



# JOURNAL

December 2020 / January 2021

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

## 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](mailto:office@stjohnstn.org) for  
information

### Thursday

10:00 am Worship Morning  
Prayer  
Zoom Meeting contact  
[office@stjohnstn.org](mailto:office@stjohnstn.org) for  
information

## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 20th Zoom video gathering  
5:00 pm "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols"

## Christmas Services

### Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> Zoom video gatherings  
4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  
9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service

### Christmas Day

Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> Zoom video gathering  
10:00 am Holy Eucharist



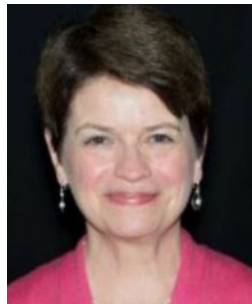
Watch St. John's weekly emails for the date and time of the virtual **Epiphany Pageant**.

## St. John's 2021 Vestry

Thank you to all those who stood for election to vestry. The vote was counted on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> and vestry members elected for service 2021 through 2023 are:



**Bill Archer**  
Member of St. John's  
since 1981



**Rebecca Paluzzi**  
Member of St. John's  
since 2011



**Rita Plemmons, M.D.**  
Member of St. John's  
since 1999

In addition to the newly elected vestry members, the 2021 vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church will be composed of: Emily Bidgood, Wesley Buerkle, Owen Grosserode, Ed Jordan, Jackie Mabry and Joe Ripepi.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the departing members of the vestry who have served so faithfully for the past three years: Jean Archer, McKenna Cox and Suzanne Donaldson.

## Advent Beginnings

*Light your candles quietly, such candles as you possess, wherever you are. (Alfred Delp)*

Dear Friends in Christ,

A new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent. Advent is a glorious season to begin ministry with you. Our God is a God who loves and blesses new beginnings, and I'm excited to see what new things will begin in our midst and ministries this year. Even though we are in some ways still hunkered down and waiting for the pandemic to ease and pass, in another and more important way, we are being given a new beginning.

Advent is also the season we prepare the way for the birth of Jesus and for the joyful celebration of Christmas. I encourage you to prepare and join in our Advent worship even though you may have grown weary of Zoom gatherings. Know how much your presence means to others when you show up. I love to see each of your faces and give thanks for your presence even from afar.

Advent worship includes some special elements and ways to participate at home.

**Ring of the Tower Bell:** Beginning on Advent I, the tower bell will ring again as we gather for worship on Sunday. Though scattered in our homes, the bell rings out that we are gathering for prayer, and will mark the hour of worship as it did before the pandemic. If you would like to serve as a bellringer one Sunday morning, let me know!

**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:** Worship begins each Sunday of Advent with the lighting of the Advent Wreath accompanied by a simple and beautiful chant. Have your own Advent wreath or candle(s) ready and at hand and light them at home at the same time.

**St. Nicholas Visit:** St. Nicholas' feast day is December 6<sup>th</sup>, which also happens to be the second Sunday of Advent. This week we received the joyful news that St. Nicholas will join us for a visit that day during our worship service. Bring your children or grandchildren to visit with St. Nicholas!

**Lessons and Carols:** The beloved and beautiful Service of Lessons and Carols will be live from the church on the evening of December 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm.

**Christmas Communion:** So many of us dearly miss the celebration of Holy Communion. Even though we cannot gather at the church as a body on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we are designing a way to deliver and distribute the sacrament to each home and household to partake together during the Christmas services. Think of it as a home communion for everyone all at the same time! The bread and wine will be blessed and consecrated ahead of time. We will share the details for participation with you as Christmas draws near.

Thanks be to God for new beginnings and especially the blessings of beginning together.

Faithfully,

Laura

### Virtual Small Group Meetings with Rev. Laura

Rev. Laura is currently hosting small group gatherings of 5 or 6 parishioners on Zoom.

Please [click here](#) to sign-up for a date and time.

An email will be sent to each group before each scheduled meeting. For fun, please bring with you an object that represents something about you and your life right now.



# Senior Warden's Report

As 2020 draws to a close, so does my time as Sr. Warden. I have traveled the winding road with you from normal to COVID-19; from Interim Rector to new Rector. I have learned so much from this year. There is a sadness that the vestry will go on without me but much relief that I have done all I could and am ready to hand over the reins to our next Sr. Warden. It is always a bitter/sweet time when your three year term on the vestry is over. I trust the Holy Spirit to guide the vestry in selecting an amazing person to lead and serve as the "Rector's Warden".

In November we elected 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. We much continue the Shared Leadership model and partner with our new Rector, the Rev. Laura A. Bryant to accomplish all that we have envisioned as we adopted our 5 Core Values.

Thank you to everyone who has "Zoomed" in for worship or prayers or conversations or meetings. Thank you to the best vestry ever and to a faithful congregation.

I look forward to my next phase with St. John's as I work with the Endowment Committee to continue to manage our funds and begin new Planned Giving initiatives to grow our endowment for the future of our parish.

God bless you all and I hope to see you in person in 2021!

Suzanne Donaldson

## Hotel Amenities Donations

The Hotel Amenities Donation Drop-Off Day on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> doubled as an opportunity for parishioners to pick up a copy of the book for our Advent Conversations and Compline, Living Well through Advent, from Living Compass. Reverend Laura Bryant, her husband, John, and Senior Warden Suzanne Donaldson were on hand to greet drivers and hand out the booklets. A total of 32 booklets were distributed while a mountain of donations were dropped off. Donated items included clothing, blankets, towels and washcloths, gloves, winter coats, Kleenex packets, winter coats, school supplies, tarps, bleach, shampoo, body wash, bottled water, coffee, a bag of oranges, snacks, dog food, a laptop computer, and more!

At the end of the collection, Rev. Laura blessed the items and prayed for those who gave them and those who will receive them.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry and for your outpouring of love and caring for our neighbors.

**The next drop-off day is Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 12 - 1:30 pm.** If you would like to find out more about this ministry or become involved, please contact Rebecca Paluzzi, paluzzi@mail.etsu.edu.

## Church office closed

Please note that the following church office closures:

December: **The office will be closed on Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** so that our staff members may enjoy the Christmas Holiday with family and friends.

January: **The office will be closed on Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for New Year's Day and Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

## St. John's YTD Financial Report

	Oct 2019 Actual YTD	Oct 2020 Actual YTD	Oct YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2020 Vs 2019	Variance YTD Vs Budget
Plate Offerings	10,203.26	1,581.53	10,900.00	(8,621.73)	(9,318.47)
Pledge Payments	243,997.33	230,800.91	250,300.00	(13,196.42)	(19,499.09)
Prior Pledges	870.00	285.56	1,000.00	(584.44)	(714.44)
Contributions	50,456.42	37,485.63	42,900.00	(12,970.79)	(5,414.37)
Misc. Income	942.19	442.46	933.30	(499.73)	(490.84)
Prepaid Pledges	7,000.00	10,272.00	3,400.00	3,272.00	6,872.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$313,469.20</b>	<b>\$280,868.09</b>	<b>\$309,433.30</b>	<b>-\$32,601.11</b>	<b>-\$28,565.21</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$280,825.44</b>	<b>\$256,866.14</b>	<b>\$318,747.55</b>	<b>-\$23,959.30</b>	<b>-\$61,881.41</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$32,643.76</b>	<b>\$24,001.95</b>	<b>-\$9,314.25</b>	<b>-\$8,641.81</b>	<b>\$33,316.20</b>

## Centering Prayer

We continue to meet weekly on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm ending usually before 7:00 pm and all are welcome.

There continue to be multiple offerings at St. Mary's Retreat Center. Reverend Tom Ward and Rebecca Paluzzi have been offering several retreats per month. I particularly recommend the Advent Retreat Day.

<https://www.stmaryssewanee.org/calendar/>

### St. Mary's Sewanee Centering Prayer Advent Retreat

During this time of COVID-19, St. Mary's Sewanee is offering a virtual one-day Centering Prayer retreat that will be led by the Rev. Tom Ward and Rebecca Paluzzi on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 am - 5:00 pm. Registration for the event is available at

<https://www.stmaryssewanee.org/events/centering-prayer-advent-retreat/>. This event designed for Centering Prayer practitioners is modeled on the rhythm of the multi-day retreats that St. Mary's Sewanee has offered for more than 20 years.



## Conversations and Compline

I would like to recognize and thank those people who have supported the offerings for Wednesday evenings by their teaching, their presence, and by leading Compline for us. The following teachers have been excellent and we have all benefited from their information and discussions: Lee Philips, Beth Wiley, Chaplain Michael Woods from the Veterans Administration, and Emily Bidgood from the vestry who has been of significant support. Thank you.

**For Advent, we will have three weeks of discussion from the Living Compass booklet, *Living Well Through Advent, Practicing Hope with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind*. Discussions will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 - 7:00 pm, led by Robbin Brent, editor of the booklet and Frances Jackson. Discussions will be followed by Compline. [Click here](#) to view and download a digital copy of the booklet. Hard copies are available at the church office (423-926-8141).**

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## Diocese of East Tennessee

There are multiple offerings from Bishop Brian and the Diocese for Advent. Check out the website and the blog from Bishop Brian and his urging to "seek community". <https://www.dioet.org/advent/>

Bishop Brian and Greg Garrett, author of "A Long, Long Way, *Hollywood's Unfinished Journey from Racism to Reconciliation*" will discuss the book on three Monday evenings during Advent, Nov. 30, Dec 7, and Dec 14 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm. You may register for the discussion here: <https://www.dioet.org/events/a-long-long-way-advent-discussion/>. A link will be sent to your email.

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## Grateful Thanks

For Lynn and Nick. Our grateful thanks to Lynn McCoy for her work with the Journal and to Nick Andrews for his work with our daily and weekly communications...and unknown efforts from both of them. Lynn and Nick have been and are holding us together, during "COVID Time" and even in "Ordinary Time" with their faithful communications. Those communications are beautifully done. Their work is inspired and inspiring. Bishop Brian mentioned the idea of seeking and building community in his video blog, "Reconciling Thoughts" as a theme. We could not do that without Lynn and Nick. From all of us at St. John's...you are a gift and a blessing to us.

Frances Jackson

# EfM

## Education for Ministry

**What 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 laypersons 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.

Course begins Sunday, January 17, 2021, 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm.

Classes meet weekly on Zoom.

Participants must commit to a one-year cycle (36 weeks).

Enrollment is limited to 12 participants.

Tuition/Material Fee: \$375 (+\$5 online registration fee), payable at registration.

**Deadline for enrollment is December 10, 2020**



For more information contact mentor:

Lee Phillips

[lee@wordmatters.com](mailto:lee@wordmatters.com) 423-676-7902

EfM website: [efm.sewanee.edu](http://efm.sewanee.edu)

## The Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in East Tennessee

February 5 - 6, 2021

### Participate in Connection

We will open convention Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, with a Friday evening prayers and social session open to all participants. As we develop conversations, events, groups, webinars, and topics outside of the business session, all are invited to participate. Participants will be able to view the business session as well. Information about participation in convention will be conveyed through email.

Participant registration is open to all across the diocese. From engaging in dialogue in affinity groups to watching the business meeting live stream, participants can engage in the conversations of this year's diocesan convention. All that is needed to register is your name and email. You'll receive information about the various meetings and offerings in the time leading up to the business meeting and any additional discussions afterward.



A participant in the convention is someone who:

- possesses a disciple's heart;
- is willing to grow in faith through understanding;
- misses gathering in person with other faithful Christians;
- desires to connect with Episcopalians across the diocese;
- engages in Reconciling All things in Christ;
- listens to the Spirit then acts throughout the world.

Note: The role of participant will be as a viewer only during the business session. Active participation will be reserved for all elements outside of the business session.

**There is no particular deadline for participant registration. Sign-up early to find out about events as convention unfolds. Online registration at <https://www.dioceseconvention.org/participant-registration>**

## Happy December Birthday

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



## Happenings

### Special events in December

Morning Worship -	Sundays	• 9:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Homily - Rev. Laura	Sun,	• 9:00 am	
Virtual Coffee Hour	Sun,	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering following Morning Prayer
<b>Mark your calendar:</b> 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) Followed by Compline
St. Nicholas' feast day	Sun, Dec 6	• 9:00 am	Virtual visit from St. Nicholas
EfM registration deadline	Thur, Dec 10	•	see article for information on registration
St. Mary's Sewanee Centering Prayer Advent Retreat	Sat, Dec 12	• 6:30 am - 5:00 pm	Virtual -- contact <a href="http://www.stmaryssewanee.org">www.stmaryssewanee.org</a> or call 800-728-1659 for information
Hotel Amenities Ministry drop off	Sat, Dec 19	• 12 - 1:30 pm	Drop off at undercroft
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols	Sun, Dec 20	• 5:00 pm	Zoom video gathering
Christmas Eve services Christmas Eve Service Christmas Eve Service	Thur, Dec 24	• 4:00 pm • 9:00 pm •	
Christmas Day Holy Eucharist	Fri, Dec 25	• 10:00 am	
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	Fri, Dec 25	•	<b>Church office closed</b>

### Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Staff Meeting	Wed. Dec 9	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Finance Committee (online meeting)	Tue. Dec 16	•	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tue. Dec 16	• 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.
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.



# Happy January Birthday

1	Robbyn Maylott	8	Sandy Radford	18	Tamar McCollum
1	David Booher	9	John Edwards	19	Linda Lucas
1	Bonnie Pedersen	11	Wesley Buerkle	19	Calvert Williams
1	Charles Honeycutt	11	Finn Lilavivat	20	Laura Duncan
1	Michael Morrissey	11	Ed Lilly	22	Joe Wallen
2	Angie Green	11	Eddie Miller	23	Ree Hunter
3	Joy McGinnis	12	Terri Walker	26	Mark Merriman
3	Ann VanDreumel	15	Ken Johnson	27	Catherine Phillips
4	Pat Potter	16	Emily Nagy	28	Nancy Jane Earnest
6	Owen Grosserode	18	Joel Tramel	31	Nita Summers



## Happenings

### Special events in January

<b>New Year's Day Holiday</b>	Fri, Jan 1	•	<b>Church office closed</b>
Morning Worship -	Sundays	• 9:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Homily -	Sun,	• 9:00 am	
Virtual Coffee Hour	Sun,	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering following Morning Prayer
Hotel Amenities Ministry drop off	TBA	• 12 - 1:30 pm	Drop off at undercroft
<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>	Mon, Jan 18	•	<b>Church office closed</b>
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
Annual Convetion of the Episcopal Church in East TN	Feb, 5 & 6	•	On-line (see article for registration information)
Paramount Chamber Players	Sat, Feb 6	• 7:00 - 8:00 pm	Nave

### Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Staff Meeting	Wed, Jan 13	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Finance Committee (online meeting)	Tue, Jan 20	•	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tue, Jan 20	• 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 (begins January 17th)	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.

### Coffee Hour

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



## *Saying Goodbye*

Members of the vestry and the St. John's staff decided to get together, practicing safe public health measures to give Canon SuzeAnne her goodbye gifts from the church. Some of us in the congregation put together a basket of locally made items, local treats, and several beautiful gifts handmade by St. John's members with SuzeAnne especially in mind. A special photo book showing moments and faces from the last three momentous years was also gifted to her. Lastly she was presented a generous "purse", made possible by your collective donations, that made her eyes pop wide. She really felt the magnitude of our thankfulness for her ministry to us, and her friendship, and we were glad we could do it in person safely!



### **Dear members of St. John's congregation,**

Words alone cannot convey my gratitude for the amazingly generous "purse" I received from you. And your vestry represented you so very well as we celebrated on your behalf, the completion of St. John's Interim process – with the call of Rev. Laura Bryant. Even though socially distanced and masked as this pandemic requires, we had a delightful reception and time together. I was presented with a basket filled with items representing highlights of the past couple of years – including local and handmade items along with some fun sermon connections. There were humorous and thoughtful gifts along with some that connected many events and experiences. And I will treasure them all.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in an "in between time."

And now may you have much joy engaging your next chapter with your new Rector,

Yours in Christ

*SuzeAnne+*

Return Service Requested

