

The Messenger



A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear St. John's,

Since March 22 when life took an abrupt change in direction, I have been contemplating who we are as a parish. COVID-19 has interrupted our lives, caused heartache and suffering, and has wreaked havoc on our plans, priorities, and purposes. One of the ways I have been coping with our current climate is by taking a deeper look inward. I have been questioning our identity as followers of Christ and the variety of ways we experience God during these times.

Fortunately, I have not been alone in my quest. Our diocese has been asking similar questions. Our diocesan wide Shaped by Faith initiative has produced several webinars this summer. One such webinar includes an exploration of our Anglican Identity: Spirituality and Temperament. These brief videos are an invitation to explore who we are as communities of faith. Using the work of John Westerhoff's book, *A People Called Episcopalians*, I was reminded of our temperament as Episcopalians. Westerhoff acknowledges the following temperaments:

1. Naturalistic: We experience God by protecting and caring for God's creation
 2. Open-minded: We love the questions and love helping others love the questions about God, spiritual life, and life itself.
 3. Intuitive: We relish ritual, symbol, metaphor, and art
 4. Mystical: We embrace spiritual life as a journey with God while giving ourselves over to joy, wonder, and awe.
 5. Communal: Community focused (prayer, action, study, fellowship, decision-making, neighborhood engagement)
 6. Ambiguous: Comfortable with complexity ("the messy middle")
 7. Liturgical/Biblical: Encountering and feeding on the bible in worship, study, and prayer
 8. Sacramental: God's grace is experienced in tangible ways
 9. Historical: Learning from and drawing on the church's history and heritage
 10. Comprehensive: Living richly and prayerfully in the tensions between apparent opposites
 11. Political: Enacting God's compassion, peace, and justice in the world
 12. Moderate: Living a healthy, balanced life with God, self, and others
 13. Incarnational: Embracing an earthly, enfleshed, spiritual practice
 14. Aesthetic: Exploring beauty and the senses as a doorway to God
 15. Pastoral: Finding relationship to God through relationship with people
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I commend this list to you. Consider which of these qualities speaks to you and your faith. Do you discover God is sacrament or in community? Are you drawn to the open mindedness of our faith and the gift of asking and loving the questions? Or do you find comfort in the mystical experience of God through joy and wonder? As we continue to look inward and discover who we are amid the world around us, I encourage you to take a closer look at Westerhoff's work. God is shaping us, friends and for that I give thanks. To hear more about the Shaped by Faith initiative check out our diocesan website at: <https://diocesecpa.org/shapedbyfaithwebinars/>

I remain faithfully yours,
Amanda+

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Although the month of July was soft (probably due to seasonal pattern), pledge and offering income for year to date is ahead of budget. Lower overall expenses are also impacting favorably. Through July, **no withdrawals** from our investment account have been required to meet our operating cash flow requirements. Additional funds received as part of the Paycheck Protection Program are **not included** in this statement. These funds are technically considered a loan until our application for loan forgiveness is approved, at which time we will realize the additional income.

~ C. Wear, Treasurer

St. John's Episcopal Church Budget vs. Actual as of July 31, 2020

Operating Statement: Cash Basis

	July Actual MTD	2020 Actual YTD	2020 Budget YTI
Income			
Pledge & Offering	\$18,697	\$249,693	\$237,358
Draw from Investments	\$0	\$0	\$28,312
Other Income	\$4,530	\$33,353	\$12,600
Jubilee Ministries	\$1,800	\$19,389	\$46,433
Total Income	\$25,027	\$302,435	\$324,703
Expense			
All Expenses	\$44,175	\$313,916	\$342,935
Net Surplus/(Shortfall)	(\$19,148)	(\$11,481)	(\$18,232)



A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR:

Over the last three months, a great deal of soul searching has taken place at the individual level and at the national level, as well. Many of us have felt compelled to examine the way we think and act as individuals, as well as participants in larger organizations. These examinations have led to a greater sense of needing to change in order to bring about a more just society for all. If you are like me, though, the task seems daunting because there are many questions going through my head. Where do we begin? Who has the most urgent needs? What role can I, personally, play? How do the organizations I'm involved in fit into these efforts?

St. John's has a history of community action and engagement- the food pantry, Eagle's Nest, community breakfasts, the Betty Finney AIDS Garden, refugee assistance, Soles4Souls... Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain deeply committed to serving our neighbors. How we address the needs of those who populate our community, though, may need to be adjusted in order to fit within the parameters of the pandemic. In other words, we should not allow COVID-19 to dictate what we do, even if it dictates how we do it. So, consider this an invitation to share with me your ideas for how we envision continuing the ministries we are passionate about amid social distancing guidelines.

Matt+

STAY CONNECTED:

There are multiple ways to stay connected as we navigate re-entry. For those of you desiring to stay home please join us for worship on our YouTube page Sundays at 10:15AM. In addition, check our Facebook page often for information, prayers, ministry opportunities, etc.

For those desiring to worship in person, please check the [Website](#) for the signup sheet. Each Monday we will post the signup sheet for the following week. Please make sure to read the Re-entry Letter and the Re-Entry Plan Brochure thoroughly before returning.

Know our prayers continue as you discern how to stay connected.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FAMILY OF BARBARA "BOBBIE" RUSSELL:

Dear St. John's Friends,

We, the family of Bobbie Russell, thank you all for your lovely and thoughtful expressions of caring and compassion, your notes, cards, texts, and calls were very comforting and supportive. In my eyes, you are such a warm and real congregation, who walk the talk!

With Sincere Gratitude,
Stephanie Morrison



GROCERY COUPONS FOR SALE AGAIN:

It's time to restart our support of all our Jubilee Ministries by purchasing grocery cards!

St. John's receives 5% of each card's value and the purchaser receives 100% of the value of each card. So, for every \$100 card purchase, \$5 goes to Jubilee. We will start by participants mailing checks made out to St John's with grocery coupons written in the memo line. Please mail check to church office: 321 W. Chestnut St. Lancaster PA 17603.

Please note on a separate paper or in the memo section which grocery store(s) cards you would like to purchase. We offer \$100 cards from WEIS, STAUFFERS, JOHN HERRS and GIANT. Giant alone offers a \$20 card option. Please clarify if you want the \$20 card or the \$100 card for Giant.

Our goal is to get the grocery card to you within the week. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sue Tobie. All request will be processed once received. Gift cards can be picked up at the church office or placed in the mail.

We are anxious to resume this program. but please note that we will not be taking verbal request for cards between services. Thank you all for your understanding and participation during this time of distancing due to COVID-19.



JUBILEE

Adult Forum

Join us every Wednesday in August @ 7:00PM

St. John's is a designated Jubilee Center in the Episcopal Church, but what exactly does Jubilee mean, where does it come from, and how do these ministries change over time? Come explore all things Jubilee in our final summer series.

Zoom Meeting ID: 863 2127 6460

Password: 041630

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

I'm sure the many Community Breakfast volunteers are wondering about what is going to happen, as I am. I have been in communication with the Community Meal chairperson, Phyllis Clelan, as well as the Office Secretary, Janet. Meal ministries is on the minds of the leaders at First Reformed, as you can imagine. The statement at this time is "we WILL open," although not knowing when and how is understandable.

So, I hope that we can all hold onto our commitment to this vital downtown ministry as we wait. In the meantime, we should give thanks to the Lancaster Moravian Church on N. Queen St. for continuing to serve a bagged (boxed) breakfast on Sat. mornings. The touching thing is that, having no comfortable place to eat this breakfast, the receiving folks are walking up to First Reformed and eating on the alley wall and in the courtyard (it's like home). And thanks to Juan who cleans up after some of the guests.

So keep the faith in this and the many phases of our church life together.

From Sue Martin

YARD GIVE

**Donations
accepted
beginning
July 8**

**Wednesdays
3:00-5:00
Sundays
8:00-11:00
Courtyard**

**Volunteers
wanted!**

**Sorters,
greeters,
clerks,
packers, truck
deliverers.**

**call or email
Pam Loose**

**AUGUST 7 AND 8
7:00-1:00**

A MESSAGE FROM SUE HEILMAN, "This is Not a Goodbye":

Dear St. John's Family,

In July, God surprised me when I visited my 92 year old mother who has severe dementia outside her nursing home window; my heart broke. God has inspired me to move back to the Pittsburgh area to share an apartment with her and become her primary caretaker. This whole process happened so fast and smooth that I feel God has blessed and ordained this decision. For all of this, I am truly thankful.

With this transition, I will be closer to family. Thankfully, it will be plenty of help as 3 of my 5 siblings live in the area and many adult grandchildren too. I will also be able to fully resign from the challenging new world of nursing care and focus on my mother and my own needs.

My official move date will be August 21, 2020. My new address is:

1002 Marquis Place Apt. #209 Murrysville Pennsylvania 15632

My phone number and email address will be the same. Please let me know if you come to the Murrysville area. Murrysville is one town East of Monroeville, the turnpike exit for Pittsburgh. I would love to see you. I plan on returning to Lancaster often so hope to see you all by the end of the year on a Sunday morning!

Peace, Love, Hugs and Hope,

Sue Heilman





HELP A STUDENT IN NEED
AT FULTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Annual School Supply Drive

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE OFFICE DURING
THE WEEK OR AT THE CHURCH ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

We are collecting the following school supplies:
Backpacks - Folders - Bottles of Hand Sanitizer -
Notebooks - Calculators - Pencil Cases - Art supplies -
Binders - Glue Sticks - Pencils - Pens - Markers -
Disinfectant Wipes - Scissors - Tissues - Tape - Etc.



St. John's Episcopal Church presents our annual:

Backpack Blessing & Electronics Exorcisms

(Okay, we aren't really doing exorcisms on our electronic devices, but we are aware that tablets, computers, and phones are also in need of special blessings this year.)

When: Sunday, August 23 at Noon

Where: Along the sidewalk on W. Chestnut Street
(Masks required)

How: Socially distanced and prayerfully executed

Who: Students of all ages and teachers of all circumstances

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Sarah Gordon	1	Heather Sherman	12
Nancy Houston	2	Michael Gbur	14
David Labeda	3	Rachel Hreben	21
Aidan Cliff	3	Karen Largent	22
Bruce Morgan	4	Edith Kane	23
Kendall Morgan	4	Stephanie Morrison	23
Ervin Easton	5	Darleen Pfeiffer	24
Otto Williams	5	Nancy Nemith	26
Emma Wendler	6	Philip Becker	26
Rich Collier	7	Michael Gobel	26
Linda Bruce	7	Elijah Mendez	26
Ruth Cassel	8	Darlene Bentley	27
Bonnee Lauridsen	8	Ashley Smith	27
Joanna Sweeney	9	Donald Durand	28
Thomas Shevock	9	Stella Smith	30
Pam Loose	9	Stephanie McGovern	31
Iylan Gustafson	10	Sherry Qualls	31
Helen Miller	12		

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Drew Dorgan	18
Chris & Betsy Hasircoglu	18
Susan Tobie	21
Charles & Joan Rahe	24
Kenneth & Eleanor Watts	26

Continued prayers for our Homebound: Margaret Crothers, Ellen Keller, Fritz Lawrence, Don Lovett, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Joan Rahe, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney

Military: Brian Hobbins, Laurel Hobbins, Alex Kelly, Kirby Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater, Joshua Watkins, Cameron Watts

