



JOURNAL

November 2021

Staff

The Rev. Laura A. Bryant
Rector

revlbryant@stjohnstn.org

The Rev. Cathy L. Johnston
Deacon

cjmtnbike@charter.net

Jon Lau

Parish Administrator
jlau2jctn@aol.com

Nick Andrews

Admin. Assistant / Dir. of Music
office@stjohnstn.org

Rae Grosserode

Dir. of Children's Education
tngrosserode@comcast.net

Church Office: 423-926-8141
office@stjohnstn.org

Vestry

*Jackie Mabrey, Sr. Warden
Bill Archer, Jr. Warden

*Wesley Buerkle, Treasurer
Emily Bidgood
Brandon Guffey

Ed Jordan
Rebecca Paluzzi
Rita Plemmons

*Joe Ripepi

** The three members marked by asterisks are rotating off the Vestry at the end of December. See Page 7 for important news about the upcoming Vestry election.*



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE IN EAST TENNESSEE
WWW.DIOET.ORG

A message from the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have been with you as your rector for almost a year now. My joy has only grown – and is still growing – as I come to know you, as we become true companions in the journey of faith, and as we have embarked on mission and ministry together. In September, we were finally able to mark this beginning at my formal installation and the celebration of new ministry.

We have so many worthy and important dreams as a people and parish in the heart of Johnson City: growth in our outreach ministries and in concrete and generous service to our neighbors; greater investment in our children and youth, and a youth ministry staff position; installation of a new pipe organ; and expansion of our hospitality to all who seek the love and grace of God. How will we put flesh on the bones of these hopes and give life to these dreams?

God is a dreamer too. God's dream for each of us is to know how beloved we are and how beautiful are the gifts of mind, body, heart and soul with which God has endowed each of us. God gives us gifts that we might share our bounty, and share ourselves – because God's ultimate dream is a world rooted in a communion of shared love and generosity.

During the month of October we have been asking you to consider your financial pledge to the mission, ministries, and people of St. John's. The mission and ministries of the parish are entirely dependent upon these financial gifts and pledges. I am deeply grateful for all these pledges and the love, hope, and commitment which they represent.

But even more than your money, beloved ones, this church needs and invites you – your heart, your passions, your imagination, your hands, your faith, your friendship, your laughter, your prayers, your curiosity, your love of God and neighbor – all your gifts.

That is my dream – that everyone will find a place here and all of us have a way to offer ourselves for the dreams of this parish and the dream of God.

Then we are, and will be, like those who dream. Thanks be to God.

Faithfully,

Laura

500 N. Roan Street ❖ Johnson City, TN 37601 ❖ 423-926-8141

WWW.STJOHNSTN.ORG

“The Rock Church in the Heart of Johnson City”

A message from the Senior Warden

Have you ever participated in one of those challenges where you share something for which you are thankful each day? Some people maintain a Gratitude Journal all year long.

Even as children, we are taught to say “thank you” when we are handed something or when we are shown kindness. Eventually we learn the meaning behind the words. (My parents are champion thank-you note writers – perhaps a lost art, though I hope not.)

Recently I came across a Vietnamese proverb and was reminded that the life we have together today at St. John’s impacts the future of St. John’s: “When eating fruit, remember the one who planted the tree.”

Right now we are entering an especially busy time for the church with the election of three new Vestry members, our Annual Meeting, the first Sunday in Advent, and many more activities and festivities. As we set some things in motion for the future, we’re also making special memories. Let’s all find something at St. John’s for which we are thankful and find a way to make it better for those who will come after us.

From my heart to yours, thank you.

Jackie Mabrey



Confirmation Service May 2021



Kate Beatty	John Edwards	Peter Krause
Deborah Bryan	Rex Gregg	Bradley Osborne
Andrew Carter	Owen Grosserode	Susan Parks
Nancy Jane Earnest	Garland Honeycutt	Sam Pettyjohn



Holy Baptism September 2021

Abram Pusateri
Son of Cassandra & Paul Pusateri

Jill Channing
Daughter of James & Karen Channing
Wife of Alison Maddux





- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Shirley Cloyd | 13 Ivy Buerkle | 19 Rae Grosserode |
| 1 McKenna Cox | 13 Mina McVeigh | 20 Sam Pettyjohn |
| 4 Steb Hipple | 13 Cregg Moss | 22 Brenda Frizzell |
| 5 Jerry Lonon | 14 Bo Benson | 24 Rex Gregg |
| 6 Katherine Hall | 16 Bill Collison | 25 Mike Talley |
| 7 Grant Buerkle | 16 Kate Sprague | 30 Charles Cole |
| 12 Sean Driscoll | 19 Emma Grosserode | 30 John Walker |



Children's Education

Our children's program serves elementary-age students (kindergarten through sixth grade.) The core of the program is our Sunday school class, held weekly at 9:15 am in the large classroom on the first floor of the church. We follow the Episcopal Children's Curriculum, with frequent use of Godly Play lessons within the sequence of the ECC. Children gather to hear a story from Scripture followed by (and often interspersed with) discussion, singing from the Hymnal, and an art response to the day's lesson. Students leave class with a sticker sporting a question for fellow parishioners to ask them as a way of bringing our fellowship into the wider church community. Please stop to chat when you notice a child's sticker!

This quarter, we are hearing the story of God's people in the desert – learning about the covenant relationships the Lord made with the people who would become the Israelites. Our artwork regularly appears on the bulletin board just to the right of the stairs. Check it out to see amazing examples of young minds at work.

Our class is small but mighty! We are a family and eagerly welcome any children who want to join us, whether for one visit or as regular members of the group.

We currently meet with all three classroom doors open, and masks are required for everyone, to keep our young friends as safe as possible. But these precautions haven't stopped us from enjoying our time together! Please make an effort to have the youngsters in your life join us – we will all be glad you did.

Rae Grosserode
Director of Children's Education

Adult Faith Committee

This group has been meeting monthly since March 2021 to discern our way forward with a theme of “Learning St. John’s Again for the First Time.” This includes learning about each other, about our church, diocese and the Episcopal tradition, and about our neighborhood. The committee consists of Reverend Laura, Rucht Lilavivat representing youth, Fred Mackara representing Adult Faith Forum and Confirmation Class, Lee Phillips representing Education for Ministry, Emily Bidgood representing the Vestry, and Frances Jackson representing Centering Prayer and Conversations and Compline.

Conversations & Compline

Thursday evenings, 6 - 7:15 pm via Zoom

Though not gathering in person, this is a wonderful way of growing in community with each other. We have read and discussed books, watched videos, shared experiences, and learned from each other.

How it works: Each series usually lasts 4 - 6 weeks. While you can “Zoom in” any week without committing to attendance at all sessions, most who participate have found it so interesting and engaging that they do come every week, and we eagerly await for the next series to start.

- ◇ The first hour is “Conversations” followed by 15 minutes of Compline / Evening Prayer.
- ◇ There is no need to sign up or register for Conversations & Compline; just use the Zoom link in St. John’s weekly email. Everyone is welcome to join in however and whenever you can.

Some series use a book or resource that is good to read as we go along or to have on hand; many are available in digital form. For this reason, it can be beneficial to watch for the notice of the upcoming topics and related resources in St. John’s weekly email. Here’s what’s underway and upcoming:

Being Mortal - 6 weeks, Oct 7 - Nov 11

What matters to each of us in light of our faith and the fact of our aging and mortality? Facilitated by Rev. Laura, Dr. David Kalwinsky and Frances Jackson. Resource is Dr. Atul Gawande’s book, *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*. Also available is a one hour program on YouTube with Dr. Gawande that illustrates many of the concepts from the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQhI3Jb7vMg>.

“**Good Question**” **Interlude session**, November 18, to be facilitated by Rev. Laura; topic to be announced; .

December: Advent program - 4 weeks beginning December 2



We will be reading and discussing the Living Compass Advent Booklet, *Practicing Patience with all of your Heart, Soul, Mind, and Strength*. This is a beautiful way to embrace the Advent season, for all parishioners from youth through adult and newcomers as well. There is no fee, and pre-registration is not required.

Hard copies of the booklet are on order (to be available for pickup at the church) or you can receive the booklet in the form of a PDF. Daily readings are also available at livingcompass.org/living-well-through-advent-2021-readings.

Education for Ministry (EfM)

EfM is a four-year course offered by the School of Theology at Sewanee. But don’t be intimidated by the name; it is not a path to ordination, nor is it an academic study in a vacuum. Rather, EfM equips us to explore the intersection of theology and daily living, helping each of us to discern the call to ministry throughout our daily lives. “In coming to terms with the notion that everything we do has potential for manifesting the love of Christ, we discover that our ministry is at hand wherever we turn.” (courtesy: efm.sewanee.org)

At St. John’s we meet in a small group of six to twelve adults. If you are interested in learning more about EfM, please contact our mentor, Lee Phillips (lee@wordmatters.com). Also, watch for news about a get-together in December where you can meet with current EfM learners and perhaps get a feel for the program.

Centering Prayer

Tuesday evenings, 6 - 7:00 pm via Zoom

What is Centering Prayer? It is described as “a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relationship with God, the Indwelling Presence ... This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.” (source: www.ContemplativeOutreach.org)

Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth of meaning to all prayer and facilitates the movement from more active modes of prayer – verbal, mental or affective prayer – into a receptive prayer of resting in God. (source: www.CenteringPrayer.com)

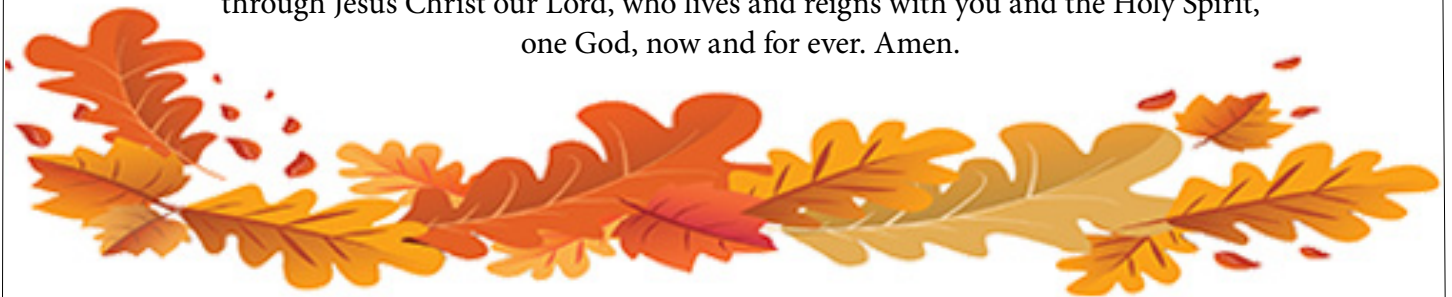


◇ All are welcome to join in. A link to each week’s Zoom meeting is included in *This Week at St. John’s*. Separately, readings and each week’s selections for Lectio Divina are sent out by email to those who have requested it. Feel free to ask Frances to be included on that group email, even if you’re not attending the group meetings.

We have usually had a one-day retreat/workshop day each year for learners. However, while we continue on Zoom, we are encouraging those who center to participate in one of the monthly one-day retreats from St. Mary’s Retreat Center. Rev. Tom Ward and “our” Rebecca Paluzzi facilitate those groups. There is a fee for these retreats and pre-registration is required. You can sign up on their website: www.stmaryssewanee.org If you’d like to know more about Centering Prayer and/or this group at St. John’s, please do not hesitate to contact the facilitator, Frances Jackson. (phone 423-946-3345 or email jxn621@gmail.com)

Thanksgiving Collect

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Tips for staying connected

phone: 423-926-8141 ❖ email: office@stjohnstn.org

“*This Week at St. John’s*.” Are you receiving the weekly email newsletter from St. John’s? It has the most up-to-date information such as worship schedules, events, outreach, fellowship, joys and sorrows amongst our fellow parishioners. If you’re not already receiving it, please call or email the church office and Nick will get you signed up to receive it directly to your email inbox.

Need assistance with Zoom, Facebook live, and/or online meetings? Technology has helped us keep in touch even when we cannot be together in person. Yet it can be a challenge “connecting” through our phones, tablets, or computers. If you would like assistance – or just a bit of personal coaching to help you feel more comfortable with these technology options, please do not hesitate to ask. Just call or email the church office, and we’ll be happy to assist you.

Please note that the church office will be closed November 25-26 (Thursday and Friday) for Thanksgiving. Wishing you all a healthy and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

❖ You can view this Journal as well as prior issues (in color!) online at <https://stjohnstn.org/publications/> ❖



Blessing of the Pets, October 3rd



Outreach Team

Sam Pettyjohn is the chair of our newly forming St. John's outreach team. Sam works in public health and is husband to Kate Beatty, and father to Nora, Bert and Chance. If you are passionate about serving our neighbors, learning about the needs of our community, and growing outreach ministries of care and compassion at St. John's, please talk to Sam or Rev. Laura. (samuel.pettyjohn@gmail.com)

"Hotel Amenities" and more

This ministry began with tiny bottles of hotel shampoo and soaps brought home from travels. Since its inception in 2019 we have learned more specifically about the needs of the agencies we support and the needs of their clients, so the range of items we collect has broadened considerably, every single item is significant to the person who will receive it!

Thank you to all who have participated by donating items, assisting with deliveries, and praying for this ministry. Look for notice of most-needed supplies and drop-off dates/times in *This Week at St John's* and the worship service bulletins. For more information, please contact Rebecca Paluzzi, paluzzir@etsu.edu.



Caring Cabinet

Thanks to Washington County Girl Scout troops who have partnered with the Junior League on a five year service project, the first Caring Cabinet has been installed at St. John's. Think of these as Little Free Libraries for feminine hygiene and household cleaning products, which by the way, are not covered by government aid programs such as WIC and SNAP. Thank you for helping us help others!

St John's Men's Group

The Men's group is again active after nearly one year of a Covid hiatus. Our monthly evening meetings for fellowship and a meal at local restaurants began again in July. No reservations needed; one just shows up. Our next meeting will be at Firehouse BBQ on Tuesday, November 9th. Hopefully our Sunday pancake breakfasts will resume soon as the Covid census declines in our region. Look for notice of our activities in *This Week at St John's* and worship service bulletins. (David Kalwinsky: kalwinds@etsu.edu)



2021 Annual Parish Meeting & Vestry Elections

Sunday November 14

- ◇ Breakfast at 9 am in the Great Hall
- ◇ Holy Eucharist at 10 am in the Nave, and also via Facebook Live
Note: This is 30 minutes earlier than the usual 10:30 service, and there will be no 8 am service this day.)
- ◇ Annual Parish meeting immediately following worship in the Nave, and also via Zoom

This day also marks the first day of voting for Vestry positions. We will be electing three new Vestry members to replace three whose terms are expiring. (See page 1 sidebar.) Vestry members are elected for 3-year terms.

In alphabetical order, the five nominees for election to the 2022 Vestry are: Tom McGinnis, Rucht Lilavivat, Peter Krause, Anne Koehler, and Hugh Webb. Biographies of each will be sent with the ballots and will also appear in the weekly e-newsletter.

How to vote: Since everyone is not gathering in person, ballots will be mailed to all communicants in good standing. Every household will receive the number of ballots that corresponds to the number of communicants in good standing who live at that address. Each individual should complete his/her own ballot.

You can return all of the household's ballots to the church in person or by mail in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided. All ballots must be received at the church by noon on Sunday, November 28.

YTD Financial Report

	Sept 2020 Actual YTD	Sept 2021 Actual YTD	Sept YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2021 vs 2020	Variance YTD vs Budget
Plate Offerings	\$ 1,582	\$ 1,790	\$ 6,500	\$ 209	\$ (4,710)
Pledge Payments	215,261	206,035	191,000	(9,226)	15,035
Prior Pledges	286	1,885	400	1,599	1,485
Contributions	35,831	37,945	20,800	2,114	17,145
Misc. Income	429	316	713	(113)	(397)
Prepaid Pledges	-	23,098	-	23,098	23,098
Total Income	253,388	271,068	219,413	17,680	51,656
Total Expense	233,856	245,200	267,606	11,344	(22,406)
Net Income	\$ 19,532	\$ 25,868	\$ (48,193)	\$ 6,336	\$ 74,061

Several factors have combined to produce a positive net income year-to-date through September. In addition to forgiveness of the federal Payroll Protection Plan loan, both pledged income and contributions are ahead of budget thanks to your steadfast financial support. Expenses are lower due to limited use of the church building during

Covid, a corresponding reduction in expenditures for programs and ministries, and fewer facility maintenance expenditures now that our building and roof are in good repair. So yes, we have much to celebrate. And much yet to accomplish. Thank you for your continued support.

A message from the Stewardship Committee

By the time you read this Journal, our celebration of “In-gathering and Commitment Sunday” will have already taken place. Six words come to mind: Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Time. Talent. Treasure. These can be represented by a three-legged stool which allows us to determine what's next for St. John's. I like Henri Nouwen's description of stewardship: “...proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission.”



The work of our committee continues well after the in-gathering of pledges to broaden the scope and understanding of stewardship. The Vestry's recent letter named “four points on the horizon for our focus going forward” which also provides the broader construct for stewardship. They pass the litmus test of being grounded in reality, achievable, and aspirational, not out of reach.

These are exciting times for St. John's. Thank you very much for sharing your time, talent and treasure. Each of you represent the essence of ‘every perfect gift’ that guides the outpouring of gifts that St. John's is blessed to receive.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee,
Gary Mabrey

November Schedule of Worship Services

Monday Nov 1: All Saints Ecumenical Adoration Service - 8:00 pm (Nave)

Tuesday Nov 2: All Souls Service - 7:00 pm (Nave)

Sunday Nov 7: All Saints Service & Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 am

Sunday Nov 14: Annual Meeting Sunday
Holy Eucharist - 10:00 am

with breakfast beforehand and immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.
(Note: There will not be an 8 am service on this day.)

Sunday Nov 21: Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 am
Christ the King Sunday
Bishop Cole visiting

Sunday Nov 28: 1st Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist - 8:00 & 10:30 am



November Meetings & Events

Tuesday Nov 9: Men's Group meeting, 6 pm
Sunday Nov 14: Breakfast in the Great Hall, 9 am
Annual Meeting after the 10 am service
Tuesday Nov 16: Vestry meeting, 7 pm
Saturday Nov 20: Hotel Amenities drop-off, noon-1:15 pm

Recurring Weekly

Tuesdays: Evening Prayer/Healing Service, 5:30 pm
..... Centering Prayer, 6 pm
Wednesdays: Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm
Thursdays: Morning Prayer, 10 am
..... Conversations & Compline, 6 pm
Sundays: EfM, 5 pm

Holy Eucharist

❖ 8:00 am Rite I - Nave

❖ 10:30 am Rite II - Nave and Facebook Live

Children's Sunday School: Sundays, 9:15 am

Youth Sunday School: Sundays, 9:15 am

Nursery is available on Sundays, 8:00 - 11:30 am

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JOHNSON CITY, TN
PERMIT NO. 176

