 and Pack 2 should remain single-sex, although there have been early discussions about forming a separate, female Scouting troop.
- **Campus Crusade for Christ:** We support this group with a monetary donation.
- **Christmas in Avondale:** Christmas 2018 was our ninth year with this event and was a huge success. Cotton candy was distributed to the crowd, along with information about SJPC. Contemporary music was presented by our praise team along with an artificial snow machine that drew many families. Kevin Crainshaw, Allison Stanly, Chip Wickenden and several other volunteers coordinated this event. The entire evening was well attended and attracted large crowds for the entire Christmas in Avondale event despite threatening weather.
- **Clara White Mission:** Jim Nolan has led several groups from our church to serve breakfast at this downtown shelter
- **Compassion International:** The Nolan family is also leading a ministry with Compassion International, connecting families in the congregation with children in developing countries to provide food, clothing and education. SJPC hosts a "Compassion Sunday" usually in the late spring of even-numbered years. Compassion International is an organization that raises money for needy children in impoverished countries through a "sponsor-a-child" approach. Non-sponsored children also receive support from the organization, but sponsored children have the advantage of communication with their

“host” or “sponsoring” families. SJPC had tremendous success in its inaugural Compassion Sunday event. SJPC plans to host a Compassion Sunday in Spring 2020.

- **Global Missions:** We continued to support a global mission in 2018. We support a missionary in Turkey (Pam - no last name because of security reasons) is serving university students and building a student ministry. She is working to build new leaders in the local church. She is part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- **Living Waters for the World.** In January 2018, a team from St. Johns Church flew to perform follow up maintenance and deliver filters to the system they had previously installed in Guanabacoa, Cuba. In July, the team returned to install another filter system in Bayamo, Cuba. A quick assessment and reset trip was made in January 2019 and another trip is planned in November 2019 to install a new system at Lavastida Christian Center in Santiago de Cuba and to do a retrofit in Bayamo.
- **Murray Hill Theater.** We support this group with money and help for various events.
- **Narcotics Anonymous.** We support this group by the use of our Annex Building.
- **Racial Reconciliation.** Our church has several events in conjunction with the Tru-Way Church. We worship together for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We have a yearly church picnic that Tru-Way participates in and is always an enjoyable event for both congregations.
- **The Sanctuary on Eighth Street.** Our church’s involvement is led by Robert George and his wife, Erin. This Springfield ministry provides outreach to the homeless and after school program/summer programs for local children. In the past, our church participated in a Valentine’s Day party for the children although last year Robert George’s law firm took over the responsibility of that event. If anyone is interested in volunteering at this ministry contact Robert George.
- **SJPK.** SJPK to operate at capacity. This is Gai-Gai Quarterman’s second year as director of the pre-school, and classes are at full attendance. Most of the children are from families that are not part of the SJPC membership. This is a key outreach to our community as families with children seek to find affordable and compassionate child care.
- **Trunk-R-Treat/Fall Festival.** This event continues to be very popular with the neighborhood families. The attendance this year was around 200, however there was

not an official count. In addition to games and food there were about 15 cars/trucks that participated in the event to pass out candy from their trunks. It is a real success and outreach to the local families for a Halloween alternative.

- **Vacation Bible School.** We had another successful year with record attendance. There were almost 200 registrations (9 kid groups) and over 50 volunteers for another successful year of Vacation Bible school. The VBS offering went to the Living Waters project. This continues to be a very popular outreach to families in the surrounding neighborhoods.
- **Westside Christian Outreach.** We have an ongoing food collection and our offering of the first Sunday of the month goes to this organization. With the passing of Gene Studstill the future of this mission is in question.

Publicity Efforts:

Our goal is to raise the awareness of the mission and ministry of SJPC in the community. The contract with the neighborhood newspaper, *The Resident*, was continued, and St. Johns continues to get positive coverage.

Our Facebook likes are increasing. Pictures and events posted on the page have helped to reach other people who do not normally look at the other electronic publications.

SJPC is also on Twitter.

We have continued with the Family Focus, both online and mailed to select recipients, and the emailed Opportunities of the Week. The "Opportunities of the Week" is sent electronically once a week.

Outlook for 2019:

Our witness/mission efforts will increase in the local community. In the recent all-church survey, it was discovered that members of our congregation favored participating in local mission and service opportunities over just sending funds to missions overseas; (although we will continue to support a few of those missions also).

Family Promise – A new, local mission is being kicked off by Christine Hughes and Allison Stanly that serves homeless families in Jacksonville. St. Johns will be a host congregation with Family Promise of Jacksonville to provide overnight hospitality for 2 or 3 families (max 14 people) for two separate weeks during 2019. Accommodations will be in the Loft and the Kirk House, and volunteers will provide evening meals during the week as well as all meals on Saturdays and Sundays. Typically, we will host three weeks per calendar year.

Our community outreach and evangelism continues to be emphasized with the activities surrounding the Christmas season and the Christmas in Avondale project. Additionally, the fall

Trunk or Treat event has become a favorite among the community to provide a safe and fun alternative venue for “Trick or Treat” activities.

We are presented with multiple areas in which to connect with our neighbors and community by showing them the love of Christ. Through the efforts of many individuals in our congregation we are able to conduct an outreach to a diverse set of needs both locally and globally.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION COMMITTEE

Kevin Hunger and Allison Stanley

The staff members working with this committee were Stephanie Taylor (Elementary Children’s Ministry), Mollie Lackey (Nursery and Toddler Children’s Ministry) and Chris Kellam (Director of Youth and Family Ministry)

The Spiritual Formation Committee oversees the following areas:

- Nursery
- Toddlers
- Children’s Ministries
- Youth Ministries
- Adult Church School
- Lent Study
- Other Groups

Children

Nursery:

In 2018 the focus has been on personnel, cleanliness, and programming. Mollie Lackey continued as the Preschool Ministry Director and there have been various changes implemented. Mollie continues to ensure that the Crib Nursery always has 2-3 sets of loving hands with babies aged 0-2.

The continuity of care, loving lessons, and intentionality has made the crib nursery a joyful and safe place to leave babies at St. Johns. It is an ongoing area of growth in the church, so continued evaluation will be needed in 2018.

Toddler Church:

Meets at 11:00 AM for our two, three, and four-year olds. It is very simplified & non-date specific so the lessons can be recycled every year. The emphasis continues to be based on the Bible to allow young minds to be exposed to the Holy Scripture from a young age. The focus is on having a fun interaction and a very clear understanding of the stories being taught during the 11:00 AM hour. Children are offered a snack during this hour. Mollie Lackey oversees the Toddler Church ministry, plans the lessons, oversees the teaching, and implements the craft. Toddlers then take the craft and an “at home” lesson with them for families to review during the

week.

Sunday School:

Sunday school continued under Stephanie Taylor who will be moving at the end of this year. We will greatly miss her, and we have confidence in her continued success. Rhonda Mosher leads children aged 3-years-old-Kindergarten, and Stephanie Taylor is leading children aged 1st-6th grade during the 10:00 AM hour. This change has been enthusiastically welcomed by the young families attending the church. Our goal for our children is for them to achieve Bible literacy.

Girls Night:

Twice a year, the female youth members have a group sleep-over including games, events, and Bible Study.

Boys Night:

Twice a year, the male youth members have a group event including games, outings and Bible Study.

Children's Church:

The children's church service meets in the fellowship hall and runs simultaneously with the 11:00 AM worship service. The children are invited to leave the Sanctuary during offering and are picked up from the fellowship hall at the conclusion of service. The Children's Church service is centered around a Bible lesson, given by a large group teacher and a recitation of the "kids creed", a simplified version of the Apostles creed. It is also heavily focused on relationship building, including a time where students can "tell us something about their week" and offer prayer requests. The time of worship previously held in the fellowship hall has been replaced by worship in the main sanctuary with families. This program has been a success based on the response from children and parents. Our mission for our church continues to be CONNECT WITH CHRIST, CHURCH and COMMUNITY. It is our hope that our children would grow up to be Christ honoring, Bible believing young adults.

Youth

Sunday School:

Every Sunday from 10:00 – 11:00 AM, includes relational building through games and a Bible-study for 6th- 12th grade. We finished our study on the Gospel of Luke, went through Philippians, and started 1 John.

Youth Group:

Chris Kellum has done an outstanding job with the youth group showing growth and vitality. Meetings are every Sunday night from 5:00 – 7:00 PM, where we eat dinner, play games, and have a Bible study. In 2018 we finished a series on the Book of James, Proverbs, and had a Christmas series during December. We experienced significant growth in 2018, increasing from

an average of 5-10 students per night, to 15-20 people attending at the end of the year.

D Life:

D-Life continued to meet every other Wednesday from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. In the spring, we started “Wednesday Hangouts,” also from 6:00- 8:00 PM, to gain consistency in our weekly programming and provide a time to just play games, hang out, and get to know each other better. In D-Life, we adjusted our format somewhat by holding high-energy events and activities, as well as providing youth opportunities to create and produce their own ideas for short films. We produced an Easter short promoting our Easter services and participated in the Jacksonville 48-hour film festival.

Events/Trips:

Lock-In – Annual Christmas lock-in was held in December

Rock the Universe – a make-up trip to Universal Studios was held November 10-12

Beach Trips – We went every other week during the summer

Service Days – We participated in volunteer opportunities at VBS, Trunk or Treat, and cleaning days at the church

Guys Nights / Girls Nights – we held one such night for the youth each semester

Other fun events included movies, concerts, pool parties, bubble soccer, a Flamingo Lake outing, going to a corn maze, and playing large outdoor games like Capture the Flag.

Confirmation:

Held over four weeks in February and March, including a weekend retreat to finish the curriculum and for the youth to work on their final exam, which was a written statement of faith. 21 youth went through the classes and were confirmed as members of St. Johns.

Adults

Jim Nolan's and Curry Pajcic's Class meets Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM in the kindergarten building. The class has finished studying the Book of James, and is now studying the Book of 1 Peter. The class involves interactive bible discussion and application of biblical principles revealed by the study of scripture.

Kevin and Wendi Hunger's class meets Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Kirk House. The class is studying the Harmony of The Gospels with emphasis on the Jewish understanding of the times, words of Jesus and the Messianic understandings that led to conflict with the religious leaders of the day.

Lent Study:

In 2018 we had another successful lent study. The study was Paul the Apostle, which was a very close personal look at the person of Paul as he wrote from his captivity under the Roman Caesar. In 2019 we studied prayer using a study from Tim Keller. We had anticipated 7 to 9 home groups.

Other Groups

Women's Study Groups

- a monthly Bible study was taught by Diane McFadden
- a weekly Thursday mornings class was led by Wendi Hunger
- a weekly Wednesday evening Bible study on various topics by Beth Moore & Max Lucado was taught by Linda Edwards

Men's Groups

- Tuesday morning bi-monthly prayer breakfast
- Wednesday morning Bible Study, The Screwtape letters and Pilgrim's Progress led by the ever dedicated, Trip Stanly, at the Maple Street Biscuit Company at 6:00 AM
- Weekly 10:00 AM class on Sundays, led by Bill Mentz and Jon Lovelady, "Traveling Light" by Max Lucado

GRACIOUS DISMISSAL UPDATE

Jim Nolan, Kevin Hunger, Jonathan Montgomery, Becky Mentz, Ashley Smith and Robert George

In May, 2016, SJPC asked the Presbytery of St. Augustine to allow us to be dismissed from the PCUSA, in order to join a Presbyterian denomination more aligned with the theological and biblical views of SJPC and its members. This request was made after an extended period of research, due diligence, discernment and prayerful consideration. Your session is committed to working diligently and faithfully in seeing that this process is carried out in both an equitable and Christ-honoring manner.

Below is a timeline of events this year:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| December 12, 2017 | Crisis Response Team (CRT) reported to Presbytery its conclusion that reconciliation is not feasible; recommended the appointment of an Administrative Commission (AC) to negotiate the dismissal of St. Johns to another reformed Presbyterian denomination. |
| February 3, 2018 | At its Winter Stated Meeting, Presbytery approved the persons to identify and |

name the members of an Administrative Commission.

June 4, 2018

Administrative Commission (AC) was named:

John Diller	Orange Park	Teaching Elder
Laurie Furr-Vancini	Palms	Teaching Elder
Mac D. Heavener, III, Esq.	Memorial	Ruling Elder
Jerie Lukefahr	First Fernandina	Ruling Elder
Dr. John Ragsdale	Honorably Retired	Teaching Elder
Ben Samuels, Esq.	South Jacksonville	Ruling Elder

June 28, 2018

Presbytery Coordinating Council received an update from the AC that they would be scheduling an orientation meeting soon.

July 24, 2018

AC orientation meeting was held to review the responsibilities of the commission, policy for dismissing congregations, and to hear a summary report from the CRT Chairperson, Ed Kelly.

October 15, 2018

Awaiting its first meeting with the AC, the Session formally dissolved the Denominational Issues Group, thanked them for their service and created a Gracious Dismissal Group to manage negotiations with the AC.
(Continued on next page)

October 15, 2018
Continued

Gracious Dismissal Group was named:

Robert George, Esq.

Dr. Kevin Hunger

Becky Mentz

Jonathan Montgomery

Jim Nolan, Esq.

Ashley Smith, Esq.

October 30, 2018

First SJPC meeting was held with the AC. The Session hosted a dinner at St. Johns Presbyterian Church to facilitate the initial meet and greet.

Dialogue ensued after dinner regarding the dismissal process and the history of our discernment, beginning with a presentation to the Session by Members on September 15, 2014, and concluding with a Session vote to seek dismissal on May 16, 2016.

November 29, 2018

First meeting was held for the AC and Gracious Dismissal Group to discuss the dismissal process.

A target date of late January was agreed upon for an initial congregational meeting (following each worship service) in order for the AC to introduce itself and answer questions regarding the process.

In the interim, the SJPC team will forward documents to the AC such as meeting minutes, attendance records, membership rolls, financial statements, etc. so that the AC can begin its task of performing due diligence.

2019 Outlook

The AC will want to confirm the conclusions of the CRT and thereafter negotiate the terms of SJPC's dismissal from the PCUSA. After the AC and the Session approve the dismissal terms, the AC will recommend dismissal to the Presbytery, and the Presbytery members will vote to dismiss us to another Presbyterian denomination. We cannot predict when this might occur.

DEACONS

The Deacons in 2018 gave care to 37 or more members of SJPC. Our elderly group has 16 who are in their nineties; many of them have needs that are beyond Deacon Care.

The definition of our care receivers in a modern society has changed. Our care receivers are mainly widows with an occasional widower, divorced women, and elderly couples. The medical needs of our care receivers are difficult for the current Deacons to assist with due to the fulltime jobs and family responsibilities. We started the year with nine Deacons.

The Deacons hosted two luncheons throughout the year. The first one was in May and the other one was in October. We had 50 attendance for each, with the most of the Deacons participating and Pastor Jon joining in on the fun. Each luncheon had a theme, decorations, a program, and entertainment.

The Deacons for 2019 have one new Deacon on the board. We also have one Deacon that is on personal leave and their care receivers were distributed to the other Deacons. The Deacons are dedicated to helping the care receivers any way they can.

PROPERTY TRUSTEES

Robin Doering, Bill McFadden, and Victor Hughes

- The sanctuary ceiling was repainted in March of 2017. Two more dehumidifiers were placed in the front. We are keeping the humidity below 60 %.
- The oil burning boiler did not suffer any damage during Irma, but as we started the heating season in November the boiler began to leak. We decided to go to a natural gas boiler due to the efficiency, and less maintenance will be required. The church will be

able to buy natural gas directly from the gas distributor, and this will save 10 to 20 % of the fuel cost. The cost of replacement will be approximately \$21,000.

- Since we had a good year end, we will utilize some of these funds to refurbish Peterson Fellowship Hall, the hallway, and men's restroom. We still have still have \$10,000 in Miracle Sunday funds which will go toward this project.
- A portion of the preschool was reroofed in 2018.