



JOURNAL

October 2022

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A message from the Rector

And we are put on earth a little space,
That we might learn to bear the beams of love.

~William Blake

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your prayers and many kindnesses, and for your gifts of love, food, and help during my brief illness and hospitalization. I have recovered completely now and am full of vim and vigor for all the beauties and splendors of October. Though I missed only one Sunday, I was so glad to be back with you and celebrate this past week.

But I am more than grateful; I am awed and full of wonder for the strengthening and healing power of love and community. As God's people, I pray that together we may all grow in our awareness of this grace and power so close at hand. And I pray that I, with you, may share liberally and generously what I have been so abundantly given.

I think William Blake was right: we are here to learn to bear the beams of love.

There are three meanings of bearing love: to endure it, to carry it, and to give birth to it. We are called to grow in our willingness and capacity to endure both the beauty and pain of love. We are called to carry love and spread it around like a contagion. Love is contagious. And we are called to give birth to love and bring new love into the world. Love is creative.

In the fullness of all three meanings, we are put on earth a little space, and given a place in this community of faith, to learn to bear, bear, bear the beams of love.

I thank God for you, for what you give to each other, and for our life and learning together.

Faithfully,

Rev. Laura

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

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An Episcopal Church in the Heart of Johnson City

A message from the Senior Warden

As our new church year cranks into gear, exciting things are happening. We see newcomers every Sunday. Ryan, our new intern, is becoming more active, and our new organ is on the way. Not the least of new events is our stewardship campaign which begins in October. This process gives us all a chance to examine how we use our talents, time and treasure to support St John's mission. Please take the time to prayerfully consider your commitment.

Peace.

Tom

Announcements

Blessing of the Animals: Our annual Blessing of the Animals in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis will be held on Sunday October 2, 3:00 pm. Due to the rain forecast, we will be meeting at the church. All animals are welcome to attend and receive a blessing. Please be sure to leash all animals that are not in a cage.

Newcomers Luncheon October 23: Save the date for our next Newcomers Luncheon on Sunday October 23 at the home of Phil Ulmer. More information will be forthcoming soon. All newcomers and longtime members are welcome to attend.

Baptism – All Saints Sunday: Our next feast day for Holy Baptism is Sunday November 6. Anyone who desires the rite of baptism for themselves or for their children is asked to contact Rev. Laura at revlbryant@stjohnstn.org or speak with her in person.

Vestry Nominations: The Parish is seeking nominations for candidates to replace three current members of the Vestry whose terms will end this year. Outgoing Vestry members are Emily Bidgood, Brandon Guffey, and Ed Jordan. In accordance with our bylaws, these three, plus one continuing Vestry member, will serve as the Vestry Election Committee.

The Vestry serves an essential role in our church life, so your participation in this process is important. You can nominate yourself or someone else. (Members of St. John's who are at least 16 years of age are eligible to serve on the Vestry.) If you want to nominate another member of the Parish, it's a good idea to get his/her permission to do so. Or, if you prefer, you can pass along the name to a member of the election committee, who will check with the prospective nominee to ascertain his/her willingness to serve. Conversely, if you are asked by someone to consider serving on the Vestry, please do consider this prayerfully and don't be too quick to dismiss the idea. It's a responsibility not to be taken lightly yet also a very rewarding one.

Elections will take place in November. Watch for updates in the weekly e-newsletter (*This Week @ St. John's*) and the worship service bulletins.

Faith Formation

Adult Faith Forum ("AFF") meets on Sundays in the Great Hall at 9:15 am, during the same time that children and youth are in Sunday School. Programs are quite varied and usually involve a lot of interesting group discussion.

Oct 2 & 9 - Book study of *Just Mercy* begins and will be led by Dr. Michael Grosserode and Rev. Laura.

Oct 16 - Meet our Neighbor - Adam Dickson, Director of the Langston Centre, will lead our Adult Faith Formation and preach at both services.

Outreach



Friday October 14: Habitat Build in our neighborhood!

Holston Habitat for Humanity is hosting an All Women Build in our neighborhood. It's just up the street from the church, at 219 E. Myrtle Avenue. Habitat has reserved Friday October 14 for the women of St. John's.

Women of St. John's ~ Let's do this! No experience is necessary. Construction professionals will be on site to teach and guide us.

Any woman who wants to help build a home and learn some new skills is invited to participate. Feel free to invite a friend.

A minimum of fifteen women volunteers from St. John's are needed on this day. And what a difference we can make in this one day! Let's help welcome Keena and her son to their new neighborhood.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex at church, or sign up by emailing the church office. (office@stjohnstn.org) For more information, contact Sam Pettyjohn, our Outreach Coordinator. (samuel.pettyjohn@gmail.com)



Saturday November 5: Hotel Amenities Ministry Drop-Off

The schedule for drop-off of donations is changing. The new plan is to have three drop-off donation days per year: the first Saturdays of November, March, and August.

Our next drop-off will be on Saturday November 5 from noon - 1:15 pm. As always, we value your input, your feedback, and your generous support. Anne Koehler (423-434-2667 or agkoehler@charter.net)



November 7-13: Week of Service with Family Promise

If you're not familiar with Family Promise, here are some key facts. It's a national organization with a uniquely practical, effective, and compassionate approach to helping homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence. Family Promise provides an opportunity for these families to remain together while addressing the challenges that confront them in obtaining housing. Families receive case management specific to their needs and in-depth support as they work to move ahead.

Family Promise is also unique in that it accomplishes all this through collaboration with faith congregations and community agencies. Our local affiliate, Family Promise of Greater Johnson City (FPJC), primarily serves families in Washington, Carter, Unicoi, Greene, Johnson and the eastern end of Sullivan counties in Northeast Tennessee. St. John's is one of 17 churches in this area providing support and assistance.

Our next week of service is November 7-13. If you'd like to help or simply want to learn more about this ministry, please contact David Kalwinsky (Kalwinds@etsu.edu) or Mary Alice Fryar (maryalice.fryar@yahoo.com). An additional resource is <https://familypromisejc.com>. Thank you for your support of this life-changing ministry!

Every week / Every day: Caring Cabinet



It's been a year since the little red cabinet on the Fairview Avenue side of the church was dedicated and put into service. Whether by donating personal hygiene supplies or dropping by to re-stock it, our combined efforts help so many in our neighborhood. Please contact Jennifer Kinser to find out how you can be a part of this ministry. (612-388-0218 or jjkinser@comcast.net)



October

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Margaret LoBue | 8 Garland Honeycutt | 17 Belinda Boling | 28 Ted Jackson |
| 3 Peter Krause | 9 Patrick Collins | 17 Joy Nagy | 28 Diane Wonder |
| 4 Leslie Booher | 10 Constance Desko | 18 Betty B. Cooper | 29 Lestasia Lange |
| 4 Bradley Osborne | 11 Marjorie Shaefer | 20 Janie Bagby | 29 Susan Miller |
| 5 Linda Spence Skeen | 12 Bette Lucas | 20 Janet Lawson | 30 James Allen |
| 6 Alice Davidson | 12 Phil Pindzola | 22 Flora Osborne | 30 Betsy Byrne |
| 6 Sarah Davidson | 12 Brooke Stanley | 22 Peg Pickens | 30 Blake Johnson |
| 6 Wayne Sprague | 13 Liz Biosca | 23 Chandler Hayden | 30 Jim Thornton |
| | 13 Alice Grosserode | 23 Tim Herron | |

November

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Shirley Cloyd | 5 Katherine Hall | 13 Elijah Irutingabo | 19 Rae Grosserode |
| 1 McKenna Cox | 5 Charlotte Ward | 14 Sam Benson | 20 Sam Pettyjohn |
| 4 Weston Cleveland | 7 Grant Buerkle | 16 Bill Collison | 24 Rex Gregg |
| 4 Steb Hipple | 10 Marianne Gubler | 16 Whitney Johnson | 25 Mike Talley |
| 4 Jerry Lonon | 12 Sean Driscoll | 16 Lisa LaFosse | 30 John Walker |
| 4 Kate Wagner | 12 Mina McVeigh | 16 Kate Sprague | 30 Charles Cole |
| | 13 Ivy Buerkle | 19 Emma Grosserode | |

St. John's Men's Fellowship ... and more

Formed around fifteen years ago, this rather informal group has a longstanding history of service to our parish, our community, and beyond. For example,



- ❖ they have prepared and served over 70 pancake breakfasts;
- ❖ they continue multiple outreach mission efforts both locally and regionally;
- ❖ they provide meals to the ETSU Campus Ministry students;
- ❖ they pursue mutual support and growth through attendance at retreats such as the Episcopal Churchmen of Tennessee conference held at Monteagle.

An invitation to all men at St. John's: Please consider coming to monthly dinners and get to know your fellow parishioners. Gatherings are typically the 2nd Tuesday of each month; see calendar on back page. There are no dues, meeting agendas, or attendance requirements. Just show up and enjoy camaraderie in shared faith.

For more info, contact Bill Archer (423-737-8454, william_archer@comcast.net) or David Kalwinsky (kalwinds@etsu.edu).

Speaking of pancakes, here's a note from the Men's group:

Many thanks to all who attended our first pancake breakfast since Fall of 2019. It was a grand time for gathering and fellowship! Your generous donations helped increase our all-time net outreach income to over \$7,600 since 2007.

Over the years our Men's Fellowship outreach funding has assisted extremely disadvantaged children/families living in the Campbell County area, the Kids Kamp at Grace Point, and school children here in Johnson City, just to name a few.



Future pancake breakfasts are already in the works for All Saints Sunday (November 6), the last Sunday before Lent (February 19), and Easter Sunday (April 9). Be sure to bring an appetite!

A Favorite Prayer

My favorite prayer in the Book of Common Prayer is in the Burial of the Dead service. While I am brought to tears each time I read it or hear it, I am reminded that I am indeed a sheep in a fold and a part of something bigger than myself. This prayer, which makes me sad to say goodbye to someone, gives me a sense of calm and peace knowing that the blessed rest of everlasting peace awaits me one day as well. ~ Jackie Mabrey

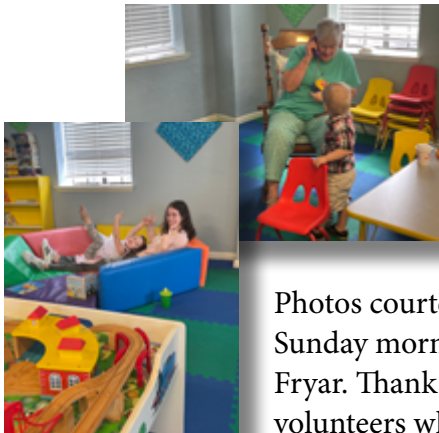
Into thy hands, O merciful Savior, we commend thy servant N. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech thee, a sheep of thine own fold, a lamb of thine own flock, a sinner of thine own redeeming.
Receive him into the arms of thy mercy, into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints in light. Amen.

Editor's note: Even though we're not all gathering together in the same place at the same time, sharing a prayer in the Journal can be a means of practicing community and deepening our appreciation for one another. So please consider sending in a favorite prayer from the Book of Common Prayer for sharing, and tell a little bit about why it has special meaning to you. Thanks in advance for your participation! Katy (Journal@stjohnstn.org) ❖

And now for something new: If you're between the ages of 21 and 40, check this out:

A new fellowship group is forming among your peers ... aiming for gatherings once/month, sometimes for meals, sometimes for adventures. Since this group is in its formative stage, your input is important!

If interested, please contact Ryan Clinton at 704-689-9541 or ryanclinton4747@gmail.com.



Our Nursery Rocks!

Photos courtesy of Jean Archer, who was recently enjoying a lively Sunday morning in the nursery with Emma Wallen and Mary Alice Fryar. Thank you to Hanna Holder, our lead nursery attendant and to volunteers who seem to have as much fun as the kiddos!

YTD Financial Report - Operating Budget

	Aug 2021 YTD Actual	Aug 2022 YTD Actual	Aug 2022 YTD Budget	Variance YTD Actual 2022 vs 2021	Variance YTD Actual vs YTD Budget
Plate Offerings	\$ 1,570	\$ 4,906	\$ 4,150	\$ 3,336	\$ 756
Pledge Payments	179,486	179,373	189,200	(113)	(9,827)
Prior Pledges	1,885	720	600	(1,165)	120
Contributions	35,680	21,121	19,500	(14,559)	1,621
Misc. Income	306	827	480	521	347
Prepaid Pledges	6,000	18,500	-	12,500	18,500
Total Income	224,927	225,446	213,930	519	11,516
Total Expense	215,228	218,920	234,987	3,692	(16,066)
Net Income	\$ 9,699	\$ 6,526	\$ (21,057)	\$ (3,173)	\$ 27,583

We continue to sustain a favorable financial position, with year-to-date net operating income of \$6,526.

The Vestry and Finance Committee are working hard to be stewards of your gifts. Thank you for your steadfast support of the mission and ministry of St. John's.



Worship Service Schedule

Sundays..... 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
 9:15 am Sunday School (Children & Youth)
 9:15 am Adult Faith Forum
 10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II
 (Nave & Facebook Live)

Tuesdays 5:30 pm Evening Prayer/Healing Service

Thursdays 10:00 am Morning Prayer

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

Please note that our next feast day for Holy Baptism is Sunday November 6. Anyone who desires the rite of baptism for themselves and/or their children is asked to contact Rev. Laura at revlbryant@stjohnstn.org or speak with her in person.

Meetings & Special Events

Sunday Oct 2.....Blessing of the Animals, 3 pm @ the church
 Tuesday Oct 11Men's Fellowship, 6 pm @ BURG'r & BARREL
 Tuesday Oct 18Vestry meeting, 7 pm
 Sunday Oct 23.....Newcomers Luncheon at home of Phil Ulmer
 Saturday Nov 5Hotel Amenities Drop-Off, noon-1:15 pm
 Tuesday Nov 8.....Men's Fellowship, 6 pm @ Portabello Bistro

Programs Recurring Weekly

Tuesdays Centering Prayer, 6 pm, *In-person & via Zoom*
 (For Zoom link, contact Frances Jackson at 423-946-3345)
 Wednesdays Choir Rehearsal, 7-8:30 pm
 Sundays Centering Prayer, 9:55 am, *In-person*
 Sundays Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 11:45 am
 Sundays EfM, 5-7:30 pm *via Zoom*

Instructed Eucharist Bulletins

Special annotated bulletins are available in the entryway and in the pews. Entitled *A Guide to the Eucharist*, these bulletins explain what we do at Sunday morning services and some of the history behind our worship practices. Whether you're a newcomer or a cradle Episcopalian, feel free to pick up a guide and learn more about our Sunday service.

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