

The Messenger



January 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear St. John's,

Hanging on my bedroom wall is a tapestry I purchased years ago when I traveled to Ireland for the first time. On it are several pithy sayings that make me laugh every time I walk past. One of those sayings sums up my feelings of 2020. It reads, "the light at the end of the tunnel is the light of an oncoming train." In many ways, this is what the past year has felt like. Every time we turned around there was something else waiting to challenge us. We "closed" the parish to in-person worship and gatherings when an unknown virus threatened the health and wellbeing of our community. We paused ministries and social events; we gave up weddings, funerals, Sunday dinners, and celebrations. For months, we've anxiously waited for what would come next.

Yet, through it all we have confronted that oncoming train with faith and perseverance. We discovered that that light isn't an oncoming train, rather those lights are opportunities to grow as people of faith, opportunities to reconsider how we serve our neighbors, and opportunities to discover Christ in our midst through all of the uncertainty, grief, and change.

Epiphany, the season of light, is upon us. For the next several weeks, we will encounter the light of the world through worship, service, and most importantly, relationships. We worship a God who isn't afraid of the darkness, a God who stands before us, beside us, above us, and within us as we continue our journeys as disciples of Christ. We worship a God who enters the world as a vulnerable child to show us the way: the way of love. Plain and simple.

There is so much to be thankful as we embark on this new year and even more to be thankful for when we take the time to look back. The light of the world is burning bright at St. John's. I am so humbled to serve a community that not only keeps that light burning, but who fans the flames of what could be. It's a new year, friends, and with every new year comes new possibilities. So, let's follow the light and be awakened to what's on the other side of that tunnel.



I remain faithfully yours,
Amanda+

January Highlights:

- Pg 2 The Deacon's Window
December Finances
- Pg 3 Auction
- Pg 4 Capital Campaign
- Pg 5 Men's Gathering
- Pg 6 Global Partnership
- Pg 7 Book Study
Community Bfast
- Pg 8 Youth Group
- Pg 9 St. John's Award
- Pg 10 Epiphany Party
- Pg 11 Calendar

Weekly

Sundays:

10:00AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday:

12:00PM Noon Day Prayer

Check-ins on Facebook and YouTube

January Birthdays:

David Kilp	2
Stephen Sherman	4
Dylan Stone	4
Linda Hogg	10
Bruce Tahsler	10
Nicola DiPace	10
Alina Latshaw	12
Jennifer Trenary	15
Ben Van Aulen	15
Kenneth Watts	16
Mark Springer	18
Wayne McKee	20
Fredericka Smith	21
Martha Lamb	22
Lyn Bailey	23
Shelby Kilhefner	23
Emily Durand	23
Kent Strickler	25
Jean Gordon	25
Sara Wendler	26
Chris Hasircoglu	27
Andrew Latshaw	27
Susan Purdy	28
Andrew Gbur	28
Howard Miller	29
Connie Burch	29
Lily Mausolf	29
Sophia Thompson	31

January Anniversaries:

Fred & Eleanor Honaman	10
Tom & Kendall	
Stonerook	26
Jim & Margaret Crothers	31

Continued prayers for our

Homebound: Margaret Crothers, Ellen Keller, Fritz Lawrence, Don Lovett, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney

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

THE DEACON'S WINDOW

When I was a kid and would come inside after playing in the cold, something was always bound to happen. My mother, aunts, uncles and grandparents, would reach out, hold my face in their hands while joyfully exclaiming, "Oh! Let me get a look at you! Come in and get warm, I know just what you need!" And then I would be surrounded by loving relatives who would pinch my cheeks, cover me with wet kisses and provide me with a hot meal.

I was born into a family that carried me, received me and helped formed me as a person. Before I entered into the world, I was already hoped for, delighted in and loved. I belonged to my family before I was born because God knew me. I understand and appreciate this more fully as a new grandmother myself who, also can't help but hold my grandson's beautiful face in my hands with the same nurturing love.

As baptized people we have been born into the family of Jesus by the love of the Father, by the labor of the Son, and in the delight of the Holy Spirit. As Christians, we are very much a part of a prayerful vision of being called, received and given our true identity as beloved. And although we are wandering in a wilderness where we must, out of love, be physically separated from one another we remain surrounded and held by LOVE.

So, where is Jesus right now but holding the faces of those who are out in the cold, saying, "Oh! Let me get a closer look at you! Come in and get warm! I know just what you need." Our church family continues to serve and nurture people even if we might not be able to see it fully *yet*, Jesus does. And all of us, aunts, uncles, parents and grandparents still have plenty of love to share with *all* of God's children.

In gratitude,
Stacey

We welcome 2021 with **GRATEFUL HEARTS** as we celebrate the faithfulness at St. John's. We've accomplished many of our hopes - ministries have increased support in our community, we've completed our fair share to the diocese, and we've successfully met financial challenges. With a new year upon us, **TOGETHER** let us dream about what we can accomplish in 2021. May we come **TOGETHER** through the ministry of giving and continue serving God and our neighbors. We humbly ask you to join us by considering a 2021 pledge or increase. **TOGETHER** 2021 looks bright!



TOGETHER
FOR JOY

EPIPHANY PARTY!

St. John's

EPIPHANY PARTY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6
AT 7PM IN THE COURTYARD

Join us for an evening of celebrating God being revealed to the world! We'll have wise men, stars to guide us, a light of a fire, and time together!

The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ child. We invite you to bring gifts of nonperishable food items for our food pantry!

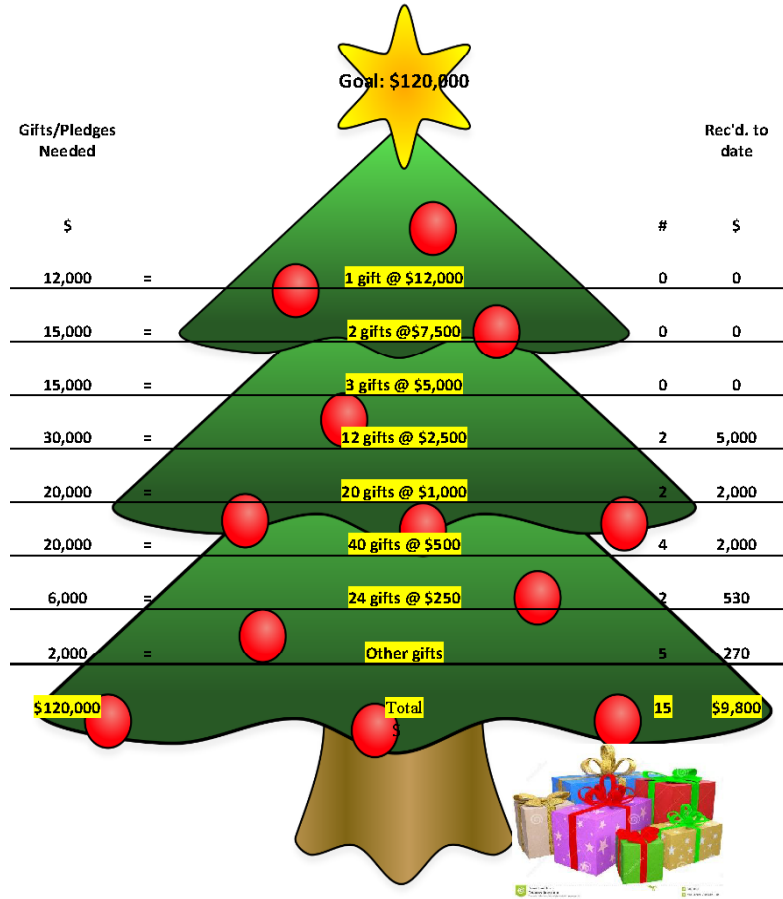


VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER

For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field. God's building.
 1 Corinthians 3:9

As we await the Magi and their gifts to the Christ Child, we are reminded that we also have the opportunity to bring special gifts – gifts in support of what Pastor Amanda referred to in her pre-Christmas video as the “gift that keeps on giving.”

We're almost there! Just \$120,000 to go to complete a more-than \$1.7 million initiative that was started six years ago. If you appreciate the atrium, elevator and access ramp, courtyard with labyrinth, and increased columbarium space, please consider helping us complete this amazing achievement by placing a gift under our Christmas giving tree. There's a spot for everyone and every gift is important.



The balance of our construction loan is due in October of this year. Having this responsibility behind us will clear the way to concentrate on St. John's true mission and ministry as a Jubilee Parish.

You may mail your contribution to the Church clearly marked for the Capital Campaign or contact our financial secretary, Gina, for gifts of stock or IRA transfers. Special thanks to those who made new gifts and pledges in November and December totaling \$9,800.

Wishing our Church family a blessed, healthy and happy new year,

The Capital Campaign II Committee
 Rosemary Coverly, Kent Strickler, Debbie Carter, Webb Cook, Charles Wear, Marion Wear

ZOOM GATHERINGS

MEN'S ZOOM GATHERING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021
6PM (EST)

ZOOM MEETING ID: 81953733623

For access to Zoom, click link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81953733623>

For additional information, contact John Knouse at
johnknouse@hotmail.com

MEN'S GROUP: SAVE THE DATE FOR ONLINE TRIVIA



On Thursday, February 11th at 6PM, St. John's will be hosting our first Virtual Trivia night.

Stay tuned for more details.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE

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



“None of us can provide all of the kinds of light we need, But every one of us can shed some kind of light, Every day we can ask ourselves, “What kind of light can I offer in this moment?” Parker Palmer

January 17th

“In Louisville, at the corner of Fourth and Walnut, in the center of the shopping district, I was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people, that they were mine and I their’s, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers.” Thomas Merton

January 3rd—Feast of the Three Kings

On this day we ponder the giving of gifts by the Three Kings to a child they didn’t really know. Think as we start into this new year, what “gifts” you could share with those beyond your house. How could your sharing/caring make a difference for a new connection? Who are you being called to acknowledge?

At the Community Breakfast, we do not know names or history, but it doesn’t matter. We are brothers and sisters and the caring is genuine and a blessing for us all.

January 10th

“Only in the darkness can you see the stars.” Martin Luther King, Jr. Reflect of all the darkness we have experienced in 2020, and then reflect on all that we learned in that time. What calls for your support of our brothers and sisters?

January 24th

“The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.” Einstein We can read about how many are hungry but imagine how the smallest donation from each of us would help those hungry in our neighborhoods. Our Food Pantry mission will be even more needed in the winter months.

January 31st

Think about what could emerge in this new year to change your focus and direction?

DECEMBER FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	December <u>Actual MTD</u>	2020 <u>Actual YTD</u>	2020 <u>Budget YTD</u>
Income			
Pledge & Offering	\$29,380	\$401,479	\$406,900
Draw from Investments	\$28,534	\$48,534	\$48,534
Other Income	(\$7,569)	\$35,684	\$21,600
Jubilee Ministries	\$5,062	\$36,092	\$79,600
Total Income	<u>\$55,407</u>	<u>\$521,789</u>	<u>\$556,634</u>
Expense			
All Expenses	<u>\$35,306</u>	<u>\$519,560</u>	<u>\$587,888</u>
Net Surplus/(Shortfall)	<u>\$20,101</u>	<u>\$2,229</u>	<u>(\$31,254)</u>

YOUTH GROUP



**JAN
17TH
@
2PM**

**YOUTH GROUP
BOOK DISCUSSION**

MADE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
BY MAX LUCADO
DISCUSSION ON CHAPTERS 2 & 3

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT JOHN KNOUSE,
OR MIKE AND DAWN WILLIAMS

PARISH WIDE BOOK STUDY



January Book Study

"This is a book about war. About dodging airstrikes. Cradling those left for dead. We're not just at war with each other. We're at war with ourselves. We're running from the way things are. There is something that matters more than what we're running from, though. And that's what we're running toward. I believe there is a more beautiful world on the other side of all that's tearing us apart. I've seen glimpses of it in some of the most war-torn places on earth. And it's waiting for you across the battlelines of your own community. A more beautiful world is out there, and I'd like to show you." - Jeremy Courtney

Join us Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 7PM for our zoom discussion!

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



Every Saturday morning, from 7:45AM—11:00AM you will find friends preparing and serving breakfast to those who are hungry in Lancaster city. Recently, St. John's has become the host for the community meals program. On the 3rd and 5th Saturday of each month, St. John's prepares and distributes meals. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Amanda+ directly at Amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org. And most importantly, please pray for the guests who come here to dine. It has been a difficult year for everyone, but most devastating for those without a roof over their heads or food on their tables.

ST. JOHN'S AWARD 2020: THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE



Each year, we celebrate our patron saint, John the Evangelist, by recognizing parishioners whose life and ministry reflect the spirit of St. John's faithfulness to Christ.

The following Resolution was passed by the Vestry in an online vote last week, regarding the 2020 St. John's Award:

Whereas Amanda Knouse, our Rector, has shown extraordinary leadership during this extraordinary year;

Whereas, in response to changing COVID-19 circumstances, she has given our health and safety the highest priority, while also supporting our spiritual needs, adapting both liturgy and logistics of our worship;

Whereas she has greatly expanded our use of technology – and encouraged its use by others – to strengthen connections within our parish community;

Whereas she has spent countless hours on the phone, reaching out to parishioners, especially those who are isolated;

Whereas she has led us in adapting our partnership with Fulton Elementary School to assist local students onsite through The Village program;

Whereas she has provided leadership in our church and in the Lancaster community in responding to racial unrest demonstrations by providing both support and a calming influence; and

Whereas she has led us in enhancing our ministries in our neighborhood by expanding our Food Pantry and Community Breakfast ministries and by installing our community Christmas tree; therefore

The Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church resolves to express the appreciation of the parish to Amanda by presenting her with the 2020 St. John's Award.
Resolved this 23rd day of December 2020.

AUCTION



The Stewardship Committee is planning an online auction of items from both the church and our parishioners to be held at the **end of February**. Please consider donating furniture, housewares, electronics, collectibles, artwork, or any item of value. We are requesting items that you no longer want or need.

CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS?



We still plan on holding our annual Yard Give for clothing, books, puzzles, toys, and more in the summer. This is designed to clear out some of your bigger ticket items that you may have hesitated to give away for free or next to nothing when you knew that it was worth more. The auction will be open to the public, but you are certainly welcomed and encouraged to bid as well.



JANUARY 2021

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom) 10:00 AM Lessons and Carols (Online) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom)	28 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 1:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting (Zoom)	29 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)	30 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live) 7:00 PM Worship at Christmas Tree (Courtyard)	31 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry	1 Office Closed	2 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)	
3 Birthdays & Anniversaries 10:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (Online) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom)	4 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP)	5 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Martha's Ministry (Zoom) 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)	6 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM The Village (PH) 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live) 7:00 PM Epiphany Party (Courtyard)	7 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry	8 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)	9 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)	
10 9:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (Online) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom) 11:30 AM Search Committee Meeting (Zoom)	11 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP)	12 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Martha's Ministry (Zoom) 2:30 PM Capital Campaign Meeting (Zoom) 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 4:00 PM Finance Committee (BH) 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)	13 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM The Village (PH) 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	14 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM Men's Gathering (Zoom)	15 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)	16 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)	
17 9:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I (Online) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom) 12:00 PM Vestry Meeting 2:00 PM Youth Group Book Discussion (Zoom)	18 Office Closed 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP)	19 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Martha's Ministry (Zoom) 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)	20 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM The Village (PH) 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	21 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry	22 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)	23 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)	
24 9:00 AM Sunday School (Zoom) 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II (Online) 11:00 AM Coffee Hour (Zoom)	25 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting	26 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Martha's Ministry (Zoom) 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP) 7:00 PM Book Discussion (Zoom)	27 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM The Village (PH) 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	28 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry	29 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)	30 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)	
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St. John's Episcopal Church
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