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Rita Plemmons



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE IN EAST TENNESSEE
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A message from the Rector

The Stations of the Cross ~ Taking it to the Streets

Dear Friends in Christ,

The first Stations of the Cross were in the streets of Jerusalem, walked by Jesus, on the way from the place of his trial to the place of crucifixion on Golgotha. Later, pilgrims came to Jerusalem to walk the same route Jesus did, stopping at various points to read portions of the passion gospel and offer prayers. But not many people were able to travel all the way to Jerusalem for this holy pilgrimage, nor was it always safe to do so. The Stations of the Cross evolved as a way for everyone to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem and accompany Jesus with devotion and love, in their home parish.

Now we are taking the Stations of the Cross back to the streets.

We learned a lot last year when we were forced by the Covid pandemic (before vaccines were available) to have our Stations of the Cross outside. The readings and prayers had a different impact when we read and prayed them in the hubbub of Roan Street. One day a firetruck and ambulance whizzed past with their sirens blaring. The passion story, recalling Jesus' suffering in solidarity and for love of suffering humanity, sounded even more true, when almost drowned out by the blare and honking of the sirens.

This year the weekly Stations of the Cross will take two forms. The first four Stations (March 9, 16, 23, and 30) will traverse a path around the church building, stopping at the steps where our unhoused neighbors often sleep, at the back door where we collect donations, and at the Caring Cabinet, then inside the healing spaces of the nave and chapel.

The last of the Stations (April 6 and 13) will traverse the sidewalks and streets of our immediate neighborhood and beyond, stopping for prayers at those places that offer healing to suffering people, such as the Day Center, Family Promise, The River, CASA, and other ministries of solidarity and love.

I invite you to make a pilgrimage this Lent, and participate in one or more of the Stations of the Cross. The way of sorrows is also the way of love and the way of God's healing power and grace.

Faithfully,

Rev. Laura

500 N. Roan Street ❖ Johnson City, TN 37601 ❖ 423-926-8141

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An Episcopal Church in the Heart of Johnson City



February 24, 2022

Dear East Tennessee Episcopal Friends,

I am writing to you today to commend the following statement and prayer by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York.

For some time, we have spoken of living in unprecedented times with a global pandemic and retreating democracies across the globe. To this moment, Russia's invasion of Ukraine now requires all people of faith and good will to pray. The people of Ukraine have been living with low-level violent incursions from Russia for several years now, while many of us might imagine this is a new conflict. What we are seeing is an ongoing conflict now growing to regional war.

As we approach the Lenten season, I would encourage you all to add to your Prayers of the People particular prayers for Ukraine and its people, and also the people of Russia, all of whom will suffer because of the madness of President Putin, who seeks of a war of choice.

Peace,

+ Brian

A Statement on Ukraine from the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York

The horrific and unprovoked attack on Ukraine is an act of great evil.

Placing our trust in Jesus Christ, the author of peace, we pray for an urgent ceasefire and a withdrawal of Russian forces. We call for a public decision to choose the way of peace and an international conference to secure long-term agreements for stability and lasting peace.

We invite Christians to make this Sunday a day for prayer for Ukraine, Russia and for peace.

We also give our support to the call from Pope Francis for a global day of prayer and fasting for peace on Ash Wednesday, March 2.

Archbishop Justin Welby

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.

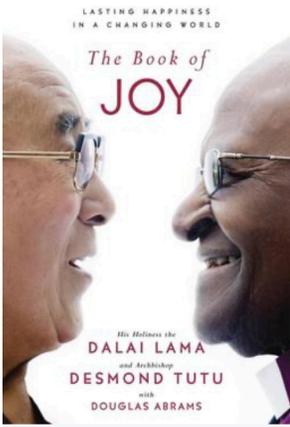
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.





Adult Faith Formation

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

You are invited to participate in group discussions, whether or not you've read the book. There are two options for participating:

Conversations & Compline Thursday evenings, continuing through March 24 (6-7:15 pm via Zoom) Rev. Laura and Garland Honeycutt will be facilitating discussion. A Zoom link is provided every Thursday.

Adult Faith Forum Sunday mornings, continuing through March 27 (9:15 am in the Great Hall) Dr. Fred Mackara and Anne Koehler will be facilitating discussion.

Centering Prayer



This is a very quiet practice of silent prayer that emphasizes Jesus' wisdom saying from Matthew 6:6. "But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you."

For Lent, the Centering Prayer Group will continue to meet via Zoom for our regular Tuesday evening time from 6-7 pm. The Zoom link is open at 5:45 pm. All are welcome.

Additionally, there will be a "sit" each Friday during Lent in the Prayer Room at St. John's at 11:30 am, starting on Friday, March 4. Frances Jackson will be at the Fairview door to let people in at 11:30 am. We will gather at that time, start the prayer by 11:45 am and dismiss about 12:30 pm. Again, all are welcome.

An Invitation to a Holy Lent from Rev. Laura

What does a Holy Lent mean to you?

I invite you to think of Lent as a season which increases our capacity to receive the gift of Easter joy. Joy.

Joy, we are learning in our conversations with each other and sharing stories from ordinary days, includes a varied range of experiences. Awe and delight in creation. Also profound connection with others. Even difficult and sorrowful experiences may be joyful if we remain true, during hard times, to our hearts' deepest loves and commitments. Turning to others, in as simple a way as greeting a stranger, creates joy. Giving encouragement that builds up another is a source of joy.

With this in mind, here are some ideas for keeping a Holy Lent:

- ❖ Greet 3 strangers each day.
- ❖ Take time for intercessory prayer each day.
- ❖ Write two notes of gratitude or encouragement each week.
- ❖ Pray for the family, mom and four sons, for whom we are building a house in April with Habitat for Humanity.
- ❖ Begin composting as a sign of love and awe for the wonders of God's creation.

Other possibilities abound!

Together, let us keep a Holy Lent, and grow in our capacity to receive Easter joy.

Outreach News



Save the Date(s)!

We will be participating in a new home build with Habitat for Humanity this spring. The house is for a mother with four sons here in Johnson City. St. John's is one of four supporting churches.

Our scheduled dates are April 6-9. We will need volunteers of all ages and skill levels. (Really! There are tasks and activities for *all* ages and *all* skill levels.) Watch for more information in *This Week at St. John's* and in the service bulletins for the opportunity to sign up to participate very soon.

"Hotel Amenities and More"



We will have a special focus for this ministry as we enter Lent, so watch for upcoming announcements in *This Week at St. John's*. Mark your calendars now for the March Drive-by Donation Drop-off on Saturday, March 19 from noon-1:15 pm.

(Enter from Myrtle Street and turn in to the driveway that connects with Fairview Avenue. Friendly volunteers will greet you at the side door to the church and will collect your donations. You don't even have to get out of your car!)

Thank you for your faithful ministry to those around us who have so little and for whom your care and concern means so much.

Caring Cabinet ~ Let's keep the cupboard full for our neighbors!



Thank you to all who have helped keep the Caring Cabinet supplied over the last few months. You have done a great job!

If you haven't had a chance to help with the Caring Cabinet, we'd love to have your support. You can help supply the cabinet one day a week, or perhaps get together with a group of friends to do something such as, for example, stock it every Tuesday in April. Anything you can do will be greatly appreciated.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Kinser by phone or text at (612) 388-0218 or email her at jjkinser@comcast.net.

Calling Youth (and Adult) Acolytes!

The word "Acolyte" comes from the Greek *akolouthos*, meaning 'to follow the way.' Acolytes have a role throughout our worship services, including the procession and recession, carrying the Cross and Gospel, and assisting at the altar for Communion. They provide a service that is very important to our worship and church life.



We are currently scheduling Acolytes for March and April. We are also scheduling a training session for both new and existing Acolytes on Sunday, March 27 following the 10:30 am service. *(This training is mandatory for those who would like to serve as an Acolyte.)*

Though we often associate Acolytes with our younger members, adults can serve as Acolytes as well. Any adults who are interested in serving in this role are most welcome to train and participate.

Please contact Emily Bidgood, our new Acolyte Coordinator, (see article on next page), about your availability to attend the training session on the 27th. We would love for everyone to attend on this date, but we will also reserve Sunday, April 3 for a make-up training session and/or for those who simply want a little more practice.

Thank you in advance for your prompt RSVP to Emily as we look forward to "following the way" together. (epbidgood@gmail.com, or text 919-636-8112)

Speaking of Acolytes ...



Wherever you've seen an Acolyte at St. John's, you're more than likely to have seen **Rita Plemmons** close at hand. That's because Rita has served as Acolyte Trainer & Coordinator for the past 15 years. While she continues to serve the church in many areas, including as a member of the Vestry, Rita is retiring from her role as Acolyte Coordinator.

In this role she has helped the youth of the church participate more fully in worship and the life of the Church. Equally importantly, she has showered love on dozens of children and impacted their journeys of faith as they have grown into adulthood.

Some leaders are called to serve loudly and up front, and some leaders serve quietly behind the scenes. Rita is the latter, and she's as good as they get. Please, next time you see her, let's shower Rita with love and gratitude for her faithfulness and service!

And while we're at it, let's also thank **Emily Bidgood** for stepping up and volunteering to take on the role of Acolyte Coordinator. Those are some big shoes to fill, but we all know you're up to the task, Emily, and we're right behind you whenever you need a hand.



2022 Inquirers' Class ~ Reborn, Renewed, Received

Are you ...

- ✠ new to the Episcopal Church?
- ✠ new to St. John's?
- ✠ back to church after a long absence?
- ✠ interested in learning more about the foundations of our Christian faith and unique aspects of the Episcopal Church?
- ✠ wanting to be confirmed or to reaffirm your baptismal vows?

If any of these, the Inquirers' Class is for you! It will be offered Sunday evenings March 13 - May 19.
(Fine print: Minimum age for confirmation is 15 years.)

For those who wish to be confirmed, to reaffirm their baptismal vows, or to be received into the church, Bishop Cole will be visiting St. John's on Sunday, June 19. For more information, please contact Rev. Laura (revlbryant@stjohntn.org) or Fred Mackara (mackara@etsu.edu).

Children & Youth

Report from Rae Grosserode, Director of Children's Education

Wee Wonder: Curriculum for our Youngest Members - Christian Formation is for all ages and stages of life. We have chosen an enrichment program of Bible stories, songs, and art for all the little ones who attend the nursery on Sunday mornings. Hannah Holder, our loving lead nursery attendant will prepare these activities each week.



Elementary Sunday School - Elementary Sunday School meets every Sunday starting at 9:15 am in the downstairs Sunday School room, led by Rae Grosserode.

Youth Sunday School - Youth Sunday School meets in person every Sunday at 9:15 am downstairs in the youth room, led by Rucht Lilavivat. Students grades 7th-12th grade are welcome.

Coffee Hour Thank You

A special thank you to all of our coffee hour hosts who prepare refreshments and provide hospitality each week following the 10:30 am service: Jean Archer, Anne Koehler, Sam Pettyjohn & Kate Beatty, Sara Allen, Emily Bidgood, Emily Baker, Ted & Lissa Jackson, Jo Anne Paty, Bucky Farnor, John Edwards, Tim & Beth Herron, Jackie Mabrey, and many young children from our Sunday School class.

A message from the Senior Warden

The Vestry in regular meetings continues to develop plans for the coming year. We are joining Habitat for Humanity which will give the parish a great chance to participate in a significant outreach project.

Vestry liaisons have been appointed and will be intimately involved with their various ministries. The Organ Committee is meeting regularly and formulating plans to replace our pipe organ.

Please let me or any Vestry member know your ideas, questions or concerns.

Peace.

Tom

Worship Meeting & Training for Lectors, LEM's, Ushers, and Altar Guild

March 5th 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please mark your calendars for this important meeting and training for all worship participants and leaders as we prepare for Lent and Easter. *This will be our first time to celebrate Holy Week in person for two years!*

We will begin in the nave to share general information and then break into small groups for focused training and discussion.

Thank you for all you do to support the beautiful worship at St. John's and the hospitality of this house of prayer.

Organ Committee Report

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it...but you may not have looked deeply enough."

Since Covid prevented us from having in-person worship services for two years, many parishioners may not have noticed this, but even before the pandemic, our 62 year-old Moller Pipe Organ had become unplayable. During this time, an Organ Committee was formed to look at options for repair and/or replacement. We heard from multiple experts that the existing organ is beyond repair; it simply cannot be fixed.

Good news came when an organ builder we met with informed us that an organ that he had installed for a church was available for purchase and relocation since the congregation was no longer using the instrument in worship. The cost of the organ, furnished and installed, would be \$571,000 – a fraction of what the cost would be for a completely new custom-built organ. Nonetheless, it *will* be a custom instrument and installation in all respects. The organ will have new casework, and it will be voiced for the specifics of our worship space. With this great news, we reported the results of our efforts to Rev. Laura, the Vestry and Finance Committee.

After careful and prayerful consideration, the Vestry at their December meeting entered into a contractual agreement with Patrick J. Murphy and Associates of Stowe, PA to purchase this organ.

The Vestry's action has set in motion a call for a Capital Campaign to raise the necessary funds. We are pleased to announce that we have early commitments and pledges of nearly \$300,000. The formal launch of the campaign will be announced soon.

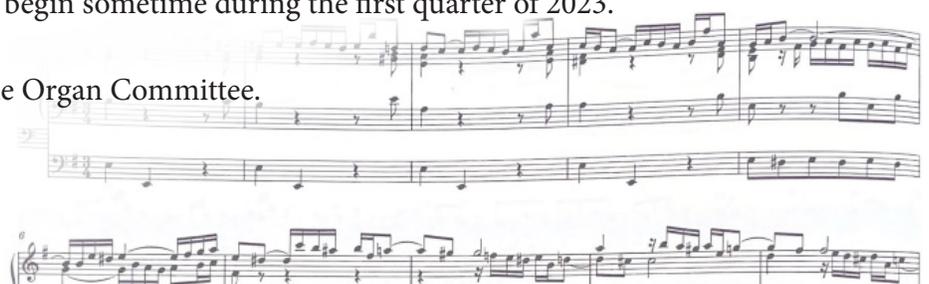
Murphy and his team are developing plans which will enable them to begin preparation of our "new" organ in October of this year. Installation will begin sometime during the first quarter of 2023.

Stay tuned for more information.

Prayerfully submitted on behalf of the Organ Committee.

Gary Mabrey

Organ Committee Chair





It's March ... Happy Birthday to you!

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Kenneth Boling | 6 Anna Faye Honeycutt | 11 Donna Winton | 25 Bill Wilson |
| 1 Charlotte Caudill | 6 Ted Tyrcha | 16 Michael Maylott | 25 Walt Sweatt |
| 1 Michael Humby | 7 Joan Lancaster | 17 Benjamin Cleveland | 26 Eric Combs |
| 2 Madison Van Tassell | 7 Reneau Dubberley | 17 Rucht Lilavivat | 27 David Champouillon |
| 3 Mary Daught | 7 Margot Humby | 20 Joseph Dollar | 27 Bob Cooper |
| 4 Beth Herron | 7 Heather Holland | 21 Charlene Lilly | 28 Ruth Miller |
| 5 Gary Mongillo | 9 Phil Ulmer | 21 Melissa Van Tassell | 28 Bucky Farnor |
| | 11 Bruce Donaldson | 25 Caitlyn Pendleton | 31 Esther Pawlowicz |

A Lenten Prayer

Merciful God,
 You called us forth from the dust of the earth;
 you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism.
 Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days
 bearing the mark of ashes,
 and bless our journey through the desert of Lent
 to the font of rebirth.
 May our fasting be hunger for justice;
 our alms, a making of peace;
 our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.
 All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus,
 for in his cross you proclaim your love
 for ever and ever.



Photo credit Bronislaw Drózka

YTD Financial Report - Operating Budget

	Jan 2021	Jan 2022	Jan 2022	Variance	Variance YTD
	Actual YTD	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	YTD Actual 2022 vs 2021	Actual vs Budget
Plate Offerings	\$ -	\$ 147	\$ 450	\$ 147	\$ (303)
Pledge Payments	35,752	53,630	35,200	17,878	18,430
Prior Pledges	885	720	300	(165)	420
Contributions	2,756	5,441	2,900	2,685	2,541
Misc. Income	13	10	60	(3)	(50)
Prepaid Pledges	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	39,406	59,948	38,910	20,542	21,038
Total Expense	25,805	28,432	28,691	2,628	(258)
Net Income	\$ 13,601	\$ 31,516	\$ 10,219	\$ 17,915	\$ 21,296

For the month of January, our income exceeded our budget by \$21,038 – primarily from pledges that were paid early for 2022. Our expenses were right in line with the budget. We are encouraged by your continued support of St. John's with your Time, Talent and Treasure.



Photo credit: sterslev / istock

March Worship Services & Programs

Ash Wednesday March 2, Imposition of Ashes

12:15 pm and 7 pm

Wednesdays through Lent: Stations of the Cross, 12:15 pm

We will gather at front steps of the Church on Myrtle Street at 12:15 to begin our processional around our neighborhood and beyond. (See the Rector's message on Page 1.)

Tuesdays 5:30 pm Evening Prayer/Healing Service

Thursday 10 am Morning Prayer

Sundays 8 am Holy Eucharist Rite I

10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
(Nave & Facebook Live)

9:15 am Adult Faith Formation
Children's Sunday School

Youth Sunday School (Grades 7-12)

❖ Nursery is available on Sundays, 8-11:30 am

March Meetings & Events

Tuesday Mar 8 Men's Group, Cafe One Eleven, 6 pm

Saturday Mar 5 Worship Meeting / Training, 10 am

Sunday Mar 6 Outreach Committee Meeting, 11:45 am

Tuesday Mar 15 Vestry meeting, 7 pm

Saturday Mar 19 Hotel Amenities Drop-off, noon-1:15 pm

Sunday Mar 27 Acolyte Training following the 10:30 service

Recurring Weekly

Tuesdays Centering Prayer, 6 pm via Zoom

Wednesdays Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm

Thursdays Conversations & Compline, 6 pm via Zoom

Fridays in Lent Centering Prayer, 11:30 am, Prayer Room

Sundays EfM, 5 pm via Zoom

This Week at St. John's. Are you receiving the weekly e-newsletter from St. John's? It has all the latest news and updates about worship services, opportunities to participate in ministries, events, schedules (and schedule changes!) as well as caring for our fellow parishioners. If you're not already on the list, please call or email the church office and Nick will get you signed up to receive it directly to your email inbox.

Return Service Requested

