



St John's Episcopal Church, Lancaster PA

The Messenger - OCTOBER

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Angel Tree Season is almost upon us. Each Christmas season, starting in November, we collect gifts as a parish for community members in need. Over the years we have purchased gifts for children in the Eagle's Nest program, refugee families, mothers and children at Beth Shalom House, and residents of local personal care homes (to name a few). Watch for the Christmas tree in the parish hall and stay tuned for details about dates and community needs. Thank you in advance for your support of this ministry and please reach out to Annie Lattanzio Hale at anniela1207@comcast.net or Anne Carrol at kinderroll28@gmail.com if you are interested in helping oversee the Angel Tree this year.

RECTOR'S MESSAGE



A SIMPLE INVITATION

DEAR ST. JOHN'S,

A few weeks ago, at our Wednesday worship service, we celebrated the Feast of St. Matthew. Like many of the other disciples, Matthew received a call to follow Jesus that interrupted his life in a profound way. While sitting at his table, collecting taxes for the Roman Empire, Jesus sought him out and echoed the words many of us are familiar with, "follow me." Matthew in response, left his profession, his way of life, and said yes to God's invitation. Now, before Matthew left with his newfound community to travel into parts unknown, he did something interesting. He extended an invitation to Jesus to eat at his home, but it wasn't a private dinner party. Matthew also invited his friends, other tax collectors, and folks from his neighborhood. It was an a rather odd gathering of misfits and outcasts; one that Jesus gladly accepted despite the grumblings and disapproval of the religious leaders of his day.

Matthew's dinner party continues to be on my mind weeks later. I know the power of an invitation and how being welcomed into a person's home can change a relationship. I know how transformative an invitation into community can be for one's faith journey. I am a follower of Jesus because I was invited.

In today's world, people are more connected than any previous generation, yet lonelier than ever before. With social media outlets, smart phones, and web browsers in our pockets, it's easy to mistake information for intimacy, communication for community. I want St. John's to take a page out of Matthew's play book and extend an invitation to others who may not have a faith community to call their own.

There is something holy and sacred about the church – it's a place set apart where we can question and discern scripture and hear the Good News proclaimed, a place to live into our baptismal vows by learning how to love as Christ loved, it's a place that challenges, empowers, and encourages those who gather there. It's a place where God meets us in sacrament, song, and service. St. John's is a place I want others to experience because my life has been so drastically changed for the better because of it.

So, friends, I invite you to invite others. Extend a simple invitation because what's happening here needs to be shared, because in a world that is desperate for connection, there's a community waiting with open seats and open hearts.

I remain faithfully yours,
Amanda+

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Proceeds will aid us in:

- feeding our neighbors through our Food Pantry and our work with the Community Breakfast program
- support of Fulton Elementary School in providing material support to the teachers and program support to the students
- support efforts to aid refugees who settle in Lancaster and families returning to the community after incarceration
- providing financial aid to members in order that they attend enrichment opportunities for leadership skills

Please consider helping Martha's Ministry:

On November 11th & 12th, Martha's Ministry will be hosting its annual Bazaar. This year we will be holding sales on Saturday as well as Sunday. We are also continuing to expand on goods available for sale by encouraging all members of St. John's and our neighbors to contribute their crafts and other gifts.

Our goal for this year is to reach \$5,000.00 in sales. That's right, five thousand dollars! We feel this goal is attainable since we will have a greater variety of merchandise for sale and we are opening up the sale to people from the community.

The list on the left is not an exhaustive one, but rather just examples on how St. John's Episcopal Church works to provide a hand up to our neighbors. We are broadening our support of all St. John's ministries rather than trying to restrict ourselves to one or two efforts. Please come out and support the Holiday Bazaar so that we can better support the mission and ministries of St. John's.



Not Crafty? Do something Bazaar!!

Want to do something for the Bazaar but arts and crafts aren't your thing? How about creating a theme basket, bucket, or box for the BASKET BONANZA RAFFLE?

Theme Baskets promised to date:

Soup's On	Crafting with Grandma
Dog Lover	Mani-Pedi Delight
Book Lover	Reading for Guys
Non-fiction	International Treats
Purrfect Cat	Correspond in Style
Cooking with Wine	Perfect Picnic
Book Lover	Jigs Up Puzzle Tower
Fiction	Afternoon Tea
Pretzel Lovers	

Need an idea?

Penn State Special	Teacher's Treasures
Taste of Italy	Sports
Phillies Phan	Handyman
Chocolate Lover	New Baby
Wine Tasting	Grilling Guru
Gadgets Galore	Basics
Toddler Toys	Family Game Night
Eagles Fans	

Complete description and approximate value
will be due November 1.

Finished product must be delivered by November 4.

For more information or to sign up, please contact:
Rosemary at 717-490-3440 or rcoverly@aol.com.

Blessing of the Animals



Friday, October 6th @ 6:00PM

St. John's and St. Thomas invite you to our annual gathering as we give thanks for our pets, both great and small!

Taking place in the church courtyard,
parking is available off of Mulberry Street.
A free will offering will be taken to benefit
Lancaster City's Mounted Unit.

St. John's Episcopal Church
321 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster PA 17603
www.stjohns-lancaster.org



The Ministry of Welcome is looking for Volunteers!

Hello St. John's!

For the last several years the church office has been staffed by a group of volunteers.

These volunteers are known as the Ministry of Welcome. We are looking for a few more volunteers to staff the office during the week.

If you are friendly, outgoing, enjoy office work, answering the phone, the door and would like to be “the face of the parish, then we are looking for you! We provide training and there are manuals with step-by-step instructions for anything imaginable that you would be doing or encounter.

The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The day is split into two 3-hour shifts,

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. It is not a huge time commitment but vital to keeping St. John's running by providing vital support to our priests, staff, members, visitors, and other ministry groups at St. John's. Even if you could only work one shift a month, it would be helpful. Many hands make light work.

If you are interested in joining our ranks, you may call or email me at:

717-724-7085

roy_keeler@hotmail.com

I would be happy to answer your questions or schedule training if you wish to join us.

God's peace,

Roy Keeler,

Ministry of Welcome Coordinator

DISCERNING THE MINISTRY OF VESTRY

MYTH Vestry meetings last for at least five hours and go into the middle of the night.

FACT We respect your time and value productive and fruitful meetings. Monthly meetings last no longer than two hours max.

MYTH There is weeping and gnashing of teeth on the vestry, people fight constantly.

FACT Every year, the vestry establishes a shared covenant to which we all abide by. We value relationships over "positions." Our ministry is collaborative, prayerful, and spirit led. We share a common mission: to serve the best interests of the parish.

MYTH In order to serve on vestry you need to know everything there is to know about the Episcopal Church and be the best Christian in the world.

FACT Vestry members must be confirmed members in the Episcopal Church, committed to regular worship, and open to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

MYTH All the vestry does is complain & argue about money.

FACT The vestry has oversight of the well-being of the church and yes, that includes the finances, the buildings and grounds, and the assets. Vestries are also visionaries, creative thinkers, encouragers, and strategic planners.

Serving on the vestry is both an honor and a privilege. If you have a heart for St. John's, if you are invested in the future of our congregation and want to be a part of casting a vision for what lies ahead please email amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org. Vestry nominees will be accepted through October 15 with elections taking place at our annual meeting on Sunday, November 5. We are also accepting names for our St. John's Delegation to Diocesan Convention for 2024. Please consider representing our parish next year by submitting your name to Amanda+!

Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation

With a new program year upon us, it's time to prepare for Confirmations, Receptions, and Reaffirmation at St. John's! Adults and youth are confirmed during the Bishop's visit each year by making a choice to publicly affirm their faith and recommit themselves to the responsibilities of their Baptism. For those who may have been confirmed in another denomination (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran, Moravian) the Prayer Book provides for Reception, whereby one is formally received into The Episcopal Church, honoring the commitment one made in their previous denomination.

The rite of Reaffirmation is celebrated with a confirmed Episcopalian who, for personal reasons, wishes to publicly reaffirm their baptismal vows to the bishop and the community. In both reception and reaffirmation, we pray that the Holy Spirit continues to transform and deepen the candidates' faith.

This fall we will hold two classes, one for adults and another for youth. We will explore what we believe as Episcopalians, the role of the sacraments, the importance of scripture, our history and doctrine, and more. If you are interested in learning more or participating in these Sacramental Rites please email amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org. Classes will begin later in October!



GLOBAL

PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE



**I Am, WE Are, One World -
Here, There, Everywhere**

OCTOBER 1ST

October 7th:
National Forgiveness
& Happiness Day

"Happiness is when what you think,
what you say, and what you do are in
harmony." - Mahatma Gandhi

OCTOBER 8TH

"The earth doesn't not belong to us;
we belong to the Earth."
- Chief Seattle

Make a pledge to yourself to recycle
more, take your own bags to the
grocery store, share shoes, socks,
food. The smallest change from each
of us could be huge for our
environment and sustainability - Here,
There, Everywhere in our world.

OCTOBER 15TH

If not now - When?
If not me - Who?

Each of us making the smallest
caring gesture could be a huge
change.

OCTOBER 22ND

A mind is like a parachute - it doesn't
move unless it's open. In a world
environment of war, anger, judgments,
let us each do what we can to make it
more peaceful where we can. A smile,
a greeting, can be huge to those whose
names we know and those we don't. It
doesn't matter, we are ALL God's
Children.

OCTOBER 29TH

"No one has ever become poor by
giving." - Anne Frank

While we are thinking about what
we will hand out to the Trick or Treat
community, think and act on bringing
a gift to our hungry community at
the Food Pantry. A sharing from
each of us could make a huge
difference and bring smiles.

Alternatives to Violence

Workshop | October 27-29

This workshop will help you understand why conflict happens, manage strong feelings such as anger and fear, deal more effectively with risk and danger, build good relationships with other people, communicate well in difficult situations, recognize the conflict management skills you already have, and be true to yourself while respecting other people.

When:

Friday the 27: 5:30PM - 9:00PM

Saturday the 28th: 8:30AM - 5:30PM

Sunday the 29th: 12:00PM - 6:00PM

Where:

St. John's Episcopal Church

Email anneofmary@gmail.com with any questions or special requests!

A suggested donation of \$40 can be made out to **AVP South Central Penn Council**.

TREASURER'S REPORT

CHARLES WEAR

	2022			2023		
	Actual Aug	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr	Actual Aug	Actual YTD	Budget Full Yr
Income						
Pledge Income	\$19.6	\$228.8	\$384.6	\$36.8	\$292.7	\$415.0
Other Contributions	\$32.3	\$80.3	\$35.5	\$2.2	\$48.6	\$50.5
Investment Draws	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$63.0	\$0.0	\$30.0	\$63.6
Other less Transfers	\$4.4	\$20.8	\$23.6	\$1.5	\$37.2	\$20.7
Jubilee	\$1.5	\$9.7	\$16.9	\$1.7	\$11.1	\$23.9
Total Income	\$57.8	\$339.7	\$523.5	\$42.1	\$419.6	\$573.7
Expenses						
Clergy	\$17.0	\$126.8	\$205.6	20.7	\$159.9	\$247.0
Lay Staff	\$8.6	\$54.6	\$90.8	8.0	\$66.2	\$116.5
Vestry/Finance/Comm	\$2.0	\$13.4	\$25.3	\$2.0	\$18.8	\$27.6
Utilities	\$2.0	\$27.5	\$29.5	\$3.1	\$33.5	\$39.2
Building Repairs & Supplies	\$0.9	\$15.2	\$38.4	\$8.7	\$25.2	\$33.6
Other Property	\$0.0	\$18.6	\$29.6	\$0.0	\$19.4	\$28.9
Worship/Ed/Community	(\$0.4)	\$9.2	\$14.1	\$0.5	\$26.0	\$17.2
Outreach	\$5.1	\$45.3	\$65.8	7.8	\$44.4	\$64.6
Jubilee	\$2.1	\$10.6	\$24.4	\$4.0	\$22.0	\$34.2
Total Expenses	\$37.3	\$321.3	\$523.5	\$54.7	\$415.5	\$608.7
Net Total	\$20.5	\$18.4	\$0.0	(\$12.6)	\$4.1	(\$35.0)

We had a \$12.6k operating deficit in August but were able to maintain our minimum checking account balance without taking another budgeted draw from the investment accounts. The Yard Give produced \$1,320 of income for general operating purposes. Food pantry operating deficit is \$6,153 YTD, but recent cash donations have been significant and should bring this down for next month. Final charges for brick repointing were split \$5,800 each for church and 209 Concord. Another \$1,403 was expensed to church/office for HVAC repairs. Only one routine transaction was made in our restricted account in August. Otherwise, values for both investment accounts moved down slightly by market only.

Respectfully submitted,
C Wear, Treasurer

DAYS OF PRAYER & ACTION

NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 2023

Tuesday, November 14th

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Interfaith Prayer Service, St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, 221 N Front St, Harrisburg, PA

Wednesday, November 15th

7:30 am to 9:00 am

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast with Legislators

10:00 am to Noon

Advocacy Appointments with Legislators and staff

OR

10:00 am to Noon

Recitation of Names of the Lost on the Capitol Steps

12:15 pm to 1:15 pm

Lunch

1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Solemn Procession: Witness Walk around the Capitol Mourning the Victims of Gun Violence

3:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Press Conference in Capitol Rotunda

SAVING LIVES:

ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

A block of discounted rooms has been reserved for Tuesday, November 14th, 2023 at the Penn Harris Hotel, 1150 Camp Hill Bypass, Camp Hill, PA 17011

<https://diocesepa.org/saving-lives-ending-gun-violence/>

Refugee Ministry Update

Last month marked the end of our first year assisting the Abdi family as they transition to their new life here in Lancaster. Church World Service helped Bati, Halima, and sons, Abdalla and Abidisa, and daughter, Sutan through the refugee resettlement process and St. John's provided them with a place to live at church-owned housing (209 Concord St.). In addition, a church team has worked with the family as it navigated the unfamiliar territory of filling out forms, paying bills, understanding the basics of how things in the house work, setting up doctor appointments, visiting with school guidance counselors, attempting to learn English, and, well, the list goes on of taking care of things we see as routine, but can be completely befuddling to those new to our country.

We've sometimes struggled with helping them adjust to cultural differences and we've come to recognize that it's important to respect these differences and the dynamics of their family's interaction. However, while sensitive to whatever they went through that made them want to come to our nation, we have always tried to impress upon them the things necessary to becoming as self-reliant as possible as they transition to a new life. Our team has not always enjoyed the success it hoped for in assisting the family. There are many things we have learned along the way.

However, there have been many hours spent working with the family. Bati once asked, "Why does the church help us so much?" Our response: "It's what our faith calls us to do." As can be seen from Bati and Halima's message below, the family is indeed appreciative:

Our family wants to thank the people of St. John's for all their help this year. We very much appreciate it and have seen in practice very good people who try to help. We didn't know this type of help before we came to the United States. We are very, very thankful. We have learned so many things. We look forward to learning more and we won't forget you.

As we enter the second year of working with the Abdi family, we will be preparing them for their move to a new home at the end of June, 2024. We'll be helping them find a new place and continue to assist them in becoming more self-reliant. That has been St. John's goal all along: help them become as self-reliant as possible. With all that's been learned from our time working with the Abdi family, at the appropriate time, we'll ready 209 Concord to serve another family in need of help as it begins its transition.

ALL SAINTS' DAY CELEBRATION & ANNUAL MEETING



Sunday, November 5, 2023

9:00 a.m. - Joint Worship Service

10:30 a.m. - Parish Breakfast & Meeting

Fall Clean-Up

Join us on November 4th to help
take care of our beautiful space!

All Lancaster Episcopal Response Team



ALERT is composed of all Lancaster Convocation Churches, guided by several volunteers from each church. Our funding comes from individual church contributions with support from special services. We meet monthly to determine what the current needs are and how we can respond to them. We use prayer as an important resource in our work. It is a delightful way to hear what other parishes are doing and making connections with our fellow Episcopalians.

We welcome new members willing to serve Christ with an open heart.

There are so many opportunities for mission here at St. John's, we are truly blessed. Another is the ALERT program. The All Lancaster Episcopal Response Team was formed by Fr. Pete Greenfield in response to hurricane Sandy. It is comprised of the churches of Lancaster who work together to provide assistance in cases of emergency or urgent need. These various projects include providing buckets of cleaning supplies after hurricane Sandy, supporting the mission trips to Puerto Rico, assisting in the AIDS garden, providing supplies to Beth Shalom house, working with the community in Jersey Shore, supporting the development of the retreat center in Potter County, offering financial support to Episcopal churches damaged by hurricanes or fires. What makes this special is the opportunity to work with our friends from other churches. There is a strong spiritual component to the program as well. We all learn from each other. As time goes on, we need to have additional members from St. John's. This would involve once a month meeting (usually Zoom). Participation in each project would depend on your individual interests or skills. There is lots more to do and your help would be a blessing. As always, please keep us in your prayers. For more information, speak with Dave Martin or Don Durand.

Church Prayer List

Claire Phillips, Michael Stank,
Debbie Carter, Pat Pankey, Kate,
Jeannie Zeller, Nancy Strasburg,
Justin & Lisa, Ella & Colleen,
Matt Patterson, Michael Yoder, Kevin,
Judy Modene, Angie Stamm,
Andrew Gilpin, Jesse Rutledge,
Mike Patron, Dawn, Kent Strickler,
Brandon Stamm, Ted Griswold,
John Manger, Kathy Plaxa, Erica Kelvy

Birthdays

3 - Malcolm Young
4 - Andy Mausolf
5 - Nicole Pham
7 - Karen Di Pace
8 - Helena Carroll
11 - Phyllis Gbur
14 - Bart Smallwood
15 - Lenwood Jackson
15 - Andrei Latshaw
18 - Conor Brenton
19 - Ed Gordon
19 - Robbin Hobbins
19 - Merle Schnee
20 - Glenda Broad
20 - Roy Keeler
21 - Shirley Shaheen
23 - Anne Almy-Webber
23 - Tracy Cliff
23 - Ken Smith
23 - Laurel-Jeane Williams
24 - Kathleen Magbag
26 - Tom Bond
27 - Patrick Lamb
27 - Sue Martin
28 - Maggie Springer
29 - Tom Stonerook
30 - Amelia Dissinger

Anniversaries

3 - Julie & David Rodriguez
9 - Dan & Priscilla Farmer
12 - Ned & Sandra Grove
24 - Peter & Kathy Plaxa
28 - Ty & Carole Humphrey

Friends at Home

Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith,
Peter Plaxa, Ricky Smith,
Joanna Sweeney, Al Kuser, Mary Sue
Farmer, Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane,
Merle Schnee, Carol Greenfield,
Sandy Grove, Carole Humphrey,
Tiny Nolan, Darlene Bentley,
Peggy Zuke, Paula Wolf

Serving in the Military:

Amelia Dissinger, Alex Kelly,
Brooks Morgan, Brian Hobbins,
Joshua Watkins, Kirby
Kinderwater, Kyle Kinderwater,
David Wolfe

Church CALENDAR

Sunday the 1st

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
11:30AM Adult Forum

Monday the 2nd

4:30PM Trans Loving Community
5:00PM Executive Committee
6:00PM Daughters of the King
6:00PM Ministries Council

Tuesday the 3rd

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday the 4th

12:00PM Healing Service
6:00PM Lancaster Convocation
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM J2A Class

Thursday the 5th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 6th

Rector's Day Off
6:00PM Blessing of the Animals

Saturday the 7th

National Acolyte Festival

Sunday the 8th

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Baptism and
Holy Eucharist: Rite II
11:30AM Adult Forum

Monday the 9th

Office Closed
6:00PM Caring Ministry

Tuesday the 10th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry
4:00PM Finance Committee

Wednesday the 11th

12:00PM Healing Service
5:30PM Eagle's Nest Meeting
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM J2A Class

Thursday the 12th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
1:00PM Clergy Council
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Sunday the 15th

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
11:30AM Adult Forum
12:00PM Vestry Meeting

Monday the 16th

6:00PM Daughters of the King

Tuesday the 17th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday the 18th

12:00PM Healing Service
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM J2A Class

Thursday the 19th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
6:30PM Men's Gathering
7:00PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 20th

Diocesan Convention (State College)
Rector's Day Off

Saturday the 21st

Diocesan Convention (State College)
9:00AM Community Breakfast
at First Reformed Church

Sunday the 22nd

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

Monday the 23rd

6:00PM Stewardship Committee

Tuesday the 24th

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Wednesday the 25th

12:00PM Healing Service
7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00PM J2A Class

Thursday the 26th

9:00AM Minister's Meeting
2:30PM Food Pantry
7:00PM Handbell Choir Rehearsal

Friday the 27th through

Sunday the 29th
Alternatives to Violence Workshop

Sunday the 29th

8:00AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15AM Sunday School
10:15AM Holy Eucharist: Rite II
11:30AM Adult Forum

Tuesday the 31st

1:30PM Martha's Ministry
2:30PM Food Pantry

Save the Date:

November 5th All Saint's Day
& Annual Meeting
November 7th Election Day Bake Sale