

The Messenger



A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR:



"Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvelous things,
Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy."
+ Psalm 98

Greetings St. John's family and friends,

"Together." We used to think we knew just what that word meant, didn't we? We never used to wonder, most of us, how the definition might be stretched, how important togetherness might become or how clever we'd need to be to make it happen.

The events of this past year have challenged our way of being together. Amid a sea of confusion, fear, and discord, we suddenly became desperate for some kind of joy, precisely when it became impossible to get together in most of the ways we knew (dinner parties, choir rehearsal, Sunday morning worship, fellowship hour, Saturday mornings at the market, soccer games, and band concerts, or neighborhood block parties). So, we stretched, hard. Flexed more than we thought we could. Groaned and reached and complained and expanded and swore (only a little) and wept (sometimes a lot!). And we discovered joy when:

- Volunteers shopped, stocked, compiled, and gave away **hundreds** of boxes of food for the hungry.
- Over two dozen volunteers dreamed of a way to support the kids of this city and created The Village where students receive academic and social support during an unusual school year.
- The staff threw open the doors of Becker House and provided sanctuary for those in greatest need.
- Musicians and worship leaders rose to the occasion and offered songs of praise and opportunities for worship week after week after week.

And in the end, we were together, weren't we? When we logged on for Zoom meetings, streamed worship services, organized online formation opportunities to ward off loneliness, gathered our youth together for birthday parades, and congregated for food and fellowship in the courtyard or in the local park, we were together in joy, weren't we?

Our togetherness may not have happened in the sanctuary, or in the parish hall, or in the Sunday school rooms, but it happened! And through it all, we were together with God, whose love covers every distance and heals every heart.

In the coming week you should receive a letter, a pledge card, and a prayer from our Stewardship Committee. I hope you will join me, Pam, Leslie, Nicole, Rosemary, Debbie, Charles, and your vestry in that prayer as we discern together our giving for 2021. So much is different; so many circumstances have changed. But here's what I know: with God's help, the music we create, in person or in spirit, will be well worth the rejoicing.

Friends, I eagerly look forward to celebrating what is possible when our voices, hands, and hearts join together in the song of generosity. Our Ingathering Sunday on October 18th may look a little different, but the joy will remain the same!

I remain faithfully yours,

Alexander

MASKS REQUIRED, SOCIALLY DISTANCING EXPECTED!



A BUNCH OF CHURCHES ARE GETTING TOGETHER FOR:

THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS!

Join us as we give thanks for our pets, celebrate creation, and remember the ministry of St. Francis.

WHEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 AT 6:00 PM

WHERE: ST. THOMAS CHURCH

301 SAINT THOMAS ROAD, LANCASTER, PA 17601

During the outdoor service, a free will offering will be collected for Heifer International, a development organization working to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling communities.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST NEWS:

Dear St. John's Friends,

Pray with us on Sat. Oct. 17 as St. John's once again serves a breakfast at First Reformed after seven months. Of course it will be COVID style: outdoors, masks, no contact, all prewrapped foods, etc., but will still resemble our sense of valuing our city guests. A small group of volunteers will be planning, preparing, and distributing what we can. As Nov. approaches, with colder weather, we will hope for some moderations in restrictions. Thank you for your continued prayers for this, another vital outreach from St. John's to the community.

Sue Martin

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

Our church school program began on Sunday, September 13th, via Zoom. It was such fun to catch up with everyone! Our Middle School crew chose to explore the Old Testament, reading passages, examining some maps of the Holy Land, and pondering how God sounds different sometimes in the Old Testament stories compared to the Gospel. They're also planning some fun activities and adventures together... wreaths and pottery and such. The early elementary class, meanwhile, explored some of Jesus' words, especially about forgiveness. Ms. Jenn is awesome at figuring out how to make games happen via Zoom. New church school kids are always welcome! You might even get to see Mr. Joe's and Campbell's adorable dog and rambunctious chickens.

We will see you IN PERSON on October 4th, and then on Zoom for the rest of October.


ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Calling ALL Youth
Grades: Pre-K - 8th

1ST SUNDAY - OCTOBER 4, 2020
CHILDREN'S CHAPEL AT ST. JOHN'S
10:00AM - 11:00AM

2nd - 4th Sundays
Children's Church on Zoom
9:00AM - 9:50AM



A MESSAGE FROM PASTORAL CARE:

Dear St John's Family,

As our pastoral care page is being updated on the St. John's website, the vestry wants to remind us that St. John's prayer list is alive and well and constantly changing. Please do not hesitate to reach out with your own concerns of prayers and thanksgiving.

A few reminders:

All names requested to be included on the prayer list must have permission from the individual or their family representative. Please note, any information that is shared with clergy or laity does not automatically get added to the public prayer unless specifically stated.

Prayer request are included in our weekly services. When a request is being made, we ask that you provide as much clarity as possible. Last names are not necessary but are helpful. The more info we have the more connected we are as a family.

To be added to the prayer list, please call the Parish Administrator, Equilla Curry, at the parish office at 717-299-1188 or via email at equilla@stjohns-lancaster.org. And of course, reaching out directly to Pastor Amanda or Matt is also encouraged and welcomed.

We welcome all suggestions about how this process can be improved.

Peace, Love, Hugs and Hope!

Submitted by Sue Heilman



ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP

**CAMPFIRE AT
THE KNOUSE
HOUSE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
AT 7:00 PM**



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 10:00AM. 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 sign up sheet. Each Monday we will post the sign up 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 DEACON STACEY CATIGANO:

Dear Church Family,

Greetings in Christ!

It is with great joy in the Lord and His leading in my life that I now begin my journey here at St. John's Episcopal Church serving as your deacon! I look forward to meeting you, through livestream and in person, on my first Sunday, October 4, 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to share a little about myself and the diaconate.

After 24 years of serving in the U.S. Army my husband James and I were blessed to retire here in Pennsylvania with our two, now, adult children, Nicole and Anthony. We have been married for 33 years and are ridiculously silly grandparents to our 3-year-old grandson, Ethan. James works in Chester County with Sikorsky Helicopters and I work and serve as a chaplain in Lancaster County Prison. James enjoys football, grilling, vegetable gardening, golf and animals. I enjoy contemplative prayer, car karaoke, art, puns, quilting, animals and video games! Our favorite thing to do together is to laugh until our bellies hurt. And now a bit about deacons...

In our Episcopal tradition, deacons exercise "a special ministry of servanthood" directly under the bishop, serving all people and especially those in need. As we proclaim the gospel, lead intercessions, wait at the eucharistic table, and direct the order of the assembly, deacons act as sacred messengers, agents, and attendants. We are at all times to demonstrate to Christ's people that in serving the helpless we are serving Christ himself (BCP, p.543).

Okay...so what does all THAT mean? Often times, when we hear the expression of a deacon with a “foot in both worlds” or acting as “a bridge” between one place and another our imagination can get the best of us. Does this imply a wishy-washy deacon? A terribly confused deacon? Or perhaps a deacon who is in dire need of a GPS? Of course, none of these images are true. Well... the GPS part is true, at least for me. Ha-ha!

The Sacred Order of Deacons, which I am blessed to be a part of, is a permanent order of persons ordained to a lifetime of ministry of Word, Service, Compassion, and Justice, modeling Christ the Servant. Our identity is, fundamentally, one who has experienced a call to encourage, empower, and equip the church in going beyond the comfort of its steeple and serve those suffering within the margins of our world. The ministry of a deacon is to remind us of the compassionate acts of Jesus. From going to where the lepers were cast out, to washing the disciples’ dirty feet. This holy work is done in partnership with our rector and laity.

Dearest brothers and sisters in Christ, I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and working beside you in extending the Table of hospitality and reconciliation in a way that invites loving relationships, connects communities and expands the Kingdom of God!

Faithfully,
The Rev. Stacey Catigano, ObJN, Deacon

YOU'RE
INVITED TO



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MEN'S GATHERING BONFIRE

FUN • FELLOWSHIP • SMORES
WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 15, 2020
6:30 PM

BRUCE WASKOWICZ'S HOME
84 WEAVER ROAD
DENVER, PA 17517

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT JOHN KNOUSE AT
JOHNKNOUSE@HOTMAIL.COM

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

For the first time this calendar year, our YTD pledge/offering income has dropped below budget due to below-average receipts in September (\$17,956 actual versus YTD monthly average of \$34,000). To supplement income and meet expenses, we made our first withdrawal from investment savings this year (\$20,000). Expenses remain well below budget so our overall financial position continues favorable.

C. Wear - Treasurer

St. John's Episcopal Church

Budget vs. Actual

As of September 30, 2020

Operating Statement: Cash Basis

	August	2020	2020
	Actual MTD	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
Income			
Pledge & Offering	\$17,956	\$304,208	\$305,175
Draw from Investments	\$0	\$0	\$32,356
Other Income	\$285	\$34,954	\$16,200
Jubilee Ministries	\$2,151	\$25,407	\$59,700
Total Income	\$20,392	\$342,753	\$413,431
Expense			
All Expenses	\$30,790	\$392,122	\$440,915
Net Surplus/(Shortfall)	(\$10,398)	(\$27,553)	(\$59,840)

GROCERY COUPONS FOR SALE AGAIN:

Please support 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.

Please note that we will not be taking verbal request for cards during service. Thank you all for your understanding and participation during this time of distancing due to COVID-19.





ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Flowers at the Altar

Each week, St. John's parishioners have the opportunity to contribute to the beauty of worship by dedicating flowers in thanksgiving, in honor of, or in memory of loved ones or to commemorate special occasions such as birthdays and anniversaries. If you are interested in dedicating flowers, you may do so by signing up here: [Flowers at the Altar](#).

You may also contact the church office at equillaestjohnslancaster.org. Contributions of \$30 can be made to out to St. John's with altar flowers written in the memo.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS:

Dear St. John's Family,

St. John's Food Pantry recently received a very welcome gift in the form of Hal Williams's Eagle Scout Project. This gift consists of five wall-mounted racks for storing and dispensing cans and two fold-down tables to hold boxes for packing. Hal was able to obtain grant money to fund the project, and he enlisted the help of Mike, his dad, and other scouts in constructing it.

Hal actually proposed the project to Food Pantry coordinators Debbie Carter and Marion Wear a few months before the coronavirus complicated lives and increased food insecurity among our neighbors. He delivered and installed the completed project in August, and he created an instructional video for our food buying and packing teams: <https://youtu.be/MK7MoVO4qpY>

When our neighbors' needs for food increased with the coronavirus, we quickly outgrew the closet that had housed our food, so we moved everything into a Sunday school classroom (which, of course, wasn't being used for classes). Now that Sunday school will resume meeting once a month, Hal's project has come just in time for us to move our inventory of canned goods into the racks, so we welcome the additional space they'll give us.

Thank you, Hal, for taking the time to ask about our needs and to develop your project to meet them!

Debbie Carter, Food Pantry Coordinator



Join us for our October book:

THE BOY WHO HARNESSSED THE WIND

By: William Kamkwamba
A true story of survival against the odds



We will gather on Wednesday, Oct. 28
@ 7PM to discuss on zoom!



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE
I AM, WE ARE...ONE WORLD: HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE

“What can we gain by sailing to the moon if we are not able to cross the abyss that separates us from ourselves?” - Thomas Merton

October 4th

“I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the water to create many ripples.”- Mother Teresa

Think about our Food Bank sharing....If each one of us brought just one item, how many families, our brothers and sisters, could we help?

October 11th

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” - Desmond Tutu

It’s Fall, got an extra coat your aren’t wearing - give to someone in need; Gloves, scarves, hats, new socks - someone on the streets would be thrilled and warm.

October 18th

“Do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” - Matthew 6: 34

With all that’s going on in the world, ask yourself, what step can I take to show love and caring in our world. Even the smallest step counts.

October 25th (Day of the Dead - October 31st to November 2nd)

In Latin and South American this tradition goes back thousands of years. A time to celebrate those who have passed on with sharing stories, enjoying their favorite food, a time to be with them in thoughts and prayers, giving thanks for their presence in our lives. Hold in your hearts, those who have passed on.



THE EPISCOAPL DIOCESE OF CENTRAL PA
YOUTH MINISTRY INVITES YOU TO AN

**ALL HALLOWS EVE
CELEBRATION**

AT CAMP MOUNT LUTHER
OCTOBER 31-NOV 1

\$35 FOR INDIVIDUAL AND \$55 FOR A FAMILY
REGISTER: <https://www.cvent.com/d/37qs74>

Our Goal is to have fun following safe guidelines.

Election Day Bake Sale

Yes! Many things have changed in our lives, but the election will still happen on Tuesday, Nov. 3. And so, with blessings from the clergy and vestry, the annual Bake Sale, will be held in our courtyard as in the past.

And that means we will need contributions of baked goods to offer. Some differences to note are: We will not have the quantities of cookies baked during Eagle's Nest sessions, so we will definitely need cookies (packed 4 to a baggie). All contributions must be wrapped or prebagged. We have some plastic boxes with closed lids that can be used by anyone. And of course, the voter crowd is questionable with all the mail-in push. Our hope is that the St. John's neighborhood will support us no matter how they vote, or, wouldn't it be exciting to see streams of in-person voters on this special Tuesday in our nation's history? The sale will benefit **The Village** support program for elementary students. Please consider contributing to the sale (as you have in the past). Items can be brought to church on Sunday, November 1, dropped off at the office on Monday, Nov. 2, or brought to the courtyard on Tuesday, November 3 between 7:00 AM and early afternoon.

Dave Martin

October Birthdays

Malcolm Young	3	Edward Gordon	19
Andrew Mausolf	4	Bill Miller	21
Nicole Pham	5	Shirley Shaheen	21
Karen DiPace	7	Kenneth Smith	23
Helena Carroll	8	Anne Almy-Webber	23
Phyllis Gbur	11	Tracy Cliff	23
Eric Freeman	12	Laurel-Jeane Williams	23
Bart Smallwood	14	Cynthia Minnich	24
Andrei Latshaw	15	Kathleen Magbag	24
Bridgette Collier	16	Tom Bond	26
Conor Brenton	18	Susan Martin	27
Lucene Winters	19	Margaret Springer	28
Merle Schnee	19	Thomas Stonerook	29
Robbin Hobbins	19	Amelia Dissinger	30

October Anniversaries

David & Julie Rodriguez	3	Betty & Bob Murphy	16
Ellen Keller	5	Kathleen & Peter Plaxa	24
Dan & Priscilla Farmer	9	Ty & Carole Humphrey	28
Ned & Sandra Grove	12	Helen & John Miller	31

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