I am once again pleased to report on a positive year for St. George’s Church in 2018. I have expressed before that quantifiable measures used to gauge “success” for other organizations are not always the best means by which to judge the health of a church community. Our primary mission is, after all, fidelity to the gospel that may not be easily evaluated according to worldly standards. Nevertheless, any year our church experiences increases in total membership, annual giving, and average Sunday attendance is one for which to be thankful to God.

That said, I hardly discount the value of numeric data or objective information about church life. Herein, you will find a host of useful statistics and data confirming our blessedness as a vibrant parish community. I encourage you to spend some time with this report.

Of importance in any Annual Report is the financial information for the year. Yet again, I am very pleased to share that our year-end financial numbers are in “the black” as our annual receipts exceeded budgeted estimates. Our vestry, wardens, Executive and Finance Committees, as well as our Parish Administrative Officer, Laura Zabaski, do excellent work overseeing our financial resources. I also offer great gratitude to the congregation for your ongoing generosity.

As you will hear at the Annual Parish Meeting, much of the work of our vestry in 2018 focused on continuing discernment about potential facilities improvements. This conversation has been ongoing since 2014 at the vestry level. It has also included parish focus groups and conversations with parishioners and neighbors, as well as engagement with consulting, architectural, and engineering firms. Your parish leadership has been very prayerful and thoughtful about any potential plans for expanding and renovating our church building, and in the year 2019 we will broaden this conversation for congregation-wide participation. This project may be the most ambitious undertaking in our 70 years to grow our ministries, bless others beyond our walls, and ensure a healthy church community for those who will come after us.

Once again, our parish has been faithfully served by a highly committed vestry that loves God and loves this church. I wish to share how much it has meant to me personally to have Cam Sorenson in the role of Senior Warden. I believe Cam was just the one the Lord had in mind for this highly significant and time-consuming ministry at this precise juncture in St. George’s history. It has been a joy to serve with him, as well as with the immensely capable and wise James Hundley in his role as Junior Warden. I also share deep gratitude for the faithful service of other outgoing vestry members completing their three-year terms: John Abernathy, Katie Agnew, and Jay McKnight. Finally, I thank Jan Ramsey for her excellent ministry as our vestry clerk the past three years, a critical if perhaps overlooked ministry to the church.

Our congregation has many places where it is being challenged to deeper spiritual maturity. As I write this report, for example, parish leaders are in the process of updating our Strategic Plan that will identify areas for improvement. Looking ahead into this New Year, I sense God’s call to fresh clarity and sharpened expression of our purpose: “to receive, live, and share the abundant life of Jesus Christ.” This purpose involves self-conscious commitment to weekly worship, intensified community in groups, and greater missional impact in the world around us. I am thankful there are so many here yearning for even more powerful tangible expressions of this purpose in our midst. With you, I look forward to all of God’s blessings before us in 2019.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill
2018 was a turning point for St. George’s Enterprise Ministry in many ways. Parishioner Calvin Lewis was tapped to lead the SGEM board which is comprised of highly-capable and dedicated church members who believe strongly in the mission to empower our Nashville neighbors to help themselves through our investment in local social enterprise partnerships. This past year we continued our relationships with Poverty & the Arts and Branded Collective. In addition, we are pleased to report that our recipient Humphrey’s Street Coffee Shop is open, thriving, and investing in lives in very tangible ways. We would love for our fellow St. Georgians to support this business and enjoy some of their delicious offerings!
Under the diligent leadership of our stewardship chair Katie Agnew and with the knowledge and hard work of our Director of Parish Giving, Catherine Beemer, St. George's continued to be blessed by an increase of pledged support from our church members. We are thankful for your support.
In 2018 St. George’s endowment received gifts from the estates of Rob Smith, Bill Edwards, and Duncan Eve. We celebrate the lives of these St. George’s parishioners and are grateful for their gifts.

If you are interested in supporting St. George’s Church through a planned gift and becoming a member of the Cornerstone Society, please contact our Parish Administrative Officer, Laura Zabaski at 615-385-2150 or visit our website stgeorgesnashville.org/give for a printable brochure with detailed information and an enrollment form.

2018 ENDOWMENT

- ** Episcopal Endowment Corporation: 4.5m**
- **Wells Fargo Liquidity Account: 0.5m**
- **Receivables: 1.0m**

2018 PARISH STATISTICS

- **Members Reported Last Year: 3,779**
- **Total Increases: 154**
- **Total Decreases: 87**
- **Total Baptized Members: 3,846**

- **Sunday Services: 250**
- **Average Sunday Attendance: 772**
- **Weekday Services: 393**
- **Private Communion Services: 248**

- **Baptized: 37**
- **Confirmed/Received: 73**
- **Marriages: 11**
- **Burials: 32**
In conjunction with the Arts Missional Community, St. George’s was proud to host its seventh annual Art Show & Reception in the spring. The theme was “Light” and we showcased approximately 80 pieces from 58 artists in addition to hosting a well-attended reception.

In May our Rector, Leigh Spruill, was awarded a Doctor of Ministry (D. Min) degree from Wycliffe College and the University of Toronto. We celebrate Leigh’s hard work and give thanks to God for this tremendous accomplishment.

St. George’s concert series In Excelsis had a variety of excellent programming throughout the year including hosting Cantus, a world-renowned men’s vocal ensemble in February, and presenting the Young Musicians Corner featuring music students from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. In May we hosted a joint concert with West End United Methodist’s Sanctuary Choir.

St. George’s Enterprise Ministry (SGEM) celebrated the grand opening of Humphrey’s Street Coffee House this summer.

For the 3rd year, St. George’s hosted a summer intern, Griffin Lamb, through the church’s partnership with Duke Initiatives in Theology and the Arts (DITA) at Duke University Divinity School.

We were pleased to promote Sadie Zoradi to Director of Youth Ministries, and Nashville Fellow alumni, Marshall Clark was hired as Assistant Director of Youth Ministries.

The Music Ministries team appointed Nara Lee as St. George’s second organ scholar, a program funded by the Living Waters New Ministry fund.

Launched a campus ministry at Belmont University with the part-time employment of Heather Lawrence and supported by a missional community led by Molly and Ed Powell.

Installed new digital video equipment in the Nave to better serve those who watch the Sunday services remotely.

Hosted an inaugural luncheon honoring individuals and families who have financially supported St. George’s for 25 year or longer which was attended by approximately 120 church members and clergy.

In October, a large group of parishioners and friends trekked to the Holy Land for a pilgrimage led by the Rev. Dr. Leigh Spruill and Susalee Spruill.

In November, St. George’s hosted a family conference attended by 60 adults and 30 children with special guest speakers Sissy Goff and David Thomas.

On the Sunday prior to Election Day, St. George’s hosted a Prayer Service for National Healing & Reconciliation with special guest Jon Meacham giving the homily to approximately 150 attendees.

In partnership with Immanuel Baptist Church and The Temple, St. George’s was delighted to celebrate the 25th year of the Boulevard Bolt on Thanksgiving Day.

This winter St. George’s hosted a traveling art exhibit “Witness to the Faith: The Biblical Art of Sadao Watanabe.” The exhibit showcased over 30 beautiful works on biblical themes from a private collection.

St. George’s Kindergarten engaged a national security firm to conduct a security audit and their recommendations are being implemented over the course of this school year. We are proud to be on the cutting edge of this important issue facing schools today.

As a result of much research and deliberation by an ad hoc committee regarding our bylaws we adopted several important changes to our vestry including size and the election process.

St. George’s was richly blessed by a tapestry of special guests this past year including Dr. Jeremy Begbie, Duke Divinity School; Fr. Kamal Farah, Helping Holy Land Christians; Rev. Duncan McLea, St. John Parish, Wynberg, South Africa; Jim Wehner, The Lupton Center, Atlanta; singer-songwriter and poet, Malcolm Guite; and Dr. Michael Ward, University of Oxford.

St. George’s is very pleased to report that our stewardship participation reached an all-time high with 701 families pledging financial support to the church.

St. George’s bookstore had a successful year selling books and gifts. Profits from the bookstore of over $4,000 were donated to SGEM to support local outreach.

In 2018 St. Georgians generously donated $42,000 through designated special offerings over the course of the year. Some of the recipients include Holy Nativity Episcopal Church in Florida and Trinity Episcopal Church in North Carolina for hurricane relief, and the Diocese of Egypt and Tennessee Kids Belong.

Church of the Resurrection’s average Sunday attendance increased for the 4th consecutive year in a row. In 2018 average Sunday attendance was 119, a 7% increase from the year before.

Receipts exceeded expenses by $41,000 in 2018 and these additional funds were contributed to the Phillips Fund for long term maintenance of the facilities.

Our Missional Communities continued to grow and impact our Nashville community in meaningful ways. Some highlights from the year include the Refugee MC sponsoring its second family, Harvest Hands MC hosting block parties for their urban school, and the POVA MC building relationships with 10 artists struggling to overcome homelessness, just to name a few.
VESTRY
John Abernathy
Treasurer
Katie Agnew
Worship Commissioner
Jim Beckner
Bill DeCamp
Frank Downey
Alice Essary
Steve Fridrich
James Hundley
Junior Warden
Donald (Duck) Johnston
Jay McKnight
Mission & Outreach Commissioner
Paige Menge
Sally Nesbitt
Formation & Fellowship Commissioner
Agatha Nolen
Bill Pomy
Jan Ramsey
Clerk & Ex-Officio Vestry Member
Cameron Sorenson
Senior Warden
Ansley Wells

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
James Abernathy, Treasurer
James Hundley, Junior Warden
Frank Downey, Vestry Representative
Jim Beckner, Vestry Representative
Craig Laine
David Roddy
Frank Downey
Rachel Mitchell
David Darst
Tim Douglas
David Morony
ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES
The Rev. Dr. R. Leigh Spruill, Rector
Cam Sorenson, Senior Warden
Dale Allen, Chair
Susan Hammer
Rob McCabe
Govan White
Ernie Williams