

# JOURNAL

December 2019 / January 2020

### Staff

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The Episcopal Diocese of East TN https://www.dioet.org/

# Worship Schedule Sundays

8:00 am Holy Eucharist I 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II

1st week of the month: Tuesday

5:30 pm Evening Prayer **Thursday** 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Remaining week day services: Tuesdays

5:30 pm Healing service w/Eucharist

Thursdays

10:00 am Eucharist Rite I

# EXTRA! Historic Mortgage Debt Elimination! EXTRA

Tuesday, November 5, 2019 was a historic day for St. John's Episcopal Church. Vestry Senior Warden John Nagy, Associate Treasurer David Kalwinsky and Parish Administrator Jon Lau signed a check for \$508,523.47 to pay off the mortgage on the Nave. The payoff date was just five days short of the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original dedication of the Nave on Saturday, November 10, 2001. Announcement of the debt retirement was made during the Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> and the news was received with thunderous applause.



To celebrate this historic event in the life of our church, a Eucharistic Burning of the Mortgage Liturgy (Bishop Brian Cole, Celebrant) is to be held December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. A reception is to follow and all are invited.

# **Christmas Services**



*Christmas Eve* Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:00 pm Family Service

Nursery provided

10:30 pm Pre-service music

11:00 pm Christmas Eve Eucharist

Nursery not provided

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Chapel

Nave

Nave

# **Epiphany Pageant**

We will present our annual Epiphany pageant on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 service. ALL children and youth are welcome to participate! No experience is necessary, and there are no speaking parts. We will practice during the Sunday school hour that morning. Please make plans to join us in this parish favorite!

Have a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas!

Rae Grosserode,

Children's Faith Formation Director

# Greetings from SuzeAnne

As we approach the season of Advent, I write this with a joy-filled heart. Yes it may sound a bit premature since Advent is a time of waiting and reflecting on the yet-to-occur birth of Jesus the Messiah, come to lead us and to die for us so we might have eternal life. (All of this yet to unfold during our liturgical calendar year.) Yet today, even as I prepare for the quietness of Advent, I am filled with much happiness and great joy for St. John's congregation.

On Sunday, November 10, Senior Warden John Nagy announced at the annual meeting that the mortgage debt of \$508,523.47 has been eliminated. It was a historic and incredibly powerful moment – especially since by all accounts debt retirement was still several years away.

So how has this happened much sooner than anticipated? God's timing is always right and good and so many of you were led to give generously and even sacrificially. And collectively you have given St. John's the gift of freedom. Freedom to be fully who you were called to be in the community more than 100 years ago.

This could not have happened without the wise and careful stewardship of all the congregation's resources. Time, talent and treasure has been steadily given for many decades and St. John's has grown from strength to strength through both good times and those that were more challenging. You have been faithful and you have stayed the course.

My thanks to all of you for your witness to what is good and right and true. And may God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve and keep you as St. John's continues to serve our risen Lord. Amen.

In Christ, SuzeAnne+



# 🗫 Junior Warden's Report

As the year draws to a close, the youth room is taking on its new look. The painting is completed, and the furniture and assorted materials have been returned. The windows are being replaced. It will probably be until the new year before all the updating and decoration will be complete. Stop by and take a look at this nice space for our young folks.

The undercroft has again been emptied of surplus material. Lets all try to keep it as neat as possible. If your ministry needs storage space it is certainly available. Please ask the Junior Warden to assign you a location. Additional shelving can be acquired if needed. If you take something out, put it back in the same place.

We are working on improving the lighting in the nave for the choir. Be on the lookout for a change.

The new mixing board for sound in the nave has been installed. Bear with us as we learn how to make it work so everyone can hear. You may see an usher or other volunteer in the back holding an iPad. This is our control panel. The controls are wireless so the sound levels can be adjusted in real time. Many thanks to Ambrosound for the time and patience it took to install the mixer and teach us how to use it. Thanks also to the St. John's angels who donated most of the cost for the equipment.

The stairs have been sanded, stained, and polyurethane coated. Please thank Ted Tyrcha for sanding and Reneau Dubberley for staining and polyurethane coating. They did a beautiful job.

We are working on a solution to water sheeting down the walls in the bell tower. This phenomenon happens when there is rain with a strong wind. There has been flooding in the room underneath the bell tower. Much of the water has come from above with some from ground water intrusion. Repairs in that area have begun.

Our S. B. White technician recently discovered a potentially serious problem when he was fixing a slow leak in the boiler room. He called immediately to say an old 4" pipe had a crack and could rupture. If that happened the boiler room would flood with resulting serious damage to the boilers. This pipe is being replaced. It is probable that more of the older PVC pipe in the building has become brittle with age and will need replacing.

Other challenges remain. The more important ones include: a new roof for the old building; repair of interior leak damage; rotten wood repair on the exterior of the old building; window repair/replacement on the old building; and exterior and interior painting. Additionally, a new HVAC for the Great Hall would make it much more comfortable.

I have enjoyed the challenge of caring for this lovely building, both old and new spaces. I have learned a lot from former Junior Wardens and from the superb tradesmen and women who have worked here. Your support, encouragement, and kind words have kept me going. Thank you. Mary Alice Fryar



# Greetings from Senior Warden, John Nagy

This is my final article to you as Senior Warden. I want to thank you all for the incredible support you have shown to me — I simply could not have gotten through it all without your prayers and encouragement, especially during some of the difficult times. I want to especially thank other members of the vestry who over these years have so faithfully and responsibly represented our parish. I would encourage any of you to occasionally attend a vestry meeting just to see things working. This vestry will make you proud, and will soon welcome three new members.

I also want to say a special thank you to the church staff. These folks do so much, with such heart, skill and dedication, it is humbling to observe. As a Senior Warden who is also a business executive, I had far less time to dedicate to church matters than I would have preferred. But thanks to the church staff, they handled so many things I needed with only the briefest of direction, and did such great work that I am truly indebted to them all. I have a special appreciation for our Youth Leader, my daughter Emily. Coming out of the whirlwind of graduating college and starting a professional career, she jumped into our youth program with such enthusiasm it just makes me smile. St. John's has been her church since birth, and it is simply awesome that she, now as an adult, is so engaged in giving back. I also want to say just how much I appreciate Canon Silla. She has been the steady and wise hand, always full of energy (more than me!) and just so good at navigating this critical role of Interim Rector. As a parish I believe we are now ready to call a new Rector, and I think so much of this goes to Canon Silla's credit as a leader. She is exactly what we need, and we praise God for lending her to us for a while. I will truly miss working closely with her.

In St. John's we have a place filled with God's love. Let's keep the focus there, and great things will continue to come our way.

May God bless and keep you all.

John Nagy

# Rector Search Committee Report

Advent is the beginning of the church year and is the season of preparation of our Lord's birth. Since the arrival of our interim rector, St. John's Church has been in a season of preparation as we ready ourselves to receive a new rector. We

have learned about ourselves through Holy Conversations and the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey. We are learning and practicing Shared Leadership in preparation for working with our new rector. We have been smart stewards of our finances, begun new outreach ministries, and made improvements to our building. The search committee is writing the story of St. John's to share with potential rector candidates, and now a new and exciting thread in the story has emerged. We have paid off our mortgage in full.

St. John's: Episcopal Church

Please continue to pray for the search process as the search committee and the vestry move forward in preparation for a new rector.

# Warm Blankets & Sleeping Bags needed!

St. John's will be collecting these items for distribution to 'The Melting Pot.' The Melting Pot is connected to Munsey United Methodist Church, where St. John's participates in outreach by preparing and serving meals to the homeless and needy.

Look for the collection box in the Narthex. Thank you!



### 2019 YTD Financials

Total Expense	\$256,490.61	\$280,825.44	\$288,106.29	\$24,334.83	-\$7,280.85
Total Income	\$262,337.07	\$302,511.30	\$287,233.30	\$40,174.23	\$15,278.00
Prepaid Pledges	3,960.00	7,000.00	4,800.00	3,040.00	2,200.00
Investment Adjustment		(10,957.90)	0.00	(10,957.90)	(10,957.90)
Misc. Income	960.33	942.19	833.30	(18.14)	108.89
Contributions	44,249.72	50,456.42	28,400.00	6,206.70	22,056.42
Prior Pledges	2,555.00	870.00	1,000.00	(1,685.00)	(130.00)
Pledge Payments	197,817.27	243,997.33	239,500.00	46,180.06	4,497.33
Plate Offerings	12,794.75	10,203.26	12,700.00	(2,591.49)	(2,496.74)
	Actual YTD	Actual YTD	Budget	2019 Vs 2018	Vs Budget
	Oct 2018	Oct 2019	Oct YTD	Variance YTD	Variance YTD

# Tour of downtown churches

In celebration of Johnson City's Sesquicentennial Celebration, there is a **tour of downtown churches scheduled for Sunday afternoon December 1<sup>st</sup>.** St. John's is participating and will be on the tour. Currently there are six churches participating. **The celebration at King Commons will start at 2:00** and will last for about 45 minutes and the tour will follow afterwards. Below are the suggested routes and suggested times. We anticipate the tour at each church to last around 20 to 30 minutes.

3:00 pm St. John's Episcopal Church

3:20 pm Central Baptist Church

3:40 pm Munsey United Methodist Church

4:00 pm Downtown Christian Church

4:20 pm First United Methodist Church

4:40 pm First Presbyterian Church

# Men's Group

St. John's Men's Group gets together each month for fellowship and good eats. On **December 14<sup>th</sup>**, at 6 pm we will meet at Bella Vita's, 2917 N Roan. In January the Men of St. John's will meet on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm at Aubrey's Restaurant, 3029 Hamilton Place. Plan to join us!

# Family Promise Schedule 2020

### **Intergenerational Sunday School**

Join the parish family for Intergenerational Sunday School in the Great Hall on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The faith formation teachers will offer a variety of activities for all ages. Come contribute to a display for the church and make an item or two to take home. The fun begins at 9:30 and continues until 10:15. See you there!

Rae Grosserode, Jude Morrissey, Emily Nagy

The Family Promise schedule for 2020 has just been released. St. John's again serves as a support church along with Northridge Community to help our friends at Central Baptist. We use the Central Baptist facility on Millard Street (entrance is first double doors closest to Roan) for hosting meals and chaperoning Family Promise clients. St. John's responsibilities include overnight hosts (8:00 pm - 7:00 am) Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday of our assigned week. We are also meal hosts (5:30 - 8:00 pm) and provide dinner meals on Thursday and Saturday of our assigned week. For 2020, **St. John's first assignment is January 7 (overnight hosts) and January 9 and 11 (meals, meal hosts, overnight hosts). Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex by mid-December.** Our subsequent assignments are September 22, 24 & 26, 2020 and December 29, 31 of 2020 and January 2, 2021. Contact Dave Kalwinsky (kalwinsd@etsu.edu) or Mary Alice Fryar (maryalice.fryar@yahoo.com) if you would like more information on how you could help.

### Adult Faith Formation Class

For the first, third, and fourth Sundays of Advent (December 1, 15, and 22), the Adult Faith Formation class will be discussing suffering and hope as the season invites us to reflect on the anguish of the world around us in the light of the good news of Christ's first and second comings. For the second Sunday of Advent, we will be joining in the intergenerational drop-in Advent craft event. The class will break for Christmas season.

### **Old Enough Bunch**

The Old Enough Bunch has December off. We hope to meet again in January. However, we really need some "new blood" in our group. The steering committee has worked together for over 5 years. And our size has gradually shrunk to five members. These five faithful gals meet to plan the monthly themes and food for our lunches. They prepare the food, set and decorate the tables, serve and clean up the lunches. Yes, it is a lot of work, but so much fun, too, as witnessed by the giggles that go on in the kitchen. And it's well received by the 30 - 40 people who regularly attend the OEB lunches. Wouldn't you like to join our rowdy gang? We'd love to have you get together with us to plan and keep the OEB going. Let us know – Evelyn Huyck (ladyevelynh@yahoo.com) or Anne Koehler (agkoehler@charter.net).

# **Education for Ministry (EfM)**

**What is EfM?** EfM is a 4-year program of study produced by the School of Theology at Sewanee: The University of the South. It is designed to help lay persons grow spiritually through study, theological reflection, and worship.

Why EfM? If you love reading, learning, and thoughtful conversations about faith, you will enjoy being part of this group.

The course begins Sunday, January 12, 2020, 5:00 - 7:30 pm. Classes meet weekly in the Bellamy Library at St. John's, following a traditional semester format. Participants must commit to a one-year cycle (16 weeks) and enrollment is limited to 12 participants. Tuition and material fee is \$375, payable at registration. **Deadline for enrollment is December 8, 2019**. For more information contact mentor: Lee Phillips at lee@wordmatters.com or 423-676-7902.







## **ETSU Mandolin Orchestra & Shape Note Singing**

The ETSU Mandolin Orchestra and Shape Note Singing group will present a program of music in the St. John's Chapel on the evening of Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:00 pm and ending around 8:30 pm. The Mandolin orchestra, led by Dr. Lee Bidgood (ETSU Appalachian Studies faculty and member at St. John's), will perform music from the golden age of mandolin orchestras circa 1900, contemporary compositions, and Renaissance music, with the theme "Old and New." They will join the vocal group in performing some Christmas seasonal music; all attendees will have the chance to sing-along. All are welcome, no admission will be charged. For more information, contact Lee at bidgood@etsu.edu or 423-439-7072.

### Earth Guild

"A Prayer for our Time and for the Earth"

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share; Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around and to protect the wonders of creation.

Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us and to know them as family.

Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.

Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted. Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people and to shape

beloved community.

For you are the One who seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free, and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.

-The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher, Cherokee

You are cordially invited to attend an Earth-care program at 10 am, Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Jonesborough Library. Attendees will watch the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists doomsday clock announcement and then meet (in person or through Zoom) to choose, write or combine different options of an Interfaith Prayer for the Climate. (Earth-Care Event 1.23.20 sponsored by NETN United Religions Initiative Leadership Circle.)

Shelley Stahlman

Amen

# **Centering Prayer**

The Centering Prayer group continues to meet on Tuesday evenings from 6 - 7 pm in the Prayer Room. We start at 6:05 pm and there is a chair outside if you are late. You can join us after the Lectio Divina readings, for the sit. We are working on the complexities of getting in and out of the building as it is being made more secure with locks and gates. Thank you for your patience. Currently, you can come in the main doors upstairs during the Healing Eucharist time from 5:30 - 6:00 pm. We open the gate to the courtyard by the Fairview Parking lot at about 5:40 pm and someone is at the back door of the courtyard to let you in until 6:05 pm. This should get simpler with the next phases of security. If the church closes on Tuesday due to ice, snow or cold, we do not hold Centering Prayer. If you are on the Centering Prayer email list, I will send out an email to you as soon as I know about closings.

All are welcome to attend our group. We have information on the practices of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina in the Prayer Room. There are also books by several authors who have written on Centering Prayer including Thomas Keating, Martin Laird, Cynthia Bourgeault, Thomas Merton

and Richard Rohr on a table in the Prayer Room. There is a national Contemplative Outreach website and several of these writers have talks that are available on YouTube. A free Centering Prayer app is available that includes a time for sits, explanation of the practice, and opening and closing readings you can choose. There are two-three retreat centers nearby that have Centering Prayer retreats, including Valle Crucis, NC and St. Mary's Retreat Center, Sewanee, TN.

You are welcome to send inquiries to Frances Jackson (jxn621@gmail.com) or Rebecca Paluzzi (paluzzir@mail.etsu.edu) if you wish to be on the weekly email list for Centering Prayer that includes the weekly Lectio Divina reading.

We hope to have a pre-Lenten offering on a Saturday that will include a Holy Eucharist, contemplative time, and a talk on Lenten themes.

Thanks, Frances Jackson

### Altar Flowers needed

Altar flowers are needed for the following three Sundays in 2020:

#### January 19 and February 2 and 9.

Altar greens are needed for all five Sundays in March 2020 (Lent)

### March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29.

Please contact Harriet Cone at 423-928-8065 if you can provide flowers or greens. Thank you.



Thank you!

Heartfelt thanks and much gratitude go to John Nagy our Sr. Warden, Mary Alice Fryar our Jr. Warden and Fred MacKara as they complete their 3 year terms on the vestry. Their leadership and dedication has been an extraordinarily great blessing to St. John's. Their valuable presence will continue of course as they engage in other ministries in the congregation. Please take time to thank them for their service.

SuzeAnne

# Happy December Birthday

7	Bill Fryar	19	Louis Gump	26	Beth Talley
11	Jeff Lucas	21	Rhett Byrne	28	Allison Benson
14	Bill Archer	21	Brandon Bass	30	Lucy Gump
15	Charlie Byrne	22	Margaret Howington	30	Nancy Nichols
17	Tom McGinnis	22	Elizabeth Cloyd	31	Peter Pawlowicz
17	Phyllis Ray	24	Bert Bach	31	Crawford Lilavivat
17	Brian Dunkelberger	25	Van Huyck	31	Madaline Morrissey



# Happenings

Special events in December				
Johnson City's Sesquicentennial Celebration Tour of downtown churches	Sun, Dec 1	•	2:00 pm	Celebration at King Commons (45 minutes) St. John's tour at 3:00 pm
Intergenerational Sunday School	Sun, Dec 8	•	9:30 - 10:15 am	Great Hall
Bishop of Myra visits St. John's	Sun, Dec 8	٠	following 10:30 service	Coffee Shop
ETSU Mandolin Orchestra and Shape Note Singing Group	Mon, Dec 9	٠	7:00 pm	Chapel
Civic Chorale Concert	Sat, Dec 14	٠	7:00 pm	Nave
Mortgage Burning & Open House	Wed, Dec 18	٠	7:00 pm	Nave
Appalachian Men's Ensemble	Sat, Dec 21	•	7:30 pm	Nave
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	Sun, Dec 22	•	5:00 - 6:30 pm	Nave (Organ prelude starts at 4:30 pm)
Christmas Eve services Family Service Pre-service music and carols Christmas Eve Midnight Mass Christmas Day Holy Eucharist	Tue, Dec 24 Wed, Dec 25	•	10:30 pm 11:00 pm	Nave (Nursery provided) Nave Nave (No Nursery) Nave (no nursery provided)
Church office will be closed	Tue, Dec 24 Wed, Dec 25	:	" 1	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Winterlight Annual Youth Retreat	Dec 27 - Jan 1	•		Kanuga Conference and Retreat Center, Hendersonville, NC
Monthly Scheduled Meetings				
Back Porch Guild	Tue, *	•	5:30 - 7:30 pm	* For date & location see BPG Facebook page
Earth Guild	Sun, Dec 1	•	after 10:30 service	Coffee Shop
Men of St. John's	Tues, Dec 10	٠	6:00 pm	Bella Vita's, 2917 N Roan
Nomen of St. John's Luncheon	Sun, Dec 15	٠	after 10:30 service	Logan's Roadhouse, 3112 Browns Mill Road
Old Fields Singers	Sun, Dec 15	٠	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Great Hall
Vestry Meeting	Tues, Dec 17	•	6:45 pm	Vestry Room (#104 & 105)
Weekly Scheduled Meetings				
Healing Service w/Eucharist	Tuesdays	•	5:30 pm	Chapel
Centering Prayer Group	Tuesdays	•	6:00 pm	Prayer Room (Begins at 6:05 please wait outside if prayers have begun)
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesdays	•	7:00 pm	Nave
	Sundays	٠		
Eucharist Rite I	Thursdays	٠	10:00 am	Chapel
Elementary Sunday School	Sundays	٠	9:15 am	Class Room
Youth Sunday School	Sundays	٠	9:15 am	Class Room
Adult Faith Formation Classes	Sundays		9:15 - 10:15 am	

Happy January Birthday

1	Robbyn Maylott	3	Ann VanDreumel	12	Katherine Cleveland	22	Joseph Wallen
1	David Booher	4	Patricia Potter	15	Kenneth Johnson	23	Ella Hunter
1	Bonnie Pedersen	8	Sandra Radford	16	Emily Nagy	26	Mark Merriman
1	Charles Honeycutt	11	Wesley Buerkle	18	Joel Tramel	27	Catherine Phillips
1	Michael Morrissey	11	Finnigan Lilavivat	18	Tamar McCollum	31	Juanita Summers
2	Carleigh Goebel	11	Adam Collins	19	Linda Lucas		
2	Angela Green	11	Edwin Lilly	19	Calvert Williams		
3	Joy McGinnis	11	Edward Miller, II	20	Laura Duncan		



Happenings

Special events in January	Wad land			Hanny May Veer
Church office will be closed	Wed, Jan 1	•		Happy New Year
Family Promise Overnight Hosts	Tue, Jan 7 - Wed, Jan 8	•	8:00 pm - 7:00 am	Central Baptist Church
	Thur, Jan 9 - Fri, Jan 10	•	8:00 pm - 7:00 am	
	Sat, Jan 11 - Sun, Jan 12		8:00 pm - 7:00 am	
Family Promise Meal Hosts	Tues, Jan 7	•	5:30 - 8:00 pm	Central Baptist Church
	Thur, Jan 9	•	5:30 - 8:00 pm	
	Sat, Jan 11	٠	5:30 - 8:00 pm	
Epiphany Pageant	Sun, Jan 5		10:30 Service	Nave
ETNyouth Winter Sessions	Jan 18 - 21	•		High School
at Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center	Feb 15 - 18	•		Middle School
MLK Day, Church office will be closed	Mon, Jan 21	•		
SAVE THE DATE Youth Activity - Movies & Meaning	Feb 21 - 23	•		Wortham Center for Performing Arts, Asheville
Monthly Scheduled Meetings				
Back Porch Guild	Tue, *	•	5:30 - 7:30 pm	* For date & location see BPG Facebook page
Earth Guild	Sun, Jan 5	•	after 10:30 service	Coffee Shop
Men of St. John's	Tues, Jan 14	•	6:00 pm	Aubrey's, 3029 Hamilton Place
Women of St. John's Luncheon	Sun, Jan 19	•	after 10:30 service	El Charolais, 1805 W State of Franklin
Old Fields Singers	Sun, Jan 19	•	2:00 - 4:00 pm	Great Hall
Vestry Meeting	Tues, Jan 21	•	6:45 pm	Vestry Room (#104 & 105)
Neekly Scheduled Meetings				
Healing Service w/Eucharist	Tuesdays	•	5:30 pm	Chapel
Centering Prayer Group	Tuesdays	•	6:00 pm	Prayer Room (Begins at 6:05 please wait outside if prayers have begun)
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesdays	•	7:00 pm	Nave
	Sundays	•	9:30 am	
Eucharist Rite I	Thursdays	•	10:00 am	Chapel
Elementary Sunday School	Sundays		9:15 am	Class Room
Youth Sunday School	Sundays	•	9:15 am	Class Room
Adult Faith Formation Classes	Sundays	•	9:15 - 10:15 am	
EfM (begins January 12)	Sundays	•	5:00 - 7:30 pm	Bellamy Library

# A note from our Choir Master, Nick Andrews

First, in gratitude, I would like to thank everyone in the parish who contributed to the Friends of Music in early fall. It has proven to be a very exciting and rewarding fall for the music department. Both the Parish Choir and the Handbell Choir continue to grow in size and ability. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the choir led a beautiful service of Choral Evensong which included Gabriel Faure's Requiem. It was truly a spiritual offering for all of those in attendance. As we approach December, be sure to mark December 22nd on your calendar. At 5:00 pm, we will host our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. Last year's celebration was a wonderful success with around 190 people in attendance. This year, our readers from within the surrounding community will include: Jenny Brock, Mayor of Johnson City, Patty Muse, Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Outreach at Munsey Memorial UMC and Ashley Cavender, Volunteer and Development Coordinator for One Acre Cafe. A reception will follow the service.



# Other musical offerings in December:

# ETSU Mandolin Orchestra & Shape Note Singing

Monday, December 9 7:00 pm

# **Civic Chorale Concert**

Saturday, December 14 7:00 pm

# Appalachian Men's Ensemble

Christmas Concert Saturday, December 21 7:30 pm

Return Service Requested

Мом-Ркоетт Окс. U.S. Розтасе РАПD Јониѕои Сіту, ТИ Рекміт Мо. 176



# UPPER EAST TN Bishop & Council report From your Upper TN Lay Representative, Marty Woodward, Dr. Min.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!

Several diocesan events happened in late November or early December after the December Journal deadline on November 16<sup>th</sup>. I will report key "take-aways" from those I attend during St. John's 10:30 liturgy during Advent.

I do want to remind anyone who is attending the Convention to try to get your registration information into the diocese as soon as possible. You and/or St. John's will save some money the earlier you register! This year there will be NO regional meeting for Convention Delegates, but B & C is making a video that we are asking ALL Delegates to watch. It will help you prepare for Convention.

The announcements I've listed below are for various youth events, Episcopal retreat opportunities, available Grants, and national Episcopal Church Service opportunities. Maybe some of these will inspire you to participate! We belong to an amazing Episcopal Church. So much is going on certainly in our own parish but also across the Diocese and in the National Church. Take advantage of these for personal growth and as a way to serve others!

Convention 2020



# Reconciling All Things in Christ: Broken and Mending

# Friday and Saturday, February 7 & 8 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga

# Make Plans to Join us in Chattanooga

The Bishop and Council, Diocesan Staff, and people of the Southeast Region have been hard at work planning for Convention 2020 and are excited to announce this year's theme, *Reconciling All Things in Christ: Broken and Mending.* We will be meeting in Chattanooga, a city which has a lot to offer. New this year will be a clergy spouse gathering, a concurrent youth event, and childcare! Stay tuned for more details.

Thank you to the clergy, staff, and parishioners of the Southeast Region, especially our facility hosts, for their hard work in making this convention possible.

Please see the following deadlines below. All deadlines are 5:00 pm.

- November 1: Early Bird Registration Begins, \$99
- November 15: Early Bird Registration Ends, Standard Registration Begins, \$110
- December 1: Standard Registration Ends, Late Registration Begins, \$149
- December 15: Registration Deadline and General Nomination Deadline

For More Information, Visit the Convention Page

# UPPER EAST TN Bishop & Council report From your Upper TN Lay Representative, Marty Woodward, Dr. Min.

DioET EVENTS coming up of interest to Episcopalians in Upper TN

#### **VOCARE**

For Young Adults

Dec 13 - 15 | Grace Point Camp & Retreat Center

What is Vocare? "Vocare" is a form of a Latin word meaning "to call."

The Vocare weekend is a renewal weekend addressed to young adults (age 20 - 30) in the time when they may face serious decisions that set the direction for much of their adult life.

Come if you're a young adult and pass the info along to all the young adults you know! The <u>pilgrim application</u> is due December 1 (free for pilgrims).

Cost to sponsor a Pilgrim: \$120

Send to the Episcopal Church in East Tennessee, 814 Episcopal School Way, Knoxville, TN 37932, Attn: Gracie Dover.

Questions? Email us at vocare@dioet.org

### YOUTH NEWS

### Winterlight

## Dec 27 - Jan 1 | Kanuga Conference and Retreat Center, Hendersonville, NC

Winterlight is an **annual youth retreat** held at the beautiful Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. Youth will have the opportunity to explore their faith, **meet other youth from around the country**, and find respite and renewal in this beloved and inclusive community. This year's theme is "I Am Making All Things New."

#### **ETNyouth Winter Sessions**

High School | Jan 18 - 21

Middle School | Feb 15 - 18

### **At Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center**

Register now! Questions? Contact Youth Coordinator Jody Davis at jdavis@dioet.org

### TICKETS WILL GO FAST!

#### **Movies and Meaning**

### February 21 - 23 | Wortham Center for Performing Arts, Asheville

Since 2015 Movies and Meaning has gathered at the intersection of cinema, storytelling, community and a better world. Our festivals have been inspirational events - people tell us they have changed their lives. Join us for a gathering of story, light, community and inspiration. More here.

### Check out Episcopal retreats & events nearby:

- Retreats at St. Mary's Convent
- Events and Retreats at St. Mary's Sewanee
- Events at Valle Crucis Conference Center, North Carolina
- Events at Lake Logan, NC

#### Grants

- UTO YOUNG ADULT AND SEMINARIAN GRANTS apply by Feb 7th
- UTO ANNUAL GRANTS apply by March 6<sup>th</sup>
- Care of Creation Grant Proposals for grants on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism are invited. It's a terrific opportunity for collaboration and engagement across many social justice issues. More here. Deadline to submit a proposal is November 3 at 11:59 pm PST.
- <u>2020 Roanridge Trust grants available</u> for leadership development in small towns and rural communities. Applications due December 13, 2019.
- <u>United Thank Offering's Camino Challenge Grant</u>: UTO pledges to match up to \$60,000 in donations to create the Anglican Pilgrim Centre in Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

# **National Opportunities to Serve & Give**

• Episcopal Relief & Development offers resources and training to help people prepare for disasters and provide emergency support so they can make a full and sustained recovery.atsupport.episcopalrelief.org/hurricane-relief.