



# JOURNAL

## February 2022

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Rita Plemmons



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### A message from the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

*I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you  
and your joy may be complete. (John 15:1-11).*

Jesus spoke these words about the gift of joy at a difficult and troubled time. In fact, he said this to the disciples on the night of his last supper with them, when he knew that his arrest, betrayal, and death were imminent. Why did Jesus speak of joy on such a dark night and sorrowful occasion? And how can we receive the gift of joy that Jesus offers – indeed promises – in our own difficult and troubled times, and in a world filled with sorrow and suffering?

During the months of February and March, as we finish the season of Epiphany and move into Lent, St. John's will be reading together *The Book of Joy*. I invite you to read along and join in the group discussions and explorations as you are able, either in person on Sunday mornings or via Zoom on Thursday evenings.

*The Book of Joy* is the record of some remarkable and candid conversations between Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu and the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism. Archbishop Tutu led the fight against Apartheid and the crusade for racial reconciliation in South Africa and was an activist for justice and reconciliation around the world. The Dalai Lama has been living in exile in India since 1959 following the Tibetan Uprising against Chinese rule. Both Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama led their people in dark and troubled times. Both are recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize. Both are also known for their giggles and their joyful personalities and they have been friends for a long time.

These two spiritual leaders, men of prayer and activism, discuss the importance of cultivating joy, the obstacles to joy, and the prayer and practices that increase our awareness and capacity for joy.

While we continue to struggle and suffer through this pandemic as a church and as a city and nation, I believe that joy is also infectious and essential for healing. When have you discovered joy? How will we learn to cultivate joy as a people despite the obstacles and difficulties that stand in the way? Let us learn together – in conversation with each other, with Jesus, and from two spiritual leaders of our own time.

Faithfully,

Rev. Laura

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An Episcopal Church in the Heart of Johnson City

## A message from the Senior Warden

I am pleased and honored to have been elected your Senior Warden at the January meeting of the vestry. I'm sure all of you join me in thanking Jackie Mabrey, the recent senior warden and the other retiring vestry members, Wesley Burkle and Joe Ripepi, for their service to the parish.

The new vestry is in the process of organization, and we are excited about the upcoming year. While our traditional vestry retreat is limited this year (primarily due to Covid), we have meetings scheduled quarterly through the year in order to set our goals and discuss how to implement shared leadership. I think we have a very capable vestry, and along with the leadership and guidance of Rev. Laura, hopefully we will accomplish great things in 2022.

If at any time you have questions or comments concerning vestry or parish activity please feel free to contact me or one of the other vestry members. Our emails are listed in the weekly bulletin or you can contact us through the church office.

Peace.

Tom



### Commissioning of the 2022 Vestry & Officers January 23, 2022

Vestry Members		Vestry Officers*
Tom McGinnis, Senior Warden	Ed Jordan	*Chancellor: McKenna Cox
Bill Archer, Junior Warden	Anne Koehler	*Clerk: Theresa Bryant
Emily Bidgood	Rucht Lilavivat	*Finance Chair: Bob Cooper
Brandon Guffey	Rita Plemmons	*Treasurer: Reneau Dubberley

\*These four Officer positions have vital roles in support of the Vestry.  
They *can be*, but *do not have to be* filled by Vestry members.

#### The Blessing of Light

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night: to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As darkness falls you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence.

By the light of Christ, your living Word, dispel the darkness of our hearts  
that we may walk as children of light and sing your praise throughout the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All Blessed be God for ever.



## It's February ... Happy Birthday to you!

1 Patricia Hart	10 David Kalwinsky	16 Tim Franco	24 Jeannie Blackwell
3 Keith Hart	10 Richard Luther	16 Joe Nagy	25 Mary Alice Fryar
5 Steve Felix	14 Chris Honeycutt	17 Mark Friesland	25 Brandon Guffey
5 Gary Mabrey	14 Messina Lyle	18 Mike Radford	26 Beth Brading
7 George Taylor	14 Frank Newman	20 Gary Fuller	26 Cathy Johnston
9 Alicia Benton	14 Katy Pindzola	21 Sherry Hart	27 Pearl Ume-Nwagbo
9 Harriett Cone	15 Beth Wiley	24 Elisabeth Dubberley	29 Don Hart*
9 Frank Ray			*Leap Year Baby!

## Special Events on Sunday, February 27

February 27 is the last Sunday of the Season of Epiphany. Three special events are planned to mark the end of Epiphany and help us make the transition to the more somber season of Lent.

### Mardi Gras Coffee Hour February 27



Though Mardi Gras (aka “Fat Tuesday”) is March 1, we’re getting a head start on it this year following the 10:30 service on February 27. Join us for a festive coffee hour replete with beads, masks, and special foods!

Origin: Medieval Christians developed carnivals to celebrate with exuberance one last time before the rigorous Lenten fast. Although Lenten regulations varied with time and place, no meat, butter, eggs, milk or cheese were generally allowed during the 40 days of Lent. In addition to fasting, Christians were not permitted to hold weddings, dances, or festivals during Lent, the season for prayer and penance. So medieval Christians began to observe days of celebration, to hold rowdy parades, masquerades, and dances, and to fling themselves into festivities one last time before Lent.

### Saying Good-bye to “Alleluia”

The Church has the custom of not speaking or singing the word “Alleluia” during Lent. Alleluias are joyful proclamations, which we put away during the more contemplative season of Lent. Churches often take banners down and eliminate flowers in the sanctuary. Our Sunday readings and prayers take on a more penitential tone.

On the last Sunday of the Epiphany season, February 27, after the 10:30 service, we will process out the front garden and “bury” the Alleluia until Easter. Join us! (On Easter, there will be a great celebration as our “Alleluia” is unburied and brought back into our nave and into our prayer, worship, and songs.)

### Burning of the Palms for Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. The focal point of Ash Wednesday is the imposition of ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. The ashes symbolize repentance, and also remind us of both our creation and mortality: “you are dust and to dust you shall return. The sign of the cross on our foreheads reminds us of our baptism; in both life and death we are “marked as Christ’s own forever.”

The ashes are made each year by burning the palms from the previous Palm Sunday celebration. On the last Sunday of Epiphany we will also burn the palms to prepare for our Ash Wednesday services.

## Outreach News

### “Hotel Amenities and More”



The need in the homeless population and the working poor is great. To serve the needs of our neighbors, we continue to collect donations of coats, warm hats and scarves, gloves, chemical hand warmers, men’s and women’s clothing, shoes, boots, rain gear, blankets, backpacks, sleeping bags, tarps, tents, shower gel, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, razors, lotion, feminine hygiene products, lip balm, tissue packets, cough drops, laundry detergent, bleach, bottled water, snacks, coffee, and...hotel amenities!

We also collect donations for Family Promise. Some items go directly to families that are being served by Family Promise, while other items are sold in the Family Promise re-sale store. Proceeds from the store go to help homeless families get back on their feet. Anything that you might generally donate to Goodwill or the Salvation Army can be donated to Family Promise.

Upcoming drop-off dates are Feb 19, March 19, and April 23. All are Saturdays at Noon - 1:15 pm. (Enter from Myrtle Street and turn in to the driveway that connects with Fairview Street. Friendly volunteers will greet you at the side door to the church and will collect your donations. You don’t even need to get out of your car!)

You have heard that St. John’s is collecting feminine hygiene products for the Girl Scout Caring Cabinet that we sponsor. That is in addition to the feminine hygiene products that we collect for the agencies such as the Johnson City Day Center, and they are two separate projects. Please be generous in your giving to both of St. John’s ministries that support womens’ needs.

Thank you for your faithful ministry to those around us who have so little and for whom your care and concern means so much.

### A Note from The River

*Dear Friends, Greetings from The River! I am writing to thank the whole congregation for the donation to our ministry. We truly appreciate your generosity and support that helps us share loads of God's love with the women and children we serve. We couldn't do it without your help. Take good care and God bless. ~ Stacey Larsen*

For more information about The River, visit [www.theriverministryforwomen.com](http://www.theriverministryforwomen.com)



### Caring Cabinet

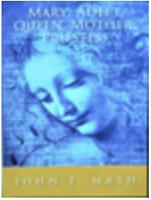
In partnership with a local Girl Scout Troop, St. John's installed a Caring Cabinet on the Fairview Street side of the building in 2021. St. John's as a community committed to keeping the cabinet stocked with feminine hygiene supplies and other personal care items for those in our neighborhood in need. As we make the stocking of this cabinet more formally organized, we hope to keep the necessary items more available.

There are several ways you can assist with this effort:

- ❖ Sign up to stock the cabinet for a given week. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to volunteer for this. You will be placing items in the cabinet that many have contributed.
- ❖ Purchase feminine hygiene items for a week. A sheet with a list of ideas for other items is posted on the basket near the sign-up sheet in the narthex.
- ❖ Make a monetary donation so we can purchase needed supplies. On-line contributions can be made to Caring Cabinet Ministry, or a check placed in the collection plate on Sunday with Caring Cabinet on the memo line. Contributions of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for being a congregation that cares about its neighbors! For more information about this project, please contact Jennifer Kinser at 612-388-0218 or email at [jjkinser@comcast.net](mailto:jjkinser@comcast.net)

## Adult Faith Formation



In January, two sessions of Conversations & Compline as well as Sunday's Adult Faith Forum featured our fellow congregant, Dr. John Nash, discussing his book, *Mary: Adept, Queen, Mother, Priestess*. Thank you, John Nash, for sharing background and insights from the book with us!

If you'd like to learn more, visit <http://uriel.com/books/index.html#Mary>.

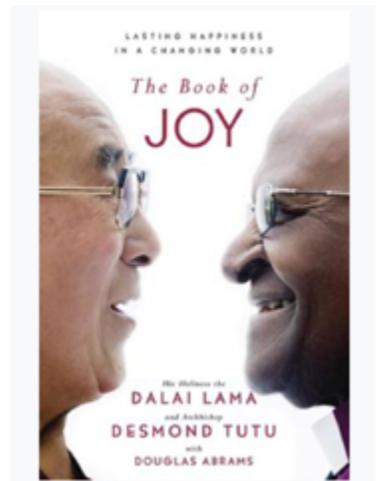
### Conversations & Compline - Special Edition - February 3: Circle of the Church Year: Seasons of the Spirit

The church year dramatizes and retells the story of Jesus and the people of God through the round of liturgical seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time.

Beth Wiley will share the story of the circle of the church year and we will explore the ways in which the seasons ground our worship and guide us in our spiritual journeys. All questions welcome!

The centerpiece of February conversations will be *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Tenzin Gyatso, the 14th Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Two ways to participate:

- ❖ **Conversations & Compline** Thursday evenings 6-7:15 pm via Zoom beginning February 10  
Rev. Laura and Garland Honeycutt will be leading the discussion. A Zoom link will be provided in each weekly newsletter. (*This Week at St. John's*)
- ❖ **Adult Faith Forum** Sunday mornings 9:15 am, (in person, Great Hall) beginning February 13.  
Dr. Fred Mackara and Anne Koehler will be leading the discussion.



**Your input is requested!** The Adult Faith Committee seeks your input for programs this Spring and beyond. Please feel free to share ideas for topics and teachers!

Liaisons are Emily Bidgood for the Vestry, Rucht Lilavivat for the Youth, Fred MacKara for Adult Faith Forum (Sunday Morning offerings) and Confirmation Classes (annually), Lee Phillips for Education for Ministry, Frances Jackson for Centering Prayer and Conversations and Compline.

### Inquirers' Class ~ Reborn, Renewed, Received

The Rt. Rev. Brian Cole, Bishop of the Diocese of East Tennessee will visit St. John's on Sunday, June 19. As part of his visit, the Bishop will perform the pastoral rites of Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation. Prior to the Bishop's visit, St. John's will offer a series of classes to present, explain, and discuss the Episcopal Church, Christian doctrine, history, and worship. We call this program the "Inquirers' Class: Reborn, Renewed, Received." This program is intended for adults who would like to be confirmed, received into the Episcopal Church, or to reaffirm their Baptismal vows. It is also open to those who simply want to learn more about the Church and our faith.

The 2022 Inquirers' Class will meet in 10 weekly sessions, 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 pm, on Sundays from March 13 through May 29 (excluding Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday). Leaders for the classes will include Rev. Laura Bryant, Deacon Cathy Johnston, Dr. John Nash, and Dr. Fred Mackara. For more info, please contact the church office (423-926-8141) or Fred Mackara ([mackara@etsu.edu](mailto:mackara@etsu.edu)).

Friday Feb 18, 7:30 pm

A unique opportunity to experience the Paramount Chamber Players right here at St. John's!



## YTD Financial Report - Operating Budget

	Dec 2020 Actual YTD	Dec 2021 Actual YTD	Dec 2021 Budget YTD	Variance YTD Actual 2021 vs 2020	Variance YTD Actual vs Budget
Plate Offerings	\$ 1,582	\$ 2,481	\$ 10,000	\$ 900	\$ (7,519)
Pledge Payments	285,801	255,626	261,000	(30,175)	(5,374)
Prior Pledges	286	1,885	400	1,599	1,485
Contributions	52,015	57,695	35,000	5,680	22,695
Misc. Income	49,772	362	950	(49,410)	(588)
Prepaid Pledges	468	71,003	41,000	70,535	30,003
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>389,923</b>	<b>389,052</b>	<b>348,350</b>	<b>(871)</b>	<b>40,702</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>316,910</b>	<b>356,201</b>	<b>359,945</b>	<b>39,291</b>	<b>(3,744)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 73,013</b>	<b>\$ 32,851</b>	<b>\$ (11,595)</b>	<b>\$ (40,162)</b>	<b>\$ 44,446</b>

We finished the calendar year with Net Income of \$32,851. (See second column at left.) It should be noted that these are unaudited results; the annual audit of our church financials are conducted by an outside CPA firm each spring.

Earlier we reported that we would prepay certain expenses for 2022. To that end we used

\$34,000+ from our surplus income to prepay a portion of our 2022 Diocesan Commitment, and we put \$12,000 into our Capital Maintenance Reserve. We enter 2022 with a balanced budget that provides for new hope, new missions, and new ministries.

In case you missed it, the Bishop of Myra (aka "St. Nick") entertained kids of all ages back in December!



Photos courtesy Ellen Wallen



Many thanks to everybody, and especially all the children, who put on an amazing Epiphany Pageant!



*Photos courtesy Ellen Wallen*



Photo courtesy Nick Andrews

### Regular Worship Schedule

- Tuesdays ..... 5:30 pm, Evening Prayer/Healing Service
- Thursday ..... 10 am, Morning Prayer
- Sundays ..... 8 am, Holy Eucharist Rite I
- ..... 10:30 am, Holy Eucharist Rite II  
                                  *Nave & Facebook Live*
- ..... 9:15 am Adult Faith Formation
- Children's Sunday School
- Youth Sunday School (Grades 7-12)



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

### February Meetings & Events

- Tuesday Feb 8 ..... Men's Group meeting, Aubrey's, 6 pm
- Tuesday Feb 15..... Vestry meeting, 7 pm
- Friday Feb 18..... The Paramount Chamber Players performance at St. John's, 7:30 pm
- Saturday Feb 19 ..... Hotel Amenities Drop-off, Noon-1:15 pm
- Sunday Feb 27 ..... See page 3 for activities following the 10:30 service

### Recurring Weekly

- Tuesdays ..... Centering Prayer, 6 pm
- Wednesdays ..... Choir Rehearsal, 7 pm
- Thursdays ..... Conversations & Compline, 6 pm
- Sundays ..... EfM, 5 pm

***This Week at St. John's.*** Are you receiving the weekly e-newsletter from St. John's? If not, please call or email the church office and Nick will get you signed up to receive it directly to your email inbox.

Return Service Requested

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