The Messenger



February 2021

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Weekly

Sundays: 10:00AM Holy Eucharist (YouTube)

Wednesdays: 12:00 Noonday Prayer (Facebook)

A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Examine me O God and know my heart, test me and discover my thoughts, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23, 24

Dear St. John's Family,

This month brings with it countless opportunities to acknowledge our need for God's grace as well as traditions we have come to love. From feasting on pancakes, to burying the Alleluia's, to that holy moment when we are reminded that "we are dust and to dust we shall return." The season of Lent beckons our attention and participation. With a global pandemic still disrupting our lives and how we worship, we realize these traditions will look different this year. We also recognize that, in many ways, this entire year has felt like the season of Lent. Yet, this Lenten season is, in its roots and its core, a time to renew and deepen our commitment to our baptismal life. Lent is a return to what heals us, and I find great joy in that!

Through Lent we journey towards that cross acknowledging that journey demands a great deal of prayer, commitment, and reflection. It is a journey that leads to the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior, but we all know it doesn't end there. The resurrection awaits us, but only after our time in the wilderness for the next forty days. Lent is meant to be a season of preparation for the resurrection of our Lord.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will attempt to prepare our hearts and minds for the reality that faced our Lord and Savior two thousand years ago. For many of us those 40 days can be painful, challenging, and at times overwhelming. And that is ok because those 40 days can also be life changing. The season of Lent allows us time to evaluate who we are, who God is, and who God is calling us to be in light of that relationship. Lent is an invitation to turn away from our sins, weaknesses, failings, shortcomings and turn towards God's grace – grace that is available to us with every breath we take.

The psalm quoted above is an incredible reminder that the journey we are about to embark on must be led by our Lord and Savior. When we trust the Lord to help, when we trust the Lord to lead us then true repentance and true transformation can begin. Only God knows where we are heading in the next forty days. I invite you to trust in God's love, grace, and direction. Wherever you are this Lenten Season, know that we our own this journey together, know that you are loved, and know that the risen Lord awaits you.

I remain faithfully ours,

. Amanda+

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February Birthdays: Garth Alexander 1 2 Alice Oswang 3 Susan Zuke 3 Kylie Stone Rosemary Coverly 4 7 Joan Kilhefner Dan Farmer 8 Matt MacDougall+ 8 9 Ronald Wenger 9 Alexandru Latshaw 10 Teresa Sullivan Thong Hoang Le 10 Scott Qualls 12 Nancy Brenton 12 Callen Wendler 12 Michael Hreben 13 Joseph Way 13 14 Isabella Wendler 14 Greyson Way Joseph Thompson 16 Carolyn Maxey 17 Gn. William Hobbins 18 Susan Burlingame 18 Mary Glazier 19 19 Sean Cliff Emma DiPace 21 22 Andrew Carroll 22 Cindy Williams Natalie Clark 23 24 Katherine Springer 24 Chris Stonerook **Emily Gordon** 24 25 Caleb Knouse Robert Murphy 26 Rev. Gary Harke 27 Anne Carroll

February Anniversaries:

Kevin & Janice Henry 20 Howard & Edith Kane 24

Continued prayers for our Homebound:

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

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The installation of new Vestry members is a time of both reflection and anticipation. We welcomed Leslie Morgan, Marylee Sauder and Mary Waskowicz as the Class of 2023.

One goal for 2020 was to balance our operating budget without using additional withdrawals from our investment funds. While we received a PPP Loan to give us cash flow for the year, we met this goal with the loan amount fully available to us in 2021. We finished 2021 with a \$2,500 deficit.

A second goal for 2020 was to raise up, integrate, and support the new staffing structure to include a quarter-time Priest. This goal was fully realized, and we have been blessed to have added The Rev. Matt MacDougall as Associate Rector, Equilla Curry as Parish Administrator, and Rich Kuhn as part time Sexton.

A third goal for 2020 was to establish a relationship in a new local community. The pandemic and the social unrest of 2020 gave us deeper opportunities to aid our local community by expanding our service to Fulton Elementary School, provide greater assistance to our Food Pantry, host community breakfast, and have our Rector and Associate provide leadership in calming our city.

The challenges we face in 2021 are an outgrowth of that success and the realization that we can no longer rest on our laurels. The world demands more of us. To that end the Vestry has resolved to expand the position of Associate Rector to a three-quarter time position in order that we may provide greater leadership to our membership and the community at large. The Vestry is also reorganizing itself to provide more effective lay leadership.

One unexpected challenge was presented to us by the conditions of our rental properties. We will be addressing questions as to whether these properties assist us or hinder us in accomplishing our mission.

For 2021, we as a church cannot rest on our laurels. Business as usual is not going to get us where we need to be. We are challenged to dig deeper in our efforts to serve God and God's people. We must also dig deeper financially if we are to accomplish this expanded mission while being fiscally sustainable. You will be hearing more from our Stewardship Committee in coming months. It is important that we all respond as faithfully as we can.

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2020 ANNUAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

St. John's operating financials closed the year with a small deficit of \$2,544 compared to a budgeted shortfall of \$31,254. This strong performance, the most favorable in many years, was driven by both higher income and lower expenses. Parish generosity is reflected in higher contributions and increased designated giving (included in other income). Draws from our investment account in 2020 met budget, a reduction of 70% from recent history and now meet our sustainability target. Property ended the year slightly below budget, despite significant unbudgeted expenses for roof, flooring and boiler repairs. Lower cleaning costs (staff restructuring) helped to offset some of these costs. The reduction in spending for other ministries reflect the impact of COVID restrictions on operations.

C. Wear *Treasurer*

St. John's Episcopal Church Operating Income Statement 2020 Annual Results Cash Basis

		December Actual	2020 Actual	2020 Budget
		Actual	Actual	Dauget
Income				
	Contributions Draw from	\$38,931	\$411,105	\$406,900
	Investments	\$28,534	\$48,534	\$48,534
	Other Income	(\$7,857)	\$35,685	\$21,600
	Jubilee	\$7,178	\$37,920	\$79,600
Total Income		\$66,786	\$533,244	\$556,634
Expense				
•	Personnel	\$24,901	\$294,410	\$291,870
	Property	\$13,491	\$91,600	\$93,650
	Other Ministries	\$12,023	\$119,777	\$123,018
	Jubilee	\$1,204	\$30,001	\$79,350
Total Expenses		\$51,619	\$535,788	\$587,888
Net Surplus/(Sho	ortfall)	\$15,167	(\$2,544)	(\$31,254)

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

AUCTION



Collection: Now - Feb 14th

We are in search of items for our auction. We can't sell alcohol or guns. We are hoping for items that you suspect would bring at least \$20, though we would gladly accept items you believe would bring more. Please contact Leslie Morgan or Nicole Pham with questions.

Provide Descriptions

If you have any specific information about the item, please attach a Post-it note with the information.

Bring items to church!



Save items like clothes and books for the annual Yard Give.



Auction Dates: Feb 20-Mar 3

Our auction will be run through Patrick Morgan Auction Services, LLC. They will charge a 15% buyer's fee, meaning that the profits for each item will be what the item sells for, and there will be no cost to us. Patrick will advertise for us to a nation-wide audience. He handles shipping.

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PHASE II: Valentine's Day Dinner Menu

ATRIUM APPETIZER

Variety of Greens

That's what is needed in order to finish what we started. The capital campaign needs gifts, large and small, of cash, stocks, and securities to raise the final \$100,000. Perhaps the amount of a "dinner out" each week or month in 2021?

ELEVATOR ENTREE

Tax-exempt Tacos

Parishioners who are age 72-plus must by law withdraw taxable funds from their IRA each year. A Qualified Charitable Distribution to the capital campaign will ensure that this withdrawal is tax-exempt.

COURTYARD COURSE

Corona Chicken with Vegetables

If you received a Covid relief check and your income hasn't changed, you might consider a special contribution to help make up for pledges of those in our parish family whose finances have been seriously affected by the pandemic.

NICHE NIGHTCAP

Columbarium Reserve

Purchase your final resting place for \$3,000 now and \$2,500 of that amount will offset part of the \$100,000 cost of constructing this special new space.



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



Everywhere Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation.

Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.

In this year of being so far apart, send a card or a smile or a phone call to someone you haven't seen to brighten their day and yours. Another option - Give a food offering to the Food Bank to bring a smile to someone in our community.

February 7th

"Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are." 1 John 3:1

NO exceptions, All of us created by the same Father and called to be one family with NO exceptions... What can each of us do to spread caring and love - One step at a time could be a huge outcome.

February 14th - Valentine's Day

"Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone - we find it with another." Thomas Merton

February 21st

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart." Hellen Keller In this Lenten season, take time each day to sit or walk in silence for even the smallest moment and give thanks for a blessing in your life.

February 28th

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces,

I would still plant my apple tree." Martin Luther In this difficult year of medical and community unrest, know that Spring is coming, we can each "plant" a smile, a prayer, a connection, a positive act and nurture growth.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY AT ST. JOHN'S

MLK TREASURE WALK SUCCESS!

Thank you to volunteers: Sue Dodge, Sue Martin, Sue Heilman, Faith Durbano, Barbara Landis, Fran Gouveia, Hannah, Anne Lattanzio Hale, Evie and Helena Carroll, Claire and Sophie Thompson



"I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

PARISH WIDE BOOK STUDY

The Soul's Journey

by Kathrin Burleson

"The Stations of the Cross invite us to enter the drama, to let ourselves be transformed by the story and to make it our own, and to continue along the soul's journey that shapes each of our lives."

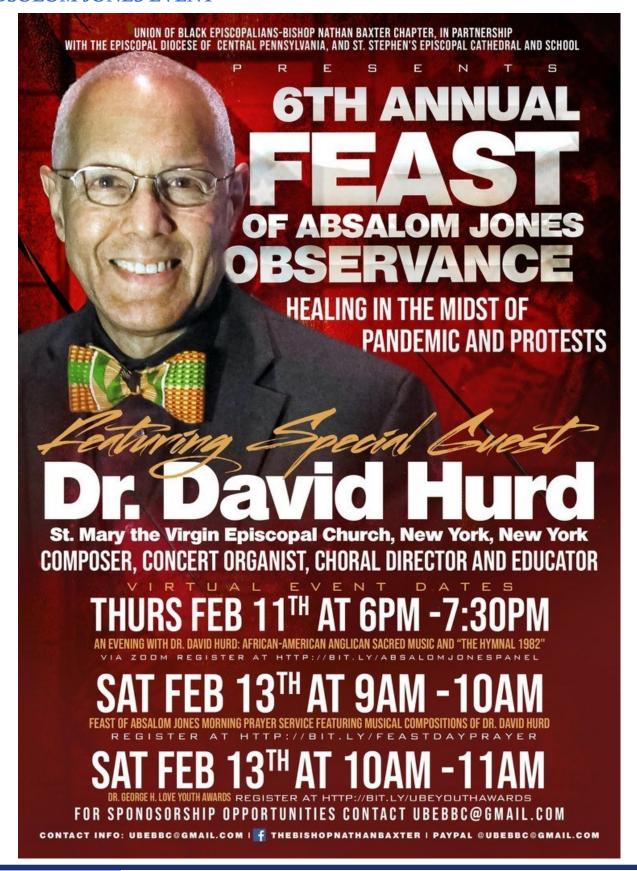
LENTEN ADULT FORUM EVERY SUNDAY IN LENT AT 11:30AM ON ZOOM



Thank you to
Martha's Ministry
for the hats,
scarves, and gloves!

Donations to help our neighbors are greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at Becker House during office hours! Items needed: Snacks, granola bars, PB crackers, fruit cups, hand warmers, small toiletries, etc.

ABSOLOM JONES EVENT



MESSAGE FROM THE DEACON

One of the greatest gifts I have ever received was a silver bracelet given to me by my husband and our two young children. The bracelet has two little hearts which hold two small birthstones in the center, representing each child. What makes the bracelet especially beautiful to me is before my kids gave it to me, they took turns holding the bracelet in their small hands and told me all the things they loved the most about me. Suddenly, I became aware how much Saturday morning pancakes and backyard stories read among the North Carolina fire flies meant to them! And you know what? After all these years, I still have that bracelet. Sure, it is a bit tarnished and the stones are now wobbly but it makes me feel good because it connects me to their love.

I have learned while serving in prison that there are many people in our world who believe they have no connection to love. In fact, most of our incarcerated brothers and sisters have experienced traumatic abuses which leads them to, falsely, believe, that they are not wanted or loved by anyone, particularly our Lord.

Before COVID-19, when we were able to have groups in the prison, I would encourage the ladies to take a Spiritual Gifts Survey. Imagine, how impactful it was for them to discover not only their God given gifts but that they had a purpose and something to contribute to the body of Christ! That they were not a mistake or burden in this world but a blessing from a loving God. I have witnessed many conversions of heart based on the results of this simple test. It is quite remarkable how the Holy Spirit may lead an individual to reimagine their sense of identity and worth. In short, one's entire narrative transforms. And guess what else would happen? Suddenly members of the group would point out to one another how they saw a gift in them. This sort of validation would change relationships and behavior through the amazing grace of God. Inmates who were once divided were now capable of seeing the good in the other.

I, too, learned from this experience. The person who cut me off on 501, the individual who votes differently or the person who is unkind to me, all have good and purpose in them. Grant it, there are days where I wonder if some folks were baptized in lemon juice! It can be difficult to love difficult people but it helps me to remember no matter what, I will never meet someone who isn't loved by God.

Friends, our spiritual gifts are neither necessary nor sufficient for salvation but they can challenge us to live more deeply in our faith. I invite you to take the Spiritual Gifts Survey and use it as a reflective tool for yourself and for those you love and for those you may be doubting are loved by God as much as you are.

Lord, help us to see the way you see and help us to love the way you love. Amen. Spiritual Assessment Tool | Discover Your God-Give Spiritual Gifts | Lifeway

Gratefully,

Deacon Stacey

MEN'S ONLINE TRIVIA NIGHT



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTS:

MEN'S TRIVIA NIGHT

GATHER THE GANG AND GET COMPETITIVE!!!

Thursday February 11, 2021 | 6:00 PM Join us on Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2093564943? pwd=VGIzMkp4a3p2QmZVSHYxcG1LeHdWdz09

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE WOMEN"S GATHERING ON ZOOM

The women of St. John's will meet over Zoom on Tuesday, February 9th at 7PM. The Zoom link will be sent out at a later time.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

LENT

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 17 at 12:00PM & 7:00PM

(on our Facebook page and YouTube channel)

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

St. John's Episcopal Church 321 W. Chestnut Street Lancaster, PA 17603

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

Our Church School (grades PreK- 8) continues to meet every Sunday from 9:00-9:45 on Zoom. We spend a few minutes as a big group, chatting about life and catching up. The kids have been keeping a keen eye out for birds this month and it's been fun to hear about who's seen what. For lessons we split into Elementary and Middles.

The Elementary students have been exploring and wondering about Jesus and stories from his life. Their discussions are lively and filled with personal anecdotes. The Middles continue their study of the Old Testament. That crew especially relishes working through confusing texts to figure out their meanings and what each passage tells us about God and ourselves.

If you know someone who'd like to join our weekly Church School meetings, please contact Sue Dodge at lalimule@verizon.net.

Church School Outing (Others are welcome to join us!) Goose Gazing at Middle Creek

Sunday, February 21
Meet at 1:00
at the
Visitors Center Parking Lot
Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area
100 Museum Road • Stevens, PA 17578

PANCAKE SUPPER



Shrove Tuesday drive thru Pancake Dinner

You are invited to a drive thru take pancake supper at St. John's!

Tuesday February 16th from 6-7pm.

Meals include 3 pancakes, 2 sausage, applesauce, butter & syrup.

Payment by donation at pick up, money benefits the St. John's youth.

Pick up on Concord St. behind the Parish House at St. Johns.

Pre-orders are highly recommended at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSd2TW072qhKl4m87nAikFhxC9FC 5WH7FNeY9X6TMUXDKtCuuA/viewform.

YOUTH NEWS

ALL YOUTH PLEASE JOIN US ON FEBRUARY 7, 2021
AT 11:00 AM VIA ZOOM TO CATCH UP AND HELP THE
YOUTH LEADERS PLAN THE CALENDAR.

FEBURARY 16, SHROVE TUESDAY DRIVE THRU

PANCAKE DINNER AT ST. JOHN'S

AFTER THE DINNER THE YOUTH WILL MEET IN THE

COURTYARD FOR A PITFIRE AND DISCUSS WHAT YOU

WOULD LIKE TO DO FOR THE SPRING.

FEBRURARY 21, GOOSE GAZING AT MIDDLE CREEK,
MEETING AT MIDDLECREEK WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
CENTER AT 1:00 PM.

SCOUT SUNDAY—FEBRUARY 7th



Scout Sunday 2021





We are so glad these scouts are a part of the Saint John's community!



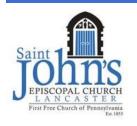




February 2021

FEBRUARY 2021

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (AP)	2 M NA 9:00 AI 2:00 PI 7200 PI 2:30 PI 5:00 PI 5:00 PI 6:00 PI (AP)	W Staff Meeting M Martha's Ministry M - 3:30 PM Food M - 8:00 PM VH (Auditorium) M - 7:00 PM AA	3 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	4 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Fantry 7:00 PM Handbell Practice (Auditorium)	5 Rector's Day Off	6 8:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)
8 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP)		W Staff Meeting II Capital ign Meeting (Zoom) II - 3:30 PM Food II Finance Itee (Zoom) II - 8:00 PM VH (Auditorium) II - 7:00 PM AA	10 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	11 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food IF Pantry 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (Zoom) 6:00 PM Men's Gathering: 0:00 PM Men's Gathering: 7:00 PM Handbell Practice (Auditorium)	12 Rector's Day Off	13 8:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP) 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM 40:00 AM - 11:00 AM Absalom Jones Event (Zoom) Absalom Jones Event (Zoom)
15 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP)		e Supper ve) W Staff Meeting M - 3:30 PM Food M - 8:00 PM VH (Auditorium) M - 7:00 PM AA	17 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 PM -1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live) 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	18 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Handbell Practice (Auditorium)	19 Rector's Day Off	20 Stewardship Committee Auction 8:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)
22 Stewardship Committee Audrion 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA (AP) 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Stewardship Committee		ship Committee 1. Staff Meeting 1. 3:30 PM Food 1. 8:00 PM VH Auditorium)	24 Stewardship Committee Auction Auction 1:00 PM NA (AP) 12:00 PM Noon Day Prayer (Facebook Live)	25 Stewardship Committee Fuction 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Handbell Practice (Auditorium)	26 Rector's Day Off Stewardship Committee Auction	27 Stewardship Committee Auction 8:00 AM Community Breakfast (AP)
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