



JOURNAL

June / July 2020

Staff

Rev. Canon SuzeAnne Silla
Interim Rector
interim.rector@stjohnstn.org

The Rev. Cathy L. Johnston
Deacon
cjmtnbike@charter.net

Jon Lau
Parish Administrator
jlau2jctn@aol.com

Nick Andrews
Organist/Choirmaster
music@stjohnstn.org
Administrative Assistant
office@stjohnstn.org

Rae Grosserode
Director of Children's
Education
tngrosserode@comcast.net

Emily Nagy
Youth Leader
emilynagy9@gmail.com

Hannah Holder
Lead Nursery Attendant
hdfstepenstoneacademy@gmail.com

Lynn McCoy
Journal Editor
journal@stjohnstn.org
sjjournaln@gmail.com

The Episcopal Diocese of
East TN
<https://www.dioet.org/>

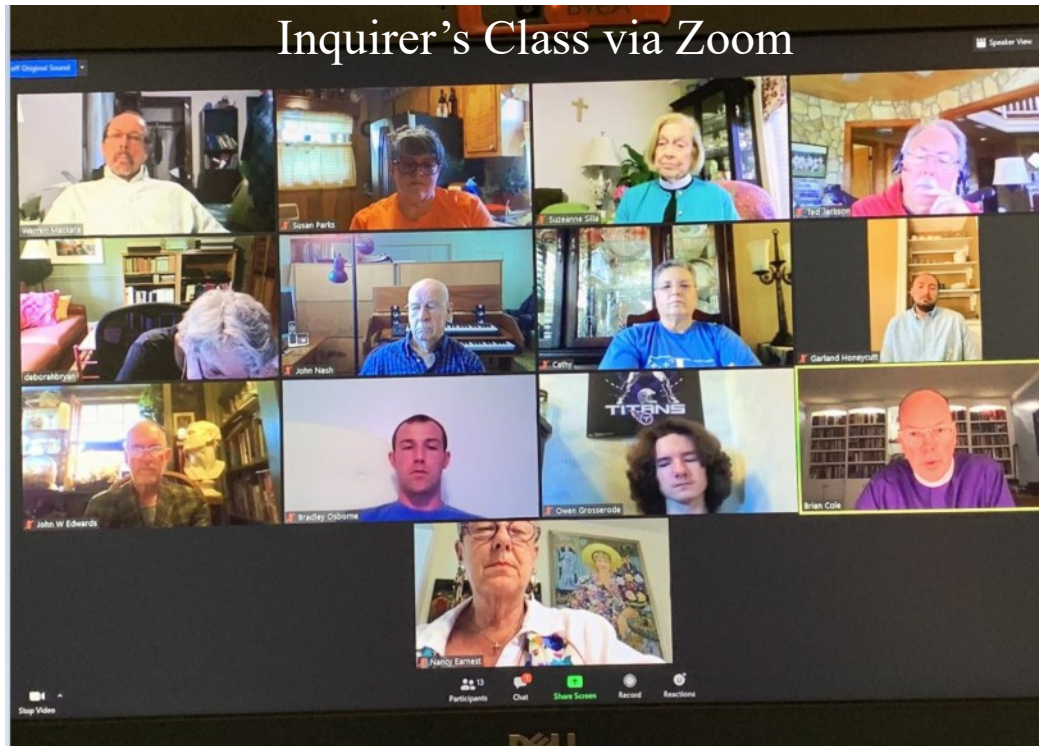
Worship Schedule

Sundays
9:00 Sunday Morning Worship
St. John's Episcopal Church
Facebook page

Tuesday
5:30 pm Tuesday Evening
Worship, Prayer with Litany
for Healing
Zoom Meeting contact
office@stjohnstn.org for
information

Thursday
10:00 am Worship Morning
Prayer
Zoom Meeting contact
office@stjohnstn.org for
information

Inquirer's Class via Zoom



Nine of the twelve candidates for confirmation or reception were on-line for the final **Inquirer's class** with Bishop Cole via Zoom. Once we can schedule confirmation or reception for this class the time and date will be announced.

Rector Search Committee Report

St. John's Rector Search Committee has passed another milestone as we have received candidate names and are reviewing their materials. These include (but are not limited to) a resumé, links to sermons they have preached, and what is known as their "portfolio" information requested by the Episcopal Church's Office of Transition Ministry (OTM), which is similar to a portfolio we completed on behalf of St. John's. Using these OTM documents allows us to compare our congregation's strengths, hopes and concerns with each candidate's temperament, skills, and experience. Now that we are at the stage of reviewing candidates, our diocesan norms require us to keep this information secure and confidential; this means we may not discuss any details about the names or number of candidates, where we are in reviewing them, or what decisions are made about individuals.

This requirement for keeping confidence includes the congregation and our family members; the vestry will be advised when we have a finalist for their review. We will continue to report on where we are in the process, and during this time of stay-at-home and social distancing, we are using video chat capability to continue our discernment work. We appreciate your prayers and patience for our work, for the ministry and people of St. John's, and for our nation and the world. Your support is a source of strength and gratitude for us.

God of all wisdom and understanding, guide us during this time of listening to each other and to you, to discern your will for us in the process of bringing a new rector to St. John's. Grant us patience, kindness, faithfulness and trust in your presence. Guide us in service to you, to each other, and to the larger community. Amen.

Greetings from *SuzeAnne*

As we enter the Liturgical season of Pentecost, let us pray the collect for Pentecost Sunday:

Almighty God on this day you opened the way of eternal life to every race and nation by the promised gift of your Holy Spirit: Shed abroad this gift throughout the world by preaching of the Gospel, that it may reach to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

As we leave the season of Easter and begin to engage the season of Pentecost we are reminded that we have been called by God to be a Holy People. And to be Christ present throughout the world.

So especially in these days of a pandemic with the entire world being asked to practice social distancing, what does it mean to be Holy?

In his book *Invitation to Holiness*, James Fenhagen wrote this: “Holiness is not a status we achieve, but the energy and vision we are given as a result of our encounter with the holiness of God in the midst of the complexities of Human experience.”

I continue to experience this high energy and sense of vision amongst St. John’s congregation even as you remain in your homes to worship through means of technology. The power of the Holy Spirit is clearly moving among you and with you.

Your vestry is now engaging you with your stated highest core values, identified by your self-study process. They are seeking your input in order to have a well integrated and clear process for your life together with your next Rector. And your search committee continues to meet several times a month. They remain hard at work during this time, moving faithfully and steadily forward on the task they have been given.

The day will come when you will be back in the Chapel and in the Nave, living into your future with your next Rector.

In the meantime, even during a pandemic, we begin this season of Pentecost by remembering that Holiness is about building bridges – within ourselves, into Christ, and into the Kingdom that is now amongst us, and within us, and is yet still to come.

Faithfully in Christ,

SuzeAnne+

St. John’s YTD Financial Report

	Apr 2019 Actual YTD	Apr 2020 Actual YTD	Apr YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2020 Vs 2019	Variance YTD Vs Budget
Plate Offerings	\$4,813.00	\$1,581.53	\$5,000.00	-\$3,231.47	-\$3,418.47
Pledge Payments	\$112,755.13	\$128,807.76	\$119,000.00	\$16,052.63	\$9,807.76
Prior Pledges	\$870.00	\$285.56	\$1,000.00	-\$584.44	-\$714.44
Contributions	\$18,984.71	\$22,416.40	\$16,700.00	\$3,431.69	\$5,716.40
Misc. Income	\$661.00	\$204.00	\$373.32	-\$457.00	-\$169.32
Prepaid Pledges	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$139,083.84	\$153,295.25	\$142,073.32	\$14,211.41	\$11,221.93
Total Expense	\$114,882.60	\$107,465.84	\$128,228.04	-\$7,416.76	-\$20,762.20
Net Income	\$24,201.24	\$45,829.41	\$13,845.28	\$21,628.17	\$31,984.13





Senior Warden's Report

June is upon us and we are still “Zooming” everywhere. With Zoom we can worship together, have meetings together, study together, inquire together and pray together. Canon Silla, with the help and collaboration of many others, has kept in touch with us and made us feel connected. Thanks be to God.

While meeting in person is still a few weeks out there, we are keeping in touch with the Bishop and Diocese to make sure our guidelines, once they are completed, are in compliance and will keep us safe. We are blessed to have the best Chancellor, McKenna Cox. She is part of the Bishop's task force on COVID-19 and I believe St. John's is way ahead in understanding the issues and liabilities that lie ahead. There is a St. John's task force of vestry and non-vestry representatives who will work on our guidelines for reopening.

I read a great article today and am using part of it that was meaningful to me. We should embrace online opportunities to share our faith and our church with others. I, as many of you, am hesitant to reach out to others and invite them to worship at “our” church. We can now just post a link on Facebook or send an email with a link to the Sunday service. No awkward silence, they can click or not.

Online platforms for ministry will become increasingly important in the new normal of post COVID-19. Let's not look at them as a temporary emergency fill-in only-because-we-have-to last-resort ministry options. It's time for lay people to step up to help clergy develop and maintain these platforms into the future.

Your vestry has approved a series of communications that will help us define and understand the 5 Core Values that emerged from the Congregational Assessment survey we took last year. The Vestry and Search Committee are creating the framework for the future and we are continuing to ask for your input. Our new priest will be fortunate that we have done the pre-work and we await his/her input and experience in the areas that we collectively have identified as our values and goals for St. John's.

May God bless us all and keep us safe.

Suzanne Donaldson

Announcement Regarding In-Person Services at St. John's Through June 2020

Dear St. John's Community,

Part of what makes St. John's a special place for worship is the abiding respect, care, and love we have for each other that bridges many differences among us. At St. John's we face this pandemic as a community, taking into consideration the varied needs and concerns of our congregants in terms of age, health, family, and so forth. Therefore, as an act of love, respect, and concern for all, your Vestry and church leadership have decided to postpone in-person services or meetings through June 2020. During this time we will continue the electronic forms of worship and gathering we have been practicing since March, such as streaming Sunday service and using Zoom for Tuesday Evening and Thursday Morning Prayer, Sunday Coffee Hour, and meetings (e.g. Vestry and Centering Prayer).

We will continue to follow leadership, direction, and advice from the Diocese as well as local, state, and federal government agencies as we look toward the future and consider when to resume in-person church services. Please know that during this time, Canon SuzeAnne, church staff, and the Vestry, including a newly forming Reopening Task Force, are actively working on the complicated task of how to reopen the church building according to best public health and legal practices. All of us miss our church and – more importantly – our fellow parishioners, but we feel this is the safest and best course for all.

Thank you for your steadfast faith and love.

Respectfully,

Your Vestry

ZOOM In!

No doubt you have heard about St. John's – like many other churches, organizations, businesses, and schools – using the online service, Zoom, to hold virtual meetings. All you need is a computer, or a tablet, or a smart phone. You can even use a regular telephone! At a time when we are missing each other and longing to be together, Zoom offers us the opportunity to see each other and join in conversation in a very real and satisfying way.

St. John's uses Zoom for:

- Sunday Morning Prayer.... 9:00 am
- Sunday Coffee Hour.....10:00 am
- Sunday night EfM..... 5:30 pm
- Tuesday Evening Prayer with Healing Litany 5:30 pm
- Tuesday Centering Prayer... 6:00 pm
- Wednesday Night Formation Series..... 6:00 pm
- Thursday Morning Prayer,,10:00 am

In addition, the Vestry, the Search Committee and the Inquirer's Class are meeting regularly on Zoom.

Zoom can be used in several ways, including on a landline.

By computer with a webcam everyone can see and hear you and you can hear and see them, but you have the option to be in the meeting with your camera and/or microphone turned off. In other words, you can just listen and watch and turn your microphone on only when you want to share.

On a smartphone, you will download the Zoom app which will allow your phone's camera to function just like a computer with a webcam, and for you to be visually and vocally present as much as you feel comfortable.

Using your smartphone or landline you can dial a phone number that will connect you to the meeting, allowing you to listen and talk just as you would any phone call, allowing you to hear everyone who has joined the meeting. You are free to join in the discussion as much or as little as you like.

All these options allow for the same important feature: **your presence**. We want you to feel present with St. John's members even as we are apart.

Of course, if all of this feels too daunting, reach out to other parishioners who may be able to walk you through the process of setting it up or contact Wesley Buerkle (buerkle@etsu.edu; 423-943-7713), who can assist you directly or put you in contact with someone who can.

During this time apart, we may all have to step out of our comfort zone to find the comfort of and connection with our church family.

Wesley Buerkle

Bishop Cole's visit to St. John's

On Sunday, May 26th, Bishop Cole worshipped with us via Zoom. His sermon may be viewed on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnstn/videos/950009172089312/> or You Tube

<https://youtu.be/w6xI9p5vnn8>. Copy the link and paste into your browser.

Every Sunday morning look for an email from St. John's which provides a password to enable you to join other members of St. John's through a Zoom service. If you do not receive the Sunday morning email please notify St. John's church office.



Homily presented by Laura Duncan, Tuesday Evening Healing Service

Laura Duncan is a hospital nurse and a Diocesan licensed lay preacher. She is a regular homilist for the Tuesday Healing Service and occasionally when her work schedule allows she preaches on Sunday mornings. This homily is based on a weekday Gospel reading from Matthew 8 18-27.

Two people approached Jesus. One was a scribe, the other a disciple. Both appear to want to follow Jesus, the scribe offering to follow and the disciple wanting to follow but having some things to take care of first.

Jesus tells the scribe that the son of man has nowhere to lay his head, implying the scribe would have no obvious destination to follow Jesus to, and this wandering life might not be what the scribe had in mind.

To the one called the disciple, Jesus seems harsh because taking care of the dead was an honorable thing to do. Here Jesus's answer leads to the idea that the living Christ is more important than the dead.

Both of these situations are left unresolved. It is often assumed that these two inquirers are not then followers of Jesus. But the text does not support this reading. The text says nothing about how these two then respond to Jesus.

The next paragraph in the text simply states that when Jesus got into the boat that he had asked for his disciples to follow him. We can imagine the scribe and the unnamed disciple standing on the bank or even walking away, unable to imagine a life with this enigmatic figure of Jesus. Or we can imagine the scribe and the unnamed disciple deciding to follow Jesus after the response that he gave them. Both scenarios are possible.

The second scenario gives me hope. It tells me that it is okay to not get it right the first time and still be a follower of Jesus. It tells me that I may not always understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus. And yet that makes me no less a disciple.

So, imagine then this disciple and the scribe going through a conversion and deciding to get into the boat with Jesus. Here they are having just had to re-imagine what it means to be a disciple and finding themselves in a situation where they think they're going to be overturned and maybe even killed by the waves attacking the boat. And instead of protecting them, Jesus is sleeping.

And so Jesus asked "Why are you afraid?" Again we can only imagine what is going through the mind of these two. Maybe it is something to the effect of "Look, we didn't know what to expect when we followed you but we didn't expect this. And now we're scared. We're looking to you for comfort. And you rebuke us. What sort of leader are you anyway?"

And indeed, after Jesus calms the storm the disciples ask what sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him. Now here are two men already having decided to follow Jesus and yet they still find themselves amazed at what he does. It always leaves me thinking, if you're amazed at this, what did you see in the man that made you follow him in the first place? Was it not things equally amazing?

And so, we have our savior. A man who has amazed us enough that we sit here as followers of him. And hopefully we are not so jaded that he cannot cease to amaze.

As we sit here in the midst of our own storm labeled COVID-19; as our lives are disrupted by the waves of change both fear and prudence have brought, let us remember that our savior has calmed waves, in his time, before, and he will do it again, in his time. In time we hope this wave of the virus will subside. In the meantime, may the fear in our lives be quelled and let us live in the hope of Christ.

Happy June Birthday

1	Deb Paessler	15	Kathi Horne	26	John Nash
2	Charlene Haas	17	Ren Fakonas	26	Bob Barnwell
3	William Christian	17	Elizabeth Fakonas	27	Evelyn Huyck
4	Jeannine Edwards	18	Katherine Yockel	27	Barbara Lau
4	Kevin Arnold	19	Pamela Beals	28	Jean Archer
5	Bert Pettyjohn	20	Ellen Wallen	28	Jacob Smith
6	Lorene Kirk	20	BJ Gallatin	28	Tonya Wilkes
9	Danielle Bass	23	Jude Morrissey	30	Bradley Boling
11	Tiffany Beals	24	Ed Brading	30	Allen Pickel
11	Rod Biosca	24	Marti Cleveland	30	Kathy Jordan
14	Julia Webb	24	Charlena Ward		



Happenings

Special events in June

Wednesday Evening Series with Canon Silla Benedict's Influence on Anglican Prayer Life	Wed, Jun 3, 10	• 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30)
Wednesday Evening Series with Frances Jacksom	Wed, Jun 17, 24	• 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30)
Sunday Morning Worship- Canon Silla	Sun, Jun 7, 14, 21, 28	• 9:00 am	St John's Episcopal Church Facebook page & You Tube
Father's Day	Sun, Jun 21	•	

Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Finance Committee (online meeting)	TBD	•	Zoom video gathering
Staff Meeting	Wed, Jun 3	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tues, Jun 16	• 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering

Weekly Scheduled Meetings

Tuesday Worship, Evening Prayer with Litany for Healing	Tuesdays	• 5:30 pm	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org) if you do not receive email invitation.)
Centering Prayer Group (on-line meeting)	Tuesdays	• 6:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org) if you do not receive email invitation.)
Thursday Worship, Morning Prayers	Thursdays	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org) if you do not receive email invitation.)
EfM	Sundays	• 5:00 - 7:30 pm	Gathering electronically



May Vestry Meeting via Zoom

Happy July Birthday

1	John Webb	9	Linda Hipple	23	Bill Browder
2	Eleanor Buerkle	9	Kate Beatty	24	Jackie Mabrey
2	Thelma Yoder	10	Hunter Hayden	26	John Thomas
2	Brenda McNenny	16	Rita Plemmons	28	Randy McVeigh
3	John Pedersen	18	Marty Woodward	30	Rob Hungate
5	Andrew Carter	19	Paul Pusateri	31	T. K. Story
6	Fred Mackara	21	Anna Miller	31	Pat Thornton
8	Marianne Cox				



Happenings

Special events in July

Independence Day Observed, office closed	Fri, July 3rd	•	
Independence Day	Sat, July 4th	•	
Wednesday Evening Series with Frances Jackson	Wed, July 1, 8, 15, 23, 29	•	6:00 - 7:00 pm Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30)
Sunday Morning Worship - Canon Silla	Sun, Jul 5, 12, 19, 26	•	9:00 am St John's Episcopal Church Facebook page & YouTube

Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Finance Committee (online meeting)	TBD	•	Zoom video gathering
Staff Meeting	Wed, Jul 1	•	10:00 am Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tues, Jul 21	•	7:00 pm Zoom video gathering

Weekly Scheduled Meetings

Tuesday Worship, Evening Prayer with Litany for Healing	Tuesdays	•	5:30 pm Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org) if you do not receive email invitation.)
Centering Prayer Group (on-line meeting)	Tuesdays	•	6:00 pm Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org) if you do not receive email invitation.)
Thursday Worship, Morning Prayers	Thursdays	•	10:00 am Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org) if you do not receive email invitation.)
EfM	Sundays	•	5:00 - 7:30 pm Gathering electronically



It's more important than ever to communicate!

Check the list below for ways that you can stay in touch with St. John's. If you have not visited the St. John's Episcopal Church Facebook page or the website, try them today. Keep up-to-date with weekly announcements via email. If you are not receiving emails from the church please contact us. If you are receiving this Journal via email and would prefer a paper copy, please let us know.

Subscribe to St. John's Communications

Email: Everyone's help is needed in allowing the entire parish to be connected during this unusual time. If you communicate with any parishioners who are not receiving email communication, please email the church office at office@stjohnstn.org. Please also check your spam and junk folders from time to time as some emails unfortunately end up there instead of your regular inbox. Thank you!

Facebook: Check in on "St. John's Episcopal Church" Facebook page for information regarding church activities and on-line services. Be sure and "Like" the button so you will receive notifications of updates.

St. John's Website: St. John's has a new website at stjohnstn.org. During this time, take a few minutes and explore this site. Color copies of the Journal are available under "Publications".

St. John's Journal: If you know someone who does not receive the Journal either via email or mail, please contact the church office so they may be added to the distribution list. If you want to receive a printed copy of the Journal contact the church office.

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