



JOURNAL

April 2022

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Rita Plemmons

Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule

- April 3 4:00 pm - Neighborhood Way of the Cross
- April 10 8:00 am & 10:30 am ~ Palm Sunday Liturgy
- April 14 7:00 pm ~ Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Foot Washing
Vigil ~ The Gethsemane Watch following the
Maundy Thursday service until Noon on Good Friday
(See Page 2)
- April 15 12:15 pm ~ Good Friday Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross
6:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross
- April 16 8:00 pm ~ The Great Vigil of Easter
- April 17 Easter Day ~ Feast of the Resurrection
8:00 am ~ Holy Eucharist
9:15 am ~ Easter Egg Hunt, Light Refreshments, and
Raising of the Alleluia Banner
10:30 am ~ Festival Eucharist with Choir & Incense
Gather for Refreshments & Fellowship in the
Great Hall Following the 10:30 service



Photo Courtesy of Ellen Wallen



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An Episcopal Church in the Heart of Johnson City

A message from the Senior Warden

Spring is one of my most favorite times of the year (aside from the allergies), and on a walk this morning I noticed how everything seems to be awakening. The grass is turning green, flowers and trees are beginning to bud and the birds seem to be singing more than usual. We see lots of activity with the geese and ducks on the lake.

So also, it seems, with St John's.

As we enter the joyous season of Easter with its promise of rebirth via the resurrection, we can also note our new commitment to Habitat, the promise of our other outreach ministries, our organ campaign, and gradual relief from pandemic precautions.

I encourage all parishioners to join us with the Stations of the Cross on April 3 when we will make stops at some of the outreach locations to which we contribute. Truly an exciting time of rebirth.

Peace.

Tom

Neighborhood Stations of the Cross

On Sunday April 3rd at 4:00 pm, St. John's will be leading a Neighborhood Way of the Cross in the heart of Johnson City. All members of the community are invited to participate in the mile long walk.

Stations will be located at designated locations of ministries and community programs that serve our brothers and sisters who are in need. The Way of the Cross dramatizes Jesus' love, compassion and solidarity with all those who suffer and is a traditional preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

The procession will begin and end at St. John's.

Maundy Thursday Vigil: The Gethsemane Watch



The Gethsemane Watch is a prayer vigil which follows the Maundy Thursday service and continues throughout the night until noon on Good Friday. After their last supper together, Jesus and his disciples retreated to the Garden of Gethsemane. While Jesus prayed his agonizing prayers, the disciples fell asleep. "Could you not watch with me one hour?" Jesus asked them.

We are invited to stay awake and pray one hour on this night during Holy Week. Please sign up for the Vigil in the narthex. We would like to have two people for each posted hour.

Adult Faith Formation



Centering Prayer

For Lent, the Centering Prayer Group will continue to meet via Zoom for our regular Tuesday evening time from 6-7 pm. The Zoom link is open at 5:45 pm. All are welcome.

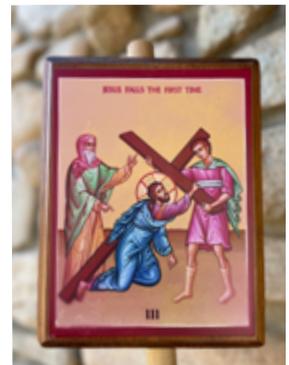
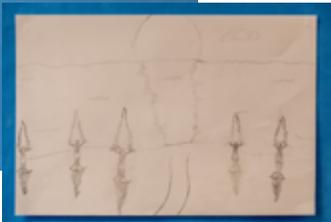
Additionally, there will be a "sit" each Friday during Lent in the Prayer Room at St. John's at 11:30 am. Frances Jackson will be at the Fairview door to let people in at 11:30 am. We will gather at that time, start the prayer by 11:45 am and dismiss about 12:30 pm. Again, all are welcome.

Adult Faith Forum ~ Sunday April 3 ~ Habitat for Humanity

Great timing, as St. John's volunteers will be helping build a new home for a family in Johnson City the following week. (Details on next page.) Laura Kelly, Executive Director for this area's Habitat program, will lead the presentation and discussion. You won't want to miss this one!



Journey To Easter



Be sure to come see the Raising of the Alleluia Banner between services on Easter Sunday! (Along with an Easter Egg Hunt of course!)

Outreach News

April 6-9: All hands on deck for Habitat



We will be participating in a **new home build with Habitat for Humanity Wednesday April 6 through Saturday April 9**. The house is for a mother with four sons here in Johnson City. St. John's is one of four supporting churches. You can sign up for one day, part of a day, or all four days. We need volunteers of all ages and skill levels. (Really! There are tasks and activities for *all* ages and *all* skill levels.) Sign up in the Narthex at church or by calling the church office at 423-926-8141. If you have any questions, you

can email Sam Pettyjohn at samuel.pettyjohn@gmail.com.

Want to know more? Come to the Adult Faith Forum on **Sunday, April 3 at 9:15 am** in the Great Hall, where Laura Kelly, the Executive Director for Holston Habitat for Humanity, will lead a presentation and discussion about the work that Habitat is doing in our community and region.



Mite Boxes – You can still pick up a mite box and calendar for your Lenten offering. The Lenten offering this year supports Habitat for Humanity and the house for a local family. Remember to bring your mite box on Easter Day. A basket will be located at the back of the Nave.

Hotel Amenities: Blessings and Love



Many thanks to all of you who have participated in the donation drop-offs. Your faithfulness to the Hotel Amenities Ministry continues to give our neighbors the dignity of having basic necessities of life: clothing, hygiene, shelter, and the knowledge that they are seen and that somebody cares about them. This ministry is a tangible expression of God's love in the world.

Our participation is a blessing to us as we have the opportunity to give love, with love, while being held in God's love. Our neighbors give us the opportunity to respond in love, and as we reach out to them we are truly blessed. There is a beautiful circle created as we offer a blessing and receive a blessing, together with the people who are served by this ministry.

Our next drive-by drop-off will be on **Saturday, April 23 from 12:00-1:15 pm**. You can enter the driveway beside the church from Myrtle St., stop by the door where friendly volunteers will collect your donations, and exit onto Fairview St. We will look forward to seeing you then.



In the meantime, as you return to traveling, please collect the hotel amenities! For certain ministries, such as The River Women's Ministry, these are the perfect size. You will see a blue and white box in the Narthex in which you can drop off these items when you come to church.

May you be richly blessed even as you are a blessing to others.



Caring Cabinet - Let's keep the cupboard full for our neighbors!

Thank you to all who have helped keep the Caring Cabinet supplied over the last few months. You have done a great job! If you haven't had a chance to help with the Caring Cabinet, we'd love to have your support.

Donations of hygiene supplies are welcome. If you'd like to help supply the cabinet one day a week, consider getting together with a group of friends to share the load ... and the love. Please contact Jennifer Kinser with any questions phone/text (612)388-0218 or email jjkinser@comcast.net

Have you ever wondered what happens to our lovely flower arrangements after the service? Everything is put to good use. Arrangements are taken apart to make smaller bouquets that are delivered to homebound parishioners and local assistive care facilities to brighten the days of many.

See back page for info about contributing to the Easter flower fund.

An Easter Collect

O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy:
Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection;
through the same thy Son Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.



Ukraine Relief

Episcopal Relief & Development is working with Anglican and ecumenical partners to provide aid to people displaced by the crisis in Ukraine.

International Program staff are in close contact with church and ecumenical partners including the ACT Alliance, The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, the Diocese of Europe, the Anglican Alliance and United Society of Partners in the Gospel. These organizations are coordinating immediate and long-term humanitarian responses through their local partners in Romania, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia.



Photo Courtesy of Daniel Fekete/HIA

Episcopal Relief & Development was founded by The Episcopal Church to help people fleeing violence in

World War II. Donations to Episcopal Relief & Development's **Ukraine Crisis Response Fund** will help the organization and its partners continue to provide assistance to people displaced by the crisis in Ukraine. (Source:

To make a contribution on Sundays at church, you can place a check in the offering plate payable to St. John's Episcopal Church with the memo line: ERD-Ukraine Fund.

O God, our times are in your hand. In the midst of uncertainty lead us by your never-failing grace as we seek to be agents of healing and hope. Walk with us through difficult times; watch over us in danger; and give to us a spirit of love and compassion for those who suffer and mourn. And finally remind us that you have promised never to leave us so that even in the valley of the shadow of death your love may be felt, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

~ The Rev. Lyndon Harris, from the Episcopal Diocese of New York disaster preparedness plan



Earth Day is Friday, April 22, 2022

St. John's Earth Guild, led by Shelley Stahlman, has been on hiatus since the pandemic settled in, but there's good news. Shelley reports that the "Green Interfaith Network" has become active again in this area. It's headed up by Carol Landis, who attends First Presbyterian Church in Elizabethton. Carol is a goldmine of information and is providing a variety of info for her church's newsletter and offering same to other churches. Shelley says that we can start providing regular information from this valuable resource.

For now, here are two events celebrating Earth Day in our area::

- ❖ ETSU's Earth Day Celebration will be on Friday, April 22, from noon to 4 pm, at the ETSU Commons and Upper Pride Lawn (in front of D.P Culp Center). In the event of rain, the festivities will be moved to a covered location.
- ❖ Jonesborough's Earth Day Celebration will be on Saturday, April 23 at the National Storytelling Center pavilion, time to be announced.

Watch for updates in *This Week at St. John's* and in future Journals.



It's April ... Happy Birthday to you!

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Benny Baird | 5 William Morrison | 12 Rick Gordon | 20 Linda Webb |
| 1 Ellie Snow | 6 Jim Hunter | 12 Frances Jackson | 21 Martha Montgomery |
| 2 Haynes Wilkes | 6 Alison Maddux | 12 Bonny Stanley | 22 Rebecca Paluzzi |
| 3 Laura Davidson | 7 Lisa Lange | 13 Mary Ripepi | 24 Savannah Church |
| 3 Mike Grosserode | 7 Phyllis Tuthill | 15 Andy Ford | 24 SuzeAnne Silla |
| 3 Charles Kinser | 10 Becky Morrison | 19 Thomas Ward | 27 Timothy Campbell |
| 4 Samuel Miller, II | 10 Paula Patton | 20 Jim Fakonas | 30 Judy Moss |
| 4 Lee Phillips | 11 Abbigale Byrne | 20 Jon Lau | 30 Chris Newby |
| 5 Howard Cummings | 11 Jan Sparks | 20 Chance Pendleton | 30 Tara Thomas |



Congratulations to Chef James Allen!

Our fellow parishioner James Allen won the national 2022 Club + Resort Chef of the Year Culinary Competition recently held in Nashville. Club chefs competed in teams of two in a mystery basket-style culinary competition—but only one team took home the trophy.

“I’m so honored to have competed with some of our industry’s greats, and I’m absolutely honored to have been named as one of the Club + Resort Chefs of the Year,” says Allen. “A big shoutout to my competition partner, Chef Meitzer. We had never met before this competition, but we were laser-focused while creating our dishes.”

“Time went by so fast—I’m happy to still have all of my fingers,” says Meitzer. “Truly, it was an honor to compete and to work alongside Chef Allen to create two dishes we are very proud of.”

James is Executive Chef at Blackthorn Club. We join his wife Sara, and daughters Magnolia and Rosemary, in saying, “Well done, James!”

Thank goodness for the “Grapevine” ~ otherwise we wouldn’t have even known about Chef James’ award. **So please don’t keep your good news a secret... Allow us to celebrate these moments with you!** Simply send an email to office@stjohnstn.org. (And include photos if you have ‘em.)

YTD Financial Report - Operating Budget

	Feb 2021 Actual YTD	Feb 2022 Actual YTD	Feb YTD Budget	Variance YTD 2022 Vs 2021	Variance YTD Vs Budget
Plate Offerings	\$ -	\$ 289	\$ 950	\$ 289	\$ (661)
Pledge Payments	52,705	71,137	57,200	18,432	13,937
Prior Pledges	1,685	720	600	(965)	120
Contributions	10,541	7,451	5,100	(3,090)	2,351
Misc. Income	42	20	120	(22)	(100)
Prepaid Pledges	-	-	-	-	-
Total Income	64,972	79,617	63,970	14,645	15,647
Total Expense	46,085	52,881	56,332	6,796	(3,451)
Net Income	\$ 18,888	\$ 26,736	\$ 7,638	\$ 7,848	\$ 19,098

Thank you for your continued and steadfast support. Primarily due timing of expenditures and earlier pledge payments than forecast we are slightly ahead of budget year-to-date.

Organ Committee Report

“The New Organ and How We Arrived Where We Are Today” by Nick Andrews

I'm not sure about you, but for me, the fall of 2019 seems so long ago after the journey with Covid-19 the past two years. It was also the same year we started to experience mechanical failures with our nave pipe organ. As recently announced by Rev Laura and Sr Warden Tom McGinnis, we have signed a contract to replace our current pipe organ in the nave. This article is to help inform and present the timeline of the project from its conception and the decision-making process that has led us to where we are today.

Throughout 2019, our 60-year-old pipe organ was suffering from mechanical issues. There were Sunday mornings where I would turn on the organ and immediately head up into the instrument and crawl around to place another layer of duct tape on a noisy leaking wind reservoir or tip a pipe out of its hole on the windchest because the note was ciphering (meaning that the pipe would sound and then remain playing even after releasing the note on the keyboard.) In November I prepared a detailed assessment for the Vestry and Finance Committee, overviewing the history of the instrument and its mechanical issues over the past twenty years. Shortly thereafter, I was tasked by then Sr. Warden Suzanne Donaldson to seek assessments and proposals to figure out what needed to happen with the instrument. An organ committee was formed to assist with the process.

The committee made quite a bit of headway in early 2020 as we met in person with several organ builders to hear their assessment of the instrument. Then we were met with the Covid shutdown in March of 2020. The committee decided to “hit the brakes” while we were in isolation. We were also in the last year of the Rector search process and realized we would not be able to execute any possible refurbishment or replacement until our next Rector was in place. We were very fortunate in the summer of 2020 in being able to purchase a small pipe organ for the chapel. This instrument allowed us to have music for worship services during the many months of “online” church via Zoom.

We blinked our eyes and suddenly it was January 2021. Vaccines for Covid were beginning to be administered to the wider public, Rev. Laura officially started two months prior in November and we were beginning to see the light forward with a return to in-person services. Our committee regrouped and reviewed all our information from the prior year and decided to receive several more proposals.

From the proposals we received, we realized that restoration of our current instrument would be more expensive than previously thought, and it still would not have a significant longevity. We came to understand that starting over from scratch (as opposed to a hugely expensive stop-gap repair) would be more cost-effective and provide the longevity that we needed for the decades to come.

In April the committee met with organ builder Patrick Murphy at St. John's. Mr. Murphy provided his written recommendation and proposal to us a few weeks following his visit. Mr. Murphy recommended an instrument of his that he built that is currently in storage at his workshop (Opus 47). It had been installed in a Presbyterian church in the late 2000's. Unfortunately, the congregation split a few years after the installation; the members remaining at the site were not able to carry on, resulting in the church's closure and building being sold.

In early May of 2021, I made a trip to Baltimore Maryland to hear and play two instruments that Mr. Murphy has built in the last 15 years. I was very impressed in many ways, but particularly by the craftsmanship and the tonal contrast of both instruments – in a good way! Following my trip, the organ committee unanimously recommended Opus 47 to the Vestry as the best option to replace our current instrument.

Following months of prayerful consideration and unwavering support by Rev. Laura, Sr Warden Jackie Mabrey, and Jr Warden Bill Archer, the Vestry voted in December of 2021 to enter into contract with Patrick Murphy and Associates to purchase and install this wonderful instrument for our nave. At that same meeting, the Vestry passed a resolution that the organ project would not impede the other goals of the parish, including building and strengthening relationships; prayer, worship and spiritual nurture; hospitality and welcome; and sharing our gifts and service.

The official launch to the campaign is April 3. I am looking forward to providing updates as this project progresses!

