



JOURNAL

November 2022

Staff

The Rev. Laura A. Bryant
Rector
revlbryant@stjohnstn.org

The Rev. Cathy L. Johnston
Deacon
cjmtbnike@charter.net

Jon Lau
Parish Administrator
jlau2jctn@aol.com

Nick Andrews
Admin. Assistant / Dir. of Music
office@stjohnstn.org

Rae Grosserode
Dir. of Children's Education
tngrosserode@comcast.net

Ryan Clinton, Interyear Intern
ryanclinton4747@gmail.com

Crystal Brandon, Sexton

Church Office: 423-926-8141
office@stjohnstn.org

Vestry

Tom McGinnis, Sr. Warden

Bill Archer, Jr. Warden

Emily Bidgood

Brandon Guffey

Ed Jordan

Anne Koehler

Rucht Lilavivat

Rita Plemmons

Hugh Webb

Reflections on Stewardship and our Life in Community

Since Rev. Laura is out of town for the Diocesan Clergy Conference as this Journal "goes to press," she asked me if I would put my recent Stewardship talk in the Journal. (Who am I to say no to Rev. Laura?) Thank you in advance for reading my "Reflections..." ~ Katy Pindzola

So now I'd like to you to try something that you may find fun, and hopefully, meaningful as well. Put your hands together as you may have learned as a child, for a nursery rhyme: "Here is the church. Here is the steeple. Open the doors and see all the people!"

So it is with St. John's.

Yes, we're a church, but we're not just the building. It's not **what** we are; rather, **who** we are. St. John's is the people who make up this church. **We** are a community of faith.

The Vestry has named four areas of focus: Outreach, Pastoral Care & Relationships, Hospitality, and Spiritual Nurture. I see these as *faith in action*.

We pursue these with intention as Jesus taught us ... living into the life that God wants for each of us, and for all people. For me, faith, hope, and love have become touchpoints on a daily basis.

FAITH – By encouraging prayer, study, fellowship, and dialog, including with others whose opinions may not align with mine, St. John's helps me discern my own beliefs and my faith grows stronger.

This church gives me **HOPE** for a better future. To simply *feel* the presence of God reminds me that *all is not lost*. I honestly believe that together, as the Body of Christ, we can be a healing presence in this restless world.

It is up to us – to me – to share God's **LOVE** that we have been given so freely. St. John's is caring, sharing, a source for recharging, and a tangible way for us to serve each other and others beyond these walls. **This church** teaches me how to love more fully.

So, what does this have to do with Stewardship? Time, Talent, and Treasure.

It comes back to our identity as a church community. I'm thinking of a patchwork quilt. In the olden days, quilts were made from remnants or scraps of fabric from worn out blankets and tattered garments that were repurposed and sewn together to become the "patchwork" quilt.

If St. John's were a patchwork quilt, you might be a square, or a circle, and so on. We, too, are repurposed. We don't match, and we're all imperfect. But together, you know the result is both beautiful and effective.

As the top layer of patches, we are the collective face of our church. Our Time and Talent are layers of the quilt, like the batting and backing. Clearly, these are all essential elements, but not enough to hold the quilt together. There's other work that needs to be done, and that's the topstitching that holds it all together. That's where Treasure comes in. It's just a fact of life that funds are necessary to keep the church running – a place for us to gather, to know each other, and to go beyond to serve.

I'm thankful for this church community and for all the ways that you contribute your Time, Talent, and Treasure. I'd like to encourage you to prayerfully consider your stewardship, and do what you can.

Please know that however you participate, you are an essential part of this quilt. **You are essential to the life of this church.**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.



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

WWW.STJOHNSTN.ORG

An Episcopal Church in the Heart of Johnson City

A message from the Senior Warden

October and November are such important months for St John's. We are conducting our stewardship campaign, electing new vestry members and anticipating the annual parish meeting on November 13.

I urge everyone to return their pledge cards asap as the finance committee is in the process of constructing the budget for 2023. I hope you all will closely examine the vestry candidates. We have an excellent slate standing for election this year.

Everyone's participation is so very important in all we do at St John's.

Peace.

Tom

Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Election

Please plan on attending the **Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday Nov 13**, and note that this day will have a modified worship service schedule:

9 am Continental breakfast

10 am Holy Eucharist, to be followed immediately by the Annual Meeting

Vestry Elections: In accordance with our bylaws, three outgoing Vestry members (Emily Bidgood, Brandon Guffey, and Ed Jordan) plus one continuing Vestry member (Rita Plemmons this year) serve as the Vestry Election Committee.

The slate of Vestry candidates will be finalized the last week in October and will be mailed to each household. Voting begins the week of our Annual Parish Meeting and lasts for two weeks.

St. John's Vision and Goals 2023

Outreach

We will expand our Outreach ministries and our service to our neighbors. In particular, we will address the crisis of affordable housing for homeless families and children, and the working poor. The needs are great. We will increase our outreach budget and grow a designated outreach fund to initiate substantial projects.

Pastoral Care and Relationships

We will expand our pastoral care ministries. We will grow in our relationships and care for one another through training of pastoral caregivers, increased fellowship opportunities for old and young, and learning in small groups.

Hospitality

We will welcome people from diverse backgrounds and all walks of life so that St. John's may be a home for all God's children. We will expand our ministries to newcomers and all who are seeking a spiritual home.

Spiritual Nurture

We are fed and strengthened in our worship and music ministries and will celebrate the installation of our new pipe organ.

Children's Education: Our elementary age children are learning about stewardship this month. They have their own pledge cards to help them think about ways to give back to our church family. Check out their bulletin board in the hallway on the way to the Great Hall – It's always an inspiration!



Faith Formation

Adult Faith Forum (“AFF”) meets on Sundays in the Great Hall at 9:15 am, during the same time that children and youth are in Sunday School. Programs are quite varied and usually involve a lot of interesting group discussion.

- ❖ The first two weeks of November will be a bit different, though, since Nov 6 is a Pancake Breakfast, and Nov 13 will be our Annual Parish Meeting. Regular forums will resume the following week.
- ❖ Nov 20: Music and Worship. Facilitator - Lee Bidgood
- ❖ Nov 27-Dec 18: *Practicing Simplicity*, a four-week Advent series (Living Compass). Facilitator - Fred Mackara

Outreach

Saturday November 5: Donation Drop-Off, noon - 1:15 pm



including Caring Cabinet and Streetside Food Pantry

As you gather items for the Donation Drop-off, please consider bringing supplies for our Caring Cabinet (personal hygiene items) and new Streetside Food Pantry as well. Please note that since the Food Pantry is a new ministry, we will be adjusting our requests as we see the response to our offerings. It is meant to serve our neighbors who are food insecure and/or homeless. When possible, cans that can be opened without a can opener are preferred. All items should be shelf-stable without refrigeration. In addition to the cabinet supplies, other donations such as clothes, blankets, and household supplies will be distributed to the Downtown Day Center, The River, Haven of Mercy, Family Promise, and One Acre Cafe. All will be put to good use, and our combined efforts help so many in need. Individuals willing to help stock the Pantry are asked to sign-up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Help is currently needed for the month of November & December. Please contact Jennifer Kinser to learn more. (612-388-0218 or jjkinser@comcast.net)



November 7-13: Week of Service with Family Promise

Our next week of service is November 7-13. Family Promise supports families with children who are now homeless. It supports them with temporary housing and case management to facilitate them back to housing independence. Currently our local Family Promise is serving five families (11 children). All of these families have working parents who are at the Downtown Day Center intermittently for case management. Current needs include gas cards to help with family transportation, after-school snacks for children at the day-center, laundry detergent, and at least one crockpot. There is a box in the narthex for donations to this ministry. Monetary gifts for gas cards can be sent to the church office or placed in the Sunday offering plate labeled FP gas cards. Thank you for your support of this lifechanging ministry. Dave Kalwinsky, FP liaison. (423-202-8102 or kalwinds@etsu.edu)

St. John's Discretionary Fund

Under Canons outlined by The Episcopal Church, discretionary funds are to be used for the poor and for “other charitable and pious purposes.” The Rector's Discretionary Fund is underwritten by earmarked donations and our plate offerings each week. Additionally, collaboration with agencies and hands-on activities by various parish groups and members provide much-needed goods and services. Following is a summary how your financial contributions were used to provide assistance in the third quarter. Thank you for your support of our outreach ministries!

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| Donation Receipts | \$ 2,013.95 | Total number of families assisted: 107 |
| Total dollars of assistance | (6,758.82) | Food assistance: 36 families, \$ 913.31 |
| Net change in fund balance | (\$ 4,744.87) | Gasoline assistance: 22 families, \$ 685.00 |
| | | Housing assistance: 10 families, \$ 3,721.12 |
| | | Assistance through organizations: 33 families, \$ 475.00 |
| | | Utilities assistance: 6 families, \$ 964.39 |



Happy Birthdays!!!

November

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Shirley Cloyd | 5 Katherine Hall | 14 Sam Benson | 19 Rae Grosserode |
| 1 McKenna Cox | 5 Charlotte Ward | 16 Bill Collison | 20 Sam Pettyjohn |
| 4 Weston Cleveland | 7 Grant Buerkle | 16 Whitney Johnson | 24 Rex Gregg |
| 4 Steb Hipple | 12 Sean Driscoll | 16 Lisa LaFosse | 25 Mike Talley |
| 4 Jerry Lonon | 12 Mina McVeigh | 16 Kate Sprague | 30 Charles Cole |
| 4 Kate Wagner | 13 Ivy Buerkle | 19 Emma Grosserode | 30 John Walker |
| | 13 Elijah Irutingabo | | |

December

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 7 Bill Fryar | 17 Brian Dunkelberger | 22 Sherri Harrington | 28 Allison Benson |
| 11 Jeff Lucas | 17 Tom McGinnis | 22 Margaret Howington | 30 Nancy Nichols |
| 13 Emily Baker | 17 Phyllis Ray | 24 Bert Bach | 31 Crawwford Lilavivat |
| 14 Bill Archer | 21 Rhett Byrne | 25 Van Huyck | 31 Madaline Morrissey |
| 15 Charles Byrne | 22 Elizabeth Cloyd | 26 Beth Talley | 31 Peter Pawlowicz |



When you look at the Journal online you can see these and other photos as big as you want! And in color! Go to stjohnstn.org/publications/ and pick any month you want to view.



Photos courtesy Ellen Wallen

Men's Fellowship Group News... plus, Pancakes are back!

In honor of All Saints Sunday and celebrating Holy Baptism, the Men's Fellowship Group will be hosting a pancake breakfast again, between services on **Sunday November 6 starting at 8:45 am**. If you'd like to help, show up early (or call Jon Lau at 423-943-3076.)



Other news: The men's group will meet for dinner on Tuesday Nov 8 at Portabello Bistro, Monday Dec 12 at Sahib, and Tuesday Jan 10 at Café One Eleven. For more information, contact David Kalwinsky at 423-202-8102.

A Favorite Prayer

Whenever I read this collect, I try to imagine a world where everybody – men and women, adults and children, people of all races and nationalities – are always fulfilling God’s purpose. If this were to happen, what a wonderful, joyful and glorious world we would be living in. I am praying for a time when all of God’s children will always fulfill God’s purpose. ~ Pearl N. Ume-Nwagbo

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day:
Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity;
and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 137

Please consider sending in a favorite prayer from the Book of Common Prayer for sharing, and tell a little bit about why it has special meaning to you. Thanks in advance for your participation! (Send to Journal@stjohnstn.org) ❖

Holston Habitat for Humanity - St. John’s Women’s Build



October 14 was an amazing day. We framed the all the interior walls of what will be a lovely new home for Keena and her son right up the street from the church.

We learned new skills thanks to a team of experienced Habitat volunteers guiding us every step of the way. We enjoyed getting to know each other better while working side-by-side. Thank you to Robin Boyd and Sam Pettyjohn for providing a bountiful lunch for a hungry crew. And a big thanks to William

Kinser for helping all “the guys” with their work as well!

Pictured in no particular order: Suzanne Donaldson, Rev. Laura Bryant, Mitzi Cooper, Cathy Johnston, Lydia Sweatt, Kate Wagner, Lissa Jackson, Marty Woodward, Jennifer Kinser, Emily Baker, Theresa Bryant, Katy Pindzola, Kathy Jordan, Andrea Eads, plus Renee Messimer (our on-site Habitat liaison).

Photos courtesy of Rev. Laura



There are still opportunities to help on this new house through early December, so calling all men and women: Please call Habitat directly (423-239-7689) if you’d like to help finish the job!

Somewhere between the ages of 21 and 40-ish? A new fellowship group is getting underway, and you’re invited! Contact: Ryan Clinton at ryanclinton4747@gmail.com or 704-689-9541.

YTD Financial Report - Operating Budget

| | Sept 2021 YTD Actual | Sept 2022 YTD Actual | Variance YTD Actual 2022 vs 2021 | Sept 2022 YTD Budget | Variance YTD Actual vs YTD Budget |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|--|
| Plate Offerings | \$ 1,790 | \$ 5,743 | \$ 3,953 | \$ 4,600 | \$ 1,143 |
| Pledge Payments | 206,035 | 197,752 | (8,282) | 211,200 | (13,448) |
| Prior Pledges | 1,885 | 720 | (1,165) | 600 | 120 |
| Contributions | 37,945 | 22,341 | (15,604) | 21,400 | 941 |
| Misc. Income | 316 | 968 | 652 | 540 | 428 |
| Prepaid Pledges | 23,098 | 18,500 | (4,598) | 9,000 | 9,500 |
| Total Income | 271,068 | 246,024 | (25,044) | 247,340 | (1,316) |
| Total Expense | 245,200 | 246,818 | 1,618 | 266,807 | (19,989) |
| Net Income | \$ 25,868 | \$ (794) | \$ (26,663) | \$ (19,467) | \$ 18,673 |

Year-to-date actual income is less than budgeted which may be due to a fairly typical lag in pledge payments during the summer months. While spending under budget continues to keep our balance sheet strong, it is important for us to catch up on our obligations during this last quarter of the year.

Thank you for your support of our mission and ministries at St. John’s.



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)

- ❖ Nov 6: All Saints Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 am
 Holy Baptism, 10:30 am
- ❖ Nov 13: Single Service: 10:00 am
 followed by the Annual Meeting

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

Saturday Nov 5Donation Drop-Off, noon-1:15 pm
 Sunday Nov 6.....Pancake Breakfast, 8:45 am in the Great Hall
 Nov 7 - 13Week of Service with Family Promise
 Tuesday Nov 8.....Men's Fellowship, 6 pm @ Portabello Bistro
 Sunday Nov 13 Continental Breakfast, 9 am
 Annual Parish Meeting following 10:00 am service
 Tuesday Nov 15.... Vestry meeting, 7 pm

Programs Recurring Weekly

TuesdaysCentering Prayer, 6 pm, *In-person & via Zoom*
(Frances Jackson, 423-946-3345)

WednesdaysChoir Rehearsal, 7- 8:30 pm

SundaysCentering Prayer, 9:55 am, *In-person*

SundaysHandbell Choir Rehearsal, 11:45 am

SundaysEfM, 5-7:30 pm *via Zoom*



October 23 was our second Newcomers Luncheon of the year. It's starting to be a trend, and a good one at that! So great to spend time on a beautiful autumn day getting to know our newcomers and reconnecting with longtime friends. Thank you, Phil Ulmer, for hosting the gathering. *(Photo courtesy of Nick Andrews; we'll have more in next month's Journal.)*

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