



JOURNAL

February 2021

 Greetings from Rev. Laura

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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 for
information

Thursday

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

Breath and Hands

Dear Friends in Christ,

In just a couple of weeks Lent will be upon us. Lent begins with the imposition of ashes on our foreheads and these words: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Though standing close to you to impose ashes will not be safe this year, we will still make a good beginning for Lent with ashes and earth.

The ashes are "a mark of our mortal nature (BCP 265)." We have been more aware than ever this year of our mortal nature; we hardly need a reminder. Yet the ashes and the admonition to remember our mortality point us even more powerfully to the gift of life and to creation. God formed human beings "from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the human became a living being. (Genesis 2: 7-8)" We are held in life each moment by the very breath of God and formed by the very hand of God. The flip side of mortality and fragility is praise for the gift and miracle of life. And we are held in life by each other, by the breath of love and prayers, and by other hands to hold us up when we cannot stand on our own. Thanks be to God.

We continue to live in uncertain, stressful, and sad times. We all need help sometimes. Remember that you are dust, but remember too, the gift and miracle of life, given each day to share with each other.

Faithfully,

Rev. Laura

Conversations and Compline in Lent

Walking the Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life

In the first century, Jesus of Nazareth inspired a movement. A community of people whose lives were centered on Jesus Christ and committed to living the way of God's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, and redemptive love. Before they were called "church" or "Christian," this Jesus Movement was simply called "the way." Today, says Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, "I believe our vocation is to live as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement."

But how can we together grow more deeply with love at the center of our lives, so we can bear witness to Jesus' way of love in and for the world? The deep roots of our Christian tradition offer just such a path. For centuries, monastic communities have shaped their lives around rhythms and practices for following Jesus together. Such a pattern is known as a "Rule of Life." The Way of Love outlines a rule for the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement.

In conversation with each other and our spiritual tradition, we will explore practices that help us grow in the way of love and as followers of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday services will be February 17th at 12:15 pm and 7:00 pm. Watch for details concerning these services in the weekly emails from St. John's.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held out of doors three times during Lent. One of these occasions will be led by the youth of the parish and adapted especially for families and children. Watch the next Journal and weekly emails for more information.

Small Group Conversations with Rev. Laura

New dates have been arranged for small group virtual gatherings with Rev. Laura. If you have not had a chance to join a small group conversation with Rev. Laura, we hope one of these times will work for you. Whether you are a longtime member or new to St John's, you are invited and encouraged to join in. Rev. Laura is eager to get to know you.

Tuesday, February 2nd 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 11th 11:00 am

Bring with you an object that tells something important about you or about your life right now.

[Click here](#) to view and sign up on the Google Drive Excel Sheet.

If you have trouble filling out the online form, please email the church office (office@stjohnstn.org).

A note from Bishop Brian

I wanted to update you on a new call to the Diocesan staff. Recently we heard word that Jody Davis has been called to the Diocese of West Texas, where he will be running Camp Duncan Park in Colorado. We are pleased and excited with this new opportunity for Jody. It also allows us to make a call for the Diocese of East Tennessee. I'm pleased to announce that Caroline Wood has accepted my call to join us as the Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Coordinator. Caroline is known to our diocese, has been a part of the Grace Point staff for several years, has served as a Youth Minister at St. Stephen's, has worked at Episcopal School of Knoxville, and is known to many of us. I am excited that she will be joining us in February 2021. So again, continue to keep Jody and Gracie in your prayers as they make plans to move to Texas and to Colorado. And **join me in welcoming Caroline Wood as our new Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Coordinator.**

St. John's 2021 Vestry

Jackie Mabrey Senior Warden
Bill Archer, Jr. Junior Warden
Wesley Buerkle Treasurer
Emily Bidgood
Owen Grosserode
Ed Jordan
Rebecca Paluzzi
Rita Plemmons
Joe Ripepi

A note of thanks:

Dear St. John's Family,

We would like to thank you for your most recent contributions to Good Samaritan Ministries, Inc. Thank you for being a blessing to our neighbors in need. Your giving impacts many. Because of your generosity, our ministry is in a better position to serve those in need and prevent homelessness in Upper East Tennessee.

Aaron T. Murphy,
CEO/Executive Director



Senior Warden's Report

Many years ago I asked a priest if there was a certain prayer that was supposed to be prayed when entering the worship space and kneeling in the pew before sitting down prior to the service beginning. The reply was that a prayer of gratitude is always a good place to begin. I took that suggestion, and I use that time to thank God for my church home and for my church family. Every single time. It is an honor for me to serve on the vestry, and I am humbled to serve as Senior Warden. In the Commissioning of the Vestry on January 10th, the officers and members of the Vestry vowed to “faithfully and reverently execute the duties of our ministry to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation.” By the time you read this, the Vestry will have had our first monthly meeting, plus a weekend (ZOOM) retreat! Please reach out to any vestry member with your hopes, ideas, and concerns, and please continue to pray for St. John’s Church and our community. It will take all of us working together to navigate 2021 with the hope of being back together in our church home soon.

Jackie Mabrey

A Brief History of the Endowment Fund of St. John’s Episcopal Church

In 1947, 5 members of St. John’s, Dr. G. Edward Campbell, Robert F. Harkins, W.W. Miller, Jr., Dr. Charles P. Wofford and Ferdinand Powell created The Endowment to receive property that was devised or bequeathed or otherwise gifted to the fund to be held in “trust” for the declared charitable and religious use for the advancement of religion in Johnson City, TN. The initial contribution in the amount of \$1,900 was made on January 17, 1948. For many years small amounts were contributed and in 1974 a \$50,000 bequest from the Elise Metzger Estate was received. The current principal balance (corpus) is \$59,450.

What is an Endowment? An **endowment** is a donation of money or property to a nonprofit organization which uses the resulting investment income for a specific purpose. Most **endowments** are designed to keep the principal amount intact while using the investment income for charitable efforts. Each year, only a portion

of the income earned is spent while the remainder is added to the principal for growth. In this respect, an **endowment** is a perpetual gift.

St. John’s Episcopal Church Endowment Fund is governed by The Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) which gives clear direction on the investment and spending policies of the fund. At the December 15, 2020 meeting the vestry appointed the members of the 2021 Endowment Committee: Suzanne Donaldson, Pat Potter and Dr. Fred Mackara.

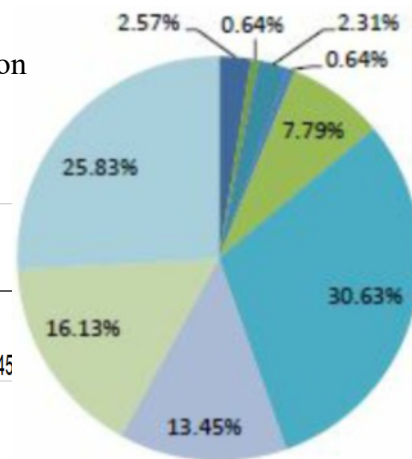
The Endowment Fund of St. John’s is alive and well and you will receive more information over the coming months concerning plans to grow the Endowment for the future ministries of our parish. Please contact me at sdlynx68@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Suzanne Donaldson

St. John’s 2021 budget

The 2021 budget for St. John’s Episcopal Church was approved by the vestry on December 15, 2020. Questions regarding the budget should be directed to Bob Cooper, Chair of the Finance Committee at bob.cooper@iveymechanical.com.

Christian Education	Spiritual Focus	Pastoral Care	Outreach	Music	Clergy	Vestry Responsibility	Admn	Facilities	Total
\$9,258	\$2,300	\$8,300	\$2,300	\$28,048	\$110,268	\$48,417	\$58,069	\$92,984	\$359,945
2.57%	0.64%	2.31%	0.64%	7.79%	30.63%	13.45%	16.13%	25.83%	



Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer meets every Tuesday night on Zoom. The site is open at 5:45 pm. We begin around 6:00 pm with silence, then a Lectio Divina, then a Centering Prayer 'sit'. We conclude before 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

If you have questions, feel free to contact Frances Jackson at 423-946-3345 or jxn621@gmail.com

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82821062149?pwd=cmZ3aDMvdUdUdVRjSFhBeDYxTW54dz09>

Meeting ID: 828 2106 2149

Passcode: Centering

Conversations and Compline: "Listening Together"

The Christian season of Epiphany is a time of discovery, of gifts – and of listening. **As 2021 begins with this part of the liturgical calendar, St. John's Episcopal Church offers a series of Conversations and Compline meetings led by Dr. Lee Bidgood (professor in Appalachian Studies at ETSU) entitled "Listening Together."** In a time of discord, it seems important that we consider how we might listen to each other, and listen along with each other. Through introductions to the discipline of ethnomusicology and the field of sound studies, this series will provide participants with new ways to engage in spiritually-informed listening to the world. Sessions will focus on a range of topics, including

race and country music, soundscapes and bells, and the ways that we interact with hymn texts. There is no single book that we will use to guide the series.

Individual texts and media will be available for each session on Lee's website:

<http://www.leegidgood.net#listening-together-epiphany-2021>. **Meetings will take place via Zoom on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, January 13 through February 10, 2021.** Register in advance using this link.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZeldejugjouHt3aWlpsKCnFu4FjEjp4G9L> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Holy Water Distribution

– Holy Water to bring home

We thank you Father for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. (The Thanksgiving Over the Water, BCP, p. 306).

On the first Sunday of the Epiphany season, for the celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord, we prayed the Thanksgiving Over the Water and blessed water in the baptismal font. The blessed water has been poured into individual bottles for you to bring home to use on Sunday mornings or for other times of prayer during the week.

A font or bowl of holy water typically sits at the entrance to the church or nave. Many people, on entering the church dip their fingers in the holy water and make the sign of the cross over themselves, as a reminder of their baptism. You may use the holy water in the same way at home on Sunday mornings or for other times of prayer and devotion.

We make the sign of the cross by slowly touching our foreheads, then touching our hearts, then moving to the left shoulder and right shoulder. In this way, we make the sign of the cross over our whole selves, to remember that we are wholly clothed in God's love, marked as Christ's own forever, and empowered by the Holy Spirit to follow him in the way of love.

If you need to dispose of Holy Water, simply pour it on the ground. Bottles should be rinsed (rinse water poured on the ground) and returned to the church.

You can stop by the church office (on Fairview Street) during office hours to pick up Holy Water.

The Hotel Amenities Ministry – Looking Back and Moving Ahead



It all began with a tiny bottle of shampoo.

It was a ministry for the summer of 2019, just three months. “Save your little bottles of shampoo and conditioner”, we said. “There are people who need them.” And you did! In fact, you began to bring them by the bag and by the box. Hotel amenities had accumulated from past trips, and you brought your stash. **Some of these tiny bottles only weigh ½ ounce, but our first delivery to The River Ministry and The Johnson City Downtown Day Center weighed 27 pounds!** The little bottles kept coming and soon they were joined by full-sized versions as we found that the larger size could be used by the Day Center. It did not take long before someone asked if bags would be useful, so hand-made shoulder bags were added to the collection. Fall was coming, so someone asked about scarves. We soon carried a large basket of hand-knit scarves to be blessed. More knit, crocheted, and fleece scarves and warm hats appeared each week, bags of them. We found out that the Day Center needed men’s jeans, so we began to collect clothes, then shoes, then winter coats, but always the hotel amenities kept coming.

People began to volunteer to help make deliveries, and then came COVID-19, and we all sheltered in our homes, March, April, May. We were all trying to navigate the new environment in which we found ourselves. Then in June, we began to look beyond ourselves and once again found a way to reach out to our neighbors. After gaining Vestry approval, the first contact-free-drive by donation drop-off was held on June 27, 2020. Since then, we have held a monthly drop-off and have delivered a total of 15 loads of items to the Johnson City Downtown Day Center and Family Promise.

Since June 2020, there have been approximately 149 donations made, not counting several monetary donations earmarked for this ministry. Seven drivers have loaded up their cars, SUVs, and trucks and made multiple deliveries.

Just to give an idea of the volume, we have delivered 195 bags of clothes, 1,072 bottles of water, and 133 fabric masks. We have delivered backpacks, tarps, camping pads, tents and sleeping bags. In December alone, we delivered 40 hand-made scarves and hats, 12 pairs of boots and sturdy shoes, 3 bags of raincoats, hand-warmers, and long johns. The variety of donated items range from snack crackers to bleach, to toothpaste and brushes, towels, washcloths, blankets, shampoo, body

wash, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, razors, tissue packets, lotion, lip balm, cough drops, gloves, socks, coats, sweaters, dog food, coffee, laundry detergent, tote bags, cleaning supplies, and hotel amenities. In December, we also delivered more than two shopping carts full of oranges, apples, cookies, candy canes, and other treats.



This ministry has also received donations of laptop computers, iPads, and routers for distribution to our parishioners to meet their needs for accessing on-line services and school, and a USB charging port for the Day Center.

Our newest project is the purchase of a washing machine for the Johnson City Downtown Day Center. They serve the needs of approximately 200 members of Johnson City’s homeless community each month, and COVID-19 is creating increased demands on their services. As of January 2020, the homeless population was projected to be 385, but a huge increase is expected when the census is completed this month. The Center provides a place for this population to shower, do laundry, get clothing, medical care, counseling, and help finding employment and housing. They run about 13 loads of laundry 5 days a week, and their current machine is beyond repair. Information will be forthcoming in the weekly St. John’s email letting you know how you can participate in this project.

We will be examining ways in which to expand and move forward with this ministry to better serve our neighbors. Your support has been a blessing to our community and a joy to our parish. **If you are interested in finding out additional ways in which you can be involved, please contact Rebecca Paluzzi paluzzir@etsu.edu.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself...and respect the dignity of every human being?

I will, with God’s help.

Rebecca Paluzzi

Epiphany Pageant



THANK YOU to all the players in this year's Epiphany pageant! The challenges of using Zoom were no match for our wonderful cast who cheerfully adapted to rewrites and extra rehearsal, and willingly offered their family time to create this gift to our church. Madison Van Tassell was a terrific narrator. Eleanor and Wesley Buerkle were Mary and Joseph. Willis, Emily and Lee Bidgood were the shepherds and Franklin Bidgood was the sheep. Magnolia Allen was the angel Gabriel, with Rosemary and Sara Allen as the angelic host. Owen Grosserode was the innkeeper. Crawford, Finn, and Rucht Lilavivat were the Magi. Thanks again to all of them!

Rae Grosserode



Happy February Birthday

2	Keith Sutton	9	Alicia Benton	14	Chris Honeycutt	24	Regina Blackwell
3	Keith Hart	10	David Kalwinsky	16	Joe Nagy	25	Mary Alice Fryar
5	Gary Mabrey	10	Richard Luther	16	Elaine Dunkelberger	25	Brandon Guffey
5	Steve Felix	11	Carolyn Ledford	18	Mike Radford	26	Beth Brading
7	George Taylor	14	Messina Lyle	20	Gary Fuller	26	Cathy Johnston
9	Frank Ray	14	Katy Pindzola	21	Sherry Hart	27	Pearl Ume-Nwagbo
9	Harriet Cone	14	Frank Newman	24	Elisabeth Dubberley	29	Don Hart



Happenings

Special events in February

Morning Worship -	Sundays	♦ 9:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Virtual Coffee Hour	Sundays	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering following Morning Prayer
Small Group Meetings with Rev. Laura	Tues, Feb 2 Thur, Feb 11	♦ 7:00 pm 11:00 pm	Zoom video gathering, please see article inside for instructions on signing up
Conversations and Compline "Listening Together"	Wed, Feb 3 & 10	♦ 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30) Followed by Compline
Conversations and Compline Walking the Way of Love: A Jesus Centered Life	Wed, Feb 24 Wed, Mar 3, 10, 17, & 24	♦ 6:00 - 7:00 pm ♦ 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 5:30) Followed by Compline
Mardi Gras via Zoom	Tues, Feb 16	♦ 6:00 - 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering
Ash Wednesday	Wed, Feb 17	♦ 12:15 pm 7:00 pm	TBA
Hotel Amenities Ministry drop off	Sat, Feb 20	♦ 12 - 1:30 pm	Drop off at undercroft
Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in East TN	Feb, 5 & 6		On-line (see article for registration information)

Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Staff Meeting	Wednesdays	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Finance Committee (online meeting)	Tue. Feb 16	♦ TBA	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tue. Feb 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.
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 5:45, meeting starts at 6:00 pm.
Morning Prayer (Rite I)	Thursdays	♦ 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering.

Sexton Employment Search

During the month of February, we will be taking employment applications for a Sexton. If you know of an experienced individual please invite him or her to apply. Job details follow.

SEXTON (BUILDING AND GROUNDS CARETAKER):

1 year work related experience preferred. 27-hour work week, experience based pay rate. Normal workweek is Sunday plus 4 week days.

Duties include interior cleaning/maintenance; event setup and take down; HVAC filter changes and maintenance supply control; minor interior repairs.

To request employment application email office@stjohnstn.org or phone (423) 926-8141 Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. (EOE).

Any assistance you can give would be much appreciated.



Zoom over to St. John's Mardi Gras

Tuesday, February 16th 6:00 - 7:00 pm



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