



JOURNAL

November 2020

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The Episcopal Diocese of
East TN
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Worship Schedule

Sundays

9:00 Sunday Morning Worship
St. John's Episcopal Church
Zoom/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

Our next chapter begins!

We are excited to hear from our new Rector, the Rev. Laura Annette Bryant!

Around November 1st a special newsletter will be sent out with a letter from Rev. Laura and possibly a link to a video. So keep watching your mail and emails for our next chapter to begin.

Annual Meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church

November 8, 2020

Following the 9 a.m. Morning Prayer Service on Sunday, November 8th, we will have a special Zoom meeting in place of the Coffee Hour. This will be the St. John's Annual Meeting for 2020. There will be several presentations of interest by members of the vestry and staff.

Vestry elections officially begin at the Annual Meeting and voting continues for the next two Sundays following the Annual Meeting. Since we are not meeting in person, ballots will be mailed to all communicants in good standing. Every household will receive the number of ballots that correspond to the number of communicants in good standing who live at that address. Each person should complete his/her own ballot and return them all to the church in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided. All ballots must be returned to the church by November 22nd and they will be counted that afternoon and the results published.

The five nominees for election to the 2021 vestry are Bill Archer, Brandon Guffey, Rebecca Paluzzi, Sam Pettyjohn, and Rita Plemmons.





Senior Warden's Report

As you are receiving the November Journal, we will be saying farewell to our beloved interim Rector, Canon Silla. She continues to tell me almost daily that all will be well and this is normal. She has led us wisely through this terrible time of COVID-19 and worshipping by Zoom. Many times in March and April we had conversations about how and what we were going to do and were we doing all we could? Every time she would come up with another way to make this work. I'm going to proclaim that she is a "Star" in the Diocese now and will be in great demand. I don't think we need to worry about "What's Next" for her.

"What's Next" for St. John's? This is such an exciting time as we welcome our new Rector, the Rev. Laura Annette Bryant. The Search Committee and the parish, with the teaching and training provided by Canon Silla, have worked diligently to prepare our way forward. We have the framework established and can't wait to see where we will go. As Canon Silla has said many times, we must all share in the leadership of our church and partner with Rev. Laura as we meet new challenges and opportunities. Advent begins November 29th and we enter into the season of preparing once again. I can't wait to see what lies ahead.

We will be preparing our "Core Values" budget facilitated by the receipt of your pledges. Our Phase III roof project will be completed or nearly so. We can begin repairing walls and ceilings and floors in the hallways, the Great Hall, the kitchen and the stage. Thanks to the generosity of so many of our members we have the funds in hand to pay for these repairs and upgrades. And don't forget we are **Debt Free Hip Hip Hooray!**

In November we will elect 3 new vestry members who will be remarkable. We will all begin 2021 with a renewed spirit, thankful hearts, and the expectation that St. John's will continue to grow and make a difference in the Heart of Johnson City.

Suzanne Donaldson

Advent

The community of St John's has been given the gift of Advent booklets from Living Compass (<https://www.livingcompass.org/advent>) by Robbin Brent, their editor. The theme is "hope". **Robbin has also agreed to lead discussions with Frances Jackson for three Wednesdays in Advent: December 2, 9, 16.** We will let you know when/how the booklets are available, or we will send you the PDF or you can sign up for the daily reading to be sent your email for your daily Advent study. We are grateful to Robbin for making this available to us and for leading our discussions on Wednesday night during Conversations and Compline for three weeks.

Hotel Amenity Ministry

St. John's will once again have a contact-free drive-by drop off for the Hotel Amenities Ministry on Saturday, November 14th from 12 to 1:30 pm. Rev. Laura will be on hand to bless the donations at the end.



Church office closed

Please note that the church office will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th, so that our staff members may enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends.



Centering Prayer

We continue to have **Centering Prayer on Tuesday night at 6 p.m. with Lectio Divina**. There is a new Zoom link for Centering Prayer that Nick sends out every Tuesday about noon and I send out every week with the Lectio Divina. If you wish to receive the weekly Lectio Divina, let me know and I will include you in the emails for Centering Prayer: jxn621@gmail.com.

There are online retreats and workshops through St Mary's Retreat Center, Sewanee, Tennessee. Reverend Tom Ward has been the unofficial mentor for our group for the last 14 years. **Rev. Tom Ward and Rebecca Paluzzi are offering a Saturday Centering Prayer Retreat Day once a month. All listings for retreats are on the St. Mary's website at: www.stmaryssewanee.org** or register by phone at 800-728-1659. The November Retreat is scheduled for the 15th. Rev. Tom has a recent 30-minute video interview posted on the site. The video offers information about his journey through Centering Prayer and contemplation. It is excellent.

Conversations and Compline:

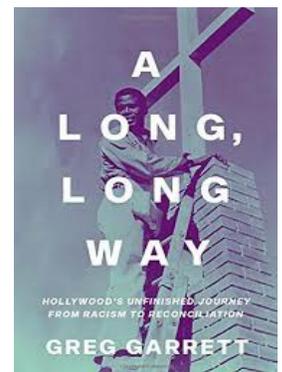
We will complete our 5-part series on "Becoming Beloved Community" on Wednesday, October 28th. We are all grateful to Beth Wiley for sharing her resources from her information from the Diocese of Tennessee. She has done wonderful work with us in leading our discussions.

We will keep you posted on additional offerings as they evolve for November. There may be some weeks when we will not have discussions and we will announce those as well.

Frances Jackson

Bishop Brian and the Diocese of Tennessee

Bishop Brian has a series of short videos entitled "Reconciling Thoughts". You can sign up to have these sent to your email. Check out the Diocesan website, www.dioet.org for the video dated September 23, 2020, entitled "A Long, Long Way". This is also the title of a book by Greg Garrett: "*A Long, Long Way: Hollywood's Unfinished Journey from Racism to Reconciliation*". Bishop Brian and the author will lead three discussions of the book during Advent on Monday nights at 7 p.m. ET (November 30, December 7, December 14) for an hour. (This is also listed on the website under "Upcoming Events", where there is information about ordering the book.) We are all invited...



St. John's YTD Financial Report

	Sept 2019 Actual YTD	Sept 2020 Actual YTD	Sept YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2020 Vs 2019	Variance YTD Vs Budget
Plate Offerings	9,280.37	1,581.53	9,800.00	(7,698.84)	(8,218.47)
Pledge Payments	216,144.63	215,260.91	222,700.00	(883.72)	(7,439.09)
Prior Pledges	870.00	285.56	1,000.00	(584.44)	(714.44)
Contributions	35,541.42	35,830.63	30,700.00	289.21	5,130.63
Misc. Income	931.00	429.46	839.97	(501.54)	(410.51)
Prepaid Pledges	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	(1,000.00)	0.00
Total Income	\$263,767.42	\$253,388.09	\$265,039.97	-\$10,379.33	-\$11,651.88
Total Expense	\$245,968.41	\$233,856.27	\$284,940.96	-\$12,112.14	-\$51,084.69
Net Income	\$17,799.01	\$19,531.82	-\$19,900.99	\$1,732.81	\$39,432.81

Special Happenings at St. John's in November

- November 1st **Happy/Sad Celebration with Canon SuzeAnne Silla.** This will be her last Sunday to lead us in Morning Prayer. **Immediately after the service, during the Coffee Hour, we will celebrate her time with us.** Emily Bidgood will lead us in this time for reminiscing and saying farewell.
- November 8th **Our celebrant for the service will be Canon Michelle Bolt.** It is customary for the Canon to preside during the time between saying goodbye to our interim and saying hello to our new Rector. **Let's "Zoom in" to hear her message to us.**
- November 8th **Annual Meeting.** Immediately after the service on November 8th, we will conduct our **Annual Meeting on Zoom** and voting for vestry election will begin.
- November 15th We welcome our new Rector, Rev. Laura Annette Bryant, who will conduct the service on the 15th. **We will all have a chance to welcome Rev. Laura with a Welcome Celebration at the Coffee Hour following the service.** How exciting!

Happy November Birthday

1	Shirley Cloyd	12	Sean Driscoll	19	Rae Grosserode
1	McKenna Cox	13	Ivy Buerkle	19	Emma Grosserode
4	Jerry Lonon	13	William Moss	20	Sam Pettyjohn
4	Steb Hipple	13	Mina McVeigh	22	Brenda Frizzell
5	Katherine Hall	14	William Benson	24	Rex Gregg
7	Grant Buerkle	16	Kate Sprague	25	Mike Talley
7	Josh Green	16	Bill Collison	30	Charles Cole
				30	John Walker

Virtual Sunday School

Children's Sunday School begins at 10:30 a.m. And Youth begins at 1130 a.m. Links for Virtual Sunday School provided in the Sunday email.

Coffee Hour

Join us every Sunday for a virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom at 10 a.m. following Morning Prayer.



All Souls Day 2020

All Souls Day – Commemoration of All Faithful Departed

St. John's All Souls Day Service will be held on Monday, November 2nd at 6 p.m. on Zoom.

The service will commemorate the lives of parishioners who have died during the past year. In addition, members of St. John's are invited to submit names of loved ones whom they wish to remember. Many of you listed names of loved ones on newsprint tablets in the narthex last year. They will also be included on the list of those whose names will be read and who will be remember for prayer.

What is All Souls Day? Is it the same as All Saint's Day?

"From very early times, ...the word "saint" came to be applied primarily to persons of heroic sanctity, whose deeds were recalled with gratitude by later generations. Beginning in the tenth century, it became customary to set aside another day on which the church remembered that vast body of the faithful who, though no less members of the company of the redeemed, are unknown in the wider fellowship of the church. It was also a day for particular remembrance of family members and friends." (*Lesser Feasts and Fasts* 2018)



Happenings

Special events in November

Time change - turn your clocks back one hour	Sun, Nov 1	♦ 2:00 am	
Morning Worship -	Sundays	♦ 9:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Homily - The Rev. Canon SuzeAnne Silla	Sun, Nov 1	♦ 9:00 am	
Homily - The Rev. Canon Michelle Bolt	Sun, Nov 8	♦ 9:00 am	
Homily - The Rev. Laura Bryant, St. John's new rector	Sun, Nov 15, 22, 29	♦ 9:00 am	
Virtual Coffee Hour	Sun, Nov 1, 15, 22, 29	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering following Morning Prayer
All Souls Day 2020 Commemoration of All Faithful Departed	Mon, Nov 2	♦ 6:00 pm	Zoom video gathering
St. John's Annual Parish Business Meeting	Sun, Nov 8	♦ following 9:00 Prayer service	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Elections	Sun, Nov 8 to Sun, Nov 22	♦	Ballots will be mailed to St. John's communicants in good standing
Veterans Day	Wed, Nov 11	♦	
Hotel Amenities Ministry drop off	Sat, Nov 14	♦ 12 - 1:30 pm	Drop off at undercroft
Centering Prayer All-Day Retreat - St. Mary's Sewanee	Sun, Nov 15	♦	Virtual -- contact www.stmaryssewanee.org or call 800-728-1659 for information
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thur, Nov 26	♦	
Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	Fri, Nov 27	♦	
Wednesday Evening Series ✦ Conversations and Compline will continue, watch your weekly emails for more information	Wednesdays	♦ 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30) Followed by Compline
Mark your calendar: Wednesdays during Advent Discussion of Advent booklets by Robbin Brent and Frances Jackson	Wed, Dec 2, 9, 16	♦ 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30)

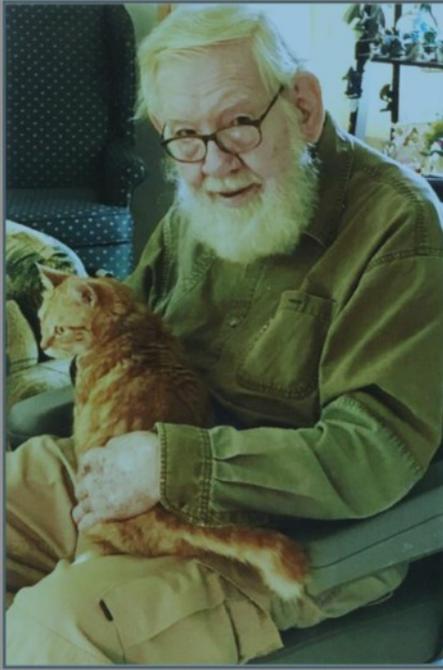
Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Staff Meeting	Wed, Nov 11	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Finance Committee (online meeting)	Tue. Nov 17	♦	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tue. Nov 17	♦ 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering

Weekly Scheduled Meetings

Sunday School for Children (K - 6th)	Sundays	♦ 10:30 am	Zoom video gathering.
Sunday School for Youth	Sundays	♦ 11:30 am	Zoom video gathering.
EfM	Sundays	♦ 5:00 - 7:30 pm	Zoom video gathering.
Tuesday Worship, Evening Prayer with Litany for Healing	Tuesdays	♦ 5:30 pm	Zoom video gathering.
Centering Prayer Group (on-line meeting)	Tuesdays	♦ 6:00 pm	Zoom video gathering. Zoom meeting opens at 5:30, meeting starts at 6:00 pm.
Morning Prayers (Rite I)	Thursdays	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering.

In Remembrance



Father Ralph W. Smith, beloved supply priest to at least a dozen congregations in the Episcopal Dioceses of East Tennessee and Southwestern Virginia for decades, passed away last December at the age of ninety-three. Father Ralph was well-known, not only for his splendid sense of humor but also for the richness of his sermons. In response to numerous requests, he attempted to transcribe his collection of sermon notes and drafts, written for his own use. Sadly, he was unable to complete the task.

In an effort to complete his wishes and with herculean editing work on the part of Anne Koehler, retired English Professor, and technical assistance from Nick Andrews, the three volume collection entitled, *Living With and Within an Alternate Empire, Sermons by the Reverend Ralph Wood Smith, Jr.*, has now been published. As Anne points out, “Without [Ralph] to guide us, editorial revisions [were] speculative. The sermons ...are irregular, spontaneous and unpolished, but they are completely his. That is their most important quality.”

Journal readers can obtain a PDF version of the three-volume collection by sending an email request to: office@stjohnstn.org.

Bill Fryar

Return Service Requested

