## The Messenger



April 2022

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear St. John's family and friends,

Lately, I have been spending as much time as humanely possible outside. There is something so holy and life giving about spring time. Every where you turn new life is bursting forth, be it from the ground in the form of tulips and crocuses or in the chirps of a new family of robins nesting in the trees above. Even the warmth of the sun feels new and different this time of year.

There is new life here at St. John's, too. The choir is back and so is coffee hour, a new found energy can be felt pulsating through our Eagle's Nest after school program, our Wednesday Healing service is growing, and our initiative to welcome the stranger through refugee ministries is springing to life once again in our community.

Your vestry is also coming to life in some very exciting ways. Not long ago, the staff and vestry met and defined areas of growth the Holy Spirit is leading us to explore. Together a vision has been cast and goals named. These are the areas your leadership is nurturing and tending to in the coming months and years:

#### GOALS: (1-2 YEARS)

- 1. Help a Refugee family resettle
- 2. Resume Parish breakfasts/Fellowship Opportunities
- 3. Create a Pastoral Care Ministry infrastructure
- 4. Expand food pantry to meet growing needs of community
- 5. Be recognized in the Lancaster Community as Open & Affirming
- 6. Create a "Formation Needs" task force/review of Formation Opportunities
- 7. Establish a Newcomers Ministry that includes welcoming families and integrating newcomers into the life and ministry of St. John's

#### GOALS: (3-4 YEARS)

- 1. Create a system/plan for dealing with capital expenses
- 2. Complete an evaluation of space usage on the St. John's campus
- 3. Discern a long-term plan for 209 Concord Street property
- 4. Explore new models for staffing needs and secure long-term financial stability
- 5. Grow! In faith, in numbers, in service

New life is abundant in each of these goals and the possibilities to encounter God in these areas are limitless. I offer them to each of you for your prayers and your support. May the Holy Spirit continue to move among us, equipping us with the means to accomplish the work before us!

I remain faithfully yours, Amanda+

#### April Highlights:

Pg 2 Soles4Souls

Refugee Ministries

Pg 3 Holy Week Schedule

Pg 4 Financial Update

Pg 5 Community Breakfast

Pg 6 Toiletries Drive

Pg 7 Speaker Event Easter Egg Hunt

Pg 8 Music Moment

Pg 9 Men's Gathering Spring Cleanup

Pg 10 Reading with the Deacons

Pg II Vestry Highlights

Pg 12 Global Partnership Goals Easter Flowers

Pg 13 Calendar

#### Weekly

#### **Sundays:**

8:00 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite: I
9:15AM
Sunday School
10:15AM
Holy Eucharist Rite: II

#### Wednesdays:

#### 12:05PM

Healing Service with Holy Eucharist

Page 2 The Messenger

#### **April Birthdays:**

Emma Bramble	1
April Way	1
John Faust	2
Maria Sauder	3
Kevin Henry	2 3 7
Bob Goodhart	8
Owen Wendler	9
Thuan Pham	11
Michael Stank	12
Angela Cuthbert	13
Janice Henry	14
Glenn Miller	14
Ron Barton	15
Eric Waskowicz	16
Sandra Grove	17
Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer	18
Rose Wenger	19
Sue Dodge	20
Heidi Leitzke	22
Ronald Linton	22
Sophie Brown	23
Drigan Lee	23
Gwynneth Mann	23
Rob Williams	23
Leslie Tahsler	26
Ty Humphrey	27
Vivian Lord	27
Dan Siewert	27
Claire Thompson	27
Maggie Lee	29

#### **April Anniversaries:**

Barbara & John Graeter	12
April & Joe Way	19
Mary Ellen & Bob Kilp	22
Bob & Maggie Springer	24
Mike & Phyllic Chur	30

#### Continued prayers for our Homebound:

Ellen Keller, Don Lovett, Nancy Nemith, Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney, Carolyn McCarty, Cynthia Minnich, Al Kuser

Military: Brian Hobbins, Laurel Hobbins, Alex Kelly, Kirby and Kyle Kinderwater, Joshua Watkins, Cameron Watts, Amelia Dissinger, Hunter Walden

#### I Soles4Souls

For over ten years St. John's has been a contributor to Soles4Souls. Soles4Souls turns unwanted shoes and clothes into opportunity by keeping them from going to waste and putting them to beneficial use. Whether it is disaster relief or supporting homeless kids, they distribute shoes and clothing in the U.S. and around the world. They fight poverty by helping people in developing countries launch and sustain their own small business selling donated shoes and clothing. Soles4Souls protects the planet by repurposing unwanted items and putting them to effective use. They keep them out of landfills and extend their lifespan.

At St. John's, Barbara Landis and Brad Zuke lead this effort by collecting and storing donated shoes throughout the year. Around Holy Week the Journey to Adulthood (J2A) class and others prepare the collected shoes for shipment to Soles4Souls. We also receive shoes that have been collected at other nearby churches and schools. If you have shoes you would like to donate, bring them to the Atrium on Sunday or to the church during the week and place them in the Shoe Box.



#### **REFUGEE MINISTRIES**

Over the last forty years, St. John's has sponsored refugees from such diverse locations as Cambodia, Viet Nam, Uganda, Bhutan, and former Yugoslavia, among others. We also supported families and groups in sponsoring refugees from Sudan and the Congo. We have worked in the past through Tressler Lutheran Services, Prime ECR, and Church World Service. We are now preparing to work through CWS again.

At an introductory session held March 6<sup>th</sup>, 22 parishioners joined Amanda+ in discussing with Matt Johnson as to how we can work together to bring a refugee family to Lancaster. One thing we will be doing differently this time is that we will be working in partnership with our neighbors. Amanda+ and Matt have already been in contact with a number of our neighbors who want to be in partnership with us. Also, Mechanic Grove Church of the Brethren, who supported us financially in the past is considering a more active role this year.

Rich Garon will be chairing this effort. A training session is being arranged for those interested in becoming a welcome team member. Additional opportunities for volunteering will be needed. Let Rich know if you'd like to participate!

# Holy Week SCHEDULE

#### April 10 (Palm Sunday)

9:00 AM - Festive Palm Procession with Holy Eucharist and Choir

#### April 14 (Maundy Thursday)

7:00 PM - Foot Washing, Holy Eucharist, Stripping of the Altar 9:00 PM - Maundy Thursday Vigil

#### April 15 (Good Friday)

12:00 PM & 7:00 PM - The Passion, Prayers, and Holy Eucharist from the Reserved Sacrament

#### **April 17 (Easter Morning)**

6:30 AM - Easter Sunrise Service at the Betty Finney AIDS Memorial Garden

9:00 AM - Festive Choral Eucharist with the Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Handbells

11:00 AM - Festive Choral Eucharist with the Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Brass

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

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

February operating financials continue on the favorable pattern where income exceeds expenses. A number of generous, prepaid annual pledges have us running well ahead of 2021 on a total income basis. We anticipate this trend will continue through March based on monthly receipts to date.

Overall operating expenses are below budget, though some late payments will probably catch up with us in the near term. Notably, natural gas charges for February increased about 50% from historic norms due to increases in usage, rate and distribution charges. Our budget will no doubt be under increasing inflationary pressure as the year unfolds.

Our unrestricted endowment account was the beneficiary of a \$10k gift this month. The was a partial disbursement of a terminated trust, the balance of which we expect to receive in the near future. In addition, an \$80k deposit to the endowment account was made from funds received from the sale of 211 Concord. The \$64k balance from the sale, which represents the capital gain from the property, was earmarked for our capital reserve fund, along with our 2021 operating surplus of \$27.8k.

C. Wear Treasurer

#### St. John's Episcopal Church Operating Income Statement February 2022 Results Cash Basis in \$000's

Gusti Busis III 4000 5				1 1			
		2022				2021	
	Feb	YTD	Budget FY		Feb	YTD	Budget FY
Income							
Pledge Income	\$38.5	\$97.4	\$384.6		\$40.2	\$80.1	\$365.0
Other Total Contributions	\$2.0	\$7.6	\$35.5		\$4.0	\$7.2	\$38.7
Investment Draws	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$63.0		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$44.2
Designated Gifts	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$10.0		\$0.0	\$11.0	\$0.0
Grants	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.0		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$60.5
All Other Income	\$4.6	\$7.4	\$12.6		\$2.6	\$6.2	\$9.6
Jubilee	\$0.9	\$1.3	\$16.9		\$1.5	\$3.6	\$58.9
Total Income	\$46.1	\$113.8	\$523.5		\$48.4	\$108.1	\$576.8
Expenses							
Personnel	\$22.2	\$40.5	\$296.4		\$22.3	\$43.7	\$292.5
Vestry	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.5		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.4
Finance	\$0.1	\$1.2	\$9.2		\$1.0	\$2.0	\$6.6
Communications	\$0.4	\$1.6	\$15.6		\$1.7	\$4.4	\$14.3
Property	\$8.6	\$16.6	\$97.5		\$7.1	\$14.6	\$84.4
Education	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.7		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.8
Worship	\$0.5	\$2.0	\$9.8		\$0.2	\$1.5	\$10.5
Community	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.6		\$0.3	\$0.3	\$3.1
Outreach	\$5.1	\$10.4	\$65.8		\$7.2	\$7.3	\$79.8
Jubilee	\$0.2	\$0.4	\$24.4		\$0.8	\$1.1	\$60.4
Total Expenses	\$37.1	\$72.8	\$523.5		\$40.5	\$75.0	\$554.6
Net Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$9.0	\$41.0	\$0.0		\$8.0	\$33.1	\$22.3

#### **DEACON'S MESSAGE**

The Community Breakfast is more than giving a much-needed hot meal. It is fellowship, humility and love for Christ in the other. Thank you, Sue Martin, for writing such an inspiring article for this month's Deacon Message. -Stacey+



For twenty-two years St. John's has served a hot breakfast to the downtown community on one Sat. morning a month. 22 x 52! That's a lot of cracked eggs and cups of coffee. As a leading Jubilee Ministry, we have touched the lives of thousands of men, women and children. Not just a delicious hot meal, but with a prayer, a hug, a joke, a pat on the back, and a hopeful send off. Through the generosity of First Reformed Church, we were able to bring the ministry to the central downtown community on the third Sat. of each month. But, as with all things COVID, this amazing ministry was turned upside down. FRC completely shut down for seven months. Where would our friends get food, especially The large group of faithful hot food? volunteers worried and hoped for relief. In Oct. 2020, we were invited to serve a grab and go "meal" on an alley sidewalk. At least it was something.

And then the Parish Resource Center became involved and moved the distribution to St. John's courtyard.

What a joyous time for the guests and volunteers. Amanda's prayers for extended neighborhood feeding became a reality, complete with the huge Christmas tree. We were all outside, no matter what the weather, just where we belonged, what Jesus would have done. In May 2021, FRC opened their kitchen for us to return, though still having guests remaining outside and allowed in just to get their bag and a warm greeting. At first, we really missed the hospitality of our courtyard, but have begun a new norm commitment. Our food offerings are amazing (thanks to wonderful cooks, hosts, servers and a generous spending budget made possible by your stewardship). AND now, we can add warm sox to the menu! Thanks for adding your support to this vital community ministry.



#### **SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH NEWS**

SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH



### TOILETRIES DRIVE MARCH 1 - 31, 2022

Saint John's Food Pantry is a no-questionsasked supplementary food pantry. St. John's also hosts a Blessing Box for our homeless neighbors and others in need. Visitors deeply appreciate extra items like toiletries and diapers.

Your donations are welcome!

St. John's Episcoapl Church 321 W Chestnut St, Lancaster, PA 17603 https://stjohns-lancaster.org • (717) 299-1188

#### **Requested Items**

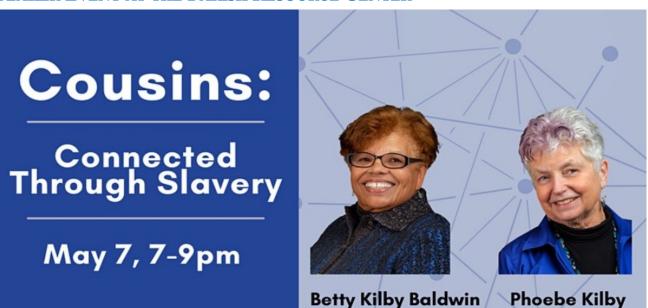
toilet paper
diapers & wipes
tissues (small packs)
bar soap
shower gel
shampoo & conditioner
lotion & deodorant

toothpaste
feminine hygiene products
disposable razors
shaving cream
hand sanitizer
disposable masks



**SUNDAYS @ 9AM** 

#### SPEAKER EVENT AT THE PARISH RESOURCE CENTER



Betty and Phoebe have been telling their story on BBC News, at Virginia Tech, and in a Netflix documentary. Now they're bringing their powerful story of reconciliation to Lancaster. This extraordinary evening of storytelling will feature an African American woman, Dr. Betty Kilby Baldwin, and a European American woman, Phoebe Kilby, whose ancestors enslaved Betty's.

Their relationship began when Phoebe contacted Betty, saying she suspected they were connected through slavery. Betty responded, "Hello, Cousin." Betty, a life-long advocate and trail-blazer, found an activist partner in Phoebe. Together they have committed to a path of honesty, reconciliation, and reparations. Check out the Parish Resource Center for tickets: www.parishresourcecenter.org



#### **MUSIC MOMENT**

Greetings and Peace to you all!

We are well into the Lenten season here at St John's, and what a humbling time this has been! The choir has just returned to singing in service, and I could not be more thrilled. This return marks an important turning point for me: we all have missed what we once considered "normal". We all have lost a small part of ourselves along the way. We all have felt isolated and distant from our friends and colleagues. And after enough time, those feelings seemed like they may be the new normal.

I am reminded of the stunning choral work, Earth Song, by Frank Ticheli:

Sing, Be, Live, See.
This dark stormy hour, The wind, it stirs.
The scorched earth cries out in vain:
O war and power, You blind and blur,
The torn heart cries out in pain.
But music and singing have been my refuge,
And music and singing shall be my light.
A light of song, shining Strong: Alleluia!
Through darkness, pain, and strife, I'll
Sing, Be, Live, See...
Peace.

You see, for the kind of work I am privileged to do here at the church, you need community. You cannot have harmony without community. We need each other in order to sing and live in harmony. And in the absence of community, you feel like one voice, singing your part, alone. The joy and fellowship that go hand-in-hand with harmony seems even more stark in the absence of those who sing their parts with you.

And so this return to singing together, this activity in which we join the instruments that are our voices, the very means by which we communicate with each other, marks a turning point for me. You see, usually we aim to make our music meaningful for those who hear it. Our message and performance are meant to impact and change the listener for the better. But after all the road blocks, all the pain, all the isolation--we return to find ourselves refreshed in the new realization that this art form we call singing is just as vital and rejuvenating for us the singers.

So we sing. We sing together. We sing with you.

Peace, Douglas M Beach Minister of Music

#### A PRAYER FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS & ARTISTS

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 819

# The Men's Group is Back!



After a brief hiatus, the St. John's Men's Group is back! We will be restarting on April 21st with a fellowship dinner in the parish hall to catch up, re-group, and plan future events. This group is open to all men, whether you have joined us in the past or not. For info, don't hesitate to get in touch with Joe Way at way@mac.com or 717-333-9130.

DATE: Thursday, April 21, 6:30PM

PLACE: St. John's Parish Hall



#### ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP

Bring your gloves, tools, and cleaning supplies as we prepare our campus for Easter!

SATURDAY, APRIL 2 8AM - 12PM



# Join your deacons for a book club!

READ WITH YOUR DIOCESAN FAMILY

Join in with your deacons for a weekly book club discussing *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson!

WHERE: Zoom Gathering

WHAT TO BRING: Your smile and comfy slippers

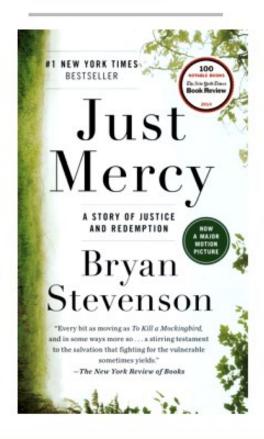
WHEN: Monday nights at 7:00 PM starting April 25

For a Zoom invite link, please email Stacey Catigano, scatigano@gmail.com

ABOUT THE BOOK: A memoir by American attorney Bryan Stevenson that documents his career defending disadvantaged clients. The book, focusing on injustices in the United States judicial system, alternates chapters between documenting Stevenson's efforts to overturn the wrongful conviction of Walter McMillian and his work on other cases, including children who receive life sentences, and other poor or marginalized clients.

Mondays 7:00-8:00 PM April 25 - May 23rd

BOOK: JUST MERCY BY BRYAN STEVENSON



#### VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS BY JOHN GOUVEIA, SECRETARY

It has been an exciting time to be at St. John's, mostly in a good way, but with some challenges for us to meet. In no particular order here are the highlights.

The sale of 211 N. Concord has been completed. With the funds we received, we first returned the original purchase price (\$80,000) to the investment account. The balance (\$64,000) was used to fund the Capital Improvements account. have had this account for years but never put substantial funds into it. As a result, whenever there was a capital need (think our A/C system, telephone and internet systems, sewer line breaks) we either had to either take money from the operating accounts or from the general investment accounts. This meant that the **Property** Committee could never properly plan for capital repairs. We have now begun to fill this critical need. With our property being over 160 years old, we know that this is only the beginning of the funding need.

Along with the 211 surplus, the Vestry also voted to apply the \$27,000 surplus from our 2021 financial results to the Capital Improvements account. A task force consisting of leaders from our Property, Finance, and Stewardship committees has been appointed to evaluate a suggested priority plan and to generate ideas for funding capital expenditures.

The Vestry endorsed Jen Trenary for Ordination to the Transitional Deaconate. Jen has already established herself as a valuable member of the staff.

We will be increasing our emphasis on Safeguarding God's Children this year. Our training frequency has already been in place, but now we will be catching up on our background checks.

Two of our Outreach Ministries have changed their names to better reflect their mission. The Fence Ministry will now be called Hats on the Fence. The Prison Ministry will now be called the Prison Reform and Returning Citizens Ministry. Both of these are relatively new to St. John's and they each have attracted strong support of our members. The Hats on the Fence Ministry was renamed to let people in the church know that our crafters (and some others) have been putting hats, gloves, scarves, and the like in bags and hanging them on the fence for people to take if they need. Over the past few months our neighbors (and others) have been taking them with gratitude.

The Prison Reform and Returning Citizens Ministry has actively involved serving those people who are currently in prison and continue to aid them (and their families) when they return to society. This includes the ministry to the residents of Beth Shalom where our members have been aiding mothers and children adapting to society.

We do have some challenges that we must address. The immediate concern is our staffing shortage. There is a bright spot here in that our Office volunteers have done a wonderful job. However, we have the Office need to Manager position filled. The staffing shortage was exacerbated by the resignations of our Financial Secretary and our Sexton. Jen Trenary and Charles Ware have gone "above and beyond" in filling in for our Financial Secretary, but that is not a long-term solution.

The short-term challenge is our current communications system. Contracts have been signed and the work has begun. Our volunteers and staff will be for more effective and efficient when this work is done.

The long-term challenge is how do we more effectively use 209 North Concord in our mission and ministry work? We decided last year that we do not want to be landlords in the traditional sense. What are some alternatives? There are some ideas being bandied about. What do you think? Please contact any of our vestry members to share your ideas or to discuss possibilities. They would love to hear from you.

John Gouveia Vestry Secretary

#### GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGES

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." St. Augustine



#### April 3rd: April 6th National Walking Day

"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 theirs, that we could not be aliens to one another even though we were total strangers." - Thomas Merton

Take a walk, bring along your smile and positive emotions and welcome anyone you see.

#### **April 10th: Palm Sunday**

"Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." - Mother Theresa

Think of the Food Pantry, Eagles Nest, Community Breakfast, AA environment, knitted hats hanging on the fence, shoe collection, youth connections, openness at the services - ALL connections of love to our brothers and sisters. We are ALL God's children - One Father, One Family.

#### **April 24th**

"The world is round so that friendship may encircle it." Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

In our world environment that is most difficult both with dealing with the virus and with war situations, the movement each of us takes in the smallest ways towards kindness and caring for ALL our brothers and sisters, no exceptions, can make a huge difference for ALL - Here, There, Everywhere.



#### **Easter Flowers**

**GIVEN BY:** 

IN THANKSGIVING OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

Checks can be made out of to St. John's Church with Easter flowers in the memo.

# **APRIL** 2022

Monday 29
00 PM - 1:00 PM NA 0 PM - 8:30 PM nd bell Practice 0 PM Stewardship mmittee Meeting
4 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA 1:30 PM Martha's 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Ministry 2:30 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Ministries 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Council 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Adult Forum: Prison Reform (Zoom)
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA 1:30 PM Martha's 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Ministry 2:30 PM Fload Pantry 4:00 PM Fload Pantry 4:00 PM Fload Pantry 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM A (AP)
19 Office Closed 1:30 PM Martha's 12:00 PM - 7:30 PM NA Daughters of the King Dance Mosaic 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM AA (AP)
25 MESSENGER DUE 1:30 PM Martha's 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM NA Ministry 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Sign PM Food Pantry Hand bell Practice 7:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting (AP)  26 7:30 PM Martha's 7:30 PM Martha's 7:30 PM Food Pantry 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM AA (AP)



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