



JOURNAL

May 2020

Congratulations to our 2020 Graduates!

Congratulations to all of St. John's members who are graduating, and congratulations to their families as well!

We give thanks for your hard work and determination in achieving this goal. Whatever your future plans include, may you go forth into the world each and every day with the sure and certain knowledge that you will always be a part of St. John's parish family.

BCP: We thank you, Lord, for the blessing of family and friends and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. And we thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. *Amen.*

Class of
2020

Staff

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The Rev. Cathy L. Johnston
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The Episcopal Diocese of
East TN
<https://www.dioct.org/>

Worship Schedule

Sundays

9:00 Sunday Morning Prayer
St. John's Episcopal
Church Facebook page

Tuesday

5:30 pm Tuesday Evening
Prayer with Litany for
Healing
Zoom Meeting contact
office@stjohnstn.org for
information

Thursday

10:00 am Morning Prayer
Zoom Meeting contact
office@stjohnstn.org for
information



Zoie Marie Green is graduating this May from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina with a BA in Public Health. Zoie is the daughter of Cary and Angie Green. Her family is very proud of her college career and excited to see where she chooses to attend graduate school for a Master of Public Health. They believe that she will make a major contribution to our world armed with her Public Health knowledge, compassionate heart, and boundless energy.



Sam Pettyjohn is graduating this May from ETSU. He is receiving a Doctorate of Public Health, DrPH, in Community Health from the College of Public Health. Bert and Eleanor (Nora) are proud of their father. He has accepted a Research Faculty position in the Center for Rural Health Research at ETSU.



Sarah Plemmons will graduate from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in May. She is graduating Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Communications with a major in Journalism and Electronic Media and a minor in Environmental Science. Sarah's parents are Rita Plemmons and the late Lee Plemmons. Sarah hopes to work for a zoo or aquarium in their online media department. Rita's goal for Sarah is for her to be happy and healthy!



David Lyle Sherer graduated with an M.S. in Biology from the University of Central Florida in December. David's research interest is ornithology. On April 26th he began a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Ventura, California. His grandparents are St. John's members Bill and Mary Alice Fryar. David's family hopes his future includes personal enjoyment, satisfaction and success in his new job.



Jacob C. Smith will be graduating this May from University High School in Johnson City. Much of his focus in high school was in music and theatre. Jacob participated in several plays at UH as well as in the band and chorus. He has been a student in ETSU's Pre-College music program in voice, piano, choir and music theory and attended the Tennessee Governors School of Arts in vocal performance. Jacob has been accepted as a Music Education major at ETSU, and was granted both an academic performance scholarship and a choral scholarship. He has been a member of

St. John's for many years. Jacob is the son of Kathi and Gary Horne and the grandson of the late Rev. Dr. Anne LeCroy.

Greetings from *SuzeAnne*

Our days continue to be unlike any others we have experienced.

And for most of us (myself included), we so want to reengage life as we have previously known it. We are eager to return to our church building and look forward to celebrating the Eucharist with one another. But we must do so with care, or we put the lives of vulnerable people at risk.

As we hear about restrictions being lifted in Tennessee, many of you are wondering when we might be able to re-gather at St. John's. And while I can't give a definite answer as to when and what the steps to returning might include, I do know that as members of the worldwide Anglican Communion, we follow the direction of our Bishop – Brian Cole.

Episcopal Bishops around the country are urging restraint, and I particularly want to highlight these words from Bishop Cole's most recent **Pastoral Letter**:

“At this time, the facts on the ground regarding COVID-19 still necessitate our need to do all we can to combat community spread. I would ask that you continue to engage worship, pastoral care, and Christian formation as a dispersed body, still refraining from gathering in person.”

I commend Bishop Cole's entire **Pastoral Letter** (which by definition is intended to be made available to all members), and is included in this newsletter. Please take the time to read it.

We have been blessed with wise and diligent Diocesan Leadership. Bishop Cole, Canon Bolt and all of the diocesan staff are committed to doing all they can to support St. John's and all of the East Tennessee congregations. Please visit the website **dioet.org** for their most current resources and links. And stay connected as well through St. John's website, stjohnstn.org, and Facebook page, St. John's Episcopal Church.

Know that each of you is in my thoughts and prayers, and there will come a day when this will be behind us.

In the meantime, we continue with our Virtual weekday services: Facebook Morning Prayer on Sunday, Tuesday night Evening Prayer with healing litany at 5:30 via Zoom, Thursday Morning Prayer at 10:00 via Zoom and Wednesday night Christian Formation via Zoom from 6 to 7 pm.

Faithfully yours,

In Christ, SuzeAnne

Rector Search Committee Report

Your Rector Search Committee has been meeting via Zoom! We continue to meet with our consultant, Canon Michael Spear-Jones, and we have also met with Canon Bolt to discuss our next steps, to assess with her the current status of searches within the diocese, and to complete planning for evaluations and interviews of candidates.

During this time of being apart from each other, please continue to pray for the search committee, our parish, and for the new rector that God is preparing for St John's. *God of all wisdom and understanding, guide us during this time of listening to each other and to you, to discern your will for us in the process of bringing a new rector to St. John's. Grant us patience, kindness, faithfulness and trust in your presence. Guide us in service to you, each other, and to the larger community. Amen.*





Senior Warden's Report

I am writing this a couple of weeks ahead of the end of the month for it to appear in the May Journal. I hoped my May message would say how great it was to see everyone again in person and I have to guess that sometime in May we will be together.

I am proud of everyone who has worked so hard to develop ways to stay in touch, to worship remotely, and to meet with the magic of ZOOM.

We have received guidance from the Bishop and the Diocese about financial matters and we have taken advantage of the C.A.R.E.S. act and applied for a loan from our bank to cover payroll and other qualified expenses for 8 weeks. This loan will not have to be repaid. The Diocese has provided a lot of valuable resources to help us and all other parishes adapt to the changing requirements of this pandemic. They have also excused the April and May payments to the Diocese of our parish assessment. This will mean another \$6,575 in resources during this time of uncertainty.

The vestry responded to a request from the diocese to contribute to relief efforts in Chattanooga because of the recent tornados. In gratitude to God for His many Blessings bestowed upon St. John's we are able to provide \$5,000 for Outreach to parishes in our diocese.

It was joyful to be able to say Hallelujah! again and gave me a sense of peace and hopefulness. It is ironic that being apart has made us feel closer in so many ways.

May God bless us all and keep us safe.

Suzanne Donaldson

St. John's YTD Financial Report

	Mar 2019 Actual YTD	Mar 2020 Actual YTD	Mar YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2020 Vs 2019	Variance YTD Vs Budget
Plate Offerings	\$2,791.00	\$1,581.53	\$2,900.00	-\$1,209.47	-\$1,318.47
Pledge Payments	\$92,391.63	\$111,222.76	\$96,900.00	\$18,831.13	\$14,322.76
Prior Pledges	\$870.00	\$285.56	\$1,000.00	-\$584.44	-\$714.44
Contributions	\$12,185.26	\$17,993.40	\$10,600.00	\$5,808.14	\$7,393.40
Misc. Income	\$644.00	\$194.00	\$279.99	-\$450.00	-\$85.99
Prepaid Pledges	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$109,881.89	\$131,277.25	\$111,679.99	\$21,395.36	\$19,597.26
Total Expense	\$83,182.24	\$83,982.39	\$89,325.03	\$800.15	-\$5,342.64
Net Income	\$26,699.65	\$47,294.86	\$22,354.96	\$20,595.21	\$24,939.90

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer continues to meet on Tuesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. We have moved online via Zoom. It has opened up some unexpected and wonderful possibilities for "being present" with God and each other. We have had one of our original facilitators (from 2006) joining us from Greeneville, TN, because he can, a participant from Boone, NC, from Sewanee TN, from Greenville, SC, from Asheville, NC....because they can. We are working through the awkwardness of this way of meeting and celebrating the joy of being together in a new way. **Come join us ... contact Frances Jackson at jxn621@gmail.com or 423-946-3345 to be put on the list of people to get the Lecto Divina weekly and to get the Zoom number.** Nick will also send it out with the weekly updates with the meeting number for Zoom. Many thanks to those who are attending ... it is great to see you!

2020 Inquirers' Class "Zooming" Along!

Fred Mackara

Notwithstanding the restrictions on in-person group meetings at St. John's, the 2020 Inquirers' Class continues to meet - in cyberspace! Should it be decided to meet in person, announcements will be made .

If you want to "attend" an upcoming 2020 Inquirers' Class meeting, let me know at MACKARA@mail.etsu.edu or 423-773-4776. I'll have Ted send you the contact information, so you can Zoom with us!

Here is the list of upcoming Inquirers Class sessions:

- May 3** - Ministry & Stewardship - Deacon Cathy Johnston
- May 10** - Church History & Governance - Dr. John Nash
- May 17** - Preparation for Bishop Cole's Visit - Canon SuzeAnne Silla

Jesus Desires to Bring Peace and Breathe Upon You: **A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Brian Cole**

April 22, 2020

"When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear...Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'" -John 20:19

Dear East Tennessee Friends,

I am writing to you on Wednesday after the Second Sunday of Easter. I am writing to you in a season when many of us are spending countless hours inside our homes, keeping social distance in order to limit the community spread of COVID-19.

After the very first Easter, in the aftermath of the Resurrection, Jesus' closest friends are in a house together. The door is locked. They are afraid.

Jesus, who had been placed in a tomb, is now risen. His friends, who are alive, have locked themselves in a house, with great fear. That locked and fearful house had become a kind of tomb.

Jesus enters that house. He enters without unlocking the door.

He does not require his disciples to gather up their courage before he enters. Upon entering, he does not offer words of rebuke or shame or disappointment.

Rather, he offers them peace. He breathes on them. The Spirit makes more space and opens up what had been locked down and afraid.

This time of a global virus is a time when being afraid makes sense. Along with the potential for grave illness, we are living in the midst of economical upheaval. We are not in control on any front.

If you are at home and you are afraid, Jesus is not about to enter your home and offer words of rebuke or shame or disappointment. Jesus desires to bring peace and breathe upon you. The Resurrection season is a time when fear is met with peace, when locked spaces are met with Spirit-filled breath.

At this time, the facts on the ground regarding COVID-19 still necessitate our need to do all we can to combat community spread. I would ask that you continue to engage worship, pastoral care, and Christian formation as a dispersed body, still refraining from gathering in person.

The Diocesan COVID-19 Task Force is working on several fronts. One matter relates to what it will look like for us to be able to gather again in person, safely, for worship and ministry. We are developing guidelines to aid parish churches when that season arrives. The Christian ethic of care for the other, the weak, and the least among us will guide our thinking with these next steps. Until that time arrives, I am thankful for your willingness to bear the many burdens of this extraordinary time together.

You all remain in my prayers. Pray for me.

Peace,
Brian Cole

Happy May Birthday

1	Robert Steuart	6	Cassandra Pusateri	21	Jane Leonard
2	Hella Gratto	9	Veronica Mackara	21	William Kinser
2	Eleanor Pettyjohn	9	Jerrol Windbigler	22	Lindsey Baughman
2	Jennifer Green	11	Rachel Bowman	24	Anne Koehler
3	John Nagy	12	Rab Summers	24	Sharon Cole
3	Eleanor Byrne	14	Ed Jordan	26	Jennifer Kinser
4	Wilkes Harper	16	Griffin Sutton	28	Eric Strickland
5	Lee Bidgood	20	Cary Green	30	Sarah Plemmons



Happenings

Special events in May

Inquirer's Class: Reborn, Renewed, Received	Sun, May 3, 10 & 17	♦ 6:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (Please contact Fred Mackara at MACKARA@gmail.com for an invitation to join conference.)
Wednesday Evening Series (post Lent) "With Open Hands"	Wed, May 6, 13, 20	♦ 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering
Sunday Morning Prayer - Canon Silla	Sun, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	♦ 9:00 am	St John's Episcopal Church Facebook page & You Tube
Homily following Sunday Morning Prayers			St John's Episcopal Church Facebook page
Gary Mabrey, homilist	Sun, May 10	♦	
Deacon Cathy, homilist	Sun, May 17	♦	
Rae Grosserode, homilist	Sun, May 24	♦	
Joel Tramel, homilist	Sun, May 31	♦	
Mother's Day	Sun, May 10	♦	
Memorial Day	Mon, May 25	♦	Office closed

Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Finance Committee (online meeting)	TBD	♦	Zoom video gathering
Staff Meeting	Wed, May 6	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tues, May 19	♦ 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering

Weekly Scheduled Meetings

Tuesday Evening Prayer with Litany for Healing	Tuesdays	♦ 5:30 pm	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org) if you do not receive email invitation.)
Centering Prayer Group (on-line meeting)	Tuesdays	♦ 6:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org) if you do not receive email invitation.)
Morning Prayer	Thursdays	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org) if you do not receive email invitation.)
EfM	Sundays	♦ 5:00 - 7:30 pm	Gathering electronically

Due to the changes in our daily life because of the Cornoavirus, meetings may need to be rescheduled or the method in which we meet may change. Please watch emails from St. John's church office for notifications.

Confirmation

Confirmation plans will be forthcoming.

Men's Group

The Men's Group will not meet in May. We will let you know when we open back up.

Wednesday Evening Series (post Lent ...)

The Lenten Series with Robbin Brent using the Living Compass “Living Well Through Lent 2020” was well received and much enjoyed. Robbin is an excellent facilitator. We are grateful that she was willing to go immediately online with Zoom when we closed St. John’s. She has used this medium for groups for over five years so it was a smooth transition. She extended this group for two weeks and we had an average of 12-15 people attend the Zoom meetings. The consensus was that the group would like to continue. The gathering became a source of support and community for those who attended. We miss each other.

“With Open Hands” is a book on prayer by Henri J.M. Nouwen. We will have a five-week series using the book and continuing Robbin’s format of breaking the Zoom group into small groups for 10-15 minutes for discussion with a return to the larger group to report. It is not necessary to purchase the book. A handout will be provided each week prior to the gathering. Frances Jackson will facilitate, (Note: This will not include Centering Prayer.)

Wednesdays, April 22, 29; May 6, 13 and 20th, from 6:00 - 7:00 pm on Zoom. Nick Andrews will send out the link and handouts each week prior to the gathering.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84901344499>



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