



# JOURNAL

October 2020



## Senior Warden's Report

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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](mailto:office@stjohnstn.org) for  
information

#### Thursday

10:00 am Worship Morning  
Prayer  
Zoom Meeting contact  
[office@stjohnstn.org](mailto:office@stjohnstn.org) for  
information

It is my honor and privilege to announce that St. John's has completed a successful Search process and **we are blessed to be welcoming The Reverend Laura Annette Bryant to be the 14<sup>th</sup> Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Johnson City, TN.** Rev. Bryant comes to us from Atlanta and will be moving to the beautiful mountains of Northeast Tennessee with her husband, John Hutton. John is a structural engineer and is familiar with our area having just completed work on the addition at Dobyns-Bennett High School in Kingsport, TN.

Rev. Bryant or Rev. Laura, both are fine with her, will be moving into her office beginning November 10<sup>th</sup> and will conduct services beginning November 15<sup>th</sup>.

I hope the whole congregation is excited as I am and the vestry is as well! We are so incredibly thankful for the amazing work done by our Search Committee and their leader, Dr. Tom McGinnis. We were so fortunate to have the Rev. Canon Michael Spear-Jones as our consultant and the support and expertise of the Rev. Canon Michelle Bolt and the Rt. Rev. Brian Cole.

## St. John's Welcomes Our 14<sup>th</sup> Rector The Reverend Laura Annette Bryant



It is a great pleasure to announce that The Reverend Laura Annette Bryant has accepted the call to serve as the 14<sup>th</sup> Rector (and historically the first female Rector) of St. John's Episcopal Church.

A native of the Midwest – St. Louis and Chicago (A Cardinal's fan!), Reverend Bryant graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in religion in 1980 and earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1987. Currently she is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry degree in Gospel and Culture from Columbia Theological Seminary.

She was ordained to the priesthood in 1990 and

has served in a variety of positions since that time. Most recently, she served the Diocese of Atlanta in three parishes. The Reverend Bryant was founding director and priest of The Road Episcopal Service Corps, an intentional community and formation program for young adults. She also was an associate priest for the Church of the Common Ground, a worshiping community for the homeless who live on the streets of Atlanta. She has been involved in the work of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing and was a member of Beloved Community: Commission for Dismantling Racism. She says: "Having served now as a priest for 30 years, and in several contexts, I can say that I love the church and the work of ministry even more now than when I first began." (con't page 2)

# St. John's Welcomes Our 14<sup>th</sup> Rector

## The Reverend Laura Annette Bryant

con't from page 1

The Reverend Bryant exemplifies our core values in many ways. Through our interviews with her, our time with her during her visit, and conversations with her references, we have come to appreciate the depth and quality of her ministry. It is easy to see why she was such a beloved presence at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, VT where she served as Interim Dean: She is a gifted liturgist and an excellent preacher; she is good at building teams; she is deeply committed to pastoral care and is extremely kind. Both contemplative and active, she is excellent in a crisis, has lots of energy, and is centered in joy. She listens deeply and works collaboratively. While remaining respectful of tradition, she tends to push a congregation to grow, and speaks the truth of the gospel. She has a special interest in the role of scripture in spiritual formation and of the imagination in the life of faith. A self-described "lifelong learner," she loves exploring – a landscape, a hiking trail, a city, or a story – and loves discovering the gifts and courage of others.

She and her husband, John Hutton, a structural engineer, have two grown sons.

One of her favorite prayers is one said over the newly baptized but applicable to all of us at all times: "Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and love you, and the gift of Joy and wonder in all your works" (BCP 308).

### Rector Search Committee Report

To the Parish Family and our New Rector:

All of the members of the Search Committee rejoice that The Reverend Laura Bryant has accepted the call to be the Rector of St. John's!

We are also grateful to all who have supported the search process since November 2018. At that time, John Nagy and the vestry worked diligently to form a search committee, and Bishop Brian Cole and Canon Michelle Bolt provided us with the information and support we needed to devote ourselves to this work. We have been especially blessed with our search consultant, The Reverend Canon Michael Spear-Jones, who has helped navigate us through the complex informational, procedural, emotional, and spiritual issues involved in this process. The church staff, including Nick Andrews, Jon Lau, Rae Grosserode, and Deacon Cathy Johnston, have been invaluable, particularly during the last phase of the process. And Canon SuzeAnne has guided all of us at St. John's through every phase of the search with grace-filled patience.

Fundamental to the entire process was the participation of the parish family, especially the Holy Conversations and the CAT survey in 2019. Perhaps the most important support has been everyone's consistent prayers during the weekly services, and the prayers that the search committee shared at each meeting. All of this has helped the "Searchers" focus on hard work and discernment. We have several people on the search committee who have been involved in previous searches for rectors at St. John's. We agree that this has been a process unlike others we have experienced, and we are grateful.

#### **The Search Committee**

Bob Cooper

Frances Jackson, Chaplain

Ted Jackson

Jackie Mabrey, Vestry Liaison

Tom McGinnis, Chair

Rebecca Paluzzi

Lee Phillips

Rita Plemmons

## Greetings from *SuzeAnne*

Back in December, Bishop Cole came to St John's to preside over a Eucharistic Celebration on the occasion of the retiring of St. John's mortgage debt.

It was a glorious December evening. All in attendance will remember the image of John Nagy dropping a copy of the mortgage note into a bowl of fire. Hearts were filled with joy and gratitude, and the music as always was exceptional.

With all of these joy-filled memories, what I am thinking about at this moment are some words from Bishop Cole's homily. He said "with all St. John's has accomplished, I look forward to what's next." A few days later, St. John's received a check from Bishop Cole and at the bottom he had written those same words, "what's next".

(The vestry decided to set this money aside for vision/planning/etc. once you have your Rector in place.)

And now this is becoming a reality.

On Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, the congregation was introduced to your next Rector, The Reverend Laura Bryant. Rev Bryant will be St. John's 14<sup>th</sup> Rector and she and her husband, John Hutton, will be moving here and settled in by mid-November.

And so your "what's next" chapter is beginning. Your next Rector has been called. You are poised and ready for a future of promise. A future faithful and responsive to the Gospel. And you are a congregation filled with promise, called by God to be leaders in the community. Leaders who care for and serve others. And together with your Rector you can become what God is calling you to be at this time and in this place.

Like Bishop Cole, I am so pleased and excited for St John's and like Bishop Cole, I also cannot wait to see what's next as you move forward together with Rev. Bryant.

In Christ,  
SuzeAnne

Note: The What's Next Fund is growing a bit as members have been adding to Bishop Cole's initial offering.

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### **Conversations and Compline**

#### **FOUR WEEK DISCUSSION:**

**September 30, October 7, 14, 21. "Becoming Beloved Community"** with Beth Wiley and Frances Jackson, 6 - 7 pm. Followed by Compline with Canon SuzeAnne.

On our diocesan website (<http://www.dioet.org/>) there is information on "Becoming Beloved Community". The Beloved Community is the body within which we promote the fruits of the spirit and grow to recognize our kinship as people who love God and love the image of God that we find in our neighbors, ourselves, and in creation. It provides a positive, theologically and biblically based ideal toward which we can grow in love, rather than framing our justice and reconciliation efforts as fundamentally "against" (as in anti-racism, anti-oppression, etc).

Our national website (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/>) also has links to "Becoming Beloved Community". "As the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, we dream and work to foster Beloved Communities where all

people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God. Together, we are growing as reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers in the name of Christ.

"The Beloved Community" was a vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "The end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of The Beloved Community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opponents into friends. It is this type of understanding goodwill that will transform the deep gloom of the old age into the exuberant gladness of the new age. It is the love which will bring about miracles in the hearts of men."

Discussions will be led by Beth Wiley and Frances Jackson. Beth has been part of a seminar on "The Beloved Community" through the Diocese of Tennessee and she will share some of her resources with us. A Zoom link will be sent. All are welcome!

## Celebration of the Ministry of the Rev. Canon SuzeAnne Silla

As we joyfully prepare for our new Rector, it is the time that we begin planning for the departure of our much beloved interim Rector, the Rev. Canon SuzeAnne Silla. Don't panic yet, she's with us for a little while longer. Her last Sunday to celebrate with us will be November 1<sup>st</sup> and the Coffee Hour that day will be a time for sharing memories and saying, "See you later". The vestry is gathering items for a basket of goodies and we want everyone to feel that they have a chance to send in cards or letters or to make a monetary donation to the "Purse" that will be given to her.

You may mail cards, letters, and checks to St. John's to be collected for presentation to her on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please indicate on the check that it is for the Interim Rector Purse.



## Vestry Elections

**From October 1<sup>st</sup> – October 15<sup>th</sup> the parish may make nominations for the vestry election.** Nominees must be Communicants in Good Standing as defined by the National Canons, Title I, Canon 17, Sec 3. The slate of no more than 5 people will be published in the November Journal, posted in the Narthex and printed in the bulletin on the first Sunday of November.

You should send your nominations to [office@stjohnstn.org](mailto:office@stjohnstn.org). The election committee is comprised of Jean Archer, Suzanne Donaldson, McKenna Cox and Wesley Buerkle. They will tabulate the nominations and create the ballot and communications.

Due to COVID-19 changes, the actual voting will be conducted by mail. Look for more information in the November Journal.



Save the date...

St. John's Annual  
Parish Meeting &  
Vestry Election  
Sunday  
November 8<sup>th</sup>

Details will be in the November Journal and the weekly email "This Week @ St. John's."



## St. John's Annual Blessing of Pets

This year, **St. John's Annual Blessing of Pets** will be celebrated a little differently! On **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 - 4:00 pm** we will have the blessing **through the magic of 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](mailto:office@stjohnstn.org). We will give thanks to God for the gift of our animal friends and their companionship during these difficult times.



Morning Prayer Rite II via Zoom Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>  
and introduction of The Reverend Laura Annette Bryant



### Hotel Amenity Ministry Continues!

St. John's will once again have a contact-free drive-by drop off for the Hotel Amenities Ministry on Saturday, **October 17<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 1:30 pm**. Canon Silla will be on hand to bless the donations at the end. Items such as shampoo/conditioner, body wash (no bar soap), feminine hygiene products, solid deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes, laundry detergent, dry dog food, men's and women's clothing. Children's clothing and shoes will be taken to Family Promise. Old smart phones, tablets, iPads and laptops in working order are being collected to be distributed to parishioners who need a way to access our services and classes online.

## 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

	Aug 2019 Actual YTD	Aug 2020 Actual YTD	Aug YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2020 Vs 2019	Variance YTD Vs Budget
Plate Offerings	8,067.26	1,581.53	8,700.00	(6,485.73)	(7,118.47)
Pledge Payments	197,067.13	199,500.81	200,600.00	2,433.68	(1,099.19)
Prior Pledges	870.00	285.56	1,000.00	(584.44)	(714.44)
Contributions	33,196.42	34,595.63	28,600.00	1,399.21	5,995.63
Misc. Income	811.00	406.46	746.64	(404.54)	(340.18)
Prepaid Pledges	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	(1,000.00)	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$241,011.81</b>	<b>\$236,369.99</b>	<b>\$239,646.64</b>	<b>-\$4,641.82</b>	<b>-\$3,276.65</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$220,667.14</b>	<b>\$201,914.35</b>	<b>\$255,134.38</b>	<b>-\$18,752.79</b>	<b>-\$53,220.03</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$20,344.67</b>	<b>\$34,455.64</b>	<b>-\$15,487.74</b>	<b>\$14,110.97</b>	<b>\$49,943.38</b>

## Centering Prayer

We continue to have our Lectio Divina and a Centering Prayer 'sit' on Tuesday evenings. All are welcome. If you wish to have further information, please contact Frances Jackson, [jxn621@gmail.com](mailto:jxn621@gmail.com) or 423-946-3345.

St. Mary's Retreat Center, Sewanee, TN, is currently offering retreats on Zoom. Rev. Tom Ward and Rebecca Paluzzi are offering one-day retreats via Zoom, once a month. The next one is October 24<sup>th</sup>. I have attended three Saturdays so far and highly recommend taking a day out to spend with God in silence within a centering prayer community. <https://www.stmaryssewanee.org/calendar/>.

Bishop Brian Cole is offering a series through the Diocesan website called "Reconciling Thoughts". <https://vimeo.com/user12765540>. The link will take you to the most recent posting in which Bishop Brian recommends that we all read a short book, "A Life Together, Wisdom of Community from the Christian East" by Bishop Seraphim Sigrist. We will be using some of this material for Lectio Divina within the Centering Prayer Group.

Frances Jackson



P.O. Box 205  
Johnson City, TN 37605-0205  
Business Phone: 423-202-7805  
Family Services: 423-929-9967  
Fax: 423-202-7806  
[www.familypromisejc.com](http://www.familypromisejc.com)

September 15, 2020

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

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your wonderful generosity to Family Promise. Because of you, we're able to help three families with another one (single dad) coming into the program today.

What Family Promise does is so important. There's no other agency in the area that is able to keep homeless families with kids together. I feel like everyone in our community should already know about Family Promise. After all, next month marks our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving "the least of these" in this area. Still, the reality is that most people don't know about our organization. It's true that we're small, but our impact is huge.

I have a favor to ask. Please let those around you know about Family Promise. Help them understand our mission. Help connect the dots for them on what it is we do here in this place (and send them to our thrift store, too – to shop or donate stuff!)

Thank you for helping our ministry stay strong and relevant, especially in times like these. Thank you for your special gifts of \$100 and \$150 to Family Promise. What we – and you – do for homeless families with kids really matters!

Sincerely,

  
Bob Hall  
Director

*Thank you, friends!*



# Happy October Birthday

1	Kathryn Bagby	12	Bette Lucas	22	Peg Pickens
1	Margaret LoBue	12	Phil Pindzola	23	Chandler Hayden
2	Lynn McCoy	13	Alice Grosserode	23	Tim Herron
4	Leslie Booher	13	Liz Biosca	28	Diane Wonder
5	Linda Spence	14	Aimee Lau	28	Ted Jackson
6	Wayne Sprague	17	Melinda Boling	29	Susan Miller
7	John Frizzell	17	Joy Nagy	29	Lestasia Lange
8	Garland Honeycutt	18	Betty B. Cooper	30	Betsy Byrne
9	Patrick Collins	20	Bennette Rowan	30	Jim Thornton
12	Brooke Stanley	21	Jocelyn Medina	30	James Allen



## happenings

### Special events in October

Morning Worship - Canon Silla	Sundays	• 9:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Homily - Joel Tramel	Sun, Oct. 4	• 9:00 am	
Homily - Canon Silla	Sun, Oct 11	• 9:00 am	
Homily - Deacon Cathy	Sun, Oct 18	• 9:00 am	
Homily - Rev. Canon Michael Spear-Jones	Sun, Oct 25	• 9:00 am	
Virtual Coffee Hour	Sundays	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering following Morning Prayer
Wednesday Evening Series + Conversations and Compline "Becoming Beloved Community" with Beth Wiley & Frances Jackson	Wednesdays Sept 30 Oct 7, 14, 21	• 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30) Followed by Compline with Canon Silla.
Blessing of Pets	Sun, Oct 4	• 3 - 4 pm	Zoom video gathering
Hotel Amenities Ministry drop off	Sat, Oct 17	• 12 - 1:30 pm	Drop off at undercroft

### Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Staff Meeting	Wed, Oct 14	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Finance Committee (online meeting)	Tue. Oct 20	•	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tue. Oct 20	• 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering

### Weekly Scheduled Meetings

Sunday School for Children (K - 6th)	Sundays	• 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	Sundays	• 11:30 AM	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office at office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.)
EfM	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.) Zoom meeting opens at 5:30, meeting starts at 6:00 pm.
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.)

# Episcopal Relief and Development Tackles Multiple Disasters

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that there is no “us” and “them” – there is only “us”. For those of us who have remained healthy and safe during the crisis, this is an opportunity to care for our neighbors who have been less than fortunate.

While the pandemic claims our attention both in the US and abroad, we find ourselves nearing the height of the Atlantic hurricane season. Already, we’ve seen the Gulf Coast devastated by Hurricane Laura, Sally and now Beta. And we’ve also witnessed the tragic wildfires as they rage in California. The weeks and months ahead hold a great deal of uncertainty, and they ask one thing of us: *Be ready.*

Donate to Episcopal Relief and Development to help ensure communities get the resources they need in a timely manner.



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