



JOURNAL

January 2021

A look back...2020 at St. John's

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

Worship Schedule

Sundays

9:00 Sunday Morning Worship
St. John's Episcopal Church
Zoom/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



Dear Beloved in Christ,

As I write this on the sixth day of Christmas, I am still savoring the joy of celebrating Christmas and Holy Eucharist with all of you. During the drive by distribution and administration of communion, I was able to greet many of you for the first time or see many of you whom I had only met on Zoom. The blustery snowfall on Christmas Eve and the gentle flurries on Christmas Day just made the celebration all the more beautiful. All in all, under the circumstances, it was a glorious Christmas, made possible by the gifts and efforts of many of you.

After only seven weeks in your midst, and even under the restrictions of the pandemic, I am struck (and not for the first time!) by the vitality of this parish and the keen desire for generous and compassionate ministry and service. I have been moved by some of the stories and the hopes that you have expressed in the small group gatherings and other settings. Thank you for opening your hearts and sharing your hopes with me and others.

In the new year we will celebrate Holy Eucharist once a month with drive-by distribution and home delivery until the pandemic begins to abate and restrictions ease. Then the vestry and I will design plans for in-person worship and other gatherings. What a hallelujah chorus that will be!

In the meantime, we will continue to imagine, learn, innovate, experiment and trust in God in service to the gospel and as we walk the way of love. I grieve the many sorrows, losses, challenges and loneliness of so many in this time; but I know that together we will discover ways to be powerfully present and serve each other and our neighbors, because we are made in the image and follow the one who is Emmanuel—God with us.

My prayer for St John's, in the heart of Johnson City, is that the heart of this Body may continue to grow and always, always remain wide open.

Faithfully,
Laura



Christmas Eve 2020

Photo credit: Nick Andrews



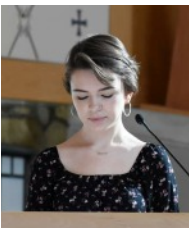
Vestry Retreat January 2020



Vestry Installation



Photo credit: McKenna Cox

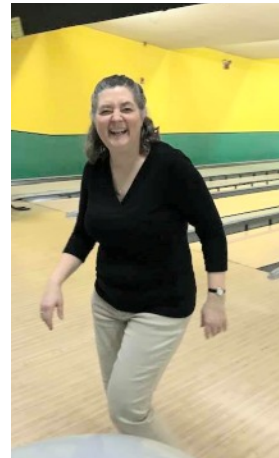


Epiphany Pageant

January 2020

Photo credit: Ellen Wallen





Bowling with St. John's Youth & Acolytes



Rehearsal for Mardi Gras



Centering Prayer Group April 2020



Bishop Cole's Visit May 26, 2020



St. John's welcomes our Fourteenth Rector The Rev. Laura Annette Bryant



Photo credit: Ellen Wallen



Lent 2020

1st and 2nd week of Lent



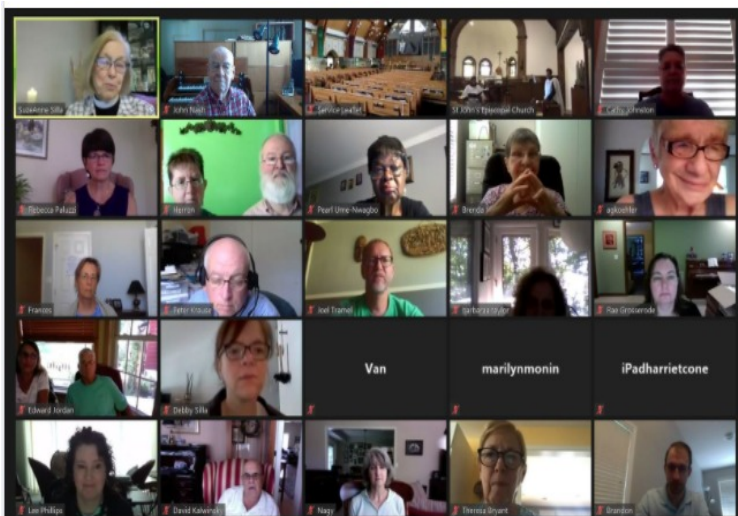
2020 – A year of change and imagination

I don't think anyone will forget 2020, however, in years to come as we look back at pictures from Easter, Confirmation, Bishop's visits, parish picnics, Sunday School kickoff, the Christmas Pageant and visit from St. Nicholas, we will see an unusual void or just snapshots of Zoom services. When the pandemic caused by COVID-19 (Coronavirus) hit our country, St. John's had to discontinue in-person gatherings for the safety of our parishioners. Our last Sunday service held at the church was on March 8th. We all imagined getting back together in the summer when things would be better but that did not happen.

The blessings that came from these unusual circumstances were the use of Zoom, and being able to reach out electronically to all, not just those who could come to the building for worship. During these difficult times, we have learned skills to carry us forward to the future when our church family can join again in person and we can continue to include those who are absent from us,

We look forward to wonderful pictures together in 2021 and thank God for all the blessings during this difficult time.

Suzanne Donaldson



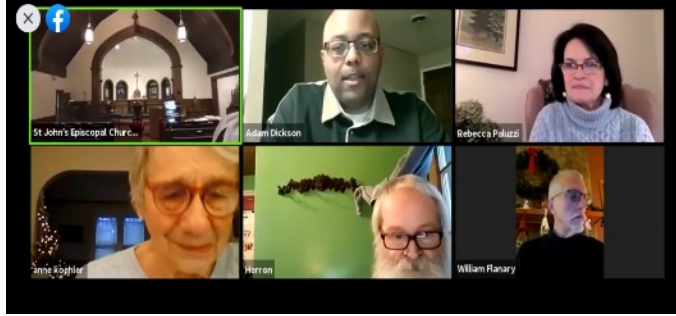
Sunday Morning Prayer, July 16th

Photo credits:
Ellen Wallen
Nick Andrews
McKenna Cox

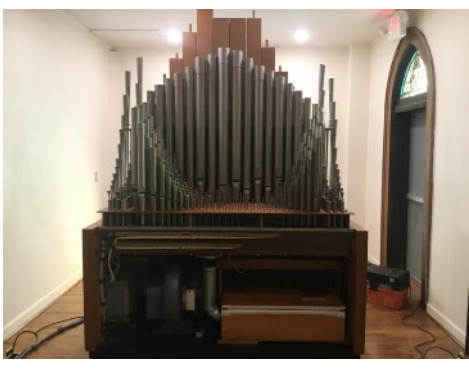


St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra
Visited St. John's
December 6, 2020

Virtual Lessons & Carols
December 2020



As technology allows us to continue to worship “together”, we are blessed to be able to continue ministries, maintenance and “new” additions, such as the organ for the chapel, for the day we once again gather in-person.





Preparing communion packages for pickup



Distribution of communion packages



Christmas Eve 4:00 pm service Holy Eucharist with Communion



Looking forward to 2021

Conversations and Compline, Epiphany 2021 – “Listening Together”

Epiphany is a time for discovery of gifts – and of listening. The lectionary readings during this season of the church year include calls from Jesus to the people who would become his disciples. He offers gifts of life, and these people drop everything and follow him. I invite us to use these five evening sessions to open our ears for a call, for discovery, a gift to listen together. For Epiphany 2021, the Conversations and Compline meetings will be led by Dr. Lee Bidgood (professor of Appalachian Studies at ETSU) in a series entitled “Listening Together.” Through introductions to the disciple of ethnomusicology and the field of sound studies, this series will provide participants with new ways to engage in spirituality-informed listening to the world. Sessions will focus on a range of topics, including race and country music, soundscapes and bells, and the ways that we interact with hymn texts. There is no single book that we will use to guide the series; individual texts and media will be available for each session via Lee’s website, www.leebidgood.net.

Meetings will take place via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, January 13th through February 10, 2021. Many of these topics will be covered in more depth in Lee’s Spring 2021 ETSU course “Ethnomusicology and Appalachia” (APST 5670). To learn more about this series or the course contact Lee at bidgood@etsu.edu.

The Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in East Tennessee

Participate in Connection February 5 - 6, 2021

The **virtual Convention will open Friday, February 5th**, with Friday evening prayer and a social session open to all participants.

Participant registration is open to all across the diocese. From engaging in dialogue in affinity groups to watching the business meeting live stream, participants can engage in the conversations of this year’s diocesan convention. All that is needed to register is your name and email. You’ll receive information about the various meetings and offerings in the time leading up to the business meeting and any additional discussions afterward.

There is no particular deadline for participant registration. Sign up early to find out about events as convention unfolds. Online registration at <https://www.dioceseconvention.org/participant-registration>

Note: The role of participant will be as a viewer only during the business session.

Return Service Requested

