



JOURNAL

September 2020

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The Episcopal Diocese of
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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

Rector Search Committee Report

The Search Committee continues to put in long hours during this phase of our search process. Michael Spear-Jones, who is our Search Consultant, gave the homily Sunday, August 9, with a perspective that is helpful for all of us at St. John's at this point in the search. In describing Biblical characters who were both blessed and wounded, he emphasized "where the power of their own resources ended and God's began." He noted that when he reads the lectionary selections, he often asks himself, "Which character am I?", as a way to immerse himself in the material. Peter and Elijah, for example, tend to seek safety and stability, as we all do, but "Is that God's abundant life?" Fr. Spear-Jones encouraged us to take heart, and to trust that what we are doing matters. He also asked us to ask ourselves which Biblical character each of us might be, and "which [Biblical] character do we want as our rector?" The Search Committee appreciates the weekly prayers. We also pray during each meeting that God will guide us and that we will trust that.

Keypad Entry at St. John's



Myrtle ramp entrance

The installation of two keypad door locking devices, first announced in our July 17th This Week @ St. John's newsletter, has now been completed. Key codes, aka credentials, have been assigned to everyone currently on record as having been issued a door key. When I arrive at St. John's in the morning, or come back in from checking the mail, I find it convenient to not need a key in hand to open the door. I hope you will find this new method to be as convenient as I do!

But convenience is a byproduct of achieving our goal. As I stated July 17th, the installation of keypads was done with the objective of assuring

heightened compliance with our Safeguarding God's Children guidelines and directives set forth by our insurance company. Literally hundreds of keys have been issued over the last 20 years; many were not returned when the user no longer had need for one.

Please let me know if you encounter a problem using this new system.

Jon Lau

Parish Administrator



Greetings from *SuzeAnne*

On Saturday, August 23rd, I had the opportunity to be at St. John's as parishioners drove up to the undercroft door delivering all manner of things to assist the poor and homeless in this community, basic essential items you and I take for granted. While it was really good to see so many familiar faces, I was almost overcome by the abundance of items dropped off. What you brought will make a big difference. Enough laundry detergent, for instance, to wash a few hundred loads of clothes. It will be worth your while to check out the entire article and the photos included in this Journal issue.

Scripture reminds us over and over again to share what we have with those in need.

From the book of James, Chapter one:

-Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above.

-Be doers of the word and not merely hearers.

Living through a pandemic is not a particularly easy time for any human being, but it is especially difficult for those who have little or nothing.

St. John's congregation is paying attention to those in need. You are listening and you are doing something in response to what you are hearing. Even during this Interim time, and yes, even during a pandemic, you continue to give generously.

St. Benedict, in the 6th Century, wrote a book of guidelines which included obedient listening to God. He included in this rule book – the importance of actively listening to God through prayer and also actively listening to God by carefully and thoughtfully listening to one another.

Again, from the book of James:

-Let everyone be quick to listen slow to speak.

The day after the drop off, I attended St. John's Sunday morning Coffee Hour. Someone noted a connection between the readings and racial justice issues. A wonderful discussion ensued. At the end of this conversation, the group moved away from "we need to help fix this" to agreeing that "we need to listen first."

Thank you, St. John's, for staying faithful and for your commitment to the Gospel teachings of Jesus, and may you continue to be doers of the word – quick to listen – slow to speak.

In Christ,

SuzeAnne+



Sunday School for children and youth is off to an excellent start! Both classes meet via Zoom on Sunday mornings.

Children's Sunday School at 10:30 am and Youth Sunday School at 11:30 am. Even though we're in our separate buildings, we've been able to hear God's word through terrific discussions about Bible stories and art. I've really enjoyed seeing my students and talking with them, and I think they like seeing each other as well.

Although the curriculum is sequential, each Sunday lesson stands alone, so any child from kindergarten through 12th grade is welcome anytime! Watch the church emails for the Zoom links, or contact me for more information at tngrosserode@comcast.net.

-Rae Grosserode

Director of Children's Education



Senior Warden's Report

You can't imagine how excited I am with all that is going on at St. John's. This will read more like the Junior Warden's report, but I had to share my feelings. While most parishioners have been away from the building, I want to report that it has been buzzing with activity.

1. Baker Landscaping has removed bushes and trees and has generally cleaned up the outside areas of the church, weeding and such.
2. Gemini Cleaning is coming in every other week to keep the dust and grime at bay.
3. Foster Painting is in the Narthex and coat closet, painting the ceilings. Glenn Wynne Painting has been on the outside taking care of all the windows and other touch-up projects.
4. Marty's Electric has replaced switches and other electrical needs. They have also installed new bulbs.
5. What a Relief Steam Solutions is cleaning all the chairs in the Coffee Shop and the Great Hall.
6. The Phase III roof project, the last part of the church to be done, will begin in mid-September and continue for about 90 days. Part of the roof project is the installation of adequate guttering, more downspouts, and diverting water away from the building walls. Once the roof is finished, we can begin repairs to plaster and walls in the downstairs hall and the kitchen.

The roof project was designed by Beeson, Lusk and Street, Architects and the contractor is J. E. Green. Both were involved with Phases I and II. We are confident of the quality of the work.

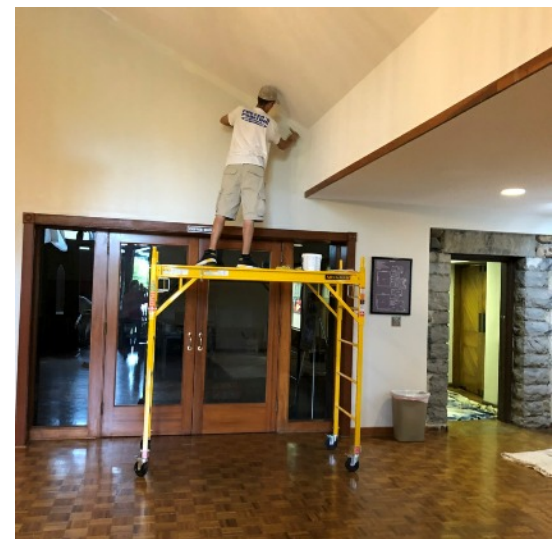
Lastly, but most importantly, I want to personally thank with all my heart and recognize the efforts of Mary Alice Fryar. She has been the force behind getting most of the contractors in motion and providing information to the vestry and finance committee on all the details and schedules. Without her tireless loyalty we would all be lacking. Thank you, Mary Alice, and God bless you!

If you have questions, please call me at 423-292-6413 or email sdlynx68@gmail.com.

Suzanne Donaldson



Painting & repairs to Great Hall windows



Painting ceiling in narthex

Recent improvements around St John's



Cleaning chairs in Great Hall



Painting ceiling of hallway



Painting and cleaning outside doors

The Melting Pot

This is what love looks like!

In every month that has five weeks, Mary Alice and Bill Fryar have bought groceries – a lot of groceries; cooked a meal – a really big meal and delivered it to the Melting Pot. Then they serve the meal to 180 people!

Since COVID-19 has changed the way in which the Melting Pot provides meals for its clients, Mary Alice and Bill now prepare healthy and hearty sack lunches when St John's turn rolls around. Lots of lunches – 180 sack lunches. Prepared thoughtfully, with intention and care. Prepared with love.

St John's outreach into our community continues, even and especially during this time of discovering new ways to love our neighbors as ourselves. **Please consider making a gift to the Discretionary Fund to support this and other ministries of St. John's.**



Save the date...

This year, **St. John's Annual Blessing of Pets** will be celebrated a little differently! On **Sunday, October 4th, 3:00 - 4:00 pm** we will **have the blessing on Zoom**. What a wonderful opportunity for everyone to gather with your family and those pets that may be a little more challenging on a leash. Everyone is welcome and you are encouraged to send a picture of your pet and the pet's name to the church office ahead of time.

office@stjohnstn.org. We will give thanks to God for the gift of our animal friends and their companionship during these difficult times.



Look for

St. John's Annual Meeting

& Vestry election

coming to you

virtually in November

Correction

Last month the Journal had a list of ministries and the contact person for that ministry. Please note a couple of corrections:

Contact information for the Labyrinth is incorrect. Rita Plemmons' email is retp62@gmail.com.

Contact information for Old Enough Bunch email should be ladyevelynh@yahoo.com

Safeguarding God's Children & People Training

Dear Worshipping Community:

As we live out our Baptismal Covenant of seeking to serve Christ in all persons, it will be important for the whole congregation to be familiar with the guidelines for safeguarding all God's people. These guidelines have been set forth by the National Church. We also have provisions for the protection of all set forth by our insurance provider. In order to be certain that we at St. John's are fulfilling our commitment to all God's people, we ask that everyone that interacts with children or adults attend a Safeguarding God's Children and/or Safeguarding God's People virtual training session scheduled for Saturday, September 12 or Saturday, September 19, 9 am until 4 pm. Training will be conducted on one of these two dates so please let us know if you cannot attend one date or the other.

I hope to see you each at the training session to be held September 12 or 19. Please email office@stjohnstn.org or call (423) 926-8141 to confirm that you would like to attend.

Sincerely,

Jon Lau

Parish Administrator

Thank you!

Many, many thanks go to Teresa and Harry Lewis of the Plant Palace in Erwin. Among many tasks that are being completed to repair and restore our lovely building, we also noticed the streamers are "tired". Teresa and Harry have donated ALL of the ribbon to replace them, saving several hundred dollars. Teresa said she considers it part of her mission since it is for a church. I know we will all appreciate their generosity when we can gather again and enjoy the celebration.

Also, MANY thanks to Mary Alice Fryar, who, among myriad things she does for our community, has sewn them together at the top to make them sturdy enough to fly.

Rita Plemmons

Giving

Pledges and contributions can be made online through St. John's website's giving portal:

<https://stjohnstn.org/giving/>

or can be mailed directly to the church at:

St. John's Episcopal Church
500 North Roan
Johnson City, TN 37601

St. John's YTD Financial Report

| | July 2019 Actual YTD | July 2020 Actual YTD | July YTD Budget | Variance YTD 2020 vs 2019 | Variance YTD vs Budget |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Plate Offerings | \$7,331.26 | \$1,581.53 | \$7,900.00 | -\$5,749.73 | -\$6,318.47 |
| Pledge Payments | \$181,138.63 | \$183,373.81 | \$184,100.00 | \$2,235.18 | -\$726.19 |
| Prior Pledges | \$870.00 | \$285.56 | \$1,000.00 | -\$584.44 | -\$714.44 |
| Contributions | \$29,333.47 | \$33,757.73 | \$25,500.00 | \$4,424.26 | \$8,257.73 |
| Misc. Income | \$798.00 | \$396.46 | \$653.31 | -\$401.54 | -\$256.85 |
| Prepaid Pledges | \$1,000.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | -\$1,000.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Income | \$220,471.36 | \$219,395.09 | \$219,153.31 | -\$1,076.27 | \$241.78 |
| Total Expense | \$197,502.27 | \$175,783.48 | \$187,221.21 | -\$21,718.79 | -\$11,437.73 |
| Net Income | \$22,969.09 | \$43,611.61 | \$31,932.10 | \$20,642.52 | \$11,679.51 |

Hotel Amenity Ministry

This is an exciting time at St John's as we join together in outreach to our community in the spirit of love and out of gratitude for the many ways in which we have been blessed. **St. John's will again have a contact-free drive-by drop off day for the Hotel Amenities Ministry on Saturday, September 26th from 12 - 1:30 pm.**

Items that would be of help to those who are in need include:

Shampoo/conditioner, body wash (no bar soap, please), solid deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, laundry detergent, bleach, dry dog food (no cat food), men's and women's clothing, shoes and flip-flops, children's shoes and clothing (Please bag children's items separately from other shoes and clothing and label it as such. This will be taken to Family Promise.) cheap plastic dollar-store water bottles (The agency indicated that we should provide the very cheapest ones because they go missing and must be replaced frequently.), bottled water, individually packaged snacks such as peanut butter crackers and granola bars (We have been requested to avoid giving packages of nuts because of the dental problems of their clients.), and camping equipment such as tarps and sleeping bags.

In addition, in August we received two iPads from Ed and Kathy Jordan. This generous gift has kicked off a whole new branch of this ministry. **We are now collecting old smart phones, tablets, iPads and laptops in working order. These can be distributed to parishioners who need a way to access our services and classes online as well as to students in the community who need access to online classes.** You can either lend or give these devices. We will be developing a system for distributing them and for tracking the loaners. We will also begin identifying need within the parish.

Please let us know if you have devices to give or lend, are willing to help a parishioner get online and learn to use Zoom, and/or can help us identify needs.

If you have other kinds of items that you are interested in donating and wonder if they are suitable for the agencies we supply, please contact Rebecca Paluzzi, paluzzir@etsu.edu.

Rebecca Paluzzi



Happy September Birthday

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|------------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Suzanne Donaldson | 17 | Beth Johnson | 23 | Lishika Lange |
| 3 | Anne Brading | 17 | Hugh Webb | 23 | Ron Horsley |
| 4 | Sophie Grosserode | 19 | Will Phillips | 25 | Dave Lucas |
| 5 | Barbara Taylor | 19 | Seth Cooper | 25 | Jude Camak |
| 10 | Franklin Bidgood | 20 | Ray Flanary | 25 | Babs Manning |
| 11 | Shelley Stahlman | 20 | Nick Andrews | 25 | Emily Bidgood |
| 12 | Innocent Irutingabo | 21 | Lila Apgar | 28 | Fred Cleveland |
| 13 | Pattie Browder | 22 | JoAnne Paty-Bullington | 28 | Susan Parks |
| 14 | Sara Allen | 22 | Wyatt Phillips | 30 | Ebele Ume-Nwagbo |



happenings

Special events in September

| | | | |
|---|--------------|------------------|---|
| Labor Day --Office closed | Mon, Sept 7 | • | Observance of Labor Day |
| Morning prayers with music and homily | Sundays | • 9:00 am | Zoom video gathering |
| Virtual Coffee Hour | Sundays | • 10:00 am | Zoom video gathering following Morning Prayer |
| Wednesday Evening Series ✦ Conversations and Compline continue beginning with Vestry presentations | Wednesdays | • 6:00 - 7:00 pm | Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30) |
| Hotel Ministries drop off | Sat. Sept 26 | • 12 - 1:30 pm | Drop off at undercroft |

Monthly Scheduled Meetings

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| Staff Meeting | Wed, Sept 2 | • 10:00 am | Zoom video gathering |
| Finance Committee (online meeting) | Tue. Sept 15 | • | Zoom video gathering |
| Vestry Meeting (online meeting) | Tue. Sept 15 | • 7:00 pm | Zoom video gathering |

Weekly Scheduled Meetings

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Sunday School for Children (K - 6th) No Sunday School Sept 6 and 13 | Sun, Sep 20, 27 | • 10:30 am | Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office at office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.) |
| Sunday School for Youth No Sunday School Sept 6 and 13 | Sun, Sep 20, 27 | • 11:30 am | Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office at office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.) |
| EfM -- will begin Sunday, Sept 13th. Mark your calendar | Sundays | • 5:00 - 7:30 pm | Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office at office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.) |
| Tuesday Worship, Evening Prayer with Litany for Healing | Tuesdays | • 5:30 pm | Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office at 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 at office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.) |
| Morning Prayers (Rite I) | Thursdays | • 10:00 am | Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office at office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.) |



Our local Family Promise (FP) needs our help. As you know, FP works with local homeless families with children, helps to get them back on their feet and obtain secure housing. During this process, FP relies on area churches for housing families

and evening meals. The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted this process with many host churches closed and FP has had to resort to purchasing motel rooms for housing families in transition. Central Baptist, our host church, has elected not to open their facility to house FP families this September, which was our next co-hosting opportunity. **As part of St. John's worshipping community, if you would like to support the mission of Family Promise and help with their ongoing needs, please send a monetary donation to our clergy's discretionary fund with a notation: for Family Promise mission.**

Thanks,

Dave Kalwinsky

Return Service Requested

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