



JOURNAL

August 2020

Rally Day...

It's Rally time of year! A lot is happening and a lot has changed during the past year. We may not be able to meet in person, but we are energized and look forward to the coming year. Rally Sunday is intended to inspire enthusiasm for the cause of discipleship through worship, fellowship, learning and service. Now, more than ever, it is important for us all to see where we can serve. Many of our ministries are listed below; if you are interested in participating, please contact the ministry leader. Some ministries will not be active until they can meet in person – but go ahead and sign up, we look forward to serving with you. There are many ministries not listed below – let us know if you feel your talents are better suited in another area! **It is going to be a great year at St. John's!**

Staff

Rev. Canon SuzeAnne Silla
Interim Rector
interim.rector@stjohnstn.org

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

Jon Lau
Parish Administrator
jlau2jctn@aol.com

Nick Andrews
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Lynn McCoy
Journal Editor
journal@stjohnstn.org
sjjournaln@gmail.com

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

Worship Schedule

Sundays

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

Tuesday

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

Thursday

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

Ministry	Leader	Email
Acolytes	Rita Plemmons	retp62@gmail.com
Adult Faith Forum		Will convene at a later time. Watch for announcements
Altar Flowers	Harriett Cone	harrietccone@gmail.com
Altar Guild	JoAnne Paty	paty@etsu.edu
Centering Prayer	Frances Jackson	jxn621@gmail.com
Choir & Hand Bells	Nick Andrews	music@stjohnstn.org
Earth Guild	Ted Jackson Shelly Stahlman	tvjackson@aol.com shellstah@hotmail.com
EFM	Lee Phillips	lee@wordmatters.com
E-Gnomes (Episcopal guild of no meetings)	JoAnne Paty	paty@etsu.edu
Family Promise/Melting Pot	Bill Fryar	wrfryar40@gmail.com
Intercessory Prayer	Rev. Cathy Johnston	cjmtbike@charter.net
Labyrinth	Rita Plemmons	plp2@comcast.net
Lectionary Readers	Rector	interim.rector@stjohnstn.org
LEMS(Lay Eucharistic Ministry)	Rector	interim.rector@stjohnstn.org
LEVS(Lay Eucharistic Visitors)	Rev. Cathy Johnston	cjmtbike@charter.net
Men of St John's	David Kalwinsky	Kalwinds@etsu.edu
OEB(Old Enough Bunch Lunch)	Evelyn Huyck	Ladyevelyn@yahoo.com
Pastoral Ministry	Rev. Cathy Johnston	cjmtbike@charter.net
Prayer Team - pray daily for each individual on Parish list as well as confidential requests	Pearl Ume-Ngwabo Kathy Jordan	ngozi27@gmail.com mocpunshu@gmail.com
Sunday Morning Healing Prayer Team	Rector	interim.rector@stjohnstn.org
Ushers	Joe Ripepi Ed Jordan	JPR5600@yahoo.com shundra77c@icloud.com
Women of St Johns		Will convene at a later time. Watch for announcements
Youth & Children's Sunday School	Rae Grosserode	tngrosserode@comcast.net



Even during a pandemic, life at St. John's continues to move forward,

You continue to serve the poor in the community by donating considerable supplies and clothing and also by contributing to the discretionary fund in support of places like One Acre Cafe and Family Promise, among others.

The outside of the Church building is getting a bit of a facelift with intrusive shrubs being cleared and windows repaired/replaced. The inside is being tended to with carpet cleaning and the painting of the narthex and upper hallway. A small pipe organ is now in place in the Chapel. Other projects are also underway.

And all are rejoicing as St. John's Search Committee has now entered the final phase of the process for the calling of your next Rector.

Also, even in the midst of a pandemic, the Wednesday night Adult Faith Formation group is having conversations about what it means to be among the disinherited and conversely, what it means to have privilege we are not always aware of. Frances Jackson and Lee Phillips have been leading/facilitating these conversations and all attending are finding much value in them.

Though we can't be quite sure exactly what the timing of this last search phase will be – given COVID-19 circumstances – you are nevertheless in the final phase and can rest assured that God's timing will be good. So continue to pray for the work of your search committee and also pray for the priest God is preparing for St. John's next chapter. Pray also for his or her family.

And remember that during this time God is continuing to shape and form St. John's right along with your next priest. And God's timing is always good.

In the meantime, although it is not the same as being able to be together in the Nave or in the Chapel for worship, there are many opportunities each week to gather together through technology and to "see" one another.

If you find technology as daunting as I do, just call the church office. Several parishioners have offered to patiently support us with technology challenges.

Bottom line: St. John's is strong and with God's help you will continue to persevere and thrive, even during this challenging time. So say your prayers, give God thanks for his many blessings and never forget the light of Christ will always shine and ever prevail.

Blessings and peace

In Christ

SuzeAnne

Giving

Pledges and contributions can be made online through St. John's website's giving portal:

<https://stjohnstn.org/giving/>

or can be mailed directly to the church at:

St. John's Episcopal Church
500 North Roan
Johnson City, TN 37601

St. John's YTD Financial Report

	June 2019 Actual YTD	June 2020 Actual YTD	June YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2020 Vs 2019	Variance YTD Vs Budget
Plate Offerings	\$6,182.26	\$1,581.53	\$6,600.00	-\$4,600.73	-\$5,018.47
Pledge Payments	\$150,391.13	\$167,688.81	\$158,700.00	\$17,297.68	\$8,988.81
Prior Pledges	\$870.00	\$285.56	\$1,000.00	-\$584.44	-\$714.44
Contributions	\$25,238.55	\$32,062.73	\$21,900.00	\$6,824.18	\$10,162.73
Misc. Income	\$788.00	\$386.46	\$559.98	-\$401.54	-\$173.52
Prepaid Pledges	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$184,469.94	\$202,005.09	\$188,759.98	\$17,535.15	\$13,245.11
Total Expense	\$162,915.74	\$152,373.59	\$187,221.21	-\$10,542.15	-\$34,847.62
Net Income	\$21,554.20	\$49,631.50	\$1,538.77	\$28,077.30	\$48,092.73



Senior Warden's Report

Writing these comments in the middle of July is challenging, as our world is changing so much every day.

I pray that we can safely begin meeting in person. Safety is the key word. Our Reopening Task Force is looking at all resources to make sure we can do this and it will take cooperation from all in the congregation.

I am inserting the communication that is found on the website for the Diocese of East Tennessee as follows:

"The Beloved Community is the body within which we promote the fruits of the spirit and grow to recognize our kinship as people who love God and love the image of God that we find in our neighbors, in ourselves, and in creation. It provides a positive, theologically and biblically based ideal toward which we can grow in love, rather than framing our justice and reconciliation efforts as fundamentally "against" (as in anti racism, anti-oppression, etc.)"

The key is to focus on being positive and loving ALL people. The broad brush paints all of the current events however we are not all good and all bad. So let us focus on reconciliation through love.

By the time you read this our Wednesday evening conversations around the book by Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*, will be completed. I would recommend reading the book, which is only 77 pages. Our discussions have certainly enlightened me and I am thankful for the talent and dedication of Frances Jackson and Lee Phillips for leading these discussions.

God bless everyone and keep you safe.

Suzanne Donaldson

Centering Prayer

The Centering Prayer Group continues to meet every Tuesday night at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. If you are interested in joining us, please let Nick Andrews at the church office know so he can send you the link for Zoom. You may also contact Frances Jackson either by email @ jxn621@gmail or 423-946-3345. If you wish to know more about Centering Prayer, here are links to two updated pages from our national organization, Contemplative Outreach, that give an explanation, a "how to" and explain our reading of scriptures with a second brochure for Lectio Divina. <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/centering-prayer-method/>; <https://www.contemplativeoutreach.org/lectio-divina-contemplation/>. There are several resources at this site for additional online experiences.

This is an additional link to several online retreat experiences via St. Mary's Sewanee and some additional Centering Prayer Groups <https://www.stmaryssewanee.org/>.

EPISCOPAL CHURCHMEN OF TENNESSEE

74th Conference – presented Virtually

Every year since 1947, laymen of the Episcopal Churches in Tennessee have gathered at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN. The Annual Conference of Tennessee Churchmen is the oldest gathering of lay people in the Episcopal Church. **For the first time ever, this year due to the coronavirus infection rate the conference will be held virtually. The conference is scheduled August 14th - 16th and you may register online at <https://tnchurchmen.org/register/>.** While you will be able to join the Zoom meetings without registering, please go ahead and register so that your attendance may be documented. **There is no fee for registering** but with the cancellation of the annual on-site conference event, the DuBose Conference Center has taken a major financial hit. There is a special section on the registration form if you would like to make a donation to the Center. The Zoom links to the conference sessions and to the diocesan meeting sessions will be sent out to everyone or posted on the website as the date of the event gets closer.



Conversations and Compline

Thanks to the participants who have attended sessions for this offering. The learning and the discussions have been rich. We all have much to learn about systems in our society and globally that have always impacted Christianity, and as Howard Thurman would say, “those whose backs are against the wall”, or the “disinherited”. Dr. Thurman interprets Jesus’ life and the lives of the Jews of his time as having been lived with their “backs against the wall”. He senses that the reason that Jesus preached that the “kingdom of God is within” was because the experience of his own life and the lives of those around him were lived “against the wall”. We worked with Thurman’s book *Jesus and the Disinherited* as we discussed our own “blindness” to parts of our society and culture that are not within our own experience. We have asked, along with the Pharisees, “Surely, we are not blind, are we?” We have turned that into a prayer to ask God to teach about our blindness and to offer us new ‘seeing’ of those around us. Lee Phillips offered us an online adaptation of a ‘Privilege Walk’, which helped sensitize us to some areas of privilege of which we were unaware. Some sample questions included: the privileges of right-handedness, English as a first language, whether you studied the culture of your ancestors in school, whether you would think twice about calling the police for help, whether you have a computer, whether you can show affection for your romantic partner in public without fear, and whether you can make mistakes and not have people attribute that to flaws due to your race or gender. Some areas of lack of

privilege included: having to rely on public transportation, lack of safety when walking alone at night, history of being bullied, your family having to leave their homeland not of their own free will, having a physical disability, having an invisible disability, trying to change your mannerisms to fit in to a dominant culture, whether there was substance abuse in your household, whether you have been a victim of sexual assault. We are all continuing to learn about areas of privilege. Any discussion of these issues can be uncomfortable, but our gospel is in itself uncomfortable in its application to everyone.

Our bishop has posted information on the Diocesan website (<https://www.dioet.org/beloved-community/>) about “Becoming Beloved Community.”

“The Beloved Community is the body within which we promote the fruits of the spirit and grow to recognize our kinship as people who love God and love the image of God that we find in our neighbors, in ourselves, and in creation. It provides a positive, theologically and biblically based ideal toward which we can grow in love, rather than framing our justice and reconciliation efforts as fundamentally ‘against’ (as in anti racism, anti-oppression, etc.)” There is someone among us who is taking a seminar with “The Beloved Community” and we hope to have some classes evolve from that for future ‘Conversations and Compline’ in a few weeks.

Frances Jackson

Sunday School for Children & Youth

The Children’s Sunday School Class for K-6th grade, will be at 10:30 a.m. This class will use the Episcopal Children’s Curriculum. We will meet via Zoom until St. John’s is able to gather in person again, then we will continue as usual in the classroom at the regular Sunday school time.

The Youth Class will be at 11:30 a.m. We will use a lectionary-based curriculum called Teen Text. We will meet via Zoom as long as St. John’s cannot gather in person. Once regular worship resumes I will be unable to continue teaching this class. **I would LOVE to have volunteers take it over for in-person sessions. Please contact Rae Grosserode at tngrosserode@comcast.com if you are interested in serving in this very worthwhile ministry.**

Classes begin on Sunday, August 9th. There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on September 8th or 13th as I will be out of town.

Rae Grosserode

Rector Search Committee Report

Your Rector Search Committee has been meeting via Zoom, and we have completed the first round of interviews with the candidates. Next is a discernment phase for deciding which of those candidates will move forward with us in the process. The vestry is being kept informed of our progress and process. Please continue to pray for St. John’s Church, for the Search Committee and for the candidates and their families. *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, to each other, and to the larger community. Amen.*

Happy August Birthday

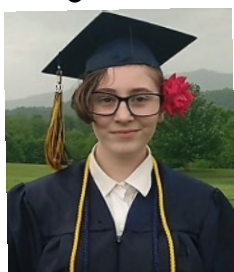
1	Banks Camak	12	Lissa Jackson	26	Tina Collison
2	Kitty Adams	19	John Bullington	26	Eddie Henson
4	Mitzi Cooper	19	Becky Sutton	26	Jill Channing
5	J.D. Swartz	19	Gail Newman	27	Gary Horne
6	Harper Huckaby	20	Bill Yoder	28	Marilyn Monin
8	Greg Van Tassell	21	George Winton	29	Ann Brumback
9	Tom Monin	25	Ken McCollum	31	Andrew Davidson
11	Gayle Cox				



Happenings

Special events in August			
Sunday Morning Worship - Canon Silla	Sundays	• 9:00 am	St John's Episcopal Church Facebook page & YouTube
Homily - Joel Tramel	Sun, Aug 2	• 9:00 am	
Homily - Rev. Canon Michael Spear Jones	Sun, Aug 9	• 9:00 am	
Homily - Dr. John Nash	Sun, Aug 16	• 9:00 am	
Homily - Deacon Cathy	Sun, Aug 23	• 9:00 am	
Homily - Rae Grosserode	Sun, Aug 30	• 9:00 am	
Virtual Coffee Hour	Sun, Aug 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering following Morning Prayer
Wednesday Evening Series + "Getting ready for your next priest -- What happens after the neutral zone?" + Conversations and Compline	Wed, Aug 5, 12 Aug 19, 26	• 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30)
Episcopal Churchmen of Tennessee, 74th Conference, Presented Virtually	August 14 - 16	•	REGISTRATION ON LINE https://tnchurchmen.org/register/
Monthly Scheduled Meetings			
Staff Meeting	Wed, Aug 5	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Finance Committee (online meeting)	Tues, Aug 18	•	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tues, Aug 18	• 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering
Weekly Scheduled Meetings			
Sunday School for Children (K - 6th)	Sun, Aug 9, 16, 23, 30	• 10:30 am	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.)
Sunday School for Youth	Sun, Aug 9, 16, 23, 30	• 11:30 am	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.)
EfM -- will begin Sunday, Sept 13th. Mark your calendar	Sundays	• 5:00 - 7:30 pm	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.)
Tuesday Worship, 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.)
Thursday Worship, Morning Prayers	Thursdays	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering (Please contact church office (office@stjohnstn.org if you do not receive email invitation.)

Congratulations, Graduate!

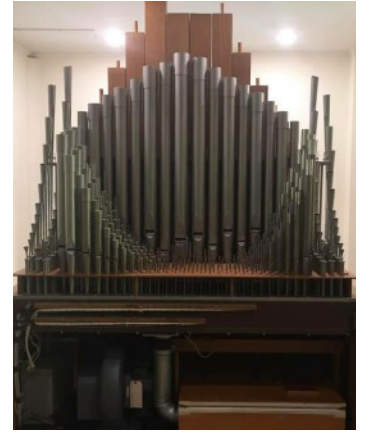


Congratulations to another one of our St. John's graduates, Lestasia Alexis Lange on her May 2020 graduation from University School. She has been a member of St. John's since birth and has served as an acolyte for many years. Lestasia has been dual enrolled in University School and ETSU since 11th grade. She received a Certificate of Achievement in Art 4 and the President's Award for Educational Achievement for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Lestasia will continue her education at ETSU, pursuing a degree in psychology and/or some form of art. An in-person graduation was held on July 10th at ETSU's Greene Stadium.



Chapel Pipe Organ

Since my arrival in early 2018, I have been on the lookout for a small pipe instrument that could be installed in the chapel at St. John's. The former pipe instrument (which was installed in 1969 by the M.P. Moller Company) was removed in 2014 due to significant disrepair which stemmed from age and damage. Within the last two months, a local colleague in the area sent me a message about a friend of his in Oak Ridge, TN, who had a small Moller pipe organ in her residence and was looking to sell. A few days later, I arranged a trip to visit and play



the instrument. After playing through the instrument and taking measurements of the windchest and height of the tallest pipes, I realized the instrument would be a wonderful match for the chapel.

With the help of Stephen Spake of Lincoln Pipe Organs in Lincolnton, NC, and with the gracious assistance of Brandon Guffey, we relocated the organ from Oak Ridge to Johnson City on Wednesday, July 15th. On Thursday around 2:00 pm, the organ was assembled, tuned and ready to play. Tune in for online Church on Zoom to hear the new organ!



I want to especially thank the individuals in the parish who helped contribute, making this project a reality!

Peace,

Nick Andrews,

Organist/Choirmaster



Return Service Requested

