

# **Annual Report 2025**

## **St. Augustine's Episcopal Church**



**February 8, 2026**  
**[www.staugustineuri.org](http://www.staugustineuri.org)**

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**Annual Meeting Agenda  
Canterbury Hall  
February 8, 2026**

Opening Prayer.....The Rev. Drake Douglas

Call to Order.....Carolyn Davis

- Approval of the Minutes of the 2025 Meeting
- Bishop's Committee Updates.....Carolyn Davis
  - Bishop's Committee Nominations & Vote
- Treasurer's Report / Budget.....Raymond Cox
- Jr. Warden's Proposed Budget.....Doug Wilson
- Vicar's Address.....The Rev. Drake Douglas
  - Ministry Opportunities
  - Thank Yous
  - Closing Prayer

Adjournment

## St. Augustine's Episcopal Church Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting February 2, 2025

Forty parishioners (see page 6) attended the annual parish meeting, either in-person or online via Zoom.

Opening Prayer: The Rev. Drake Douglas opened the annual meeting with a prayer at 10:57 a.m.

Call to Order: Carolyn Davis, Senior Warden, then called the meeting to order. She thanked everyone for all they've done in the past year to make St. Augustine's a thriving church community. Parishioners in attendance were asked to sign the attendance sheet. Peg Rostrup was the only Zoom participant.

Minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting: Presented for approval by Bethany Pucino, who made a motion to accept the minutes; Raymond Cox seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Nominations: Carolyn introduced the current Bishop's Committee and thanked them for serving in 2024. Our bylaws state that Bishop Committee members can only serve two consecutive terms and then must go off the committee. We now have 11 members and will gradually decrease the number of committee members as terms expire. Roy Heaton, who has served as Junior Warden, will become the first chairman of the Building & Grounds Committee; and Doug Wilson, a current Bishop's Committee member, has agreed to be nominated for Junior Warden. That will reduce the number of committee members from 11 to 10.

Marianna Richardson has been nominated for a second term. Kathie Gibson has been nominated as a delegate to convention, and Carol Miro has been nominated as an alternate delegate to convention. Bethany Pucino made a motion to accept the nominees; Nancy Lee Hampton Beeley seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Section of the Annual Report: Treasurer Raymond Cox presented a slide show that provided a financial synopsis of 2024. The bottom line is that St. Augustine's is in good financial shape and should continue to be in good financial shape throughout 2025. The revenues are more than expected when the budget was prepared due to the rent from the vicarage.

Major Projects for 2025: Roy Heaton discussed the major projects scheduled for 2025: **the church roof, solar panels, and removal of trees on the property.** The new roof on the main building is scheduled to be completed within the month.

Federal incentives (40% off) are available for solar panels. We have obtained quotes from

two contractors and are awaiting the quote from a third contractor that has been promised this week.

Some of the trees in the yard are dying and will need to be cut down. Others will need to be trimmed before the solar panels can be installed. Tree work is scheduled to begin tomorrow at noon.

Fundraising: Carolyn mentioned that we are always looking for new fundraising ideas. Ideas that were suggested by parishioners included having a bake sale at a local supermarket or at the Kingston Hill Fair.

Vicar's Address: The Rev. Drake Douglas thanked the Bishop's Committee for all their work and cooperation. Fifteen years ago, St. A's was on the verge of dissolution. Now the church is thriving and has made the transition from scarcity to abundance. We now need to prepare for our next transition of aging, which is inevitable for all. Let's be intentional about the aging transition.

Ministry Opportunities: Please see the committee sign-up sheets in the back and sign up for one or more that is of interest to you. The following committees are open for membership: Garden Team, Pastoral Care, Green Team, Grief Team, and Altar Guild. Please speak to Drake or Carolyn if you'd like more information about any of these committees.

Closing Prayer: The Rev. Drake Douglas

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Rostrup, Clerk of the Bishop's Committee

**St Augustine's Episcopal Church  
Annual Meeting List of Attendees  
February 2, 2025**

Jane Bates	Jan Grinnell	Peg Rostrup (Zoom)
Nancy Beeley	Mary B Hall	Marianna Richardson
Carol Berggren	Ann Hamm	Eric Roberts
Betty Bogutt	Dick Hathaway	Donna Santaniello
Charlie Carroll	Roy Heaton	Susan Stiles
Raymond Cox	Angel Hilliard	Judith Sutphen
Rev. Drake Douglas	Rob Izzi	Debra Tanner
Carolyn Davis	Jacqui Kelley	Jan Terry
Ann Dunham	Annette LaRosa	Amy Tully
Victoria Escalera	Emerson Lavalley	Joanne Walsh
Nancy Foye-Cox	Joanne Melish	Mary Walsh
Nancy Gavitt	Carol Miro	Gail Wheelock
Kathie Gibson	Amanda Moss	Doug Wilson
Dwight Giles	Bethany Pucino	Jessica Wilson

**St. Augustine's Bishop's Committee**  
(Terms expire at the Annual Meeting of the year indicated)

**2025 Officers**

Rector: The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Knisely  
Vicar: The Rev. Drake Douglas  
Senior Warden: Carolyn Davis (2026)  
Junior Warden: Doug Wilson (2028)  
Clerk: Margaret Rostrup (2026)  
Treasurer: Raymond Cox (2027)  
Assistant Treasurer: Jane Grenier\* (2026)  
\*non-voting, B.C. Appointee

**2026 Nominations for Officers**

Senior Warden: Carolyn Davis (2027, 1-yr. term)  
Clerk: Amanda Moss (2029)

**2025 Bishop's Committee Members**

Jacqui Kelley (2027)  
Annette LaRosa (2026)  
Amanda Moss (2026)  
Bethany Pucino (2027)  
Marianna Richardson (2028)

**2026 Nominations for Bishop's Committee Members**

Amanda Moss (2029)

## Vicar and Chaplaincy Report

### *The Rev. Drake Douglas*

Our **worship** life shifted and grew as we continued to get to know each other this year. Sunday services enjoyed a semi-regular rota of preachers thanks to The Revs. Gail Wheelock, Libby Nestor, and Rob Izzi. Not only was this a tremendous help in lightening the homiletical load for me, but it was a benefit for the congregation to hear different, inspired voices from the pulpit. Additionally, the weekly Contemplative Communion service continued to be offered on Wednesday afternoons and was attended by a small, dedicated group. During Holy Week, we welcomed and were welcomed by St. Peter's by-the-Sea for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

My role as **teacher** this year was an exciting, fulfilling, and fun journey with many of you. Spring, summer, and fall each offered a congregational book read: *Life After Doom*, *Short Stories by Jesus*, and *Walk In Love*, respectively. Our honest and gracious conversations left me feeling hopeful for the world and thankful for curiosity and wit. Additionally, our Wednesday afternoon bible study continued with a dedicated and scrappy group of scholars; a true community of the faithful.

**Campus ministry** marched on to a small, steady beat in both the spring and fall semesters. A core group of 5-6 continued to attend Open Table, a combined worship/dinner held each week, though we welcomed several new faces over the year. We also welcomed the gift of beautiful furniture for the downstairs lounge space. We enjoyed a few special meals with students: the URI Women's Track Team, our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and a small but memorable Welcome Back BBQ for students. The fall semester also saw the addition of monthly Community Dinners which provided an opportunity for connection between students and parishioners; as well as Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Eve meals at the church for anyone who needed a place to celebrate. In April, we closed out the academic year with a night at the local bowling alley. During the summer, my chaplaincy efforts shifted to the **Episcopal Conference Center (ECC)** where I serve as Pastoral Director year-round. Most weeks, I spent two days on property to support the program and provide pastoral care to counselors and staff. Additionally, I spent six weekends on property during the academic year for various events and worship services.

Adding Angel Hilliard to our **administrative team** was a true boon to my ministry this year. Her overhaul of both the NEWS and our website gave us a much-needed refresh to our internal communications and helped immensely with showing the broader campus community what we have to offer. The time her work saves me each week has enabled me to be more present pastorally and proactive in planning and visioning on your behalf. Additionally, the generous gift of Jane Grenier's time and talent allowed us to continue to streamline financial and accounting processes this year, leading to better fiscal transparency and overall good stewardship of our resources.

At my ordination I promised "to take up my councils of Church," which is a fancy way to say **diocesan work**. Most enjoyable was the invitation to be a guest host on the diocese's podcast, *Tea Time Theology*, where I spoke to the theological themes of Star Trek for six episodes. In



October, I was appointed by the Bishop to the Clergy Compensation and Benefits working group at Diocesan Convention. Also, each month St. A's hosts the Narragansett Deanery - the regional meeting of Episcopal priests-in-charge in the surrounding area.

And finally, my role as your **pastor** was particularly full and rich this last year. In the early months, we met periodically to discuss faithful ways to live into a changing and challenging political landscape (Food For the Journey). I was honored to be at many hospital beds for prayer and companionship, and several of you welcomed me into your homes during times of illness and recovery. As loved ones died, you allowed me to be with you in that tender time, and I watched with deep admiration as this community cared for each other throughout a year marked with notable loss. Beyond our immediate community, your generosity allowed me to give nearly \$2000 from the charitable discretionary fund over the course of the year to individuals in need and to organizations who support them.

To say it's a privilege to serve as your vicar is a tremendous understatement. I've been blessed to spend this formative time with such a loving and faithful community, and I look forward to what we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Yours in Christ,  
Drake+

## Worship

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Worship Statistics	
Average Sunday Attendance	49
Average Online Attendance	8
Total Easter Attendance	66
Total Christmas Eve Attendance	82
Total weekday Eucharists	31
Total Campus Ministry Services	17
Total private Eucharists	19
Baptisms	1
Confirmations/Receptions	0
Burials	2
Marriages	1

## **Altar Guild**

*Nancy Gavitt*

The ministry of the Altar Guild is in preparing the sanctuary for services, caring for the vestments, linens and communion vessels, and baking the bread used in communion. We also do some cleaning of the church prior to Christmas and Easter services. Most of the altar floral arrangements are provided by our members, but parishioners are welcomed to provide flowers for our services. More members, both men and women, are always welcome. I will be stepping down as director of the Altar Guild as of February 17, the start of Lent.

## **Pastoral Care**

*The Rev. Drake Douglas*

The Pastoral Care Team meets monthly throughout the year to support the Vicar in his pastoral work within the parish. This assistance primarily comes in the form of coordinating visits to homebound parishioners, taking Communion to those who are away from church due to illness and injury, and arranging rides to appointments. The group also advises the Vicar on general concerns and needs of the parish as they arise. This year, Clare Sartori began offering a grief group on the last Friday of each month and will continue to do so in the coming year. It is open to anyone in the community experiencing grief in any form.

## **Music**

*Diana Norton Jackson*

The choir has been working hard with two rehearsals on Sundays and singing for services. The members are such a joy to work with and are willing to learn new music. They even sang a special anthem for Anne Ravenscroft's funeral, also. We have built up an extensive repertoire of music from Baroque to contemporary and spirituals to Gregorian style chants.

For Christmas Eve we had a special guest, Elizabeth Escalera, whose lovely voice and haunting oboe added a musical treat to our service. And, for a break after Christmas, we enjoyed an Epiphany party at the Jackson's home.

## **Senior Warden's Report**

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*Carolyn Davis*

As always, when I sit down in January to reflect on our past year, I start recalling all those events and projects from "way back" a year ago. This is quite a task for someone who cannot remember what I ate for breakfast this morning. So, looking back at the Bishop's Committee minutes, here are just a couple of the topics that you will read about in this Annual Report.

- Capital: As you will read in more detail in the Jr. Warden report, many of us worked with Doug and Roy on a few large projects. Remember that we put a new roof on the church

a year ago?! We received a diocesan grant for \$20,000 of the \$33,142 cost to do the entire building, instead of one section. That led to the solar system project that started with reviewing contractors in January to installation in October. Our total cost of \$36,698 was reduced by an \$8,008 state rebate. Five large diseased trees were removed, and a Potter Fund grant for \$3,700 provided some funds toward four new replacement trees. Extra donations from many of you paid for the rest.

- Fundraisers: Another very successful year with a total of \$2,475 for the Yard Sale, \$1,255 for the Wilson's Garden Party, and \$7,335 for the Christmas Fair. Many thanks to all our volunteers!

- Two postulantes for ordination: Kaley Casenhiser was ordained in December! She also had the honor of being named deacon-in-charge in June at Holy Trinity church where she is now the Rector. Delight Bucko is in her second year at seminary and has been interning in New Haven, CT.

Vicar Drake was busy with campus ministry and many parish projects. Our church has been humming with so many more activities and events, so please read all reports enclosed. Our prayer chain and pastoral care team have always been busy, and this year was no exception. We enjoy those notes of new family births or good news about treatments or surgery successes. But we often pray for horrible diseases, accidents, and heartbreaking losses to family and friends, including the recent loss of longtime parishioner, Anne Ravenscroft. Our prayers go out to all our members who have suffered this year.

My thanks to the Bishop's Committee (BC), and wishing a grateful farewell to Annette LaRosa fulfilling six years. We also thank Peg Rostrup for her work recording and participating in our meetings for 14 years, and for agreeing to stay on in a slightly different role. Amanda Moss has accepted the Clerk position, but we have also created a non-voting position of Assistant Clerk. We are very grateful that Peg will still join us in the meetings and continue doing the minutes.

My term is also up after completing 11 years as your Sr. Warden. I started with two remaining years left on Dave Masse's second term, plus an additional three terms. I'm agreeing to one more year, with the hope that I will be working with someone new to this position at some point during the upcoming year to take over in 2027. These years have been immensely rewarding to be so involved with this wonderful community and with all three of the priests and the "clergy team" that have guided me and the BC. But, this entire congregation is so supportive and I've been truly blessed. I highly recommend this position!

Blessings and many thanks to Rev. Drake, Deacon Rob, and to all our parish members for all you do to support St. Augustine's.

# Junior Warden's Report

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*Doug Wilson*

The Property Committee, consisting of Roy Heaton, Doug Wilson, and Emerson Lavalley, oversaw four major projects this past year: replacing the entire church roof, installing solar panels, removing unhealthy trees, and planting replacement trees. These were significant investments, and the solar installation required the completion of the other projects first. For each, we interviewed contractors, reviewed proposals, and managed the projects through to completion.

## **1. Church Roof**

The original 1981 roof over the sanctuary and the rest of the building was over 40 years old and needed replacement to match the expected lifespan of the solar panels. We accepted the lowest bid of \$33,142 from Pride Exteriors, following a positive prior experience with them at the vicarage. They completed the full removal and installation on February 24. Two days later, we were awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Diocese for this project.

## **2. Solar Panels**

After receiving several quotes starting in January, we selected SolPower LLC in April to install an 11.44 kW system, consisting of 26 panels located on the sanctuary and hospitality room/office roofs.

The project costs are as follows:

- Total System Cost: \$36,700
- State of RI Grant: -\$8,000
- Upfront Cost: \$28,700
- Anticipated IRS Rebate: -\$11,000
- Ultimate Cost to St. A's: \$17,700

The system was installed Sept. 25-29. We received permission from RI Energy to activate it on October 6, and it has been producing power since. Break-even is expected to be 5-7 years and then we should be getting nearly free electricity. The panels are expected to provide power for more than 25 years.

## **3. Tree Removal**

We identified three dying ash trees around the garage that needed to be removed for safety and for solar panel efficiency. In February, we started getting quotes. In the process, two rotting Norway maples, one by the vicarage and one at the foot of the ramp, were added for removal along with trimming of tree trees near the parking and the ramp. We also included grinding of three stumps. Warwick Tree Service was selected to do the work. They cut down the five trees on April 21, and the stump grinding was completed May 3. They also filled holes and ruts with loam and spread grass seed. The final cost was \$5,450.

## **4. Planting New Trees**

I began investigating replacement trees in March. Working with Marianna Richardson and the

Garden Committee, we asked for shade trees that would be hardy in that location, preferably native to RI and that would not grow tall enough to shade the solar panels to be installed. A nursery in Bristol, Samuel Kinder & Brother, Inc., provided the best solution and was chosen on April 29 at a cost of \$6,925. Drake rushed a grant application to the Mary LeMoine Potter Fund and they awarded us \$3,700 for the tree planting. Generous parishioners responded by quickly contributing more than enough to fund the balance. The trees were planted May 20 followed by spreading loam and grass seed to repair the damage to the yard. Marianna valiantly took charge of the watering schedule throughout the growing season.

## 5. Minor Projects

### Vicarage

**March:** Dwight Escalera and Roy Heaton rebuilt the exhaust fans in the bathroom and the kitchen.

**May:** Dwight and Roy repaired and then replaced the shower diverter valve.

**December:** Roy dealt with water leaks by cleaning the dishwasher filter and replacing a toilet refill valve. On December 25, the tenants reported symptoms of clogged drains. Roy called Paul Anderson Drain Cleaning and they offered to send someone immediately on an emergency basis for \$925. The tech arrived in a couple of hours and cleared the clog in the main drain line.

### Church

**August:** Hornets became a big problem; Roy was able to eliminate a colony in the compost bin near the ramp with two doses of insecticide. A colony in the church wall was larger and more persistent. Roy used various methods to attack them. Hornets were coming into Canterbury Hall and the sanctuary, and Diana got stung while practicing on the organ. Thanks to Roy's tenacity, by November the hornets seemed to be all gone.

**November:** Emerson Lavalley fixed a deep rut in the church's parking lot by filling it with asphalt patch. This effort eliminated the hazardous puddle and subsequent ice buildup.

**NOTE:** A detailed property report is available at [www.staugustineuri.org](http://www.staugustineuri.org)

## **Kitchen** *Dick Hathaway*

Although our kitchen and its environs are not used as regularly as in recent years, it is nevertheless the important focus of several culinary-related activities. The first few months alone, for the ninth consecutive year, we hosted the URI Women's Track and Field Team with approximately 45 student athletes and coaches for a chili dinner just before the start of the second semester.

Shortly thereafter, it's time for our annual meeting in February. Although there is no on-site food preparation involved, the kitchen is the organizational hub for laying out the sustenance that allows attendees to keep up their strength to survive the meeting itself!

Not long afterward, depending on the liturgical calendar, Ash Wednesday comes up and the

men of the parish host an annual pancake supper to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Shrove Tuesday commemorates the tradition of several European societies as a way to use up remaining household meat and fat before Lent starts the next day.

Food-based events take a bit of a break for a few months until we start thinking of the warm outdoors. We recognize the end of the school year in May and the beginning of the next one in September with our two largest gatherings – outdoor barbecues. Both are extremely popular and very well attended.

Heartfelt thanks to all who labor behind the scenes to set up beforehand and clean up afterward. Also, an acknowledgement to those who make sure we have awesome after-service refreshments each Sunday. Efforts in both instances do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.

## **Gardens & Landscaping**

*Marianna Richardson*

This past year, the gardening team consisted of Patty Fox, Jill Kotch, Emma Lennon, Hiroko Shimizu, Kathie Gibson, Annie Kammerer, Emerson Lavalley, and me. We did our best to maintain the gardens throughout the growing season and even added some new perennials. Our tenants got married this past summer. They like our gardens so much that they chose to have their wedding pictures using the gardens as their backdrop.

Emerson did a great job of trimming up shrubs at the front entrance, and existing trees behind the vicarage. Patty and I pretty much completely redid the labyrinth. We faced challenges due to little rain and new trees. Keeping up with watering the trees and the new grass seed, along with the existing gardens were particularly daunting tasks. Hopefully, things will be a bit easier this coming growing season.

## **Fundraising**

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### **Yard Sale**

*Carol Miro*

The 2025 Yard Sale was successful and netted \$2475. The practice of pricing items \$5 and up and asking for donations for the lower price items worked well, and we will continue the same next year.

### **Christmas Fair**

*Judi Betty*

We had another successful Christmas Fair this year thanks to the support of many St. A's parishioners. Specialized areas included gorgeous baskets for raffle, delicious and beautifully packaged baked goods, interesting jewelry, and knitted, woven and crafted items of all types. Bargains galore could be found in Santa's Attic, and the many and varied vendors created a wonderful shopping experience. There was even an 'Eco' table with sustainable products. New

to the fair this year were several varieties of frozen soup, a big hit! A big thank you to all who contributed in any way! Because of you, we raised \$7335.

## **Garden Party**

This year, we are again grateful to Jessica and Doug Wilson for hosting another lovely Garden Party at their home. The event raised \$1255 for our operating budget.

## **Outreach**

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### **Outreach Committee**

*Carolyn Davis*

The Outreach Committee members are The Rev. Drake Douglas, Carolyn Davis, Patty Fox, Kathie Gibson, Dwight Giles, Annette LaRosa, Marianna Richardson, and Joanne Walsh. Besides campus ministry outreach, this group decides on financial donations to a few of the many organizations that parishioners support during the year, or to groups that are known to fill a particular critical need. This year, with all the political upheaval both with food stamps and with ICE illegal activity, there has been a desperate need for food to feed families.

Consequently, there was more emphasis on providing donations to groups offering food services, along with our ongoing support of the URI Rhody Outpost food bank. Twice during the year, we received diocesan grants for our food activities for students. Both times it was decided to donate some or all of those grants to St. Peter's-St. Andrew's Episcopal Church for their Pete & Andy's Food Pantry in Providence, due to their growing need to support international families under threat of ICE activities. A donation was also made from one of the grants to the Jonnycake Center Food Pantry. In addition, donations from the committee's budget were made to RICAN (RI Center Assisting Those in Need) in Carolina to support their food pantry, along with donating again to the Jonnycake Center Food Pantry. Finally, donations were also made from the budget to Habitat for Humanity South County and Southern RI Volunteers.

In addition, parishioners' outreach activities include: 1) Zeke Olsen leads the charge for Habitat for Humanity, soliciting donations for specific items or fundraisers. 2) Jessica Wilson coordinates the monthly donations of paper goods and cleaning supplies to the Warm Welcome House in Wakefield. 3) Donations for URI's Rhody Outpost, a food bank for students, are collected at the church. Also, Roy Heaton and Raymond Cox each cover one of the two days each week that it is open, meeting with the students to represent the church. Quick breads are made and delivered in December by parishioners to Grad Village students, many who are international. Our thanks and appreciation go out to all our volunteers for supporting these groups and causes.

## St. A's Green Team "Pops-up"

*Kathie Gibson*

Inspired by "[Living in a Climate Crisis World – A Call to Hope and Action](#)", a program held in January at Peace Dale Congregational Church (PDCC) and sponsored in part by our RI Episcopal Diocese, a group of St. A's members convened a "Pop up" version of our St. A's Green Team to address some specific challenges and support particular events relating to Creation Care.

Partnering with the PDCC Green Team and a local legislator we agreed to promote and advocate for a Green Amendment in RI. In essence, a Green Amendment would allow voters to ratify the right of citizens to a healthy environment as a part of the RI State Constitution. Our Green Team provided Amendment information to St. A's parishioners and the larger community. We supported this measure by writing letters and offering in person testimony to members of the RI Legislature. The goal was (and is) to have a Green Amendment option before the voters in RI in the foreseeable future.

Another initiative invited church members to offer two-minute testimonials during Sunday services on various practices and aspects of Creation Care that were incorporated into their lives (e.g. more ecologically sound and effective ways to clean laundry, rationales and opportunities for composting, etc.).

In May, along with PDCC, UUSC, and Kingston Congregational Church, we co-sponsored the Climate Future Film Festival, a locally curated, diverse selection of short climate documentaries from creators around the world. St. A's voices could be heard narrating information pertaining to the film subjects throughout the evening program.

The initial intent for our pop-up effort was to work for a few months on the specific Creation Care goals noted above. While our formal team commitments concluded in the summer, the needs and potential for future action to care for our planet remain available to any among us inspired to gather a group and proceed.

A couple activities sparked by the latest generation of our Green Team are ongoing. Recognizing that food waste contributes significantly to our overburdened central state landfill and that local composting options provide an alternative, St. A's maintains a compost collection repository for people to bring their food waste to church.

A Creation Care Bulletin board located across from the church office highlights current material about local and statewide environmental efforts and activities to engage and inform. The Episcopal Diocese of RI website has a new Creation Care page dedicated to information about events and ongoing opportunities for involvement and periodically offers programs open to all.

**Note:** In the first generation of St. A's Green Team (2007-2015), we proactively investigated solar energy for our church. The community solar project proposed for ECC was one option we considered, but that project encountered many snags. The work that finally resulted in the installation of solar panels last fall was brought about through the work of St. A's Bishop's Committee, supported by our congregation and church staff. We heartily applaud the many



efforts that led to this welcome addition to our Church! Maybe St. A's is actually a Green Team unto itself.

### **Jonnycake Center** *Annie Kammerer*

**Neighbors Reach Out to Neighbors, 2025.** Once again throughout Lent, we gathered specific foods for the Jonnycake Center April Vacation Food Drive. This drive helps food insecure children and their families in our community while schools are closed during vacation week. From the outset, this effort has been a collaboration with the URI Child Development Center (CDC)—our neighbors across the street. On Ingathering Day this year, Drake, Leslie Olsen and I joined a class of CDC preschoolers and their teacher to talk about our efforts to help other children. The children then helped load the groceries they collected for our delivery later in the day. Together this year, we donated 266 lbs. to the Jonnycake Center - *a record!*

### **Rhody Outpost** *Roy Heaton*

I join the Rhody Outpost weekly, where I am there to chat with the students, try to learn their names, and get to know them. The point is to help them to feel welcome. For newly arrived students, I can sometimes help them get used to a new environment and culture. I bring in tea (iced tea in summer), and we get donated pastries from TLC Coffee and Seven Stars Bakery each week, which is generally more than enough to provide for the students who come over for tea. And, Barbara Sweeney, who runs the operation, also gets donations from local grocery stores, and sometimes they donate cakes or muffins too.

For the past semester, Barbara has had the Outpost open Monday and Wednesday afternoons; I've been at the Wednesday afternoon ones and Ray Cox comes to the Monday sessions. I haven't talked with him about his experiences since he started filling in last year.

The Outpost serves mostly grad students, and tries to provide healthy food. In the fall they had a lot of produce from the URI farm, plus donations from several sources, including our church. They can have lots of food come in at a time, and their shelves are full, then weeks or months later the shelves are more sparsely stocked. Barbara has a crew of student volunteers, undergrads and grad students mostly, who manage the stocking of the shelves, keep things organized, pick up the pastries and other donations, and ensure the people coming in are served. Sometimes Barbara's volunteers pick up the food donated to our shed and chest, generally on Mondays. When there is still food there, I pick it up and deliver it myself. Some of the student families bring their kids in with them and when they do the other volunteers, and I enjoy chatting with them.

They are wonderful kids, and I enjoy spending time there.

## **Welcome House Team**

*Jessica Wilson*

St. Augustine's monthly deliveries to Welcome House continued throughout 2025. The way it works is that members of St. A's bring contributions of paper goods, cleaning supplies, and prepackaged healthy snacks and place them in the hospitality room. On or about the first Sunday of each month, a member of the Welcome House Delivery Team packs up the donations and delivers them. The process takes very little time, and the staff at Welcome House is always available to help carry things. The Delivery Team has acquired two new members for 2026. Duty is light; each member is assigned one or two dates per year.

Welcome House is a year-round emergency shelter located at 8 North Road in Peace Dale. Founded in 1987 with support from area churches including St. A's, it is now part of the Westerly Warm Center network. For more information or to join the Team, contact Jessica Wilson ([jwilson2478@gmail.com](mailto:jwilson2478@gmail.com)).

## **Office Administration**

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### **Accounting**

*Jane Grenier*

Thanks to our Audit Committee - Vicki Escalera, Amanda Moss and Deb Tanner - for a successful audit. And, special thanks to Dick Hathaway for maintaining spreadsheet records, in addition to his many other duties to support St. Augustine's.

## **Financials**

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### **Treasurer's Report**

*Raymond Cox*

**Overview** - A decade or so ago, the financial outlook for the parish called into question whether the mission of the church could be sustained. For the last few years, revenues have grown and expenditures are under control. We are now at the point where the Church is financially healthy. The margin between revenue and expenditure is not large, but there is a sense that we can again begin to support activities and mission objectives in a way that we could not have done just a few years ago. The choice in the summer of 2024 to hire a full-time vicar reflects that renewed confidence. Also, we were able to absorb the cost of renovating the vicarage and installing solar panels by drawing from the investment and savings accounts and additional financial support from the Diocese.

Importantly, much higher than normal expenditures on capital projects were absorbed without causing a total budget deficit. It is anticipated that the capital budget will return to pre-2024

norms (about \$30,000). Inflation-driven increases for insurance, salaries, and new projects related to outreach and the music program that are in the 2025 budget, similarly reflect that newfound financial optimism. In 2025, the combined budgets exceeded \$208,000.

The budget is divided into two categories: operating budget and capital budget. The operating budget represents approximately 85% of overall expenditures.

### **Revenues**

The church receives financial support from a variety of sources:

- Operating and Capital budget pledges
- Diocesan support for outreach to URI
- Interest from Diocesan Investment Trust and certificates of deposit
- Fundraisers
- Vicarage rent
- Project-based grants
- Designated funds (capital budget)

### **Expenditures**

The expenditures of the Church are diverse; the most common expenditures are:

- Personnel
- Annual Diocesan assessment
- Music programs
- Outreach
- Insurance
- Building and grounds maintenance
  - Exterior repair and updates (church and vicarage)
  - Interior repair and updates (church and vicarage)
  - Utilities
  - Insurance
- Capital projects
  - Projects exceeding \$6000

### **Fiscal Year 2025 Results**

Much like 2024, 2025 was a time of significant change. Projects initiated in 2024 were completed in 2025. Those changes are reflected in both the operating and capital budgets. Grants (and loan) from the Diocese and investment income and savings (certificates of deposit) that had been carefully accumulated over the years made it possible to complete three significant capital projects (over \$60,000). The capital expenditures for 2025 included final costs associated with the vicarage and the solar panels (which began paying a dividend in utility costs in November).

The critical issues to note for the coming year are:

- Our investment portfolio (DIT) and CD accounts yields have fluctuated throughout 2025, but overall, the revenue projections are on target. Based on economic forecasts, it is likely that there will be continued volatility in these resources. We need to be cautious and assume that

revenues will be less than it has been for the last few years. The good news is that revenues have been significantly above expectations for a while, thus addressing the capital projects; but we are far from tapping into principal.

- The fundraising endeavors were stagnant for a few years, but we saw a welcome increase in 2025. We were successful in garnering Diocesan grants to support our efforts. We have lowered the capital target relative to 2025 actual expenditures, but inflation and other uncertainties mean that the operating pledge income for 2026 needs to exceed 2025. There is no major concern, but a refresh of the two major fundraising events - the summer yard sale and the Christmas fair - is likely needed if we care to keep the revenues level.
- Insurance costs are an annual problem likely to become even more problematic in the future.
- Maintaining the discipline of balancing fiscal conservatism with support for new opportunities for service begun in 2025.

### **2026 Budget Summary**

Balancing the amount raised against expenditure is not an inexact science. In the last few years, we have tried to set revenue goals at 3-5% above projected revenues. The end-of-year accounting for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 operating expenses achieves the intended result; we had small surpluses at the end of each of those. In 2024, we took on projects costing significantly more than we budgeted. Those deficits were covered by grants and dipping into the investment account and savings accounts. The impact going forward is that the amount available from the interest earned on those accounts is diminished for 2026. We need to begin rebuilding those accounts by limiting the amount withdrawn in 2026.

With several significant capital expenditures in each of the last two years, the expenditures have exceeded revenues by a significant amount (more than 150% of anticipated revenue). There is yet another major project, new siding for the church, which is expected to cost even more than the solar panel project. Cost estimates for the siding replacement are in the \$80,000 - \$120,000 range. The recommendation of the Bishop's Committee is to continue to target a yearly pledge goal between \$30,000 - \$35,000, but significantly reduce expenditures for capital projects for at least two and likely three years. If we continue to raise the same amount in pledges into the future, we will have enough to set aside to fund a major share of the siding project before we actually implement the effort.

The 2026 operating budget on both the revenue and expenditure side looks much like that of the last two years. The most significant increases come in insurance and in personnel costs. The personnel budget grew because of small cost of living increases for staff. Also anticipated new funding for the music program is in the 2026 operating budget. The insurance costs have been growing at an annual rate of about 10%. On the plus side, utility costs will fall significantly because of the now fully operating solar panels that offset utility costs.

# **Financial Supplement**

## **St Augustine's Church 2025 Annual Meeting February 8, 2026**

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**St Augustine's Church**  
Balance Sheet  
12/31/2025

	12/31/2024	12/31/2025	12/31/2024	12/31/2025
ASSETS			LIABILITIES and FUND BALANCE	
Cash & Cash Equivalents:				
- Cash (non-interest bearing)				
- Checking (Citizens)	19,192	17,005	Liabilities:	(c)
- Charitable Disc. Fund (Citizens)	3,450	2,208	- Current Liabilities	
- Payroll (Citizens & Gusto)	1,407	2,518	Restricted Fund Balances:	
- Savings (Coastal1)	5	5	- Restricted Fund - Endowments	122,282
- Cash (interest bearing)			- Restricted Plant Funds	(5,396)
- Savings (Edw. Jones)	2,671	61,508	- Temporarily Restricted Funds	10,576
- Money Market (Citizens)	34,543	45,090	- Charitable Disc. Fund	3,450
- CD's - Various Maturities	252,360	213,745	Unrestricted Fund Balance:	304,998
and Other Investments				316,413
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>313,628</b>	<b>342,079</b>		
Investments:				
- D.I.T. (Maintenance and Repairs /				
Helen W. Spaulding Memorial				
Fund)	59,858	66,831		
- D.I.T. (Operations /				
Franziska Noring Fund)	6,302	7,036		
- D.I.T. (Operations /				
Anonymous Family Fund)	56,123	72,643		
- D.I.T. (Music /				
St. Augustine's Organ Fund)	-	5,066		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>122,282</b>	<b>151,575</b>		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 435,910</b>	<b>\$ 493,653</b>	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	
			<b>and FUND BALANCES</b>	(d)
			<b>\$ 415,500</b>	<b>\$ 493,653</b>

Footnotes to Balance Sheet:

- (a) As of the Edward Jones statement of 12/31/25, \$183,536 of the CDs basis were broker-held and redeemable without penalty
- (b) Market values as of 12/31/25; basis is \$132,610
- (c) Although current operating liabilities are not accrued on the balance sheet, they are estimated to be approximately \$5,000 or less (payroll and utilities)
- (d) Campus ministry, sabbatical setaside, pass through, gardens, music, and other restricted gifts
- Approximately 18 months' liquidity (based on 2025 budgeted operating expenses)

# St. Augustine's Church Operating Fund Summary (Rounded to Nearest \$10)

	Budget 1/1/212025 <u>12/31/25</u>	2025 Budget <u>Variance</u> favorable/ <unfavorable>	Actual 1/1/212025 <u>12/31/25</u>	Change 2025 Actual/ 2026 <u>Budget</u> favorable/ <unfavorable>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Pledge Income	\$ 135,000	\$ (1,160)	\$ 133,840	\$ (3,840) \$ 130,000
Plate Income	1,600	300	1,900	(800) 1,100
Investment and Interest Income	9,900	8,830	18,730	(10,290) 8,440
Fund Raising Revenue (Net)	11,000	(290)	10,710	(1,710) 9,000
Diocesan Support for Campus Ministry	25,000	-	25,000	- 25,000
Rental Income	20,000	6,730	26,730	1,530 28,260
All Other	6,000	(1,955)	4,045	(585) 3,460
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 208,500</b>	<b>\$ 12,455</b>	<b>\$ 220,955</b>	<b>\$ (15,695) \$ 205,260</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Clergy and Worship	\$ 103,850	\$ 9,390	\$ 94,460	\$ (10,550) \$ 105,010
Music	15,480	855	14,625	(8,185) 22,810
Office	34,150	3,230	30,920	(1,350) 32,270
Outreach and Apportionment	25,360	3,310	22,050	355 21,695
Parish Life	600	(950)	1,550	550 1,000
Property	27,800	1,100	26,700	2,350 24,350
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 207,240</b>	<b>\$ 16,935</b>	<b>\$ 190,305</b>	<b>\$ (16,830) \$ 207,135</b>
<b>Excess of:</b>				
<b>Revenue over Expenses/</b>	<b>\$ 1,260</b>	<b>\$ 29,390</b>	<b>\$ 30,650</b>	<b>\$ (28,775) \$ (1,875)</b>
<b>&lt;Expenses over Revenue&gt;</b>			(21,970)	
Less: transfer to cover excess capital expense			\$ 8,680	
<b>Net Excess</b>				

# **St. Augustine's Church** **Capital and Temporarily Restricted Funds** **Changes in Fund Balances**

## **Capital Funds**

<b>Fund Balance 12/31/24</b>	
2025 Capital Pledges and Other Gifts, Grants & Rebates	\$ (5,396)
2025 Fund Transfer From Operating	66,383
2025 Capital Expenditures	21,969
<b>Fund Balance 12/31/25</b>	<u>(82,956)</u>
	\$ -
2026 Budgeted Capital Pledges	36,075
2026 Budgeted Capital Expenditures (net - see Capital Plan for detail)	<u>(11,000)</u>
<b>Estimated Fund Balance 12/31/26</b>	<b>\$ 25,075</b>

## **Temporarily Restricted Funds**

<b>Funds for Campus Ministry</b>	
<b>Fund Balance 12/31/24</b>	\$ 5,667
2025 Gifts and Fundraising	8,752
2025 Expenditures	<u>(1,921)</u>
<b>Fund Balance 12/31/25</b>	\$ 12,498
2026 Budgeted Gifts and Fundraising	2,500
2026 Budgeted Expenditures	<u>(4,000)</u>
<b>Estimated Fund Balance 12/31/26</b>	<b>\$ 10,998</b>

## **Other Restricted Funds (Gardens, music, pass-through, sabbatical, other)**

<b>Other Restricted Receipt Fund Balances 12/31/24</b>	
2025 Gifts	\$ 5,760
2025 Restricted Gift Disbursements	7,615
2025 Sabbatical Setaside Fund Transfer	<u>(3,415)</u>
<b>Fund Balances 12/31/25</b>	<b>\$ 10,960</b>



**St. Augustine's Church**  
**Capital Expenditures Budget (Including Major Repairs)**  
**Estimated Cost (Labor & Materials)**

<u>Project</u>	Expended	Projected Expenditures		
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028 and beyond</u>
Roof replacement, church	33,142			
Solar panels project for church, including tree removal/replacement and other landscaping	49,814			
Building upgrades:				
Renovations to 2nd floor bathroom (carried forward from prior years)		20,000		
Less: said renovations restricted donation		(9,000)		
Provide plumbing and cabinetry to hospitality room (carried forward from prior years)			10,000	
Broad range of projects, e.g.:				
New shingles for remainder of church exterior				
New parking surface between church façade and garden				
Rebuild ramp to upper entrance, replace entry doors				
Vicarage kitchen renovation				\$60-100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 82,956</b>	<b>\$ 11,000</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 60-100,000</b>

# St Augustine's Church

## 2025 Results and 2026 Budget

	Actual 12/31/2025	2025 Actual to 2026 Budget Favorable/ <Unfavorable> Variance	Budget 2026
<b>OPERATING FUND</b>			
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Pledges	133,835	(3,835)	130,000
Plate Offering	1,903	(803)	1,100
Building Use	1,574	(274)	1,300
Donor-Designated Gifts	263	57	320
Donor-Designated Gift Disbursal (Gross)	-	-	
Dividend Income	4,613	(1,013)	3,600
Dividend Reduction	(220)		(160)
Interest Income	14,335	(9,335)	5,000
Flower/Altar Guild Gifts	1,275	(175)	1,100
Fund Raising Revenue (Gross)	11,099	(1,899)	9,200
Fund Raising Expenses (Gross)	(388)	188	(200)
Miscellaneous Other Income	935	(191)	744
PayPal Fees	-	(4)	(4)
Diocesan Grant for URI Chaplaincy	25,000	-	25,000
Rental Income	32,400	(900)	31,500
Rental fees and costs	(5,670)	2,430	(3,240)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>220,954</b>	<b>(15,694)</b>	<b>205,260</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b><u>Vicar/Chaplain and Worship</u></b>			
Salary (including health insurance, SECA etc.)	34,941	1,883	33,058
Housing allowance	43,560		50,000
Travel, Mileage and Professional Expenses	1,175	(2,825)	4,000
Pension - vicar	11,936	(3,014)	14,950
Sabbatical setaside (commitment)		(1,000)	1,000
<i>Subtotal-Vicar Package</i>	<i>91,611</i>	<i>(11,397)</i>	<i>103,008</i>
Deacon	-	-	-
Worship Supplies (Incl. Altar guild)	1,614	1,214	400
Flowers	1,235	635	600
Professional Serv (supply clergy)	-	(1,000)	1,000
Other	-	-	-
<b>Vicar, Chaplaincy, and Worship Total</b>	<b>94,460</b>	<b>(10,548)</b>	<b>105,008</b>
<b><u>Music</u></b>			
Salary	9,900	(6,100)	16,000
Payroll Taxes	757	(467)	1,224
Books & Music & Dues	126	(24)	150
Professional Services	2,800	(2,300)	5,100
Instrument Service Contracts	343	168	175
Other Music Expenses	700	539	161
<b>Music Total</b>	<b>14,626</b>	<b>(8,184)</b>	<b>22,810</b>

# St Augustine's Church

## 2025 Results and 2026 Budget

	Actual 12/31/2025	2025 Actual to 2026 Budget Favorable/ <Unfavorable> Variance	Budget 2026
<b><u>Office</u></b>			
Parish Administrator Salary	23,055	(753)	23,808
Payroll Taxes	1,764	(64)	1,827
Payroll & Bookkeeping Service	1,476	726	750
Office Supplies	1,245	95	1,150
Postage	41	(159)	200
Advertising	-	-	-
Telephone & Computer	2,251	(309)	2,560
Books, Subscriptions & Dues	671	(929)	1,600
Copier Maintenance	313	(62)	375
Other Office Expenses	102	102	-
<b>Office Total</b>	<b>30,917</b>	<b>(1,353)</b>	<b>32,270</b>
<b><u>Outreach</u></b>			
Charitable Discretionary Fund - Vicar	-	-	-
Apportionment	18,855	(842)	19,697
Other - Community Outreach	3,196	1,196	2,000
<b>Outreach Total</b>	<b>22,051</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>21,697</b>
<b><u>Parish Life</u></b>			
Child Care	-	-	-
Youth & Adult Education	943	543	400
Newcomers	-	-	-
Growth & Public Relations	60	60	-
Hospitality	85	(415)	500
Other Parish Expenses	460	360	100
<b>Parish Life Total</b>	<b>1,549</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>1,000</b>
<b><u>Church Property</u></b>			
Supplies, Repairs, Maintenance	6,058	1,008	5,050
Janitorial Services	7,200	(800)	8,000
Utilities	5,206	(694)	5,900
Insurance (including Worker's Comp)	6,956	1,556	5,400
<i>Church Property Subtotal</i>	<i>25,420</i>	<i>1070.33</i>	<i>24,350</i>
<b><u>Vicarage</u></b>			
Utilities - Vicarage	1,045	1,045	-
Supplies, Repairs, Maintenance - Vicarage	239	239	-
<i>Vicarage Subtotal</i>	<i>1,284</i>	<i>1284</i>	<i>-</i>
<b>Property Total</b>	<b>26,704</b>	<b>2,354</b>	<b>24,350</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>190,307</b>	<b>(16,828)</b>	<b>207,135</b>
<b>Excess of: Revenue over Expenses/ &lt;Expenses over Revenue&gt;</b>	<b>30,647</b>		<b>(1,875)</b>
<i>Transfer to Capital Improvement Funds</i>	<i>21,969</i>		
<i>Net Revenue over Expenses</i>	<i>8,678</i>		<i>-</i>

**St Augustine's Church  
2025 Results and 2026 Budget**

	<b><u>Actual 12/31/2025</u></b>	<b><u>2025 Actual to 2026 Budget Favorable/ &lt;Unfavorable&gt; Variance</u></b>	<b><u>Budget 2026</u></b>
<b>BUILDING AND CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND</b>			
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Capital Pledges	28,130	10,123	38,253
Grants & Loans for Capital Projects	38,253		-
Other Capital Donations		-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>66,383</b>	<b>(28,130)</b>	<b>38,253</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Capital Projects (Net)	82,956	71,956	11,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>82,956</b>	<b>71,956</b>	<b>11,000</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Campus Ministry - Gifts and Fundraising	8,752	(6,252)	2,500
PayPal Fees			(10)
Pass Through Receipts	3,147	1,853	5,000
Donor-Restricted Gifts		400	400
Gardens	2,205	(1,455)	750
Music Program Support	2,000	-	2,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>16,104</b>	<b>(5,464)</b>	<b>10,640</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Campus Ministry	1,921	(2,079)	4,000
Pass Through Disbursements	2,425		5,000
Donor-Restricted Disbursements			400
Gardens	627	(750)	750
Music Program Support	363		400
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>5,336</b>	<b>(5,214)</b>	<b>10,550</b>