



St. John's Church Council, circa 1957-58

1957

In January 1957, the proposed budget for the year was presented to the congregation for their approval. The total budget package was \$72,934.

Dr. Cressman's salary was \$5,000 and Pastor Forde's \$3,800, plus their car allowance. The organist received \$1,675 for playing 177 services a year, and the janitor's salary was \$2,700. The office secretary was paid \$125 per week.

The mortgage payment for the new construction was \$30,000 per year, and it was anticipated that the \$180,000 mortgage, plus interest, would be paid off in no more than seven years.

The budget also included the pension of \$1,500 to Pastor Carl Wiebking and pensions for the two serving pastors. Benevolence payments to the Maryland Synod, ULCA, and Lutheran World Action totaled \$12,318.

As was tradition, St. John's held a two-week Vacation Bible School in 1957. The theme was "Bible Stories to Live By." There were 214 children registered, 50 staff and teachers, and 48 helpers. Many of the children were transported to St. John's by two school buses, with different organizations of the church sponsoring the buses. The offering collected, \$240.56, went toward furnishings for the new education building.

In June 1958, the congregation learned that their pastor, Dr. Charles Cressman, was resigning to head the Sociology Department at Grove City College in Grove City, Pa.

During his five-year tenure at St. John's, the church saw tremendous growth. At the time, the church was the fourth largest congregation in the Maryland Synod, with over 1,450 members.

Dr. Cressman felt that his resignation was in the best interests of the church because he realized early on that he would be a transition pastor who bridged the change from a small rural church to a large suburban one. He also knew that there was resentment on the part of some of the congregation because of changes that he had instituted. It was also his belief that the pastor should be the president of the Church Council, but historically, a lay person had always served as the council president. That is still the practice at St. John's - that a lay person serves as president of the council.

1958

People leaving worship, 1958





The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Smith

1958-1978

The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Smith was the son of a Lutheran pastor. He was born near Carlisle, Pa., and attended schools in New Freedom, Pa. After graduating from Gettysburg College and Gettysburg Seminary, he served three congregations before coming to St. John's from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Baltimore.

He and his wife Kathryn moved into the parsonage with their four children, David, Joel, Deborah and Suzanne. He would remain at St. John's for 20 years until his retirement in 1978. At his retirement, this much loved pastor was named Pastor Emeritus.

Pastor Smith died in 2007 at the age of 94 and was laid to rest beside his wife in St. John's Cemetery.

With Pastor Yingling's arrival in 1959, a partnership began which would last for 19 years until Pastor Smith's retirement. The church membership continued to grow, thanks, in part, to a very active Evangelism Committee, who spent one night a month calling on inactive members or prospective members in the Parkville area. In addition to the Evangelism Committee members who did the actual visiting, the homebound were asked to participate by joining in a prayer vigil during the hours of the visitations. There was also a prayer vigil at the church during the same hours. **By the end of 1959, St. John's had a baptized membership of 2,497.**

1958

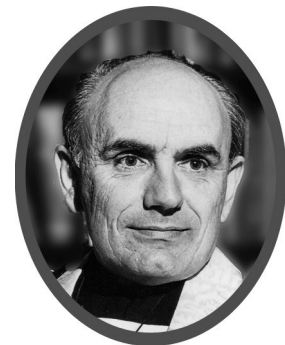
Ever-increasing numbers of members throughout the 1950s meant the need for even more staff. **Mr. A. Sydney Bainbridge arrived in 1958 to assist Mrs. Jacobs as associate organist and choir director.** His responsibilities included directing the Chancel Choir and playing the organ at the 11 a.m. service. He also started a Children's Choir, and in January 1960 they made their first appearance, 29 singers strong. The Men's Chorus not only sang at St. John's services, but also traveled to other locales to sing.

On November 1, 1958, a new senior pastor and his family were welcomed to St. John's. The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Smith was the 15th pastor in the congregation's history.

1959

In June 1959, Pastor Forde resigned as assistant pastor at St. John's to become an Episcopal priest. He had been at St. John's for three years. A congregation which had been served by just one pastor for 32 years had learned to know three new pastors in the brief span of five years.

On October 1, 1959, the congregation greeted a fourth new pastor, the Rev. William J. Yingling, as associate pastor.



The Rev. William J. Yingling

1959-1985

Pastor Yingling was a native of Baltimore. After his graduation from the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, he entered the University of Baltimore as a pre-law student. Following service in the Army during World War II, he enrolled at Gettysburg College as a pre-ministerial student and subsequently graduated from Gettysburg Seminary. After serving two parishes he was called to St. John's as its 16th pastor, and he, his wife Doris, and their two children, John and Marilyn, moved to Parkville.

After 40 years of faithful service to St. John's, Mrs. Jacobs retired as organist and choir director in 1963. Her assistant, Mr. Bainbridge, left shortly thereafter, in 1964. The congregation was fortunate to obtain the services of Dr. Wilhelm A. A. Goetze as organist and choir director. Mrs. Esther Cupps Wideman followed him in 1966, and they both contributed much to the musical life of the congregation.

For many years it had been obvious that the existing building was insufficient for the needs of such a large congregation. **In 1963 the indebtedness was wiped out from the expansion of the educational building,** and the surplus mortgage fund money, \$7,500, was set aside as the beginning of a new Building Fund.



The Rev. Philip N. Jurus
1970-1972

The congregation remained without a person directly responsible for Christian Education and Youth Ministry until the arrival of the Rev. Philip N. Jurus in September 1970 as St. John's 17th pastor. With his wife Sandra and their two young children, Mark and Kirstie, he came to Parkville from Stroudsburg, Pa. A graduate of Muhlenberg College and the Philadelphia Seminary, he soon energized the teenagers in the congregation.

A "drop in" center was established in the cinder block building behind the church (now the Smith Building). A telephone "hot line" was set up to help youth in the community who were struggling. He also planned retreats and contemporary worship services especially for the youth. Needless to say, his work was not without controversy among some members of the congregation.

1961

A fulltime deaconess, Sister Janet Hoover, arrived in September 1961 with the title of Director of Religious Education. Her responsibilities included working with the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, the Luther Leagues and the church Kindergarten. She also taught the 7th grade confirmation class and conducted teacher training workshops. She remained at St. John's until August 1968 when she accepted a call to a congregation in New Jersey.

1963

1964

In 1964 a Building Committee was formed, and this group worked faithfully until February 1967, when it became apparent that the proposed plans of the architectural firm of Whitman Requardt were beyond the financial means of the church.

However, it was also becoming apparent that the congregation was no longer growing, with membership having leveled off at about 1,500 confirmed members.

The need for more Sunday School space had also lessened because of the declining birth-rate in the country. This was particularly true in Parkville, because it was no longer a community of young married couples.

1968

In the fall of 1968, another Building Committee was formed, and the firm of Marshall and Lewis was engaged to do a new feasibility study based upon a revised estimate of the church's needs and financial means.

1970

After many meetings, in January 1970, the congregation approved the plan and authorized the firm to prepare construction drawings which could be submitted to contractors for bids. Meanwhile the committee and their sub-committees met with the suppliers who would provide kitchen equipment, windows, furnishings for the sanctuary, and an organ. A Memorial Committee was formed, along with a committee to plan the orderly removal and storage of furniture and other equipment that could be used in the new building.

St. John's Fundraising Campaign

Now that the plans were moving along for the new construction, the matter of how to raise the money to pay for it was a real concern.

A fundraising campaign under the direction of the Lutheran Laymen's Movement raised \$195,000 in cash and pledges.

It was anticipated that as much as \$400,000 would be needed in addition. Banks were approached, but they were reluctant to loan a church that much money. All the banks wanted short-term mortgages, quoting interest rates of around 9%.

A member of the congregation, Mr. George Jacob, brought a novel plan to the council. The plan involved selling debenture bonds to church members and other interested parties. The bonds were written in \$1,000 and \$500 denominations and would bear interest at the rate of 7%.

In June 1973, the total amount of bonds sold stood at \$388,000.

The first \$10,000 worth of bonds were able to be redeemed in February 1974.

1971

A construction contract was finally signed in August 1971 with William H. Sands, Inc., for the basic construction for \$659,569.

- The last worship service was held in the "old" church on September 12 that year.
- Two large trailers were rented and placed on the parking lot to store tables, chairs and other furnishings that could be used in the new building.
- An auction was held to sell those furnishings that would not be able to be used.
- The offices for the staff were moved to the newly partitioned cinder block building (now the Smith Building).
- Thanks to the generosity of St. Ursula's Catholic Church, the worship services were held in their hall across the parking lot from St. John's.

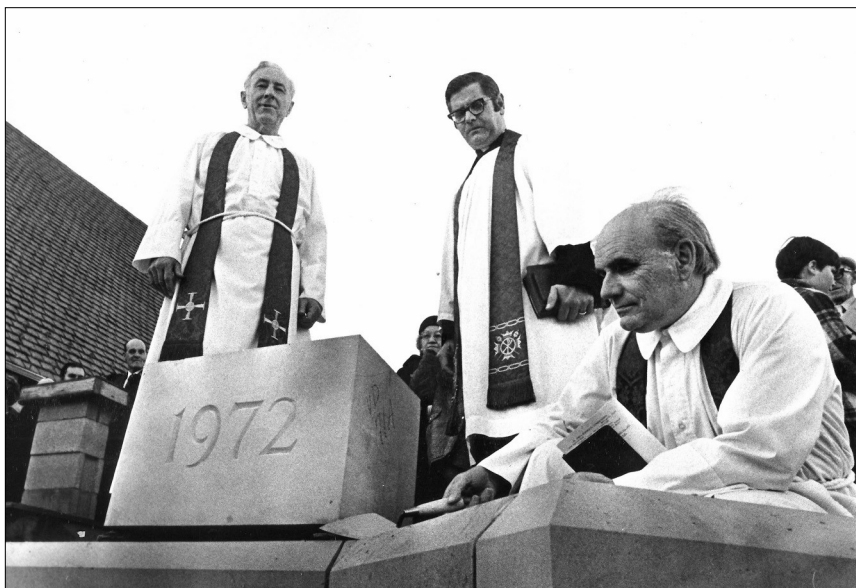
Now the long wait began. The contract specified substantial completion in 13 months, or October 1972. The work was far behind schedule before 1971 was over.

1972

In January 1972, Pastor Jurus became incapacitated by illness, resigning in March.

Every month in 1972 brought more delays. **Finally, in December 1972, came the one bright spot: the laying of the cornerstone.**

Below, left to right: Pastor Paul Smith, Pastor Ivar Holmquist (Maryland Synod conference dean), and Pastor William Yingling





St. John's New Pipe Organ

On September 27, 1973, the greatly anticipated new tracker organ arrived from Brackwede, Westphalia, West Germany, by way of the port of Bremen, aboard the S. S. Lingo.

The organ was shipped in a large container and was removed from the *Lingo* at Norfolk, Virginia. It was carried by barge to Pier 2, Pratt Street, Baltimore, and thence to St. John's by large flat-bed truck trailer.

The next day the trailer was unloaded, and in less than three weeks' time, the installation was completed by two men.

The organ is composed of three sections. There are 21 stops and 33 ranks of pipes, with a total of 1,632 pipes.

- **In 1977 the congregation paid its benevolence to the synod and what was then the Lutheran Church in America in full for the first time in over 20 years.**
- Mrs. Betty Kiser was hired as office secretary to replace Mrs. Hilma Kiel. Mrs. Kiser would be the friendly voice on the phone for over 21 years until she retired.
- Dr. Thomas Spacht was hired as the new organist and choir director and would remain in that position for 12 years.
- Ms. Carol Sipes was hired as Director of Parish Services, and the youth program became active once again.

1973

Finally, after many frustrating delays, 39 years ago, on November 18, 1973, our new church building was dedicated. The total cost of the building and furnishings came to approximately \$920,000. The congregation had been worshipping in St. Ursula's hall for over 26 months. What a joyous day it was, with over 1,000 worshippers at the three identical services that day!

After the dedication of the new building, St. John's moved forward with renewed vigor.

1975

St. John's Preschool

St. John's Preschool was begun in September of 1975 to fill a need for a preschool program in our church and community.

Classes were held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, and Barbara Conrad was the first teacher. The school was run as a cooperative, with parents assisting the teacher. There were 12 three- and four-year-olds enrolled that first semester.

When the second term opened in January, it was decided to separate the three- and four-year-olds into two classes to better meet the needs of each age. One year later, the two-day school was increased to four mornings.

By 1987 there was an afternoon session three days a week as well as five morning sessions. A paid teacher's aide was hired that year.

Currently the school has both morning and afternoon sessions for three- and four-year-olds five days a week. The school is governed by a school board made up of church members and parents.

Lisa Horst is the teacher/director and Niki Thoeicht is her aide.

1977

1978

When Pastor Smith retired in 1978, synodical policy required that Pastor Yingling submit his resignation also. The president of the Maryland Synod, Dr. Paul Orso, appointed Pastor Yingling vice pastor until a new senior pastor was called. **Many in the congregation felt that Pastor Yingling deserved to be the senior pastor, and on October 1, 1978, he was called to that position** by a 90% favorable vote of the 500 members in attendance at the congregational meeting



The Rev. Nathan Kale

1980-1985

Pastor Kale attended Susquehanna University and Gettysburg Seminary and came to St. John's from a church in Frederick County. His family consisted of his wife Rebecca and two children, Nathan and Amy.

1980

It soon became obvious that two pastors were needed for such a large congregation, and on January 1, 1980, **the Rev. Nathan Kale was called for a term of three years as associate pastor**, the 18th pastor in the congregation's history.

1981

Problems began in the fall of 1981 when some members, calling themselves Concerned Members of St. John's, contended that there had been a long succession of specific violations of church regulations in the calling of clergy and in the handling of money.

The president of the congregation asked the Maryland Synod to intervene, and, after several years of failed attempts by an outside reconciliation team, **St. John's was placed under Synodical Administration in September of 1985.**

1985

Pastors Yingling and Kale, Carol Sipes, and the Church Council were removed from their positions, and an interim pastor, Dr. Carl Folkemer, was appointed by the synod. The synod also appointed a council made up of members of the congregation who had not served on the council in the previous six years.

Pastor Yingling received a call to a church in Hampden where he served until his retirement. He died in 2004 and is buried in St. John's cemetery. Pastor Kale eventually left the ministry. Carol Sipes was ordained in 1996 and served a congregation in Pennsylvania.

The years of turmoil had taken their toll on the congregation. St. John's, which once numbered over 2,000 members, now had fewer than half that number. The church had paid off more than \$350,000 from the building renovations, but still had a debt of \$45,000. The current fund was \$50,000 - \$60,000 in debt. The church requested, and received, a line of credit from the synod for \$40,000.



The Rev. Richard E. Manning

1986-1997

Pastor Emeritus 1999

On February 1, 1986, the Rev. Richard Manning was appointed by the Bishop of the Maryland Synod to be the interim pastor for a term of three years or until St. John's had progressed to a point where they could be removed from Synodical Administration and call their own pastor and elect a Church Council.

Pastor Manning and his wife Lois were from Baltimore but had spent the previous 16 years at a church in Cumberland. He was a graduate of both Gettysburg College and Gettysburg Seminary.

In a Baltimore *Sun* interview, he stated "I really don't understand the problems, and I don't have to know. I want to go on from here."

1987

Under Pastor Manning's guiding hand, St. John's began the slow climb back. **By September 20, 1987, the church was released from Synodical Administration, the loan from the synod was repaid, and Pastor Manning was called as the congregation's 19th pastor.** He remained as pastor for 11 years until his retirement on October 1, 1997. A grateful congregation bestowed the title of Pastor Emeritus on him in 1999.

St. John's Community Outreach

During the years of Pastor Manning's leadership, the congregation participated in many outreach programs, such as

- Our Daily Bread
- The Lutheran World Hunger Appeal
- Blanket Drive
- The Red Cross Blood Drive
- Heifer Project International
- Collecting soap for Lutheran World Relief
- Collecting Campbell's labels
- Collecting clothing and food for the needy
- The Community Assistance Network of Baltimore County (CAN)

St. John's still participates in many of these programs.

In 1991 the cinder block building behind the church building was renovated at a cost of \$70,000 and dedicated in honor of Pastor Smith in 1992.

In 1994 a puppet ministry was begun, and that ministry continues to this day.

1987

Under the leadership of Pastor Manning, the church began to thrive.

In 1987, 48 members were commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers to take communion to the homebound members of the congregation. Also in 1987, St. John's celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its founding with special events all through the year.

1988

It was decided in 1988 to have just two services on Sunday morning instead of three. Services were at 8:30 and 11 a.m., with Sunday school at 9:30. A coffee hour was begun at 10:30 a.m.

1989

In 1989, Mr. Daren Strobel, a youth director, was hired to reactivate the youth ministry, and the Rev. Dr. David Manrodt was hired as a part-time visitation pastor, a position he held for 12 years.

1990

The first golf outing was held in July 1990 and has continued every year since then. A former St. John's church treasurer, Hank Linck, had died in the spring of 1990, and the golf outing was named in his memory.

1992

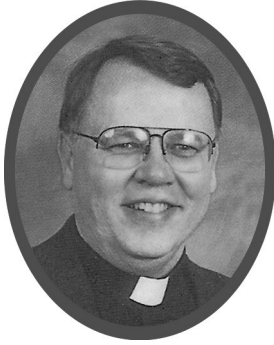
Giving continued to improve steadily and, beginning in 1992, the church has consistently paid 100% of its benevolence to what is now the Delaware-Maryland Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

1996

In 1996 over 1,000 people worshipped on Christmas Eve.



Christmas Eve worship, sometime in the 1940s



The Rev. Dr. John K. Burk
1998-2005

A native of Baltimore County, Pastor Burk, his wife Deborah, and their children Sam, Jacob and Eliza came to Parkville from Pennsylvania. During his seven-year tenure, many activities got their start, things such as Hot Dog Sunday, Ice Cream Sundae Sunday, Apple Pie Sunday and the Wednesday and Sunday Lunch Bunches. A Mutual Ministry Committee met for the first time in 1998. A Young Couples Group had their first meeting in 1999, a Singles Group was formed, and also a Young Married Couples Group.



The Rev. Jennifer Hitt
1999-2002

St. John's was Pastor Hitt's first call, and she, her husband Gerry, and their children Elisa and Jason were welcomed to the congregation. After serving at St. John's for three years, Pastor Hitt accepted a call to a church in Needham, Massachusetts.

1998

After Pastor Manning retired in 1997, the Rev. David Asplin served as interim pastor for one year until **the Rev. Dr. John Burk was called in 1998 as the congregation's 20th pastor.**

1999

Once again, it was felt that more clergy assistance was needed, and **in 1999, the Rev. Jennifer Hitt was called as associate pastor.** Pastor Hitt was not only the 21st pastor in St. John's history but also its first female pastor.

2001

An important change in Sunday worship occurred in 2001 when weekly communion was gradually introduced to the congregation.

Children's sermons helped to make children feel welcome in the service, and lay people began assisting the pastor with the liturgy.

The Stephen Ministry program got its start with 10 people becoming Stephen Ministers.

A yearly worship service followed by a luncheon was held for homebound members and their caregivers.

After Pastor Hitt resigned, Pastor Don Beutel was hired to help Pastor Burk with visitation and other duties.

2003

In 2003, grape juice as well as wine was offered at communion, and a healing ministry was begun.

The first scrapbooking event was held to benefit women in Madagascar. This initial event raised \$2,300, and scrapbooking continues today to raise money for Lutheran missionaries in Tanzania.

A Hearing Enhancement Loop was installed in the Sanctuary, and a library was established in the Fellowship Hall.

After a ministry of seven years, Pastor Burk resigned to become pastor of Holy Communion Lutheran Church in nearby Fallston, Maryland.

2006

In 2006 Men in Mission held their first meeting, and the Rev. Joseph Lettrich became the interim pastor while St. John's entered the call process to replace Pastor Burk.



The Rev. Danny R. Hammons
The Rev. Maria J. Hammons
2006-Present

Pastor Danny and Pastor Maria, as they are commonly known, are the first co-pastors to serve St. John's. They feel blessed to have the opportunity to serve together and share equally in the many ministry tasks associated with serving a large, active congregation like St. John's.

Pastor Danny and Pastor Maria are graduates of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. They both come from previous careers in management with the federal government. In addition to their ministry at St. John's, both pastors are actively involved in synodical and ecumenical/interfaith ministries.

The pastors' four-footed companion, known as "Sonny Dog," is a rescue puppy. As the "church dog," Sonny accompanies the pastors to church and has his own ministry with the congregation's homebound parishioners and residents at local retirement homes.

As our 125th Anniversary year draws to a close, the Congregational Council is working on a strategic plan for St. John's future that will be brought to the congregation for approval in 2013.

We offer prayers of thankfulness to God for those who have made us what we are, and we call upon him to give us the faith and trust they had so that we might continue the task before us.

2006

In October 2006, Pastors Danny and Maria Hammons were called as co-pastors, the 22nd and 23rd in the church's 125 years.

With new pastors came new ideas and programs. Cottage meetings, consisting of 10 people each, were held so that the pastors could get to know parishioners and hear their concerns, hopes and dreams for St. John's.

2007

In January 2007, a church-wide focus on prayer was begun so that the church would be led by God to "discern our call, our vision, and our mission for our community and throughout the world." A Vision Task Force, called Vision 2020, was formed.

During the fall of 2007, a new worship book, the ELCA Service Book and Hymnal, was introduced to our worship.

A Young at Heart Club was started for people "60ish" and older. They meet for lunch and a movie the first Wednesday of the month.

Packages containing items to make their lives a little easier were sent to our troops.

Food was collected on a regular basis for the food pantry at nearby Christus Victor Lutheran Church, a ministry continuing today.

2009

In 2009 a worship service and luncheon for our homebound members was reinstated, and a new service, the Blessing of the Animals, was held for the first time.

It was decided at a congregational meeting to support the Vicar Program, which makes St. John's a training site for seminary interns for a year at a time.

The Sunday School held their first Talent Show to celebrate the end of the Sunday School year, and the first Reformation Dinner Theater, with a performance by St. John's Players, was held in the fall.

2010

A new ministry, Caring Friends, was established in 2010 to connect with those who can no longer attend worship. Caring Friends maintain personal contact by phone, mail, visits, communion and prayer.

2011

Lives were changed forever in 2011 as the youth went on their first mission trip - to work alongside other youth in Vermont.

2012

A Rummage Sale was held for the first time in 2011 to help pay the cost of a new heating system.

Remembering at a Glance

St. John's Pastors

The Rev. Louis Rymarski	1887 - 1888
The Rev. Karl Buff	1888 - 1892
The Rev. Dr. Hans Pape	1892 - 1893
The Rev. Henry Gyr	1893 - 1899
The Rev. Richard Jungfer	1899 - 1906
The Rev. August E. Ernst	1906 - 1908
The Rev. Frederick Hahn-Zumpf	1908 - 1909
The Rev. Richard Uhlhorn	1910 - 1912
The Rev. A. William Ahl	1912 - 1916
The Rev. Henry Schleuter	1916 - 1918
The Rev. William E. Saltzgeber	1918 - 1923
The Rev. Carl C. Wiebking	1923 - 1955
The Rev. Dr. Charles P. Cressman	1953 - 1958
The Rev. Norman P. Forde	1956 - 1959
The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Smith	1958 - 1978
The Rev. William J. Yingling	1959 - 1985
The Rev. Philip N. Jurus	1970 - 1972
The Rev. Nathan Kale	1980 - 1985
The Rev. Richard E. Manning	1986 - 1997
The Rev. Dr. John K. Burk	1998 - 2005
The Rev. Jennifer Hitt	1999 - 2002
The Rev. Danny R. Hammons	2006 - present
The Rev. Maria J. Hammons	2006 - present

St. John's Pastors Emeritus

The Rev. Carl C. Wiebking named Emeritus in 1955
The Rev. Dr. Paul H. Smith named Emeritus in 1978
The Rev. Richard E. Manning named Emeritus in 1999

Pastors Also Associated with St. John's

The Rev. Dr. Carl Folkemer Interim Pastor	1985
The Rev. Dr. David Manrodt Part-time Visitation Pastor	1989 - 2001
The Rev. David Asplin Interim Pastor	1997 - 1998
The Rev. Donald Beutel Visitation & Pastoral Assistant	2003 - 2007
The Rev. Joseph Lettrich Interim Pastor	2005 - 2006

St. John's Interns

1995 - 1996	Judith Rivoire Anderson
2003 - 2004	Stephen Rozzini
2004 - 2005	Wendy Deeben
2005 - 2006	David Simpson
2009 - 2010	Jacob Simpson
2010 - 2011	Joshua Warfield
2012 - 2013	Betty Lou Deuchler

Organists

Vera Miller Quante	? - 1923
Mildred Jacobs	1923 - 1963
A. Sydney Bainbridge	1958 - 1964
Dr. Wilhelm A. A. Goetze	1964 - 1966
Esther Cupps Wideman	1966 - 1969
Judith Parker Groene	1969 - 1972
Dena Trump Neifeld	1972 - 1977
Dr. Thomas Spacht	1977 - 1989
John Marks	1989 - 1995
Keith Derrickson	1996 - 2005
Martha Requard	2005 - present

Ministerial 'Sons' of St. John's

The Rev. Dr. Howard F. Reisz
First "son" of the congregation
Ordained by the Maryland Synod, May 1937
Died September 2000, at the age of 90

The Rev. George W. Fitch, Jr.
Ordained by the Maryland Synod, September 1969
Retired and living in Pennsylvania

The Rev. Dr. Raymond H. Phyles
Ordained by the Maryland Synod, December 1969
Retired and living in Massachusetts