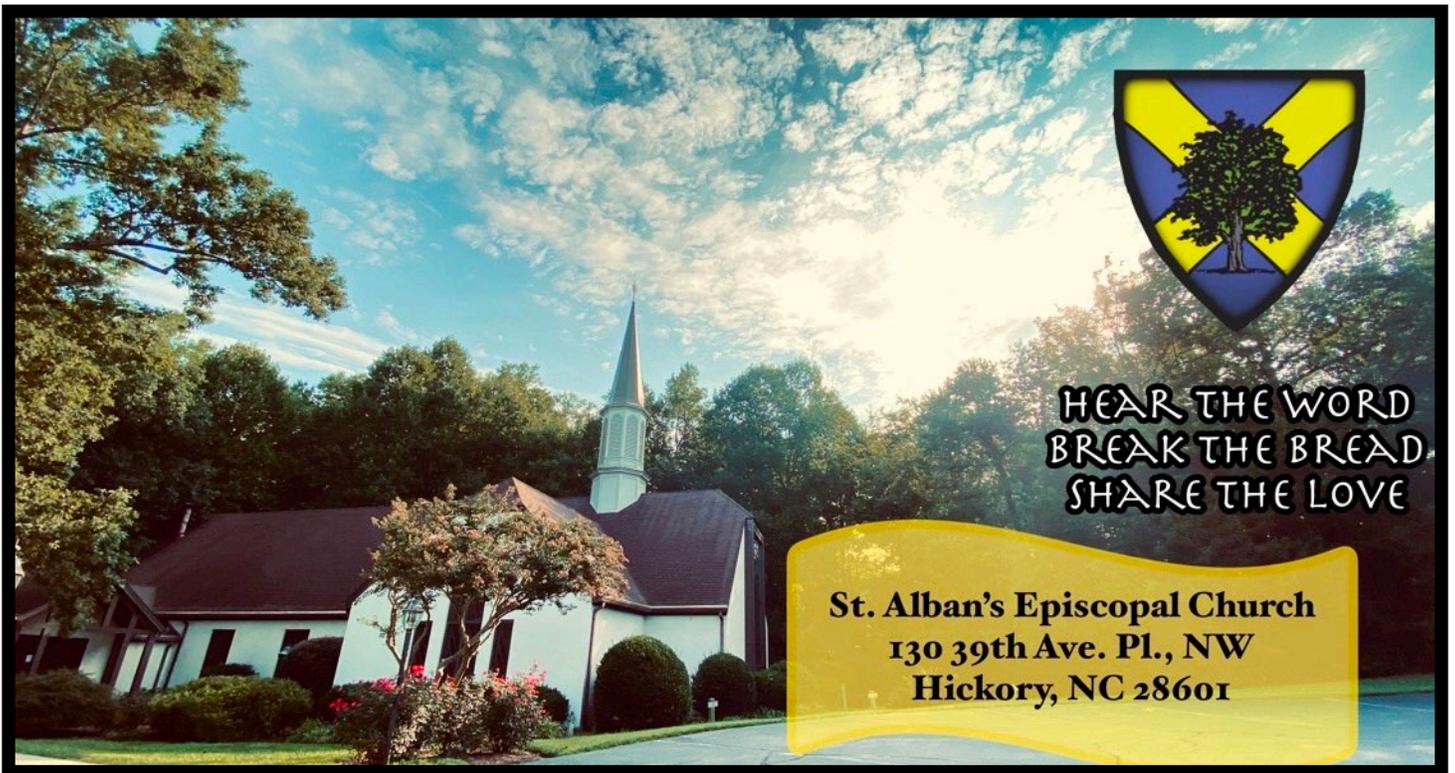


St. Alban's Episcopal Church Hickory, NC

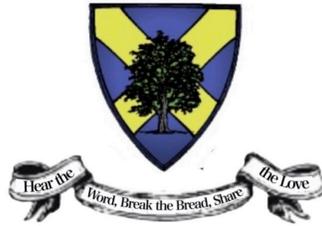
2025 Annual Report

Presented at the
Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 11, 2026



HEAR THE WORD
BREAK THE BREAD
SHARE THE LOVE

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
130 39th Ave. Pl., NW
Hickory, NC 28601



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
130 39th Avenue Place NW
Hickory, NC 28601

Dear People of St. Alban's,

This past year has been one of excitement, growth, and change for us as a parish. We have welcomed many visitors and new members, engaged in a wide variety of ministries, reached out to our community with the love of Christ, and offered generous financial support to this church that we all love. I believe that Jesus would say, "well done, good and faithful servants."

It has been a particular joy for me to join you as the new Priest in Charge here. I can hardly believe that it has already been eight months! In some ways I still feel like the new person and yet I also feel as though I have always been a part of this spiritual family because of the ways you have all welcomed me with such open arms.

In this report you will read some details of how we have cared for our buildings, managed our finances, reached out to the community, and carried out our ministries. These details are helpful, inspiring, and encouraging – and I am grateful to the ministry leaders who took the time to compile this information. It is also worth remembering that these words and numbers on a page only capture a snap-shot of the deeper, spiritual reality that they represent. This report is really about the work that Jesus has done among us, the ways in which we have been shaped by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and the ways in which our lives – and the lives of many others outside our walls – have been changed for the better because St. Alban's exists.

I pray that our parish family will continue to be as faithful to Jesus' work among us in the coming year as we have been in the past year. I have every confidence that the Spirit will enable us to do so and I am hopeful that we will continue to grow, finding new and more beautiful ways to served God and serve the world around us.

In Christ,

Jonathan+

Fr. Jonathan

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Hickory, NC
2026 Annual Meeting Agenda**

January 11, 2026

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Annual Report: the annual report was sent out as a link inside this week's St. Alban's Times. If you are unable to access it electronically, printed copies are available in the back of the church. Please read the report and if you have any questions direct them to the relevant ministry team leader.

Expressions of Appreciation

Elections

Vestry: Daniel Minch, Patrick Richart, Kay Sigmon

Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Judy Caywood and Jane Earl

Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention: Bill and Theresa Perrin

In order to serve on the Vestry the Diocesan Constitution and Canons [(Const. I.1.1(p) and Canon 13.8(b)] require that candidates are at least 16 years old, baptized with their baptism recorded in the parish, support or participate in the life of the parish, are faithful in corporate worship, and have received communion in the parish at least three times in the preceding year.

Dismissal to Ferebee Hall for Ministry Fair



2025 Budget Summary

Thank you for your generous giving to St. Alban's in 2025. We are currently in the process of finalizing the detailed end of year reports and will have more information available in the next few weeks. We can report that we gave a little more than \$463,000 to St. Alban's last year through pledges, non-pledge gifts, and Sunday service offerings, and we received \$25,000 in grants from our Diocese for total income of about \$488,000. We spent about \$470,000 on our expenses. Some of that spending was for items specifically funded by the grants we received, we were also able to spend \$14,000 on the installation of acoustic tiles in the parish hall through operating income, and we still ended the year more than \$18,000 ahead of our expenses. That is a blessing and a tribute to the generosity of everyone who gives of their time, talent, and treasure to make St. Alban's the wonderful place that it is.

In any church, the largest expense is always staffing and we spent about 54% of our budget to provide for the clergy and lay people who serve here. This is well within the acceptable range of spending on staffing as recommended by church finance experts. The second largest expense is usually facilities – and that is also the case for us. We spent about 20% of our budget to keep the lights turned on, maintain property insurance, make repairs, and do the many other tasks that keep such beautiful buildings in good repair and ready to use for ministry. The remainder of the budget goes to many other areas, including, but not limited to, music, children's ministry, office supplies, and parish fellowship events.

St. Alban's is an active, vibrant community of faith and engaging in this level of ministry requires resources – not only financial, but also in terms of time, talent, and volunteer hours. All total, the people of our parish have devoted thousands of hours to serving God in this place and in this community. That giving is just as vital as the financial donations and is an integral part of our faithfulness to do what Jesus is calling us to do.

May God continue to bless us with the resources to do this work and thank you again for all you have given to make this possible.

Outreach Report for 2025



The John Earl Outreach Roundtable is composed of members who represent each outreach ministry that St. Alban's supports. We call the members "*Champions*" because they truly champion the ministry they represent, keeping the committee updated on current issues, concerns, plans, and needs for their ministry and fundraisers. All of our outreach ministries are involved in helping our community neighbors who are in need of meals, groceries, shelter, medicine, medical/dental, and

other basic needs as well as education for financial/life skills, job searches, and reliable transportation to/from work so they can keep their jobs. Our fundraisers support these local ministries as well as two international partners.

LOCAL Ministries: GHCCM, The Corner Table, Hickory Soup Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity, Safe Harbor, Our Father's Pavilion, Castle of Cans, St. Alban's Community Garden, Parish Life, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Council on Adolescents

INTERNATIONAL Ministries: Rise Against Hunger and the LaGonâve Haiti Partnership

Outreach funds come almost entirely from our church fundraisers, so it makes the effort/planning that goes into our fundraising especially important and the volunteers/participants especially appreciated!

Our fundraisers currently include:

- The Oyster Roast
- Yard Sale
- Fish Fry
- The *ThanksGiving* Tree throughout Thanksgiving and Christmas
- SOUPer Bowl Sunday

All funds raised go directly to our Outreach ministries. With all the volunteer support, donations, and parish/community participation, we raised over \$15,000, plus the \$5,000 commitment from Vestry, totaling \$20,944.89 to go towards our Outreach Ministries.

Fund details:

- Oyster Roast - \$6,747.99
- February's SOUPer Bowl Sunday - \$546.00 for our food ministries, Hickory Soup Kitchen and The Corner Table.
- Yard Sale - \$5,271.94
- Fish Fry - \$3,378.96
- Vestry - \$5,000.00
- December's Giving Tree 2024 - \$950.00 specifically for Episcopal Relief and Development and GHCCM plus a collection of socks, boots, and gloves for GHCCM.

John Earl Outreach Committee CHAMPIONS:

Castle of Cans - Carleen Crawford

Community Garden - Bud Caywood and Betsy Valentini

Corner Table - Reg Moore

Council on Adolescents - Lisa Eaton

Fish Fry - Kyle Stocks

Giving Tree - Katie Richart

GHCCM - Pat Rice and Jane Earl

Habitat for Humanity - Tina Morgan

Haiti Missions - Adriane Brooks

Hickory Soup Kitchen - John Leach and Lisa Jennings

Our Father's Pavillion - Mary Michele Millholen

Oyster Roast - Kyle Stocks

Parish Life - Maria Headrick and Karen Young

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Eileen Leach

Rise Against Hunger - Jeff Mackie

Safe Harbor - Chris Oram

St. Alban's Yard Sale - Pat Rice

SOUPer Bowl Sunday - Cami Roberts

Take Them A Meal - Pat Rice

Clergy - Rev. Jonathan Stepp

Chair - Lisa Jennings

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities for any of our local ministries, please contact the Champion of that ministry or Lisa Jennings, Outreach Chair. If you would like to get involved in putting on our current fundraisers, contact Lisa Jennings - lisajennings1660@gmail.com.

St. Alban's Buildings & Grounds



The Buildings & Grounds Committee is a group of dedicated parishioners focused on keeping our parish in working order. They are careful to make the most out of the budget by applying for grants, utilizing the many talents of our parishioners, and taking bids on jobs that require a contractor.

Below you will see the complete list of the many tasks the B&G committee completed throughout 2025

Projects Completed in 2025

- Mailbox post painted
- Inspection of roofs of church buildings by Church Insurance inspector
- Letter about cleaning of hood placed in folder for Fire Marshall
- Loose floor tiles secured in sanctuary
- Television installed on wall in Deacon's office in barn
- Exterior wall patched and painted between Commons Room and Sanctuary
- Ferebee Hall HVAC repaired
- Repaired oven in kitchen (replaced thermocouple)
- Furniture moved in/out rectors office and carpet pulled up
- New carpet installed in rector's office
- Plaque for donation of tool chest tool chest installed
- Tubes placed in lawnmower tires
- Consolidated church's tools - 2 tool boxes filled and remainder in tool chest
- Security Plan reviewed - projects added
- Roofs on church buildings inspected
- Repair cracked door from Naive to Sanctuary
- Installed pull handle inside front door above wireless lock
- Moved old stained-glass windows to mower shed
- Cabinets w/drawers plus closet to hang altar linen and new countertop completed in Altar Guild Room
- Memorial Garden bricks cleaned and Poly metric sand placed between the bricks to increase stability
- Road repaired at street entrance at STOP sign
- Trip hazards on concrete walkways ground down
- Daughters of the King prayer box repaired

- Replace smoke detectors in barn
- Change batteries on Emergency lights
- Church signs on streets cleaned and sign post painted.
- 12 elevated garden beds built
- Shims placed to adjust toilets in Commons Room and Barn
- Stucco by choir stained-glass and at main entrance repaired and painted
- Hole fixed in ceiling at firewall in hallway leading to the Sanctuary from the Commons Room
- Rector's damaged porch steps replaced
- Caulking on firewall under roof and leaves blown off
- Oyster shells moved to trench in roadway
- Grant for stained-glass on rear of barn and restoration of pews submitted and presented
- Paint closet cleaned out. Old paint taken to county dump.
- Lock installed on cabinet in Sacristy for silver chalices.
- Sacristy remodel and updates made possible by Don Obst

Workday projects (Completed by B&G Committee and volunteers)

- Deep clean completed in kitchen.
- 12 cubic yards mulch spread in front of church
- Playground equipment power washed
- 10 cubic yards playground mulch spread
- Leaves on playground raked and bagged
- More rocks placed along flowerbeds
- Garden side of barn painted
- Trails in woods blown off
- Toddler playhouse repaired
- Sidewalks and Rector's porch power washed
- Replaced 2 welcome mats at church entrance
- \$15,000 grant received from Episcopal Foundation
- 60 cubic yards of playground mulch spread in playground and around church areas
- Rector's porch painted
- Garden ground cover laid, garden boxes moved/leveled/filled with dirt for planting
- Picnic area in playground sprayed with weed killer and layer of mulch spread
- Brighter lighting purchased and placed in Rector's office
- Hand Sanitizers removed
- Upstairs office HVAC repaired
- Installed metal fence barrier on playground set
- Caulked toilets in Commons Room and barn
- Placed rocks in drainage area beside playground
- Repaired lawn mower tire
- Installed fence around garden

- Basement door at bottom of stairs no longer sticks
- Reconnected fence poles on playground
- Stained-glass on back of barn repaired
- Gas line to stove in kitchen passed inspection - no replacement needed
- Dome lights in Commons Room and Ferebee Hall cleaned and bulbs replaced
- Decision made to monitor whether there is a need for anchors on benches in front of church
- Flower bed constructed near Rector's porch
- Combination lock placed on vehicle gate to playground
- Playground - installed Child Safety mechanism on gate
- Quotes obtained to reseal parking lot - \$7,800 to *Tier One Sealcoating*
- Barn roof repaired and new shingles - *Catawba Valley Roofing* - \$12,980
- Pews disassembled and sent for refinishing - Returned in late summer
- Door stops installed Commons Room and Naive Doors
- Painting/repairs outside sanctuary windows/Naive doors/Sacristy door/Nursery door - Alex Diaz -
- Ongoing announcements in St. Albans Times/Church Bulletin on Accessibility of Memorial Garden for elderly
- New air conditioner for upstairs Ferebee offices - *Pringle and Son* - \$5,900
- Mosquito spraying every 3 weeks garden/playground/pavilion/Memorial Garden (\$75)
- Roofing fascia and new boards on Barn painted (\$750 Capital Campaign)
- Metal steps on back of barn painted (\$350 Capital Campaign)
- Cleaning and refinishing Sanctuary floor completed (*Reeds* \$800 Cleaning/maintenance)
- Main roofs inspected and needed repairs done (\$650 Maintenance)
- Concrete projects completed (\$9,500 Capital Campaign)
- Bushes removed by Ferebee hall porch stairs
- Unused Spectrum cables pulled up from telephone pole to Memorial Garden walkway
- Broken steppingstones by barn removed and placed in washout area of road to sewer
- Tape residue removed from rear Ferebee Hall windows
- Load of rock place on upper side of garden to prevent washout
- Banners removed from Ferebee Hall and Pavilion
- Seal on door behind organ replaced
- City of Hickory contacted and have repaired road to sewer pump
- Walkways power washed
- Gutters installed on Pavilion
- 4 benches (2 tables) built
- Inside of Stained-glass window in barn painted
- Steppingstones removed and grass planted
- Repair hole in Memorial Garden
- Parking lot resealed and stripped
- Ropes on bells repaired

- Gutters installed on Pavilion
- Landscaping/grass planted around concrete in front and back of barn
- Rock laid on side of garden for drainage
- Drainage ditch dug and overlaid with rock between Playground & Pavilion
- Bushes trimmed on backside of Ferebee Hall Porch
- Burnt out outside light bulbs replaced
- Plants in front of church trimmed
- New plants placed in parking lot island
- Area on side of choir room landscaped and statue of St. Francis placed
- Security light placed above Rector's porch
- All interior/exterior windows in Rector's hallway/Choir room/Ferebee Hall/office cleaned
- All interior windows in sanctuary cleaned
- Corner of ceiling painted outside Rector's office
- Ice machine in kitchen cleaned
- Power washed concrete around Pavilion shed/rubber kitchen mats/playground picnic table
- Waterproofing applied to new benches in Pavilion
- Brush pile on backside of church sanctuary removed
- Benches along walkway in front of barn painted
- Toilets in Ferebee Hall repaired
- Areas around concrete filled in, leveled, and seeded with grass
- Griddle and area behind kitchen stove exquisitely cleaned
- Bids were received by 5 companies to take over weekly cleaning. *Proline Cleaning* selected and approved by the Vestry and began on 1 Nov
- Replaced outdoor electrical outlet beneath sanctuary stained-glass window
- Repaired/replaced electrical plug on vacuum cleaner
- Replaced/repairs linoleum tiles in sanctuary
- Replaced broken latch on large Igloo cooler
- Repaired doors and replaced hinges on the cabinet in Ferebee Hall (Dick Brands)

St. Alban's Buildings & Grounds Committee:

- Charlie Amann
- Bud Caywood
- Grover Houck
- Terry Love
- Reg Moore
- Don Mott
- Kathy Mott
- Bill Perrin
- Bruce Smith



St. Alban's Parish Service Opportunities

Parish Service offer opportunities to live out Christ's love in practical and meaningful ways. Please contact the church office or the Champion if you have any questions or would like to participate.

Acolytes - Champion: Paige Stocks (paigestocks13@gmail.com)

Children and teenagers who assist the clergy during the service.

Altar Guild - Champion: Constance Snyder (clmsnyder11@gmail.com)

The Altar Guild serves in a "behind the scenes" capacity assisting with the beauty and smooth flow of the service. Guild members serve by cleaning, setting and preparing the Altar for most every service offered. Members clean the "holy dishes" and care for the sacraments following each service.

Adult Choir and Handbells - Champion: Tammy Shook (tammy.shook@stalbansparish.org)

The Adult Choir and Handbell Ensemble are joyful, welcoming ministries that bring people together through music and worship. These groups offer a meaningful way to grow in community, deepen your faith, and help lead the congregation in song and celebration.

Bereavement - Champion: Betsy Valentini (blsv2003@yahoo.com)

Bereavement team members offer a reception of finger foods and punch in Ferebee Hall after a funeral, if requested. This gives family and friends the opportunity to visit with each other in a welcoming space.

Buildings & Grounds - Champion: Reg Moore (rmhickory@hotmail.com)

B&G is a hands-on team who meet regularly to plan and complete repairs and updates throughout the parish.

CantorKids - Champion: Lauren Timmons (lesshook24@gmail.com)

The Children's Choir is a fun and nurturing space where kids in grades K-6 can explore music, build confidence, and grow in faith through song. All children are welcome, no prior experience needed! Through singing, movement, and joyful fellowship, we help young voices find their place in worship and community.

Chalice Bearers - Champion: Fr. Jonathan Stepp (frjonathan@stalbansparish.org)

Chalice Bearers are baptized people, aged 16 or older, who serve the cup at communion and assist the clergy in other ways during the service.

Children's Chapel - Champion: Cami Roberts (cami.roberts@stalbansparish.org)

Children's Chapel is offered each Sunday for children Infant-5th grade. A time for children to participate in Bible stories, crafts, & play. have time for Bible stories, crafts, and play.

Daughters of the King (DOK)

Daughters of the King is a lay order of women who undertake a Rule of Life including prayer, service, evangelism, strengthening of the spiritual life of our parish. We are involved in many activities focused on prayer and facilitation of outreach ministries.

Hospitality - Champion: Kim Wagner (theoffice@stalbanparish.org)

Each Sunday after worship we gather in The Commons Room or just outside for a time of community. Volunteers bring cookies, fruit, and snacks of their choice to share with everyone. Please join in after church for this time of fellowship.

Flower Ministry - Champion: Rose Archer (rrarcher47@hotmail.com)

The Flower Ministry arranges altar flowers each week and special displays during Easter and Christmas.

Lectors - Champion: Father Jonathan Stepp (frjonathan@stalbanparish.org)

Lectors are baptized people who read the scriptures and/or the prayers of the people during the worship service.

Newcomers - Champion: Penny Winstead (pennywinstead@charter.net)

St. Alban's New Member Ministry Team is dedicated to creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for everyone, especially newcomers. Team members serve as greeters on Sunday mornings, write notes to visitors and host periodic gatherings for those new to the Parish. The team works to ensure every newcomer feels valued, embraced, and connected from their first visit.

Parish Life - Champions: Maria Headrick (mariaheadrick@gmail.com) & Karen Young (youngkarenh@gmail.com)

Volunteers organize parish-wide picnics and special celebrations throughout the year.

Pastoral Care - Champion: Carol Smith (csmorgansmith@gmail.com)

The Pastoral Care Team provides support, care and connection sharing Christ love with the congregation during times of special need with cards, phone calls and visits.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Champion: Eileen Leach (eileenleach@embarqmail.com)

Parishioners prayerfully knit Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares that are available to anyone who is sick or going through a challenging time. No knitting experience necessary.

Sound & Streaming Team Ministry - Champion: Grover Houck (ghouck@icloud.com)

The Sound & Streaming Ministry serves St. Alban's by ensuring excellent audio for worship and by live-streaming services to our church family and the broader community. Our mission is to strengthen discipleship and promote the spiritual well-being of St. Alban's Parish through faithful and consistent service.

Take Them a Meal - Champion: Pat Rice (ricepl@charter.net)

This is a meal ministry to serve members of our Parish who are ill, recovering from surgery, or facing a difficult situation.

Ushers - Bruce Smith (smithbruce56@gmail.com)

The Usher team is a point of contact during Sunday and other special services for welcome, information and assistance. Responsibilities include lighting candles, handing out bulletins, collecting offering, providing information, attendance and assisting the congregation in the eucharist.