



JOURNAL

Third Quarter 2023

Staff

The Rev. Laura A. Bryant
Rector
revlbryant@stjohnstn.org

The Rev. Cathy L. Johnston
Deacon
cjmntnbike@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
rae.grosserode@gmail.com

Ryan Clinton,
*Youth Coordinator &
Assistant for Special Projects*
ryanclinton4747@gmail.com

Crystal Brandon, *Sexton*
Church Office: 423-926-8141
Office@stjohnstn.org

Vestry & Officers

Tom McGinnis, *Sr. Warden*

Bill Archer, *Jr. Warden*

Kathi Horne

Anne Koehler

Rucht Lilavivat

Lee Phillips

Allen Pickel

Rita Plemmons

Hugh Webb

Theresa Bryant, *Clerk*

Bob Cooper, *Finance Chair*

McKenna Cox, *Chancellor*

Reneau Dubberley, *Treasurer*

A message from the Rector

Dear Companions in Christ,

We are given more blessings than we ever receive.

I am haunted and helped by this simple statement: I am given more blessings than I ever receive. What can this mean?

I have come to understand this simple short sentence as a bald statement of fact and a constant and renewable source of revelation. Gently but firmly this fact prods me to look—and look again—at my life, the hours, the people, the companions and strangers, that fill and grace my days; also the hurdles, interruptions, mistakes I make, the tears that I have almost shed, the fears that I can hardly bear.

Always I see blessings that I have missed, that I did not recognize or receive at the time. And I am humbled and stunned to see again how deep and wide the blessings are and how often such gifts of strength and life arrive.

I am given more blessings than I ever receive. Stewardship, for me, always begins with acknowledgment of this bald and graceful fact. That is why the time of stewardship is a stunning and revelatory season that I have come to love. Look. Look again. Deep. Wide. Often. Constant. Gifts of strength and help and beauty and love. Gifts of life. Arrive. Even in times of trouble that we did not know how or if we would survive.

Life is God's gift to us. Just to be alive is a blessing.

What we do with our lives is our gift to God and to others.

And that is why my financial pledge to St. John's is so different and so much more than an obligation. My pledge is my deep thanks for a community that gives life and love, for all the blessings that I continue to receive here, and my great desire to offer myself and help this community of love thrive and grow.

We are given more blessings than we ever receive. You, the people of St. John's, are a blessing to me and to each other. You are more of a blessing than you will ever know. Deep. Wide. Often. Constant.

Look. Look again. Look how much we have received, how much we have done, how much we can do together, with help and strength from the living God who is Love.

Faithfully,

Rev. Laura



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE IN EAST TENNESSEE

WWW.DIOET.ORG

500 N. Roan Street ❖ Johnson City, TN 37601 ❖ 423-926-8141
An Episcopal Church in the Heart of Johnson City

Rally Day & Ministry Fair

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ~ 1 Corinthians 12:4-7



Earth Guild

New!

Contact: Shelley Stahlman (shellstahl@hotmail.com or 423-725-2822)

This is a guild that has not been active for several years. (Among other things, there was ... Covid.) But it's time to revive and re-energize this important ministry, and thanks to Shelley, it's off to a good start. Fifteen people signed up at the Ministry Fair to get involved!

In past years, the guild facilitated Adult Faith Forum series, annual Blessings of Animals, Creation Care Sunday worship services, parish day-hikes, environmental film series, earth care children's education, recycling, energy conservation and other sustainability practices in our church. What would you like to see, hear, do, learn with this guild? Please get in touch with Shelley to learn more, share ideas, and support our stewardship of God's creation.



Seamless Circle ~ Yarn & Needlework Fellowship

New!

Contact: Cheryl Plowden (cplowden465@gmail.com or 910-409-8419)

A fellowship of those who enjoy needlework, crocheting, and knitting (and also any other crafts that can be done with the others). From Cheryl: "We are just getting started and would love to have anyone interested to join us, regardless of skill level. Even if no skill level! Because if you want to learn a new yarn craft, we'd love to help you get started." The group is meeting the second and fourth

Wednesdays of each month at 10 am. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Cheryl to learn more.

Adult Faith Formation

Contact: Lee Phillips (lee@wordmatters.com 423-676-7902)

Committee members: Adam Bean, Rev. Laura Bryant, John Nagy, Lee Phillips, and Elizabeth Stillwell. Lee serves as the vestry liaison.



Adult Faith Forum meets during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15 am) to discuss books, scripture, theology, and many other topics. Sometimes a topic or book is covered in a single session, sometimes over several weeks. Sometimes we have guest leaders; sometimes discussions are facilitated by fellow parishioners or clergy. All the time: interesting, to say the least. No need to sign up in advance. Just come as you are!

Centering Prayer meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm in person and also by Zoom. All are welcome to join us, no experience necessary. For more information, contact Frances Jackson (jxn621@gmail.com)

Education for Ministry (EfM) has been meeting at St. John's since 2008. It's a small group format whereby six to 12 participants meet weekly for in-depth discussions of scripture, church history, and theology. Meetings are on Sundays during the academic year from 5:00 to 7:30 pm, in person and by Zoom.

Inquirers' Class: For those interested in being confirmed, or in learning more about being an Episcopalian. Meets for about 6 weeks before the bishop's visit, which is usually in late spring or early summer. Contact: Fred Mackara (mackara@etsu.edu)

The Open Book Group: A brand-new mid-week discussion group. During the summer we read and discussed *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr, and this fall we're reading *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newell. Meetings are on Thursdays through November 16, in person or by Zoom.

A **Labyrinth** class and prayer walk was held on Sunday mornings during the month of July, facilitated by Rebecca Paluzzi, Frances Jackson, and Lee Phillips. Our **labyrinth** is a unique resource that is set up in the chapel during certain seasons of the church and at other times upon request. Please contact the church office if you have a labyrinth request. Pictured at right is a group of students from University School who visited to learn about our church.





Pastoral Care

Contact: Jackie Mabrey (jackiemabrey@gmail.com)
Committee members: Mary Alice Fryar, Jackie Mabrey, Phil Ulmer, Rita Plemmons Winfield, Rev. Laura Bryant, and Rev. Cathy Johnston. Rita serves as the vestry liaison.

Pastoral care is broad in scope as we strive to promote the health and strength of the body of Christ through compassionate care of each other, attentiveness to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of parishioners, and by providing help and support to those who are sick, bereaved, homebound, lonely, or in any kind of crisis or trouble. Ministries include:

Flower Delivery – Flowers from the altar each week are made into smaller arrangements and delivered to members as a gesture of love and support in a time of sadness or illness as well as celebration.

Card Ministry – Get well, sympathy, congratulations, and thinking of you cards are mailed to members each month once the committee is alerted about a life event.

Care Packages – Packages are mailed to our college and boarding school students periodically to remind them of the love and support from their church home. Please send Rita the names and addresses of away-from-home students so we can send their care packages. (retp62@gmail.com)

e-CARE Team – A group of members ready to spring into action when alerted if there is a need for meal deliveries or other specific immediate care needs.

Prayer List – While published weekly in the service bulletin, the list is reviewed each month by the committee to see if other needs are required by those on the list.

Memorial Chapel – Located in the bell tower, on the side of the chapel. Many of you have visited it, for quiet prayer. There is a kneeler and a votive stand available for private use. Also, there is an opportunity to have a memorial plaque made for loved ones who have died. If you are interested in having this remembrance for your loved ones, please contact Rita with their names, dates of life and a quote that speaks to you about them. (retp62@gmail.com)

❖❖❖ Please contact Jackie (jackiemabrey@gmail.com) if you would like to help with any aspect of Pastoral Care, and please notify the church office if and when you become aware of someone who may benefit from a visit, card, meal, prayer, flowers or such; staff will forward the info to the group and/or clergy as appropriate. (423-926-8141; office@stjohnstn.org)

Children’s Education

We are fortunate to have the benefit of Rae Grosserode’s talents and dedication to Christian education of our parish’s children. She shared a very brief summary, below, as to how she carries out her responsibilities. It’s the tip of the iceberg, so to speak, as she puts her heart into making Sunday School both fun and educational for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Children’s Christian Education has been a vital part of St. John’s since the beginning. My own four children participated regularly until they went to college, and this is my ninth year as the director and Sunday School teacher.

I follow the Virginia Theological Seminary’s Episcopal Children’s Curriculum, a three-year program of study presenting Biblical stories, feasts and the liturgical year, and Episcopal practices. I am also a trained Godly Play educator and incorporate Godly Play lessons, as appropriate, into the sequence of lessons.

Every child is welcome any Sunday!

Rae Grosserode
Children’s Christian Education Director
rae.grosserode@gmail.com



Ministry Fair continued on next page 🍴 🍴 🍴 🍴 🍴 🍴



“Rally Day” Highlights

John Blake’s homily about reconciliation, faith, and healing in his own life, kids having loads of fun and, oh yes, there was also an abundance of good food!



Ministries, continued

Outreach

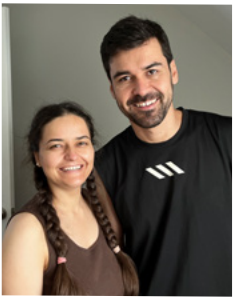
Contact: Sam Pettyjohn (samuel.pettyjohn@gmail.com)

Committee members: Kate Beatty, Bill Browder, Mary Alice Fryar, Sam Pettyjohn, Lissa Jackson, Jennifer Kinser, Peter Krause. Allen Pickel serves as vestry liaison.

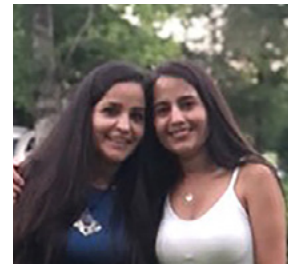
Outreach encompasses programs such as the **Caring Cabinet** (personal hygiene necessities), **Street-side Food Pantry**, and **Drive-by Donation Drop-off** (clothing, food, and bedding for distribution by area non-profits). Watch for updates in the weekly e-news and worship service bulletin regarding items in need any given week, including Jennifer's "food of the week" for our Street-side Food Pantry. Financial contributions were made this year to **The River**, **Family Promise**, and **Good Samaritan**. Other opportunities present themselves throughout each year.

As is true for all ministries, it takes a lot of effort by many to sustain any program. There is always more work to be done and compassion to be shared, so please let us know if you'd like to help.

New! A new ministry was launched in July to provide **assistance to refugees from Afghanistan** in coordination with Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), a national non-profit that is our "go-between" for a US State Department program. We are currently sponsoring a family of three (Reshad, Sadaf, and their daughter Aysan) who fled their home country under dire conditions when the U.S. pulled out, arriving in Johnson City three months ago. Two close relatives (young women, Zarlash and Sodaba) arrived a few weeks later. Each person had no more than a suitcase of clothes when they arrived. The connection to Johnson City is that Reshad's sister-in-law, Karima, and her three sons arrived here last year, sponsored by Alliance Church in Elizabethton.



Sadaf & Reshad



Karima & Sodaba

The Resettlement Committee has 16 members, simply because there are so many aspects of this ministry. Things that we have learned and done over a lifetime they've had to learn in a matter of weeks. Like finding safe and affordable housing, setting up a household from scratch, utilities, banking,

government registrations, health services, public transportation, even grocery shopping.

EMM provides action plans for dozens of activities and checkpoints to help immigrants become acclimated to life in America and which need to be carried out in compliance with the prescribed framework and timeline of the State Department's refugee program. Hats off to Daniel Cutshall who has been a traffic manager of sorts for the committee, making sure that we stay on track.

Thank you for your outpouring of love and hospitality, your time, your donations of clothing, household goods, furniture, toys, and financial support to help our new friends get settled in. They are so grateful, earnest, industrious, resilient, and determined to do whatever it takes to become self-sufficient.

Reshad is now employed, and we are working on obtaining a vehicle for his commute to work and other family needs. Hopefully this will happen by the time this Journal reaches your inbox. Please continue to pray for their wellbeing and a bright future with us in East Tennessee.

Committee members are Em Baker, Kate Beatty, Emily Bidgood, Lee Bidgood, Christopher Carrier, Daniel Cutshall, Andrea Eads, Andrew Eads, Rex Gregg, Jennifer Kinser, Lissa Jackson, Michael Martinez, Dustin Odom, Sam Pettyjohn, Katy Pindzola, and Phil Pindzola. If you'd like to help with Resettlement in any way, please contact Rev. Laura or the church office, and we'll make sure you're connected with the right person on the committee to get involved.



Zarlash with Aysan & Aysan's cousin Rohon

School Supply Drive

Thank you for helping to make a difference for students, their families, and their teachers. Each year we distribute donated supplies to a city school and a county school. This year it was Woodland Elementary and Fall Branch Elementary. Both schools were thrilled and grateful for the supplies!





It couldn't have been a prettier day or prettier setting for our fall **Newcomers Luncheon**. A big "thank you" to Ed and Kathy Jordan for hosting the get-together and to the many folks who helped with the food and set-up. And good heavens, by the looks of it, there sure was a lot of food, love and laughter!

By the way, everybody is welcome to these "newcomers" events, so please remember this the next time one is scheduled. (Just think, if only newcomers came, who would be there to welcome them?)

Another thought: Next time you see somebody at church who you don't recognize, try to put aside any shyness and introduce yourself. We've all been on the other side of the equation at some point in our lives, so deep down we know that even the smallest gestures of welcome can be life-changing!



Music

We'll shed some light on what goes on behind the scenes in the next Journal. In the meantime, do you like to sing? Or play an instrument? Want to learn the handbells? Talk to Nick Andrews, our multi-talented Choirmaster and Organist ... there's always room for more! (423-926-8141 or Office@stjohnstns.org)



Worship

Have you ever thought about serving in one of the many roles related to worship? There's quite a variety, such as Ushers, Greeters, Lay Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Altar Guild, and more. We'll have more information about each of these roles in next quarter's Journal. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to ask Rev. Laura or Kathi Horne (vestry liaison, HorneK@mail.etsu.edu) about any interest you may have, and they'll put you in touch with the right person to pursue further.



Blessing of the Backpacks, August 13

Sacrament of Healing

The sacrament of healing is now offered during the 8:00 and 10:30 am celebrations of Holy Eucharist on the last Sunday of every month. Those who wish special prayers for healing of spirit, mind, or body are invited to come to the prayer station before or after receiving communion. The Rev. David Booher, who is a member of St. John's and retired Episcopal priest, will assist in this sacramental ministry.

Message from the Senior Warden

One of the initiatives the vestry undertook this year was to create a welcoming committee to greet each person, whether a newcomer or long-time parishioner, to each and every service. Hopefully, all of you have had the experience of being welcomed by one of the vestry members or another member of the committee during the past year.

Our intention is to extend a warm welcome for all who enter our doors. And we are encouraging all members of the congregation to play a part in this by looking for someone they don't know and introducing themselves. If we all undertake to do this each Sunday during both services and church school, it will undoubtedly make St John's a more welcoming church. I hope you all will try and begin this activity next Sunday and each Sunday to come.

Thank you!

Tom McGinnis

In Remembrance



Dr. Bert C. Bach

December 14, 1936 - August 14, 2023



Carl Walter "Walt" Sweatt

March 25, 1942 - July 20, 2023

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is in the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ~ Jeremiah 17:7-8



This year's stewardship letters and pledge cards were mailed the first week of October. We are all asked to prayerfully consider a pledge to St. John's to help build a community of love rooted in God's gifts of abundance and life. Our goal is a 10% increase in the number of pledges and a \$10,000 increase in outreach funding.

The ingathering and blessing of pledges will be on November 12, the same Sunday as our annual parish meeting. If you have any questions, please reach out to one of our clergy or vestry.

Thank you for your generosity!

Managing our Finances



The Finance Committee in Session

Clockwise from bottom left: David Kalwinsky, Bob Cooper, Tom McGinnis, Ted Jackson, Rev. Laura Bryant, Jon Lau, Reneau Dubberley. Not pictured: Bill Archer and Suzanne Donaldson.

Ever wonder who manages the Church's finances? It's not just one person, that's for sure. Two positions related to fiscal matters are appointed by the vestry: Treasurer and Finance Officer. These two are joined by six fellow parishioners – all volunteers – as well as Rev. Laura, to make up the current Finance Committee.

As a group, the Finance Committee serves in an advisory role to the vestry, making recommendations for annual budgets as well as progress reports every month. Since several members of the Committee also serve in roles essential to day-to-day fiscal operations of the church, Committee deliberations are based on current and detailed familiarity with the subject at hand.

With the addition of the Finance Officer position a few years ago, the Committee has successfully endeavored to provide a valuable "big picture" perspective of our financial health – short-term and long-term challenges and opportunities in mission, ministries (see page 2), staffing, as well as our physical plant. For example, in recent years they developed (and currently maintain) a comprehensive assessment of capital maintenance needs anticipated over the next 2 - 20 years, along with an annual budget plan for setting aside funds to be accumulated for such capital needs.

In case you'd like to know more about the current committee members and how the committee functions, see next page for a bit more information about each member, in their own words.

Getting to know our Finance Committee members

(in alphabetical order)

Bill Archer

Along with all the members of the committee, I review the prior month's financial reports in an effort to identify any anomalies or trends. We act as an advisory group to the vestry, making recommendations as to how church funds should be invested and identifying which accounts to use for expenses. A major initiative is drafting a budget each year for the vestry's consideration. My background is in public benefits administration, cemetery management and service in various civic and community organizations as an officer or board member.

Bob Cooper

Officially, the Finance Officer is responsible for "making recommendations regarding the best use of large donations, memorials, bequests and gifts to the parish as well as advising the vestry regarding investments and proposed large expenditures," but it's really a collective effort by many individuals who contribute their time and expertise. My role as chair of the Finance Committee is to convene the committee, collect and select our agenda, and help ensure that all perspectives are considered as we make decisions. My professional career was in mechanical contracting, with an emphasis on business management and decision-making.

Suzanne Donaldson

I had a lifelong career in banking as a financial advisor and planner, including Estate Planning and Trusts. I feel that my experience in managing investments for foundations gives me a different perspective from just crunching numbers to balance a budget. I view my role as an advocate for the Endowment Fund and a voice of moderation with regard to long term investments. (Note: please contact Suzanne if you'd like to learn more about St. John's Endowment Fund.)

Reneau Dubberley

I have been the Treasurer of St. John's for over five years. I am currently not on the vestry but was on the vestry my first time as Treasurer. At that time with the approval of the vestry, we changed the financial reporting and located investing opportunity with better returns. As Treasurer I report the monthly financial performance of St. John's to the vestry and answer any questions from the vestry about income and expenses.

Ted Jackson

I'm the glorified bookkeeper (aka Associate Treasurer) for St. John's. I record all the transactions – deposits, checks, payroll – into a specialized accounting system designed for churches. All accounts are reconciled each month; the Finance Committee and vestry receive a set of reports on the financial condition of St. John's. This helps all of us monitor the fiscal health of our church and ensures that the contributions each of us makes goes towards the mission of St. John's. My academic training is in Engineering (bachelor's level) with a Masters in Business Administration in Finance. My professional experience includes data processing, auditing, and management/leadership. And, I'm OCD enough to ferret out discrepancies and figure out why they happen and how to fix them.

David Kalwinsky

In my 34 years at St John's, I have served on a number of vestries, been senior and junior warden, served on rector searches, chaired the memorials committee and served on the building committee for our current nave. Currently, I serve as Assistant Treasurer, primarily responsible for signing the church's checks on a weekly basis. Checks are requested by our Parish Administrator (Jon Lau), prepared by Associate Treasurer (Ted Jackson), and then signed by me. This procedure ensures accountability, with "checks and balances" built in. While my professional background was as a practicing physician, for 15 years I administered a 25-physician practice with a complex annual budget. Both church and work experience leave me comfortable serving on our finance committee.

Jon Lau

My educational and work background extensively involved forecasting final outcomes (results) using perceived patterns found in numerical data. Applied in the Finance Committee setting, this applies to preparing for the annual budgeting process and within each budget year, identifying variances due to changing economic or other conditions for adjustment within the parameters of the approved budget. (Ed. note: In addition to Jon's role on the Finance Committee, Jon also volunteers as our Parish Administrator, which encompasses anything that involves records or reports, e.g., membership, financial arrangements, contracts, insurance, statistics, you name it).

Tom McGinnis

As the Senior Warden, my role on the Finance Committee is to represent the views of the vestry to the committee. I have limited financial credentials despite having managed a busy medical practice before retiring. The Senior Warden has no vote on the finance committee and is ex-officio. I think the parish is fortunate in having members of the committee who are well-versed in financial matters with experience in banking, government and private businesses.

Upcoming Vestry Election (3 of 5 nominees)



Kate Beatty

Member of St. John's since 2021, active since 2019

Current Parish Activities: Outreach Committee, Refugee Resettlement Committee, GAIN-coffee hour host

Past Parish Activities: Caring Cabinet Ministry

Work outside of the Parish: Kate is an Associate Professor at East Tennessee State University in the College of Public Health. She teaches courses on health policy and law and organizational research and spends most of her time researching rural health disparities and access to healthcare, specifically contraceptive care. Kate is also the Director of the Masters of Public Health program, is actively involved in the faculty senate

and is the vice-chair of the campus Institutional Review Board.

Kate has lived in Johnson City since 2014. She is married to Sam Pettyjohn and they have three busy kids Nora (7), Bert (5), and Chance (3). They live in the Tree Streets and enjoy living close to downtown.



Bill Browder, MD

Member of St. John's since 1990

Current Parish Activities: Outreach Committee

Work outside of the Parish: Retired Chair of Surgery – Quillen College of Medicine (ETSU)

Bill has been a lifelong Episcopalian, having been confirmed in St. John's Episcopal Church in Pascagoula, MS. He received his medical education and surgical training from Tulane University and Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Following surgical training, he spent two years in the U.S. Navy serving in Okinawa Japan. He returned to New Orleans to begin

his academic surgery career. During that time, he served on the vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Orleans. Bill and his family joined St. John's after moving to Johnson City in 1990 to assume the role of Chair of Surgery for the College of Medicine at ETSU.



Theresa May Bryant

Member of St. John's since 2019

Current Parish Activities: Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Vestry Clerk

Past Parish Involvement: Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Coffee Hour host at St. Brendan's Episcopal Church, Franklin Park, PA. Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Vestry, Vice Chair of Rector Search Committee at Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Norfolk, VA

Work outside of the Parish: Retired VP for Workforce Development at the Community College of Allegheny County, PA

After retiring in 2019, Theresa moved back to her hometown, Jonesborough, TN, and transferred her membership to St. John's. She is an active member of the Johnson City Morning Rotary Club, the Jonesborough Genealogical Society, the Tuesday Garden Club, and the Schubert Club, and she serves as a volunteer docent at the Chester Inn Museum in Jonesborough. Her hobbies include reading, gardening and travel. She has one son, Justin, who lives in Knoxville with his wife, Alyssa, and daughter, Rosalee.

Vestry Nominees continued on next page

Upcoming Vestry Election (2 of 5 nominees)



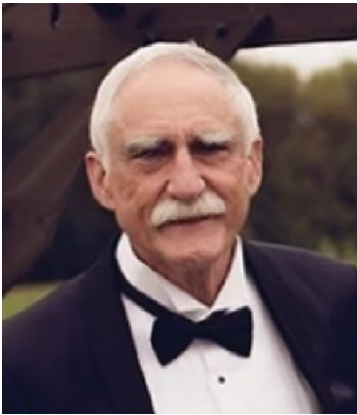
Peter Krause

Member of St. John's since 2021, active since 2013

Current Parish Activities: Education for Ministry (EfM), Street-side Food Pantry volunteer, Point person for the Hotel Amenities Drop-off Ministry, Centering Prayer.
Past Parish Activities: Adult Faith Formation, Constructed the Streetside Food Pantry

Work outside of the Parish: Senior software developer at Siemens Industry, Inc. – almost 40 years. Peter is a German immigrant, moving here to Northeast Tennessee in 2013.

Outside of work, Peter is very involved with Tae Kwon Do (will be tested for 2nd degree Black belt this coming April), maintaining his house and garden, politics, music, writing short stories (three books published so far) and developing autonomous robots like lawn mowers.



J. Michael "Mike" Radford

Member of St. John's since 2001

Current Parish Activities: Usher.

Past Parish Activities Helped provide food for youth mission trip this past summer; helped reinstitute 12-step recovery program at St. John's

Work outside of the Parish: Mike is a retired psychiatrist after 25 years at the VA hospital here in Johnson City.

Mike grew up at St. Peters Episcopal in Chattanooga, where he was confirmed and very involved in his youth. Mike is married to Sandy and they have three adult children who all grew up at St. John's: Jennifer, Patsy, and John. Mike is enjoying retirement and

looking to be more involved at St. John's.

Vestry members serve for three-year terms.

The three outgoing vestry members are Bill Archer, Hugh Webb, and Rita Plemmons Winfield. These three positions will be filled from the five nominees. Ballots will be mailed to each household, for voting November 12 - 26.

Acolyte Festival



Several of our acolytes attended the National Acolyte Festival on October 7 at the Washington National Cathedral. It was truly a moving experience, as we were able to process and celebrate with fellow Episcopalians from across the nation and also our brothers and sisters from the Lutheran, Methodist, and AME traditions. After the festival, we had the chance to further explore the cathedral, as well as other parts of our nation's capital.

I think I speak for all of us when I say we can't wait to come back next year.

~ Ryan Clinton, Youth Coordinator

Pictured left to right: Finn Lilavivat, Ryan Clinton, Emily Bidgood, Willis Bidgood, Lee Bidgood, Chance Pendleton, Crawford Lilavivat

Upcoming



Sunday November 5

Feast of All Saints Sunday and Holy Baptism

On the **Feast of All Saints Sunday**, we celebrate the great communion of saints and the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

As part of our liturgy at both morning services, we pray a litany for the saints and all those who have died. If you would like the names of “those whom you love, but see no longer” included in the prayers, please write their names on the chart located in the narthex.

The 10:30 am service will also include Holy Baptism. 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.

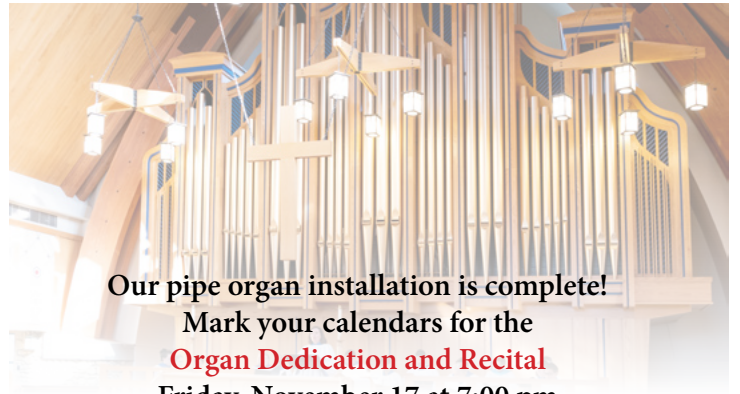
There will be a Pancake Breakfast in the Great Hall between services, 8:45 -10:15 am.

Sunday, November 12

Annual Parish Meeting & Lunch

We'll gather in the Great Hall following a 10:00 am Holy Eucharist service. Please note that on this day there will be a single morning service, starting at 10 am.

Candyland Christmas We'll have a Christmas tree at one of the parks downtown this year! If you can help with ideas and/or decorating our tree (November 22-25), please contact Nick Andrews. (423-926-8141 or Office@stjohnstn.org)



Our pipe organ installation is complete!

Mark your calendars for the
Organ Dedication and Recital

Friday, November 17 at 7:00 pm