



St John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster PA

The Messenger - DECEMBER


THIS MONTH'S EVENTS:

- Dec. 3 - Fall Clean Up 9:00AM
- Dec. 7, 14, 21 - Holden Evening Prayer
Courtyard 6:30PM
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Services
3:30PM Family Service
9:30PM Service with Brass
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Service 9:00AM

WHAT'S INSIDE:

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ST. JOHN'S AUCTION:
PLEASE BEGIN TO GATHER ITEMS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE FOR AN ONLINE AUCTION TO BENEFIT OUR MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES. WE ARE GOING TO HOLD AN AUCTION EARLY IN THE NEW YEAR AND ARE LOOKING FOR ITEMS THAT WOULD RETAIL FOR \$25 OR MORE. AS YOU CLEAN OUT THE CLOSETS, ORGANIZE THE ATTIC OR BASEMENT, OR GET THAT UPGRADED ITEM, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING THOSE ITEMS! ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE SEE LESLIE MORGAN. STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS COMING SOON.



RECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Amanda Knouse

Dear St. John's,

Did you know heart-softening, soul-tending, and thought-provoking opportunities await us? The season of Advent is overflowing with opportunities to engage and encounter the presence of Christ in our midst. From adult forums to Christmas caroling in the neighborhood to worshipping around the community tree in the courtyard, Advent is a season of actively waiting and preparing for God's promises to be realized and revealed.

The next four weeks are an invitation to swim against the current of chaos, materialism, and consumerism and instead enter a time of contemplation and preparation. Have you considered how the birth of our savior has changed the world, or perhaps even your own heart? Have you pondered the promise that Christ will indeed come again and what that means not just for you and your family but for the whole of creation? I've been thinking a lot about these questions as I go about my daily activities. I've been thinking about the reckless and unthinkable love and courage it took for God to offer his very own son to this wayward and broken world. I've been thinking about the in breaking of God's light into the darkness; a light that guides and directs our own journeys. I'm attempting to be more intentional by looking for those lights. Have you seen flickers of God's light breaking into the shadows of the world around you?

Advent is a holy and mysterious time to watch and wait as a community of faith and to name and claim the hope, peace, joy, and love that God offers. As we wind our way through the weeks ahead, I pray you have the courage to pause longer than is comfortable or that your schedule will allow you to ponder the holiness of this season; long enough to receive the greatest gift given.

I remain faithfully yours,
Amanda+



Christmas Eve Services at St. John's Church



3:30 P.M.

A family celebration of Holy Eucharist
with Christmas Hymns and special music
by the Hand Bell Choir

9:30 P.M.

Prelude of Carols with Brass

A festive candlelight Holy Eucharist with
Christmas carols led by the Chancel Choir

Christmas Day Service



9:00 A.M.

After the presents have been unwrapped
and the coffee enjoyed, join us for a time
of worship on Christmas morning. Our
service will include Christmas carols, Holy
Eucharist, and warm friendship

321 W. Chestnut St.
Lancaster, PA 17603





Holder EVENING PRAYER

Wednesdays in Advent
at 6:30PM

St John's Courtyard
around the community Christmas Tree



Commissioning on Dec. 11th

Stacey Catigano

Faith & Finance

*Ms. Kelsey Martin and
The Ven. Jane Marion, Archdeacon*

Partnered with Beth Shalom, F-2 teaches good stewardship practices through financial education to young mothers and their children. While mothers learn how to develop good credit, budgeting, tithing, savings and investing to gain financial independence, children are taught the basic building blocks of saving and earning through Godly play. F-2's focus is gratitude for God's abundance and faith in one's ability to learn and grow.

Faith, Food & Fellowship

*Sea Macleish, Marian & Wayne Martenas, Deb Smith,
Marion Wear, Sue Heilman, Deacon Jan Brown*

Partnered with Beth Shalom, F-3 shares the love of Christ with young mothers and their children through monthly Bible study, home cooked meals, art activities and birthday and holiday celebrations. F-3's focus is on cherishing and cheering on those who have the courage to hope for a better life for themselves and their children.

ADVENT ADULT FORUM

**Sundays: Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18
at 11:30 A.M. in the Parish Hall**

Advent is a season of waiting, but is idle waiting what God wants of us? In preparation for the coming Messiah, we wonder together—what things can't wait? What demands our immediate attention? What requires our work and preparation? What is it that God can't wait for? Is it our praise, reconciliation, and proclamation? Is it the end of suffering, isolation, and fear? This Advent, we invite you to join us in imagining, prioritizing, and preparing.

As we wait, what can't?



Thursday
Dec. 8th
6PM

Gingerbread House Making

Party

&
SPAGHETTI
DINNER



ST PAUL'S
COLUMBIA

\$15.00 PER
FAMILY

ALL AGES
WELCOME!

340 LOCUST STREET, COLUMBIA PA

PLEASE RSVP TO
JOHNKNOUSE@HOTMAIL.COM

Upcoming Music Events at St. John's



CHARA



Sunday December 11th at 10:15AM

Look forward to our very own ensemble singing for our service!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING



Thursday December 22nd at 6PM

Join us as we join together in merry making, spreading Christmas cheer to our neighbors with song! Refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall.

ADVENT JAZZ



Sunday December 18th at 9:30AM

St. John's is thrilled to welcome Jazz Bassist Jim Dedrick and Drummer Edward Van Landeghem to play some music before the 10:15AM service--don't miss this collaboration!

CHRISTMAS EVE BRASS



Lancaster Brass will be returning to provide service music for our 9:30PM Christmas Eve Service!

Give a gift that gives back!

Make a donation to the St. John's food pantry and Blessings Box Ministry to honor others and receive a beautiful gift card and matching envelope to mail to that special person! For more information, contact Marion Wear at weareall@comcast.net

Visit the Food Ministry Table in the Parish Hall on Sundays, Dec. 4, Dec. 11, and Dec. 18 to donate and pick up your gift donation card. Thank you for your support for the Food pantry and Blessing Box Ministry. Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas!

Blessings this Christmas Season!

*A Gift
Donation
in Your Honor!*

St. John's Episcopal Church
Food Pantry & Blessings Box
Ministry



GLOBAL

PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE



I AM, WE ARE, ONE WORLD - HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE

December is the time of Advent, a time to include more prayers into our hearts. Let us look around us at those we know and those we don't and give gifts of kindness and caring in a world that is SO needing of our love.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER 4TH

The Feast of St. Nicholas Dec 6th
"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it." Hebrews 13:2
Let us participate in gifting someone not on our usual list with a gift of food, a sweater, socks, any act of kindness.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER 11TH

December 12th is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas. As a patron saint of Mexico, whose skin is brown, red, and yellow as well as white, it is a day to celebrate ALL God's children.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER 18TH

Hanukkah Begins
"Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it towards others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will be in our troubled world." Etty Hillesum Etty died in the Holocaust. Let us hold ALL brothers and sisters in our prayers.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE FOR DECEMBER 25TH

Christmas Day

Let Christ be born anew in each of us on this Holy Day.

Blessings to ALL - Here, There, Everywhere - NO Exceptions

ST. JOHN'S
MEN'S GROUP
PRESENTS:

Merry Christmas

Dinner Party

&

Potluck

Thursday December 15th

6:30PM

Join us to celebrate Christmas with a meal and fellowship to follow. Bring a white elephant gift, 3 one dollar bills and a covered dish item to share.

Food, Games, Fun

RSVP to Johnknouse@hotmail.com

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is
born, unto us a son is given...

CARING MINISTRY



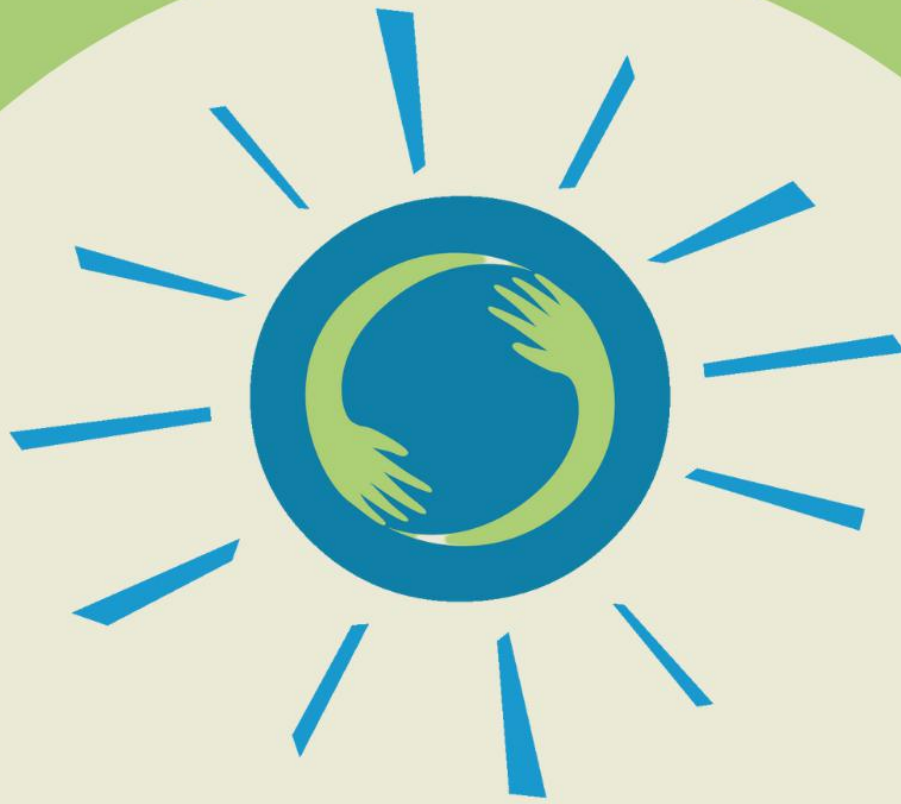
At St. John's, our Caring Ministry is looking for ways to strengthen the bonds between parishioners.

Our congregation has three worshipping communities – those who attend the healing service on Wednesdays at noon and those who attend Sunday services at 8 a.m. or 10:15 a.m. Often, parishioners don't know their fellow parishioners from other services.

Additionally, we continue to grow the congregation with new members. How can we care for each other? How can we get to know our other St. John's family members?

Our clergy's suggestions for the Caring Ministry – and for all of us – is to reach out to people we see at church but may not know. And to reach out to people we do know, too. We can ask, "How can I pray for you?" "How can I help you?" If you're involved in a St. John's activity, considering inviting others to join you.

You can help make St. John's an even more caring place by helping integrate others into your circles of the church and by showing others you care. If you'd like to join the Caring Ministry Committee, our meetings are the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Becker House.



GIFTS THAT GIVE HOPE

Gifts that give Hope is a group of volunteers who work together to bring a unique holiday shopping experience to the Lancaster area and beyond.

They feature alternative gifts that support the work of non-profit organizations right here in Lancaster and those that work all over the world as well as fair trade gifts and social enterprise items in the marketplace.

On **Sunday, December 11, from 10-3pm at the Farm and Home Show Center**, 45 non-profits will have tables explaining who they are and the work they do as nonprofits. Folks can choose to donate small sums of money to a variety of them, and then pick out a cool card and get an insert describing what they donated to give to someone they love. There's also yummy ethnic food and fair trade gifts to buy.

This year, Dorothy Dulo with Rafiki Africa, Brad Zuke with World Bicycle Relief, and Sue Heilman with Heeding God's Call to End Violence will all be present. Stop by to purchase a meaningful gift for those you love while supporting the incredible work of others!



FALL

Clean Up

DECEMBER 3RD 9:00AM

Join us in taking care of our church campus!
Volunteers needed for leaf raking, end-of-year
garden care, mulching, and some indoor clean-
up as well! Bring gloves, rakes, and anything else
that might be helpful--contact Ben Webber for
more details at BentonWebber@gmail.com



VESTRY ARTICLE

The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, attended our November meeting following a pleasant lunch. We asked the bishop about the future of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania in light of the study group that was recently approved at the convention. The bishop explained that the study group will work to determine potential opportunities with the Diocese of Bethlehem. She then went into the current situation in both dioceses (Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania). Both dioceses had to close a number of churches over the last decades due to low membership. Central Pennsylvania now has sixty parishes. Of these 20% do not have a permanent clergy person, and another 10% have no clergy at all. The bishop expressed her happiness with being able to visit a strong parish like St. John's-Lancaster.

At the formal meeting, the Vestry was able to confirm the bishop's impression of St. John's being a strong parish by taking two critical actions. First, we reaffirmed our commitment to the 2023 Parish Assessment unanimously. Second, though our 2023 Budget negotiations are still in progress, we approved the Clergy compensation package that included a 5% increase in salary and housing costs. The second action was taken only after they were assured by the Treasurer and Vestry Steward for Finance that we would continue our work to achieve a balanced budget again in 2023. We are on track to have a balanced Budget for a third consecutive year in 2022.

The Vestry will be preparing to make its work more meaningful by discussing different organizing methods. This will be discussed further at the December meeting and fleshed out in greater detail at the annual Vestry Retreat planned for January 6-7, 2023.

John Gouveia

TREASURER'S REPORT

CHARLES WEAR

St. John's Episcopal Church						
Operating Income Statement						
October 2022						
Cash Basis in \$000's						
	2021			2022		
	Month Oct	YTD Oct	Budget Full Yr	Month Oct	YTD Oct	Budget Full Yr
Income						
Pledge Income	\$24.7	\$279.9	\$365.0	\$27.0	\$325.2	\$384.6
Other Contributions	\$2.7	\$33.1	\$38.7	\$6.9	\$41.7	\$35.5
Investment Draws	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$44.2	\$0.0	\$52.1	\$63.0
Other Income	\$0.7	\$100.2	\$70.1	\$1.6	\$22.8	\$23.6
Jubilee Ministries	\$0.7	\$11.1	\$58.9	\$3.9	\$15.1	\$16.9
Total Income	\$28.8	\$424.3	\$576.8	\$39.4	\$456.9	\$523.5
Expenses						
Clergy	\$11.3	\$128.6	\$160.4	\$23.9	\$172.2	\$205.6
Lay Staff	\$9.3	\$100.4	\$132.1	\$9.4	\$73.1	\$90.8
Vestry/Finance/Comm	\$4.9	\$24.3	\$21.3	\$1.6	\$16.6	\$25.3
Utilities	\$1.8	\$23.3	\$29.0	\$2.5	\$33.0	\$29.5
Building Repairs & Supplies	\$9.1	\$25.9	\$27.0	\$1.1	\$20.5	\$38.4
Other Property	\$2.3	\$22.1	\$28.4	\$2.0	\$23.0	\$29.6
Worship/Ed/Community	\$0.4	\$8.4	\$16.4	\$1.1	\$11.6	\$14.1
Outreach	\$7.2	\$66.3	\$79.8	\$10.2	\$61.1	\$65.8
Jubilee	\$1.1	\$5.4	\$60.4	\$1.9	\$18.3	\$24.4
Total Expenses	\$47.5	\$404.7	\$554.6	\$53.7	\$429.3	\$523.5
Net Surplus/(Shortfall)	(\$18.7)	\$19.6	\$22.3	(\$14.2)	\$27.6	\$0.0

As the end of the year approaches, our operating financials still appear on track to meet a balanced budget. Our income exceeds expenses through October, but deficits in the remaining months and year-end accounting adjustments will offset the surplus. Work continues on developing the 2023 operating budget. As reported in the annual meeting, expenses in the latest draft are \$84k higher than the 2022 budget. This significant increase is due primarily to our transition to full staffing as well as general inflation. We will require increased sources of income to meet this challenge or be faced with increased withdrawals from our investment savings account.

CWear

BIRTHDAYS

2 - Marcia Meikrantz	19 - Len Jackson
2 - Charles Wear	19 - Randy Krueger
6 - Lynn Hayford	21 - Ed Summers
7 - Julia Hale	24 - Jenny Kintner
8 - Charley Braught, Jr.	24 - Steve Latshaw
9 - Gretchen Walden	25 - Jim Crothers
12 - Bradley Moyer	25 - David Rutledge
15 - Shirley Parmer	25 - Donna Schnee
16 - Fred Honaman	26 - Rich Brenton
17 - Faith D'Urbano	29 - Jeannie Zeller
18 - Kendall Stonerook	30 - Adam Kilp
19 - Polly Ann Brown	31 - Ned Grove

ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Mike & Shelby Kilhefner
3 - Christine & Tom Shevock
17 - David & Amy Dissinger
26 - Merle & Donna Schnee
28 - Steve & Karen Latshaw

Every pledge matters!



The Stewardship Committee and Vestry would like to express gratitude wishes to all who have submitted a pledge for 2023. We are getting closer to our budgeted need but still need more pledges to continue our ministries and missions at St. John's.

If you would like to contribute, there's still time! Please use this link <https://stjohns-lancaster.org/stewardship/> to submit your pledge for 2023 or increase your previously submitted pledge.

Church CALENDAR

Thursday, December 1st
9:00AM Staff Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Rehearsal

Friday, December 2nd
Rector's Day Off

Saturday, December 3rd
9:00AM Fall Clean Up

Sunday, December 4th
Birthdays & Anniversaries
8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
11:30AM Advent Adult Forum

Monday, December 5th
6:00PM Daughters of the King
7:00PM Ministries Council

Tuesday, December 6th
1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 7th
12:00PM Healing Service
3:30PM Eagle's Nest
6:30PM Worship in the Courtyard
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8th
9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Rehearsal

Friday, December 9th
Rector's Day Off

Sunday, December 11th
8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
11:30AM Advent Adult Forum

Monday, December 12th
6:00PM Caring Ministry

Tuesday, December 13th
1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 14th
12:00PM Healing Service
3:30PM Eagle's Nest
6:30PM Worship in the Courtyard
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15th
9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Rehearsal
6:30PM Men's Gathering

Friday, December 16th
Rector's Day Off

Saturday, December 17th
9:00AM Community Breakfast at
First Reformed Church

Sunday, December 18th
8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
& Christmas Pageant
11:30AM Advent Adult Forum
12:00PM Vestry Meeting

Monday, December 19th
6:00PM Daughters of the King

Tuesday, December 20th
1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 21st
12:00PM Healing Service
3:30PM Eagle's Nest
6:30PM Worship in the Courtyard
7:00PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 22nd
9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
6:00PM Community Caroling
7:00PM Handbell Rehearsal

Friday, December 23rd
Rector's Day Off

Saturday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
3:30PM Rite II Family Service
9:30PM Candle Light Service

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day
9:00AM Single Service

Monday, December 26th
Office Closed for Holiday

Tuesday, December 27th
Office Closed for Holiday

Wednesday, December 28th
Office Closed for Holiday
No Noonday Healing Service
No Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 29th
Office Closed for Holiday
No Handbell Rehearsal

Friday, December 30th
Office Closed for Holiday