



# JOURNAL

March 2021

## Staff

The Rev. Laura Annette Bryant  
Rector  
[revlbryant@stjohnstn.org](mailto:revlbryant@stjohnstn.org)

The Rev. Cathy L. Johnston  
Deacon  
[cjmtnbike@charter.net](mailto:cjmtnbike@charter.net)

Jon Lau  
Parish Administrator  
[jlau2jctn@aol.com](mailto:jlau2jctn@aol.com)

Nick Andrews  
Organist/Choirmaster  
[music@stjohnstn.org](mailto:music@stjohnstn.org)  
Administrative Assistant  
[office@stjohnstn.org](mailto:office@stjohnstn.org)

Rae Grosserode  
Director of Children's  
Education  
[tngrosserode@comcast.net](mailto:tngrosserode@comcast.net)

Hannah Holder  
Lead Nursery Attendant  
[hdfsteppenstoneacademy@gmail.com](mailto:hdfsteppenstoneacademy@gmail.com)

Lynn McCoy  
Journal Editor  
[journal@stjohnstn.org](mailto:journal@stjohnstn.org)  
[sjjournaltn@gmail.com](mailto:sjournaltn@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  
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

Dear Friends in Christ,

*"Jesus had founded the most revolutionary movement in human history: a movement built on the unconditional love of God for the world and the mandate to live that love."* (as quoted by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry in Walking the Way of Love)

Our work and ministry as a parish, staff, and vestry falls under this rubric and vision. At the end of January, I spent the weekend on retreat with your vestry (via Zoom, of course!). St. John's is blessed to have a gifted, prayerful and highly competent vestry committed to leading the parish in Jesus' Way of Love. This past year has been a difficult one for all of us, as a church, as individuals, and as families. This next year will continue to have many challenges and will require adaptability and generosity even amidst great joy of resuming worship and ministry in person again. But Jesus' Way of Love provides vision and a foundation that is sure and steady encouragement to us.

The vestry retreat included personal and communal reflection, meditative prayer walks in the neighborhood surrounding St. John's, gleanings and lessons from the past year, and assignment of each vestry member as a liaison to one of the ministry areas of the parish.

There are some questions the vestry reflected upon during the vestry retreat:

- *What is most significant to you about where you are on your journey of faith and in what ways would you like to grow and develop this year in your journey of faith?*
- *What has this year shown us about what it means to be a church?*
- *What good things happened? What has been most difficult? What risks have we taken? What new things have emerged?*
- *What did you notice in your walk around the neighborhood that you had never noticed or known before? How will we love and serve our neighbors and the diverse needs of our neighborhood?*

I invite you to read the letter from Jackie Mabrey, Senior Warden, and other reports from the vestry retreat in this Journal. And do say "yes!" if someone asks your help in the joyous work of "opening up" our building, worship, and ministries in the weeks and months ahead!

Peace to you and all the blessings of this Lenten season and Jesus' Way of Love.

Rev. Laura



Rev Laura Feb 21<sup>st</sup> service via Zoom  
Photo credit: Ellen Wallen



# Senior Warden's Report

A question frequently asked at my home is, “what have you learned and what will you do differently?” This question asks us to search for the lesson learned in our experiences. During our Vestry retreat we each shared what we have learned this past year about St. John’s Church. The responses led to a wide range of emotions including sad and surprised and hopeful and guilty and nostalgic and concerned and eager and thankful and blessed. I believe we would all agree that we have learned a great deal, and may choose to approach some things differently when we are able to return to our building and be together in person once again. During this Lenten season of preparation, the Vestry is working to organize and be ready for our building to open again. A renovated Great Hall is just one example of the work being completed.

During our retreat we each also shared what has been the most important to us about service on the Vestry. One response was “being on the Vestry means you get to see beyond the exterior and into the inside, the heart and the veins and the blood of the church. It’s as if the congregation is the heart and everything flows from that to make the church work.” The entire congregation is needed as we prepare to open the doors again. Let’s be ready! So I ask each of you to consider what you have learned and what you will do differently as a member of the St. John’s Church family. Don’t keep it a secret! Please reach out to any Vestry member to share how you are being led to participate in preparing. I miss all of you very much!

Jackie Mabrey

St. John’s 2021 Vestry  
Jackie Mabrey, Senior Warden  
Bill Archer, Junior Warden  
Wesley Buerkle, Treasurer  
Emily Bidgood  
Owen Grosserode  
Ed Jordan  
Rebecca Paluzzi  
Rita Plemmons  
Joe Pipepi

## Conversations and Compline

### “Walking the Way of Love”

A special thanks to any and all of you who have participated in previous offerings for the last year during Conversations and Compline. This is growing into a lovely and loving community during our COVID-time.

We began a new Wednesday evening series at 7:00 pm for the season of Lent led by Reverend Laura and Frances Jackson on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The topic is “Walking the Way of Love”. Each conversation will conclude with the brief service of Compline.

- Mar 3 LEARN
- Mar 10 PRAY
- Mar 17 WORSHIP
- Mar 24 BLESS, GO, REST

## Planned Giving / Stewardship

HAVE YOU TAKEN YOUR REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD) FOR 2021?

If you are 72 or older, you can make a contribution to St. John’s Episcopal Church directly from your Traditional IRA simply by instructing the custodian or plan administrator to make the transfer directly to St. John’s as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). You are allowed to transfer up to \$100,000 a year to the charities of your choice.

Your gift will be transferred directly to St. John’s, will not be reported as taxable income and will count toward your minimum distribution requirements for 2021.

And, most important, your generous support will help sustain St. John’s work in our congregation and in our neighborhood bringing about renewal and positive change in our community.

Ask your IRA custodian or plan administrator about this option. The funds should be mailed to **St. John’s Episcopal Church** as a donation for **Your Name**. The mailing address is **500 N. Roan Street, Johnson City, TN 37601**.



## Junior Warden's Report

The work in the Great Hall will be complete soon. The long planned



and much anticipated renovation of the Great Hall should be substantially finished by the middle of March! Begun last fall, the much needed addition of the new HVAC system is up and running, very quiet and it provides a level of comfort not available before. The units are located in the ceiling area of the stage and once the ceiling is reinstalled, they should not be visible. The registers are located in two color

matched extensions that run along the ceiling of the Hall.

The old floor HVAC units have been removed and the floor will be repaired and finished where they were located. The project also includes some acoustical improvements. I know all of us are looking forward to the day when we are able to gather again to worship in our beautiful spaces and enjoy being together in fellowship.

In other news, the roof project is essentially done with only a few small issues to be resolved. Also, landscaping continues with the planned removal of more large overgrown shrubs and replacements with smaller ones for appearance and security reasons.

Regards,  
Bill Archer



### Vestry Retreat Reflections

At the January vestry retreat, members reflected on the question **What is significant to where you are right now in your journey of Faith, and how would you like to grow in your journey?** Here is how some of your vestry members responded. During this Lenten season, how would you answer?

I am reminded of the Greek myth that all strangers were to be welcomed because you never knew if you were welcoming one of the gods into your home. I also want to be welcoming to all, because we are all made by the same Creator.

I am working on listening more patiently. When someone else is talking with me I am waiting for their full story, for when God's voice is revealed, it's the way of practicing letting God truly lead.

I am finding myself being open and non-judgmental about where people are and what they are going through. It's truly freeing to live without passing judgment on others.

As I begin a new phase in my life, instead of kicking and screaming like I usually feel like I do when change happens, this time I am waiting patiently for what's next, and staying open to the next chapter of life.

I am working on not just knowing God is in control in my head, but living it. Knowing in my heart that God is in control.

I am setting aside time early in the morning each day to listen. To pay attention to how God is calling me in this moment.

# Nursery News

Hello from Hannah and Padra, Nursery Staff, at St. John's.

It has been a year since we last saw any of your little ones in the nursery. We greatly miss interacting with them, and the parents sharing stories of their developmental milestones each week. Padra and I are ready to come back to serve St. John's nursery needs. We will be here to help slowly establish a new routine for familiar faces and new faces when the time comes. We look forward to seeing you and your children, and we hope everyone is doing well and staying safe.

Thank you,

Hannah Holder, Lead Nursery Attendant

## Tiny Bottles – Big Impact: The Hotel Amenities Ministry in 2020

From collecting tiny bottles of shampoo in June 2019, the Hotel Amenities Ministry has gained momentum as a result of the inspiration and passion of the people of St. John's to expand the way in which our parish family reaches out in love to our community. Throughout 2020 the sheer volume of donated items was evidence of St. John's heart for giving and serving. However, it was as we compiled the figures for our annual Parochial Report that the extent of our efforts took on a different form of measurement.

The Hotel Amenities Ministry operated as usual in January, February, and the beginning of March in 2020. When we went on lockdown and waited in our homes, the ministry was on hold. Up until that point, we had collected items in the Narthex on Sunday mornings. No church services meant no donations. In June we received permission from the Vestry to have a contact-free, drive-by drop-off, and it became a monthly event. **In the 10 months of 2020 during which we collected donations, this is the impact of our ministry:**

**2050 people were served by the Hotel Amenities Ministry in 2020.**

**65 volunteers served in this ministry.**

If you dropped off a donation, wrote a check, or made a delivery, you have made a difference in the life of the people who live on the streets around us. There is no such thing as a small or insignificant gift. To the person whose needs you met, your gift means everything to them.

We are moving forward with our monthly donation drop-offs in 2021. In addition to our usual list of items, during Lent we will be addressing food insecurity by asking that you bring canned goods as well. Food items will be taken to area food banks and One Acre Cafe, so please be generous. **Reverend Laura has set a goal of 300 pounds of food!**

**The March donation drop-off will be on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 - 1:15 pm.**

## The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee

**Our Bishop Brian Cole opened The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee electronically on February 6<sup>th</sup>, from the Centering Prayer Room at St John's.** The parish of St. John's was able to see and listen to his address during our 9:00 AM online worship service Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Before the restrictions of the pandemic, the convention was scheduled to be hosted at St. John's.



## St. John's YTD Financial Report

	Jan 2020 Actual YTD	Jan 2021 Actual YTD	Jan YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2021 Vs 2020	Variance YTD Vs Budget
Plate Offerings	\$502.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$502.00	\$0.00
Pledge Payments	\$57,306.76	\$35,752.00	\$37,700.00	-\$21,554.76	-\$1,948.00
Prior Pledges	\$285.00	\$885.00	\$400.00	\$600.00	\$485.00
Contributions	\$6,169.00	\$2,755.60	\$2,200.00	-\$3,413.40	\$555.60
Misc. Income	\$160.00	\$13.00	\$79.17	-\$147.00	-\$66.17
Prepaid Pledges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$64,422.76</b>	<b>\$39,405.60</b>	<b>\$40,379.17</b>	<b>-\$25,017.16</b>	<b>-\$973.57</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$28,979.24</b>	<b>\$25,804.60</b>	<b>\$31,403.77</b>	<b>-\$3,174.64</b>	<b>-\$5,599.17</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$35,443.52</b>	<b>\$13,601.00</b>	<b>\$8,975.40</b>	<b>-\$21,842.52</b>	<b>\$4,625.60</b>

# Happy March Birthday

1	Charlotte Caudill	7	Reneau Dubberley	21	Charlene Lilly
1	Michael Humby	7	Joan Lancaster	21	Melissa Van Tassell
1	Kennie Boling	9	Phil Ulmer	26	Eric Combs
4	Beth Herron	11	Donna Winton	27	Bob Cooper
6	Ted Tyrcha	11	Bruce Donaldson	27	David Champouillon
6	Anna Faye Honeycutt	16	Michael Maylott	28	Bucky Farnor
7	Margot Humby	17	Rucht Lilavivat	28	Ruth Miller
		17	Benjamin Cleveland	31	Esther Pawlowicz



## Happenings

### Special events in March

Morning Worship -	Sundays	• 9:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Virtual Coffee Hour	Sundays	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering following Morning Prayer
Conversations and Compline Walking the Way of Love: A Jesus Centered Life	Wed, Mar 3, 10, 17, & 24	• 7:00 - 8:00 pm • 7:00 - 8:00 pm	Zoom video gathering (start signing in at 6:45) Followed by Compline
Hotel Amenities Ministry drop-off	Sat, Mar 20	• 12 - 1:15 pm	Drop off at undercroft
Stations of the Cross	Wed, Mar 10 Sun, Mar 14 Wed, Mar 24	• 12:15 pm • 3:00 pm • 12:15 pm	See article on back page regarding sign up.
Palm Sunday Services	Sun, Mar 28	• 9:00 am	Zoom video gathering
Compline	Mon, Tue & Wed; 29th - 31st	• 8:00 pm	Zoom video gathering
Thursday morning prayer Maundy Thursday Liturgy	Thur, Apr 1	• 10:00 am 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering
Good Friday Liturgy Stations of the Cross	Fri, Apr 2	• 12 noon • 6:00 pm	Zoom video gathering Sign up required
Easter Vigil	Sat, Apr 3	• 8:00 pm	See St. John's weekly enews for information
Easter Sunday	Sun, Apr 4	• TBD	See St. John's weekly enews for information

### Monthly Scheduled Meetings

Finance Committee (online meeting)	Tue, Mar 16	• TBA	Zoom video gathering
Vestry Meeting (online meeting)	Tue, Mar 16	• 7:00 pm	Zoom video gathering

### Weekly Scheduled Meetings

Sunday School for Children (K - 6th)	Sundays	• 10:30 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 5:45, meeting starts at 6:00 pm.
Morning Prayer (Rite I)	Thursdays	• 10:00 am	Zoom video gathering.

## Attention Graduates!

**You made it through this historic year!** Now Graduation is just around the corner and your St. John's family wants an opportunity to recognize your achievement. **Please let us know who – you or your family member – is graduating in 2021.** Send the graduate's name, picture, school they are graduating from, major if applicable, parent / family names, and future plans for the graduate. Send your information to Lynn McCoy [lotnta@gmail.com](mailto:lotnta@gmail.com) or to the church office.

