

September 2025

THE MESSENGER



SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 - 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM



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HOMECOMING SUNDAY AND WELCOME BACK AMANDA+

September 7th marks the start of our program year here at St. John's Episcopal Church. We will return to two services: Rite 1 at 8:00 a.m. and Rite 2 at 10:15 a.m. with organ and choir. COFFEE HOUR will resume, and lemonade time will go on hiatus until next summer. Christian education, the music program, committees and groups will all be revving up into high gear!

On September 7th we welcome back our Rector, Amanda+ Knouse as she returns rested and refreshed from her sabbatical to resume her role as our spiritual leader.

HAVE YOU MISSED THIS FACE?



It would be great if we had a packed church to start off the program year and welcome back Amanda+. Mark your calendar! 😊 .

SUMMER REFLECTIONS FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR



It is hard to believe that the summer is almost over, and it's impossible for me not to reflect on my time at St. John's during these past few months. It included beginning my time here in the midst of Holy Week, leaving to accompany students on pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in Spain, and then returning on the very same Sunday that Amanda began her sabbatical. I was also ordained during all of this! It has been a summer of learning: getting to know this parish and all of you, working with Bishop Bob on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings, settling into a regular rhythm of preaching, and listening to the joys and concerns that we all share as a community seeking to walk in the Way of Jesus. It's also been a summer of doing simple things like learning names. I feel accomplished when, after each Sunday, I might commit

one or two new names to memory.

On one hand, it has felt like a whirlwind. On the other hand, the summer months have been the perfect opportunity for me to engage in the work of building relationships and thinking about my role as Assistant Rector here at St. John's. And I have been so grateful through it all. I have felt nothing but welcomed by this community. You have been kind and curious. You have been open to getting to know me as I get to know you. You have helped Steph and my three boys feel welcomed and included here as well. Thank you so much for your hospitality, warmth, and love. Please know that I have been praying for each of you and giving thanks for all of you.

I had the opportunity in July, through a grant given to me by the Institute of Pilgrimage Studies at the College of William and Mary, to spend some time walking through the English countryside in Herefordshire. This is a wild and rural area, known for its sheep, cattle, and apple orchards. My pilgrimage took me from church to church, where I had time to explore these ancient buildings and their stones and sleep amongst the memorial markers which named those who had worshiped in those spaces for, in some cases, over a thousand years. I also had the chance to walk amongst the fields and forest, through apple orchards, over rivers and by holy wells, and along the mountains that mark the border of England and Wales. I say all of this to share that this pilgrimage provided time for reflection and quiet. Much of that time was spent reflecting on who I am as a beloved child of God, and who I am as someone who seeks to live his life serving others in Christ. My mind naturally went to this parish, the people here, the community of Lancaster, and who I am in the midst of all of that. I have lots of hopes for my time here but seek to stay grounded in the ever-present reality that I, like all of you, are simply beloved and held by God in Christ.

SUMMER REFLECTIONS FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR, CONTINUED

I'm sure this reflection will continue in the coming weeks and months, as we move toward the Fall. I am excited to continue to know this place better. I'm excited to partner with Amanda and for the two of us to really dig into how we best work together to care for this place and its people. And I fully expect to learn a lot. I know I will learn a lot from each of you. You are all a blessing and will continue to be a blessing to me. I thank you for that. With that in mind, I would ask for your prayers, as we together live out our collective calling to be the body of Christ. Please know that I will be praying for you.

In Christ,

Joe+

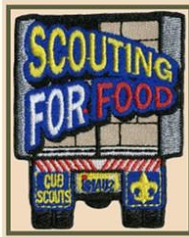


Food Pantry News

September 2025

As of the end of July, the Food Pantry has raised approximately \$25,000 of the \$33,000 we have targeted to meet expenses for 2025. Thank you so much for this support!

We have several activities coming up between now and Thanksgiving to help collect the food and funds we will need to complete this year (and start off next year).



ABOUT THIS PROGRAM:

- Bags are distributed to homes with instructions on pick-up date Saturday, November 1, 2025
- Full bags are collected. Saturday, November 8, 2025
- Bags are delivered to the food bank on Saturday, November 8, 2025

Many of our St. John's scouts are grown and off to college. Do you know of any girl or boy scouting groups that might support our Food Pantry? Please let Marion Wear know at mwear2016@outlook.com!

The Single Largest Fundraiser of the Year!



- ♦ All day November 21, 2025
- ♦ Donations made online on behalf of our food pantry.
- ♦ Your donation helps us qualify for additional matching funds!
- ♦ We receive the donations in January of 2026 for a good start to the year. Last year we raised \$13,500 and we hope to raise more this year!

Thank You!

MUSINGS FROM THE ORGAN BENCH....



Each week, when I pick the hymns for the coming week (or months, as I do) I have at my disposal, a list of many wonderful texts and tunes. Most congregations only learn a few hymns and like to stick to the familiar. Sadly, we miss out on a lot of wonderful content that can enrich our lives. Over the years, I have tried to stretch myself and churches I have served, with unfamiliar but wonderful poetry and music. I am reminded of a retired pastor who came to serve one of the churches where I was an associate minister. The denomination had just purchased their brand-new denominational hymnal and each week, this retired interim would pull out new hymns to have the congregation learn. And, naturally, there were many, many complaints about the unfamiliar hymns that he chose. As interim, he knew he could do what he wanted for the most part, as he wouldn't be there for the long term. He knew that stretching (physically, psychologically, musically and spiritually) is necessary for a healthy body...He was a nurse before going into the ministry and several of his children became accomplished physicians. So, he knew that sometimes, we need to be pushed! His comment when complaints came was to say..."Well...the first time you sang 'Jesus Loves Me, This I Know'....it was new to you!" Hah! He is so right. New hymns, like trying new friends, new jobs, new relationships, involves a bit of stretching!

Among the many hymns suggested for Sunday, September 7, when we return to two services, is # 9 "Not Here for High and Holy Things". The music was composed in the early 19th century by a Lancaster County minister, Elkanah Kelsay Dare. It is often attached to the text...Awake, awake, to love and work" (actually, verse 4)...a great text of ministry and purpose. Hymn 9, written by (long name!) Geoffrey Anketel Studdert-Kennedy in the early 20th century is a wonderful hymn that wants us to recognize that God is present in even the smallest things of nature that we often miss, ignore, step on, and pass over. And coupled with that is to recognize that the voice of nature calls us to see what our purpose in life is to be (found in verse 4). The lives of philosophers/poets/musicians help me understand their creativity. In a web site entitled www.allpoetry.com is a description of Studdert-Kennedy:

*Geoffrey Anketell Studdert Kennedy, better known as **Woodbine Willie**, was a British Anglican priest and poet who gained prominence during World War I. He served as a chaplain to the British troops on the front lines, where his compassion and courage*

MUSINGS FROM THE ORGAN BENCH....CONTINUED

earned him the nickname “Woodbine Willie” for his habit of distributing Woodbine cigarettes along with words of comfort to the soldiers.

***Studdert Kennedy’s poetry** is characterized by its directness, honesty, and accessibility. Writing in a vernacular style that resonated with soldiers and civilians alike, he addressed the horrors of war, the struggles of faith, and the search for hope amid suffering. His poems, often imbued with a strong sense of empathy and spiritual questioning, provided solace and a sense of shared humanity during a time of profound upheaval.*

*Though his work emerged from the specific context of World War I, **Studdert Kennedy’s themes of faith, doubt, and the human condition continue to hold relevance today.** His poetry offers a timeless reflection on the search for meaning in the face of adversity, the importance of compassion and empathy, and the enduring power of human connection.*

I encourage you, to check out this hymn as we move back to two services with our “Homecoming Sunday” on September 7 , such as when you are preparing for worship during the prelude music. Blessings this Fall in your worship and daily lives!

Many Thanks

...TO BISHOP ROBERT “BOB” GEPERT FOR BEING OUR CELEBRANT ALL SUMMER AND FOR MANY THOUGHT- PROVOKING SERMONS AND HOMILIES. WE HAVE ENJOYED YOUR HUMOR AND WIT AS WELL.

...TO THE WARDENS, VESTRY, THE ASSISTANT RECTOR, THE STAFF, OFFICE VOLUNTEERS, PAM LOOSE AND FRED CLUCK FOR BEING THE PROPERTY LIAISONS WHILE JOHN WAS ON VACATION AND RECUPERATING, MOTHER BARBARA AND FATHER PHIL FOR BEING ON CALL FOR PASTORAL EMERGENCIES AND VISITS, FOR EVERYONE WHO WAS DILIGENT ABOUT GETTING INFORMATION TO THE OFFICE FOR THE BULLETINS AND NEWSLETTERS, TO MARK AND EVERYONE WHO OFFERED SPECIAL MUSIC DURING THE CHOIR HIATUS OVER THE SUMMER AND TO THE CONGREGATION FOR PITCHING IN AND DOING WHATEVER NEEDED TO BE DONE WHILE THE RECTOR WAS ON SABBATICAL. YOU’RE THE BEST!



FOYER GROUPS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

There is still time to sign up for FOYER GROUPS!! Contact Gretchen Walden at 540-817-9013 or gretchdw@gmail.com or put your name on the sign-up sheet on the Parish Hall bulletin board. First supper will be Wednesday, September 10, at 6 pm, in the Parish Hall.

FALL COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP!



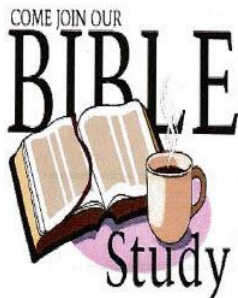
Hello St. John's Friends!! It is time to sign up to fill in our Coffee hour schedule for the fall! We offer coffee hour after both services and need volunteers to cover both times. You can choose to do both or just one, whatever works for you. Finding a friend to work with makes it more fun too!! Coffee, tea and staples are provided, you would supply any juice and snacks. make it as simple as you want.

If you have not done it before and have any questions please contact Karen DiPace at karen.dipace@gmail.com. I will be out of town for September and October, but able to answer questions via email.

Please use this link to sign up for whatever time/dates work for you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4EA8AB29A3FC1-57853479-stjohns>

ST JOHN'S MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



St. John's Men's Bible Study will resume meeting Wednesday, September 3 following our summer break. The group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We are progressively reading the entire Bible, assisted by textbooks.

Before the Summer break, we completed the Old Testament, and the group has elected to do something that few study groups do—read the Apocrypha. We will begin doing that in September before proceeding on to the New Testament.

The current textbook is "The Apocrypha", edited by Gale Yee, et. al. Newcomers are welcome at any meeting. For more information, contact Wade Hinkle wphinkle@gmail.com or 571-533-8151).

DEBBIE CARTER ART AND GLASS AUCTION

DEBBIE CARTER'S ART AND GLASS AUCTION

OPEN FOR ONLINE BIDDING
OCTOBER 1 - OCTOBER 8

OPEN HOUSE TO VIEW ITEMS
OCTOBER 3 - FRIST FRIDAY
OCTOBER 5 - COFFEE HOUR

DEBBIE WAS A DEVOTED, GENEROUS MEMBER OF
ST. JOHN'S. HER LIFE ON THIS EARTH ENDED 12/23/25 BUT
HER GIFTS CONTINUE!

ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH MAKERS MARKET



Sepember News—It's Time to Plan!

Our church holiday bazaar is fast approaching. The Makers Market will be held on Saturday, November 22, from 9am to 2pm open to all. It will also be available Sunday, November 23, following the 10:15am Sunday service.

Once again, we are in need of your time and many talents for this special event!

We are always in need of new crafters and new project ideas. This is a special event where there is a project or volunteer opportunity for anyone who is interested in participating!

If you have an interest in helping with this year's bazaar, please join us for a brief meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 7, following the 10:15am service.

There are many ways to help.

Come to the meeting and find out how!

Please feel free to share your thoughts on how to make this year's sale a success. We are always open to new ideas.

Don't Miss a Minute of the Fun!

Contact Any Dissinger or Debbie Smith for more information or questions.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP CHALLENGE SEPTEMBER 2025



***I Am, We Are.....One World -
Here, There, Everywhere***

September 2025

"Love one another as I have loved you." - Jesus

John 13:34

"Jesus never asked anyone to form a church, ordain priests, develop elaborate rituals and institutional cultures, and splinter into denominations. His two great requests were that we "love one

another as I have you" and that we share bread and wine together as an open channel of that interabiding love." Cynthia Bourgeault

GPC Challenge for September 7th

"If you judge people, you have no time to love them." Mother Teresa

Make a pledge to try to learn something new about someone this week out of your normal circle of friends. Celebrate another child of God!

GPC Challenge for September 14th

"The love of one's country is a splendid thing. But why should love stop at the border?" Pablo Casals

Last week you challenged yourself to meet another child of God you didn't know before. This week see if you can widen your circle and stamp your "friend passport" and learn about someone from another country.

GPC Challenge for September 21st

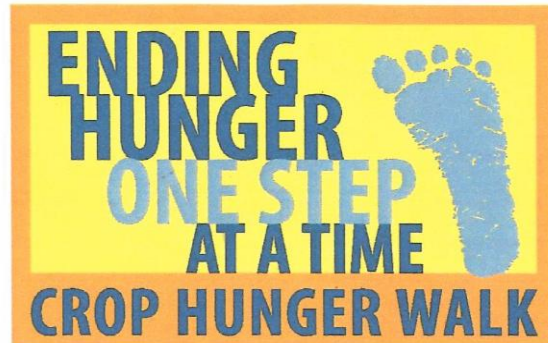
"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and then suddenly you are doing the impossible." St. Francis of Assisi

We think we can't solve hunger, but we can. Weather will be getting colder, and a cup of soup would bring health and smiles to someone with an empty belly. Let's overwhelm the Food Bank by each of us bringing just one something to gift. We CAN help do the "impossible!"

GPC Challenge for September 28th

A smile, a "hello!", an open door could be huge to a stranger or someone you simply don't know their name. Connection and acceptance was never more needed.

Save the Date



The 53rd Lancaster CROP Walk

October 19, 2025

Registration at 1:00 p.m.

Celebration Event at 1:30 p.m.

Walk Begins at 2:00 p.m.

at

The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

64 Hershey Ave.

Lancaster, PA

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/lancasterpa>

For more information contact

Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin

[**chris@trinityeastpete.org**](mailto:chris@trinityeastpete.org)

Stay tuned for information about a pre-walk rally!!!!

Saturday 9/27/25 10:00

CWS office

439 E. KING ST

Lancaster



TREASURER'S REPORT

JULY FINANCIALS

- Funds representing the Lyet/Summy bequest were moved in July from the operating account to the unrestricted endowment account per Vestry directive. This transfer is shown as an income loss and large July deficit in the income statement.
- Total income and expenses YTD are both below budget about \$5k. Significant savings in clergy costs are partially offset by higher utility costs.
- Capital gifts of \$2.1k were received in July, bringing the total for the project to \$784.0k. Additional one-time bequests and pre-campaign donations bring the grand total to \$900.5k, with an additional \$207.0k in pledges outstanding. The estimated total project cost remains at \$1.24 million, leaving \$133.7k as additional need.
- Capital expenses for the month totaled \$9.1k. Major items included lift rental for accessing auditorium windows, loan service for the diocesan loan and the final billing for chimney removal.

St. John's Episcopal Church
Church Operating Income Statement
CONDENSED

July 2025

Cash Basis in \$000's

	July		Year to Date		Annual
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget
Income					
Contributions	\$23.5	\$42.1	\$284.9	\$294.6	\$505.1
Investment Draws	\$0.0	\$6.1	\$0.0	\$42.9	\$73.6
Other Income	(\$52.3)	\$2.9	\$40.1	\$20.1	\$34.4
Jubilee	\$1.1	\$3.0	\$24.9	\$21.1	\$36.1
Transferred Income	\$0.0	(\$3.3)	\$0.0	(\$23.3)	(\$40.0)
Total Income	(\$27.7)	\$50.8	\$349.9	\$355.3	\$609.2
Expenses					
Clergy	\$15.9	\$23.1	\$127.3	\$161.9	\$277.5
Lay Staff	\$9.9	\$9.4	\$64.8	\$65.6	\$112.4
Vestry/Finance/Comm	\$1.6	\$2.5	\$16.0	\$17.7	\$30.3
Utilities	\$7.9	\$3.3	\$35.8	\$22.8	\$39.0
Building Repairs & Supplies	\$2.2	\$3.0	\$20.3	\$21.1	\$36.1
Other Property	\$0.0	\$3.1	\$20.3	\$21.4	\$36.6
Worship/Ed/Community	\$0.9	\$1.9	\$11.6	\$13.0	\$22.2
Outreach	\$5.4	\$5.3	\$36.8	\$37.4	\$64.2
Jubilee	\$4.1	\$3.1	\$17.2	\$21.6	\$37.1
Transferred Expenses	\$0.0	(\$3.9)	\$0.0	(\$27.0)	(\$46.3)
Total Expenses	\$48.0	\$50.8	\$350.0	\$355.3	\$609.2
Net Total	(\$75.7)	(\$0.0)	(\$0.1)	(\$0.0)	\$0.0

BIRTHDAYS

Sea Macleish	9/3
Leslie Morgan	9/4
Deborah Logan	9/6
Al Kuser	9/8
Barbara Snyder	9/9
Jeff Stone	9/11
Katie Mausolf	9/12
Sue Heilman	9/13
Amy Dissinger	9/13
Carol Stigelman	9/14
Jay Noble	9/14
Graham Welaish	9/17
Emelia Hale	9/17
Sophia Hale	9/17
Mary Huber	9/17
Marianne Eckert	9/18
Fiona Mausolf	9/18
Steve Forry	9/19
Bob Springer	9/19
Natalie Visco	9/19
John Mann	9/21
Bob Lee	9/22
Henry Noble	9/22
Dana Sanborn	9/24
Kathy Novosel	9/29

OUR FRIENDS AT HOME

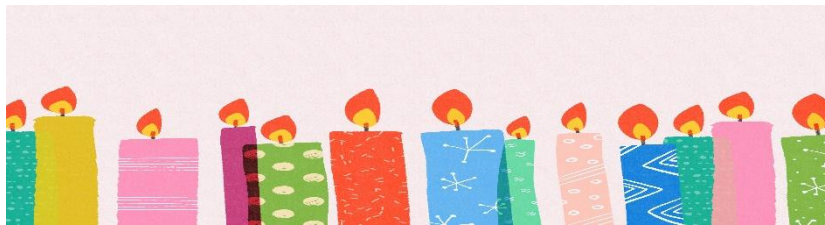
Ellen Keller, Nancy Nemith,
Ricky Smith, Joanna Sweeney,
Al Kuser, Mary Sue Farmer,
Ellen Sellers, Edith Kane,
Merle Schnee, Sandy Grove,
Peggy Zuke, Peggy Buscher,
Theresa Sullivan

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

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

CHURCH PRAYER LIST

Ella, Kevin, Judy Modene,
Andrew Gilpin, Sandra Gilpin,
Ted Griswold, Collin, Eileen Waite,
Andrew Wright, Denise Chandler,
Shirley Parmer, Erin Heintzinger,
Phyllis Shearer, Ellen Keller,
Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Bonnie,
Heidi, Danny, Kenneth, Sarah Gordon,
Leslie Tahsler, Shannon and family,
Lainey Jane and family, Sergie,
Eamon Nelson, Pastor Russell, Jeanne,
Paul Hershey, John Kerner, Sr.,
Uylsse Adams and Cheryl and Rhoda



when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts, may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them

