

A LIGHT FOR THE CITY



ST JOHN THE DIVINE
2025 Annual Report



WHO WE ARE



GATHER IN CHRIST | GROW AS DISCIPLES | GO AND SERVE

St. John the Divine is passionately committed to welcoming (gathering) new people into our community, growing together in the Christian faith, and going forth into Houston to bear the gospel for the sake of others.



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RECTOR'S REPORT



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We trust this annual report about our life together as The Church of St. John the Divine (SJD) in 2025 is both informative and encouraging. As in the past, we have manifold reasons to be thankful belonging to a faith-filled, vibrant church harboring high expectations for the future. There is a host of positive objective data herein.

In reporting and reflecting on the year 2025, I focus here on three significant areas of parish life: 1) overall ministry engagement; 2) the development of our new strategic plan; and 3) the early response to our “Shine Forth” capital campaign as well as ongoing design work for our forthcoming major capital improvements.



First, as I have shared before, SJD is in a small minority of Episcopal congregations that enjoys year-over-year net growth in both total baptized membership and average Sunday attendance (ASA), the two most obvious metrics of parish vitality. For the fifth consecutive year, our membership increased with a net gain of 128 people, bringing our total to over 5,000. Average Sunday attendance ticked up again in 2025, although at a modest rate of 2%. We saw average increases in each of our Sunday worship services except for the 8 am service. SJD now ranks fourth among all Episcopal parishes in the United States in overall ASA. As will be seen, we are quite explicit in our strategic goals to increase both total membership and worship attendance as a matter of simple obedience to our Lord’s “Great Commission” to bring more people into fellowship with him.

It would be an understatement to suggest our parish is an active and busy place. We continue to be blessed by a plethora of ministry programs for all ages. The statistical information provided in this report will paint

a picture, but cannot tell the whole story of all the opportunities members have to engage with God and one another through SJD. I highlight particularly strong growth in youth ministry, our children's and youth choral program, and the number of parishioners involved in—and the beneficiaries of—our various pastoral care ministries, such as Stephen Ministry, among others. We are pursuing goals to see stronger growth in children's ministry, young family ministry, and overall adult education participation on Sunday mornings.

Of obvious importance in any Annual Report is the financial information from the previous year, a summary of which is furnished herein as well.

Yet again, I am very pleased to share that our year-end financial numbers are “in the black.” I am continually thankful for our vestry, wardens, Finance Committee, and especially for our Parish Treasurer, Barbara Strobel, whose wisdom, counsel, and indefatigable

work in this role are indispensable. Please know SJD's financial situation is sound and very well-managed. Know also how grateful I am for all our members whose stewardship so generously supports our annual budget. That said, we have much work to do in growing the number of members who embrace the importance of financial stewardship and annually contribute to the ministries by which we are all so blessed.

Second, please see the section of this report by the Rev. John Sundara on the development of our strategic plan called **SJD 2030**. For several years, parish leadership and I have been working on a new set of goals and objectives to help us live into our newly developed mission to be “A Light for the City.” Many parish leaders have been involved in

crafting the plan, including the last three vestries. But I am especially thankful for the generous guidance and leadership of August Al-Uqdah in shepherding this ministry. The plan reflects our organizing principles around Gather, Grow, and Go! Simply put, we are excited about plans to increase the active membership among new people as well as less active members, to expand clear and compelling formational opportunities for personal growth in the faith, and to equip all of our members to be lights for Christ when they step off our campus back into every other sphere of cultural and city life. I could not be more excited about SJD 2030, and we will be working in 2026 to ensure we have the structures, leadership, and resources needed to execute on our goals.

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Third, as you know from communication updates since 2023, parish leadership has been involved in developing improvements to the campus to serve our vision as we look to the coming generations. SJD has not expanded its

facilities in more than 33 years, and the current constraints with our spaces are quite obvious to those who are on the campus often. Space prevents a full recap of the careful, prayerful, and ongoing work done by committees led by Kenny Meyer and Chap Hutcheson. But as was laid out in four different “town halls” in 2024 and into 2025, our campus projects have incorporated much input from the congregation and expert professionalism from our outside consultants. I am convinced our forthcoming improvements will bless this congregation and our city for generations to come. You can expect much more communication in the months to come, and the occasion of the Annual Parish Meeting is a critical moment to review where we are with these plans and learn where we are going.

To that end, the very aptly-named “Shine Forth” capital campaign was unanimously authorized by the vestry in January of 2025. Over the past 12 months, we have been engaged in a “quiet phase” of this campaign and have secured, by now, roughly 100 commitments. The early response to the vision has been overwhelmingly positive, and I can report in these pages total commitments of over \$43 million toward a goal of \$58 million. This is an astounding response so far, thanks be to God! And we will need every additional parish household to prayerfully consider this generational opportunity to make a sacrificial offering that expands SJD’s Kingdom life through the “Shine Forth” campaign. Much more to come!

In the meantime, I will express my tremendous gratitude to our campaign chairs: Elizabeth and Will Galtney, Margaret and Thad Hill, and Lyndsay and Drew Burgoyne. We also have a dedicated and generous capital campaign cabinet and vestry leadership propelling us to this grand start. With everyone’s participation, we hope to hit our campaign goal by early this coming summer.

In closing, I wish to thank our wardens and the entire 2025 vestry. Senior Warden Herschel Hamner has dedicated untold hours to this leadership role over two years, and I cannot thank him enough for his tremendous dedication, wisdom, generosity, and friendship. It has been the highest privilege to work alongside Herschel in the furtherance of our ministries, and I will miss him in this role. Similarly, Alicia Summers, as Junior Warden, has served so faithfully in so many realms of parish life, not least as a steady and wise leader to me and our vestry. I also give thanks for the faithful service of our other outstanding vestry members completing their three-year terms: Jenny Childers, Philip Grove, Janet Peters, and George Snyder. I invite you to express your own gratitude to each of these six “retiring” vestry members as you can.

As I have shared before, St. John the Divine is an exemplary congregation for the larger church. Personally, it is the most life-giving parish I have had the holy privilege to serve in my almost 30 years of ordained ministry. Of course, no congregation is perfect, but truly this is a special church. Our exciting vision and compelling ministries warrant the fervent prayers and faithful participation of all. Again, I am excited about the months and years to come. May the Spirit continue to guide and bless us.



2025 IMPACT

45,151 people passed through the doors throughout the year at our six Sunday services.

52 Baptisms | **66** Confirmations | **1** Ordination

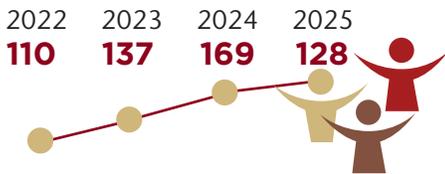
868 Average Sunday Attendance

4TH LARGEST Episcopal Church in the country in overall ASA.



2025 IMPACT

NET INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP



OVER 5,000 total members



3,330 people attended Christmas services—the highest Christmas attendance on record.



90 WORSHIP LEADERS SERVE EACH SUNDAY

representing clergy, vergers, Lay Eucharistic ministers, acolytes, ushers, lectors/intercessors/readers, prayer ministers, altar & flower guilds, and choir.

60+ CHILDREN helped lead worship by reading Psalms, carrying the cross in Awesome Worship, and collecting the offering.

90+ CHILDREN & YOUTH participate in the SJD Chorister program.

344,254 visits to sjd.org by **85,728** active users



1,735 new followers on social media

 **963** on Instagram

 **320** on Facebook

 **452** on YouTube

2,000,000+ views across all social platforms!

2025 SPECIAL EVENTS



900 kicked off fall at Rally Day

489 deepened their faith at Awaken Weekend

1,300 enjoyed Oktober on the Boulevard

416 marked Advent at Lessons & Carols



Our campus was home to **5,000+** events and countless community connections.



205 CHILDREN registered for Sunday school, and **44** attended on average.

127 CHILDREN attended Vacation Bible School.

328 YOUTH (GRADES 6-12) involved in weekly ministry offerings.

102 YOUTH attended Sunday school on average.

39 SMALL GROUPS gathered and grew together during Awaken Weekend.

20s & 30s SMALL GROUPS met in **4** locations with **60** participants.

38 people were part of the Spanish Language Bible study, and **2** group members were confirmed.

40+ ADULT CLASSES & STUDIES offered on Sundays and weekdays.

Partners in the Gospel | Contemplative Prayer Workshop | Scripture Meditation Group | Family Matters | Partners in the Gospel: Reading the Letter to the Philippians Together | Foundations | Muslim/Christian Relations | Roman Empire | Go: Loving Our City Like Jesus | Our Favorite Heresies | Mission Report Sundays | Prayer: Conversations with God | Introduction to (Episcopal) Christianity | Art of Advent | Rethinking Evangelism | "Not Angels, but Anglicans" | Bible 101 | Hope of Glory | Violence in the Old Testament | Modern Worship Warm Up | Alpha Courses and Groups | The Lord's Final Days in Jerusalem | Dad's Discipleship Group | Red Lion Club | ECW Book Club | Women's Summer Book Study | Baby Music Classes | Lenten Series: Why the Church Is Still Worth It | Men's Studies with Leigh Spruill | Reagan Cocke's Tuesday Morning Study | Walking the Mourner's Path | Spanish Language Bible Study | Daughters of the King | Cornerstone Fellowship | Body, Mind, and Soul Book Club | Mom's and Munchkins | Amazing Place Savvy Express for Caregivers and Aging Roadmap | and more!



90 PASTORAL CARE VOLUNTEERS

representing DivorceCare, hospital visitors, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, prayer ministers, and Stephen Ministers.



\$9,955,804 2025 revenues
\$9,787,804 2025 expenses

\$7.086 MILLION pledged by **661** households for the 2026 annual Stewardship campaign.

144 new pledgers (an over 50% increase).



420 VOLUNTEERS

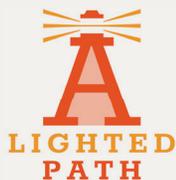
served across a variety of outreach opportunities in the community.

\$708,000 was distributed across **33** community partners: **28** local and **5** international.

6 levels of English as a Second Language classes were offered to **276** students from **37** countries. **4** students were confirmed.



SJD created non-profit **A LIGHTED PATH** supported high-quality early childhood development and youth moving from foster care to independence through over **150** volunteer-staffed events.



5 mission teams served in **5** countries.



- Tanzania
- Costa Rica
- Nepal
- Bolivia
- United States



VISION 2030



What would your life look like if you gathered with hundreds every week for life-transforming worship? If your neighborhood is filled with authentic communities growing together? If you go outside your comfort zone to make a difference? **What would our city look like?** God's doing something at St. John the Divine. We want you to be **part of something bigger**. God has called us to be **A Light for the City**. The **light shines brighter** with you.



2030 Strategic Priorities

1. Sunday Worship Services

Worship is our highest priority, and we offer liturgies in styles, times, and beautiful spaces that edify us and attract new members.

2. Growth in New & Engaged Members of All Ages

Obedient to Christ's Great Commission (Matthew 28:19), we are developing an inviting, attractive, and cohesive campus that is a "third space", welcoming everyone to a place of belonging.

3. Family Ministry

We care deeply about the church's future in society, investing in staffing, resources, Sunday School, and facilities to prioritize family faith formation so that we become a place families gather for friendship, formation, and fun.

4. Small Group Discipleship

Our small groups routinely gather to focus on prayer and devotion, engagement with Scripture, friendships and fellowship, and going forth to bless our neighbors.

5. Go is for All Members

Go is the end of all our worship and discipleship, taught to children, youth and adults, so that we grow in desire and capacity to go forth with Christ's light.

6. Stewardship

We give generously so that we can faithfully fulfill the mission God has called us to do.

2030 GOALS

15/30

GATHER IN CHRIST

- 15% net increase in new members.
- 30% increase in our average Sunday attendance.

50/100

GROW AS DISCIPLES

- 50% of our households involved in small groups.
- 100% of our households financially committed to our church.

1

GO AND SERVE

- Each household prayerfully investing in one Go initiative each year.



VISION 2030

FINANCIAL REPORT

St. John The Divine Episcopal Church General Operating Results

all numbers in thousands.

	2024 (Unaudited)	2025 (Unaudited)
Pledged	5,968	6,401
Unpledged	2,507	2,746
Other Revenue	849	809
Total Revenue	9,324	9,956
Christian Education & Program		
Children	374	245
Youth*	76	108
Adults	290	389
Evangelism & Member Integration	533	495
Clergy Salaries & Related Expenses	1,811	1,901
Worship & Parish Services	1,921	1,989
Diocesan Assessment	867	871
Outreach & Foreign Missions	949	1,011
Administration & Operations		
General Operating	408	444
Building & Grounds	2,159	1,878
Administrative Salaries	610	660
Other **	(727)	(203)
Total Expenses	9,271	9,788
Net Revenue less Expenses	53	168

* Youth director's salary is included in clergy salaries

** Nau funds (2024 only) and Specific purpose funds utilized

*** Above numbers exclude depreciation

St. John The Divine Episcopal Church
2025 General Operating Results
Budget to Actual

All numbers are in thousands.

	2025 Actuals	2025 Budget	Variance	2026 Budget
Pledged	6,401	6,321	80	6,678
Unpledged	2,746	2,600	146	2,501
Other Revenue	809	742	67	871
Total Revenue	9,956	9,663	293	10,050
Christian Education & Program				
Children	245	293	(48)	294
Youth	108	105	3	164
Adults	389	411	(22)	435
Evangelism & Member Integration	495	558	(63)	525
Clergy Salaries & Related Expenses	1,901	1,855	46	2,148
Worship & Parish Services	1,989	1,900	89	1,914
Diocesan Assessment	871	871	-	933
Outreach & Foreign Missions	1,011	1,012	(1)	1,029
Administration & Operations				
General Operating	444	342	102	441
Building & Grounds	1,878	1,906	(28)	1,864
Administrative Salaries	660	593	67	525
Other	(203)	(203)	-	(258)
Total Expenses	9,788	9,643	145	10,014
Net Revenue less Expenses	168	20	148	36

St. John The Divine Episcopal Church Consolidated Balance Sheet

All numbers are in thousands.

	12/31/2024 (Unaudited)	12/31/2025 (Unaudited)
Assets		
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,077	1,004
Certificates of Deposit/Treasury Obligations	13,703	28,902
Accounts Receivable	29	472
Inventory	95	125
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	500	702
Notes Receivable - Related Party	999	1,105
Property & Equipment, Net	15,549	15,806
Long Term Investments	9,931	9,853
Total Assets	43,883	57,969
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	419	1,332
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	30,561	30,802
Temporarily Restricted	11,356	24,288
Permanently Restricted	1,547	1,547
Total Net Assets	43,464	56,637
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	43,883	57,969

St. John The Divine Episcopal Church
Memorial Endowment Fund and Special Outreach Fund
Operating Results

All numbers are in thousands.

St. John the Divine Memorial Endowment Fund	2024 (Unaudited)	2025 (Unaudited)
Gifts	106	226
Investment Income	1,300	653
Urn Garden Receipts	84	112
Royalty Income	1	
Total Revenue	1,491	991
Donation to SJD	-	-
MEF Compensation / Taxes	38	48
Urn Garden Expenses	4	7
Investment Expense	52	36
Other Expenses	13	6
Other Grants	16	751
Total Expenses	123	848
Net Revenue less Expenses	1,368	143
<i>Invested Funds</i>	<i>8,410</i>	<i>8,348</i>

St. John the Divine Special Outreach Fund	2024 (Unaudited)	2025 (Unaudited)
Gifts	3	-
Investment Income	262	111
Total Revenue	265	111
Investment Expense	12	7
Other Expenses	1	1
Outreach Grants	86	55
Total Expenses	99	63
Net Revenue less Expenses	166	48
<i>Invested Funds</i>	<i>1,521</i>	<i>1,504</i>

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
First Steps Montessori School
Operating Results
All numbers are in thousands.

First Steps Montessori School	2023-2024	2024-2025
Revenue		
Tuition/Fees	2,486	2,935
Other Revenue	170	109
Total Revenue	2,656	3,044
Expenses		
Teacher's Salaries & Benefits	1,868	1,799
General Operating	28	26
Expense Reimbursement to SJD GO	305	305
Other Expenses	246	324
Total Expenses	2,447	2,454
Net Revenue less Expenses	209	590

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church
Divine Gifts
Operating Results
All numbers are in thousands.

	2024	2025
Revenue		
Bookstore Sales	117	142
Cost of Goods Sold	(83)	(71)
Other Income	8	5
Total Revenue	42	76
Expenses		
Salaries & Benefits	74	74
Computer Expense & Supplies	3	5
Administrative Expenses	24	16
Total Expenses	101	95
Net Revenue less Expenses	(59)	(19)



MINISTRY CONTACTS

GENERAL QUESTIONS

St. John the Divine main line 713.622.3600

RECEIVE SJD EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Team communications@sjd.org
sjd.org/email-signup

SCHEDULE AN EVENT

Facilities Team events@sjd.org

ARRANGE FUNERALS

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CONNECT TO PASTORAL CARE

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PRAYER MINISTRY

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JOIN ST. JOHN THE DIVINE OR GET MORE INVOLVED

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