



JOURNAL

September 2022

A message from the Rector

Radical but Simple

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you to everyone who made Rally Day happen, and to all who came out to enjoy the festivities, added spirit to the day, and brought bounty for the table. We had a feast in so many ways!

Our guest speaker, Stacy Larsen, Executive Director of The River, spoke about "Radical Hospitality." The River serves women and children in need through a variety of services and the practice of radical hospitality. Radical hospitality is the heart and soul of The River's ministry.

Anyone can practice radical hospitality, Stacy said, and you don't have to be Mother Teresa! She gave us five easy steps:

1. **NOTICE:** Be aware of your surroundings – both the physical space and the people in it, and be present in the moment. Respond to what you see.
2. **BE WARM:** Show others you are glad they are here with a friendly voice, smile, and open body language that may include eye contact, uncrossed arms, leaning in, and a smile.
3. **INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND BE FRIENDLY:** Look for common ground – even if it's just the weather. Learn names and use them often.
4. **BE AN ACTIVE LISTENER:** Really listen, repeat back, ask clarifying questions, and affirm what you are hearing. "That sounds really hard. You must be exhausted." Nod, use eye-contact, sigh or 'hmmmm' in agreement. And most of all, don't be thinking about what you will say next, or that you have to fix it by giving advice, or share what happened to you. **Simply be in the moment and keep it real.**
5. **FIND COMMON GROUND:** If you can't seem to find anything, simply remember that each and every one of us is a child of God. **ALL** of us.

Stacy challenged us to practice Radical Hospitality: *As you move through your day, see similarities between yourself and others. When you see a stranger, take 20 seconds to really look at him or her and find common ground. Maybe something like 'He walks like me; I bet he has bad knees, too.' Or 'They are very sweet to their kids; they must love them like I love my kids.' Or 'She looks tired. I wonder if she has a hard time getting to sleep like me.' Notice what this practice feels like – probably heart-opening, calming, a releasing of defensiveness and righteousness, and a widening of your perspective.*

Radical hospitality is utterly simple. We pay attention to our common humanity. We connect on the common ground of our common humanity. We begin to see that nothing human and no human being is alien to us. Everyone needs welcome, to belong to a community, and to be called by name. And everyone needs to give of themselves and to give love in return.

Radical but simple. That is who God is too.

Sometimes God seems hard to understand. But God is not hard to understand because God is complicated, rather because God is utterly simple but radical.

God is love. God is love in action. God is love in the flesh. God's love is personal; He calls you by name. God calls my neighbor by name. What makes God mysterious are the depths – and the height – and the breadth – of God's love. The particularity of God's love along with the healing reach and power of God's love.

In Jesus, God made common ground with us, that we might make common ground with each other. Anyone can do it.

Thanks be to God.

Faithfully,

Rev. Laura

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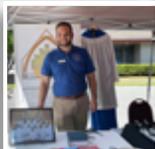
An Episcopal Church in the Heart of Johnson City

A message from the Senior Warden

I hope you all had a chance to participate in Rally Day which sort of sets the tone for the new church year. We've had a wonderful summer, and our agenda is exciting for the coming year. Not only do we look at new programs but we renew ourselves to the mission of St John's. Stewardship is on the horizon, a time to examine our commitment to the church and our role in it.

Peace be with you all as we celebrate our glorious time together.

Tom



Rally Day 2022

It was a perfect day for a picnic, playing, learning, and reconnecting with friends, after years of not having a Rally Day. The energy! The food! The water balloons! The sunshine! (The shade!!!) Thank you, Jackie Mabrey, for serving as the lead organizer, and to the many who had specific responsibilities. Yet the sense of camaraderie with everybody pitching in to help was the icing on the cake of a perfect day. Thank you ALL. (Let's do this again next year!)

Rally Day Photo credits: Group Photo by Ellen Wallen. Others by Nick Andrews

Outreach - Building Community



Women of St. John's ~ Let's do this!

Holston Habitat for Humanity is hosting an **All Women Build** in our neighborhood. It's just up the street from the church, at 219 E. Myrtle Avenue. Habitat has reserved Friday, October 14 for the women of St. John's.

No experience is necessary. Construction professionals will be on site to teach and guide us. Any woman who wants to learn how to build a home is invited to participate. Feel free to invite a friend.

This will be a new home for 'Keena' and her son. Whether you are learning new skills or simply adding a few to your tool belt, please save the date and sign up to participate. It is sure to be a rewarding experience for all involved, and it will improve the community that we share.

A minimum of fifteen women volunteers from St. John's are needed on October 14. And what a difference we can make in that one day! Let's help welcome Keena and her son to their new neighborhood.

For more information, contact Sam Pettyjohn, our Outreach Coordinator. (samuel.pettyjohn@gmail.com)

Outreach



Family Promise ~ Save the Date: Week of November 7-13, 2022

If you're not familiar with Family Promise, here are some key facts. It's a national organization with a uniquely practical, effective, and compassionate approach to helping homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. Family Promise provides an opportunity for these families to remain together while addressing the challenges that confront them in obtaining housing. Families receive case management specific to their needs and in-depth support as they work to move ahead.

Family Promise is also unique in that it accomplishes all this through collaboration with faith congregations and community agencies. Our local affiliate, Family Promise of Greater Johnson City (FPJC), primarily serves families in Washington, Carter, Unicoi, Greene, Johnson and the eastern end of Sullivan counties in Northeast Tennessee. St. John's is one of 17 churches in this area providing support and assistance.

Our next week of service is November 7-13. If you'd like to help or simply want to learn more about this ministry, please contact David Kalwinsky (Kalwinds@etsu.edu) or Mary Alice Fryar (maryalice.fryar@yahoo.com). Additional resource: <https://familypromisejc.com>

Thank you for your support of this life-changing ministry!



Hotel Amenities Ministry ~ New Drop-off Schedule

The schedule for drop-off of donations is changing. The new plan is to have three drop-off donation days per year: the first Saturdays of November, March, and August.

We will continue to collect hotel amenities, personal hygiene/care products, clothing, snacks, equipment, etc. and deliver the items to local charities including the Downtown Day Center, Family Promise, One Acre Cafe, The River, Salvation Army, and Haven of Mercy. (We'll distribute whatever you'd like to donate with the exception of furniture and home furnishings.) Additionally, we'll announce a special emphasis each time ... more about that later.

This new plan is still a "work in progress" for our ministry of helping our less fortunate neighbors while providing you the convenience of a single collection site for distribution of goods to local organizations that serve specific needs. Additional and/or alternative arrangements may be developed in the future as needs arise; we'll keep you posted. In the meantime, plan to drop in and drop off goods on the first Saturdays of the months noted above.

Our next drop-off will be on Saturday, November 5 from Noon - 1:15 pm. As always, we value your input, your feedback, and your generous support. Anne Koehler (423-434-2667, agkoehler@charter.net)

Welcome Ryan Clinton, Interyear Intern

Ryan will be serving as a Young Adult Intern for Parish Ministry, primarily working in our youth and young adult ministries during the internship year. He is a native of Gastonia, NC and will graduate from ETSU in December. Ryan is also an aspirant in the diocesan discernment process.



The River: Radical Hospitality

The last Sunday in August we had the pleasure of hearing Stacy Larsen speak about The River women's ministry and a foundational tenet: Radical Hospitality. (See Rev. Laura's message on Page 1.) We thank Stacy for sharing the day with us and for her energizing and inspirational message that we can all take to heart and out into the world.

About The River: It is located in downtown Johnson City and helps women meet basic needs on a daily basis. Core services include providing a safe place for women and children, laundry services, showers, personal hygiene assistance, phone service, and community resource referrals. Additional support services are varied, such as meeting material needs (e.g., diaper subsidies, cold weather hats & gloves) as well as providing space and supplies to write a letter or pursue creative activities such as sewing or other crafts. Devotions are scheduled every day, and spontaneous prayers throughout the day are not unusual.

If you would like to learn more, visit <https://www.theriverministryforwomen.com> or better yet, give Stacy a call (423-926-8111) to see it for yourself. Donations of time, talent, and resources are essential to the success of this amazing ministry and the women it serves.

Caring Cabinet ~ Neighbors helping neighbors

Helping is so easy yet helps so many. Please contact Jennifer Kinser for more info. (612-388-0218, jjkinser@comcast.net)



Sept

2 Suzanne Donaldson	12 Innocent Irutingabo	20 Riley Armstrong	25 Judie Camak
3 Anne Brading	14 Sara Allen	20 Ray Flanary	25 David Lucas
4 Sophie Grosserode	17 Robbin Brent	21 Lila Apgar	25 Babs Manning
5 Andrew Eads	17 Beth Johnson	22 JoAnne Paty	27 Theresa Bryant
5 Coralie Morgan	17 Hugh Webb	22 Wyatt Phillips	28 Fred Cleveland
5 Barbara Taylor	19 Will Phillips	23 Lishika Lange	28 Susan Parks
11 Shelley Stahlman	20 Nick Andrews	25 Emily Bidgood	30 Ebele Ume-Nwagbo

A Favorite Prayer

I love this prayer because as a mentor for EfM, I see how we all learn and teach together, and that the process of asking questions is holy in itself. This applies to so many of our journeys in faith and is brought to life in groups of all ages. It also seems particularly relevant as we begin a new school year. ~ Lee Phillips

Almighty God, fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Our Sunday School Rocks!

Classes are underway already, yet there's always room for more. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the leaders listed at right.



Elementary (Grades K-6): Rae Grosserode (423-943-0249, rae.grosserode@gmail.com)

Youth (Grades 7-12): Rucht Lilavivat (armana1404@hotmail.com)

Eastern Kentucky Flood Relief



We continue to pray for all those suffering and struggling through this traumatic and destructive event, and for those who have died. **Donations** can be made through the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington, KY online: <https://onrealm.org/diolex/-/form/give/now>

Supplies and Volunteers – Look for more information soon about relief supplies and scheduling a group from St. John's to assist with clean-up and other needs.

Return of the Common Cup

In September, after more than two years of restrictions and protocols, we will again offer the Common Cup. Worshipers can choose to receive the bread and drink from the chalice in the traditional way without the use of tweezers or eyedroppers. We resume this ancient practice afresh with much forethought, prudence, and care. For those who are not comfortable drinking from the common cup at this time, receiving communion with Covid protocols intact will still be available at one of the communion stations.



YTD Financial Report - Operating Budget

	July 2021 YTD Actual	July 2022 YTD Actual	July 2022 YTD Budget	Variance YTD Actual 2022 vs 2021	Variance YTD Actual vs YTD Budget
Plate Offerings	\$ 1,144	\$ 3,933	\$ 3,700	\$ 2,789	\$ 233
Pledge Payments	156,468	156,593	168,300	125	(11,707)
Prior Pledges	1,885	720	600	(1,165)	120
Contributions	33,125	18,066	17,600	(15,059)	466
Misc. Income	294	162	420	(132)	(258)
Prepaid Pledges	6,000	18,500	-	12,500	18,500
Total Income	198,916	197,974	190,620	(942)	7,354
Total Expense	184,550	192,299	198,466	7,749	(6,166)
Net Income	\$ 14,365	\$ 5,674	\$ (7,846)	\$ (8,691)	\$ 13,520

We continue to sustain a favorable position year-to-date, as July figures show a net operating income of \$13,520.

The Vestry and Finance Committee are working hard to be stewards of your gifts. Thank you for your steadfast support of the mission and ministry of St. John's.

Report from the Field

by Nick Andrews, Organist/Choirmaster and Administrative Assistant

Editor's note: It took a good number of folks to fill in for Nick while he was out of the office for a couple of weeks, but as you will read below, it was surely time and effort well-spent!

This summer I had a wonderful opportunity to attend two continuing education conferences. I am grateful that St. John's afforded me the time and means to learn and grow in order to better serve you as Director of Music. There is always an incredible amount of inspiration gained from attending conferences as a musician looks ahead to planning worship and programming concerts for the upcoming year.

First up, in June I attended the Association of Anglican Musicians (AAM) conference in Richmond, Virginia. It was the first time this association gathered in person since 2019. The Richmond conference was originally planned for the summer of 2020, and as for so many other activities and events in all of our lives, the conference was postponed due to Covid. The original theme of "Shall we gather at the river," (particularly symbolic since the James River flows through Richmond) was revived for our 2022 conference as "Shall we RE-gather at the river!"

The Opening Eucharist on Monday morning at St. Paul's Church was especially emotional for me, seeing the faces of colleagues and friends all over the Nave that I had not seen in over three years. Two highlights of the week were attending a Matins/Morning Prayer service at Christ-St. Luke's Episcopal in Norfolk and hearing the new Dobson pipe organ at Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg that was installed in 2019. If you are curious about what some of the week looked like and sounded like, several of the worship services are archived under the Association of Anglican Musicians YouTube® channel.

Next up was the National Conference for the American Guild of Organists in Seattle, Washington. It was my first national conference! Our days were filled from 8 am until 10 pm with workshops, worship services, recitals ... and more recitals!



One of the most interesting and beautiful worship services of the week was held at St. Mark's Cathedral in which they replicated their Advent Lessons and Carols "O" Antiphon service for us (since all of us musicians are busy at our respective churches during that time of year.) It was truly "Christmas in July," as the Advent wreath made a reappearance, along with the blue vestments/paraments and the processions of seven banners with symbols representing each of the "O" Antiphons.



Several recitals featuring the "Rising Stars" (Association members under age 30) completely blew me away! It is comforting to know that the future of organ and church music is still very bright. Thank you again for your support of my professional development and of music programs at St. John's.



Speaking of music, the Choir will resume singing on Sunday mornings, beginning Sept 11.

By the way, have you ever considered singing in the Choir? Or playing those lovely handbells? To learn more about it, contact Nick Andrews. (office@stjohnstn.org or 423-926-8141) The Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings. Handbell choir rehearsals are Sunday mornings after the 10:30 service.

"Blessing of the Backpacks & School Supplies" August 7

Students of all ages at St. John's brought their backpacks to be blessed for the new school year. The youngest were especially awestruck and excited to receive this special gift of blessings.

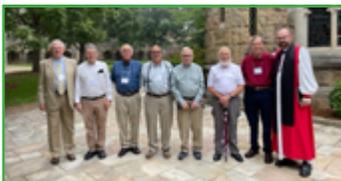


Thank you to all who helped with our school supplies drive. Your contributions are already being put to good use by children who would otherwise not be equipped to go to school or excited about the start of a new year of learning. This love goes a long way.

Paramount
Chamber
Players

September 9
7:30 pm

www.paramountchamberplayers.com



2022 Episcopal Laymen's Conference

Seven men from St. John's attended the Conference in Sewanee August 19-21. Pictured (L-R): Bill Archer, Alan Fryar (son of Bill & Mary Alice Fryar), Tom McGinnis, David Kalwinsky, Bill Fryar, Reneau Dubberley, Jon Lau, and Bishop Brian Cole. (Not pictured, Hugh Webb)

We pray for those on our Parish Prayer List, for those devastated by the floods in Eastern Kentucky, for our leaders, our city, our nation, and for the people of Ukraine.



Worship Service Schedule

Sundays..... 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:15 am Sunday School (Children & Youth)
 9:15 am Adult Faith Forum
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
 (Nave & Facebook Live)
 Tuesdays 5:30 pm Evening Prayer/Healing Service
 Thursdays 10:00 am Morning Prayer
 ❖ Nursery is available on Sundays, 8-11:30 am

Meetings & Special Events

Friday Sept 9 Paramount Chamber Players, 7:30 pm
 Saturday Sept 10 Liturgical Ministers Training, 10 am - Noon
 Sunday Sept 11 Pancake Breakfast, 8:45 - 10:15 am
 Tuesday Sept 13 Men's Group Dinner, 6 pm @ Cafe Lola
 Tuesday Sept 20 Vestry meeting, 7 pm

Programs Recurring Weekly

Tuesdays Centering Prayer, 6 pm, *In-person & via Zoom*
 (For Zoom link, contact Frances Jackson (423-946-3345))
 Wednesdays Choir Rehearsal, 7-8:30 pm
 Sundays Centering Prayer, 9:55 am, *In-person*
 Sundays Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 11:45 am
 Sundays EfM, 5-7:30 pm *via Zoom*



It's back! The Men's Famous Pancake Breakfast ~ September 11

The Men of St. John's have hosted over 60 breakfast events since 2007. September 11 will be their first since 2019. All are welcome! If you would like to help in the kitchen, please call Jon Lau in the church office. (423-926-8141)

Would you like your own "copy" of the weekly e-newsletter?

Sharing is a wonderful thing! But when it comes to email, sometimes it's better for everybody to have their own. If you would like the church to send *This Week @ St. John's* to additional email addresses in your household, just call or email Nick and he'll set it up for you. (423-926-8141, office@stjohnstn.org) No paper is wasted and it doesn't cost anything extra.

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