



OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE

The 2017 St. John's Capital Campaign

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Worshipping · Sharing · Making Christ Known

St. John's has shown a commitment to beautiful sacred music since its earliest days. St. John's had the first piano in Lafayette as well as the first pipe organ. Over the years, the church has been blessed with talented musicians and musical leaders such as **Mary Benbridge**, the church's first organist; **Harry Metzger**, who came to St. John's from Yale University in 1926 and served St. John's for 25 years; **Jarrett Follette**, who is now the Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in New Orleans; **Bill Gray**, who came to Lafayette to serve St. John's and lead the Bach Chorale; and **Michael Bennett**, whose talent, dedication, and hard work continues to enrich our community. The St. John's Choir, which is made up entirely of volunteers, adds so much to the beautiful and meaningful worship that is our heritage as Episcopalians. Other musicians have offered their gifts of music with bassoon, brass, piano, strings, recorder, and more. And while our musicians make such beautiful music, the best part of our congregation's music tradition is that St. John's is a singing congregation—you sing, you really sing! (Over)



The men and boy's choir circa 1898.



The St. John's Choir in the fall of 2016.

Our worship is a shared experience with God, with each other, and with the people of God across time and space. **Thank you for all the ways you continue to support the music ministries of St. John's.** But most importantly, thank you for lifting your voices in the praise and worship of God. May we continue to know Christ and make Christ known through the beautiful music of our sacred music tradition.



The leader of the choir at this time [1850] was T. A. Littlelyke. Miss Mary Benbridge was organist, the congregation having purchased a melodeon, which took the place of the former orchestra.

In 1859 a pipe organ was purchased (the first ever brought to the city), and the melodeon sent to the church at Crawfordsville.... The organ, which had heretofore been rented, was now purchased for the sum of \$800. Mr. George Ulrich employed as organist and Miss Coney to lead the singing. **Never before nor since was so much money paid for the music (it costing for a number of years \$600),** and much more elaborate and difficult music was rendered than ever before in the church.

- selections from the First Fifty years

by Jane C. Harvey



Already in 1840 or even earlier, St. John's was a pioneer in what remains today a valiant service rendered to our community. In harmony with this early rooted tradition is the circumstance that the first pipe organ in our city was installed at old St. John's, even as its first piano had been the property of [the Rev. Samuel Roosevelt] Johnson. St. John's had an honorable half-century before the present story starts. All honor to the pioneers. Their successors find it none too easy to equal their heroic beginnings. Each half century has been a time of striving; each, in its own way, a time of beginnings. For as a second century opens, St. John's still turns its face toward the future.

- from the forward to the Second 50 Years

by Louis Martin Sears



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

600 Ferry Street · Lafayette, IN 47901 · 765.742.4079 · www.stjohns-laf.org