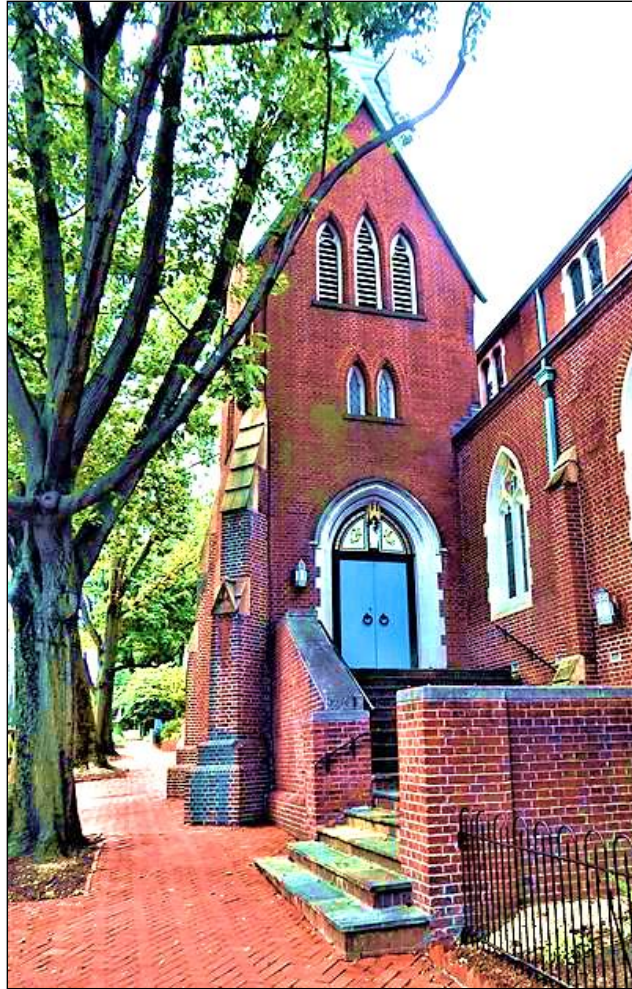


ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
APRIL 12, 2026 AT 10:15 A.M.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. John's is an Open and Affirming congregation. In faithfulness to Jesus and His commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves, we invite everyone to celebrate with us in the full life and ministry of the Church. We believe strongly in our mission statement to *Grow in God, Act in Service, and Witness in Love.*

TO THOSE WHO MAY BE NEW OR ARE VISITING

We are so glad you are here! Ushers are stationed at the back of the church and can answer any questions you may have or please ask a neighbor in the next pew. Restrooms can be found on the other side of the Parish Hall. In addition to worship, opportunities for fellowship exist after the service in the Parish Hall. Sunday School for children and youth takes place at 9:15 a.m. in the Christian Education wing. A nursery is available for our littlest members during this service, however, please know children are always welcome in worship. Thank you for being here!

A NOTE ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

Our Rite II service comes from the Book of Common Prayer and is filled with vibrant music, sacred scripture, and the breaking of bread. This service is filled with the joyful sound of children rustling in the pews, anthems sung to the glory of God, and the heartfelt prayers of those gathered. With acolytes and processions, communal singing, and a mission to love and serve our neighbors, this service invites one to participate in the coming of the Kingdom. At St. John's everyone is welcome to the Lord's table.

In addition to Sunday services, we also offer a Healing service with Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at noon and on Thursday, Brother David leads Morning Prayer in the Mary Chapel. All are welcome to join!

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:14a, 22-32 (*please be seated*)

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, “You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

PSALM 16

- 1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.
- 3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.
- 4 Their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.
- 5 O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.
- 6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 7 I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

- 8 I have set the LORD always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.
9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.
10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.
11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

THE EPISTLE: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith-- being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire-- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

GRADUAL HYMN *Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord* **HYMNAL 178**
vs. 1-2 before the Gospel reading; vs. 3-4 after the Gospel reading

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 (*please remain standing as you are able*)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said

this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

THE REV. DR. JOE PRITCHETT

THE NICENE CREED *(please rise in body or spirit)*

BCP 358

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man. *(pause)*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Form III

BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for Trinity, Easton; St. James, Exchange; and Clergy Widows and Widowers; and the Anglican Church of Mozambique and Angola.
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church especially may truly and humbly serve you; we pray especially for 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, Theresa Sullivan, Peggy Buscher, and Jim Crothers.**
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Audrey and Kevin, our Bishops; Amanda and Joe, our clergy; and Emma and Kim, our seminarians,
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, especially Donald, the President; Josh, the Governor; Jaime, the Mayor; and those serving in the Armed Forces;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us;

Unite us in bonds of love.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially **Judy Modene, Andrew Gilpin, Cheryl & Rhoda, Ted Griswold, Collin, Eileen Waite, Ann Marie, Karlah Gibbs, Sandy Patrone, Marshall, Leslie Tahsler, John Lawrence, Elly, Steve; Heidi, Danny & Kenneth, Briz Skiles, Maria Wright, Kathy Emmert, Kate, Lyn, Julie and Tim, Valerie, Tim Hyland, Molly and Kevin, Hannah Anderson, Denise Chandler, and Kate Benson.**

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BCP 830

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

THE HOLY EUCHARIST



Thank you for your generosity as we seek to live into our mission and ministries. Together, our gifts make this community of welcome, reconciliation, and service possible. You can place your offering in the plates when they are passed or by using our secure QR Code. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

THE OFFERTORY

O The Blessedness is Great

Johann Christian Bechler

THE DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

HYMNAL 380 v.3

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D

BCP 372

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

THE SANCTUS

*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

HYMNAL S-129

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lored be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 365

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

The Episcopal Church invites all who seek God to our Lord's table. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. The wine is administered in two chalices: the common cup for drinking and the intinction cup for dipping your wafer into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest when the wine passes. If you desire a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest. Gluten free wafers are also available. If you are unable to come to the altar, please let an usher know and we would be happy to bring communion to you!

COMMUNION MUSIC *We Walk by Faith, and Not by Sight* **HYMNAL 209**
Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face **HYMNAL 318**

SENDING FORTH OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God and on behalf of this parish, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.
People We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

HYMNAL 193

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
People *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!*

POSTLUDE

Llanfair (Christ the Lord is Risen)

Robert J. Powell

St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has pilgrims who travel to the places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares about the church and places he visits:

Dear Pastor Amanda,

I'm writing this week to send you greetings from Luanda, on the west coast of Angola. When you hear "the west coast" you may think of the Pacific Ocean, but here it means the Atlantic. This is a beautiful ocean front coastline, and a reminder of nature's regenerative powers that can heal our prior damages. I've come to Quicama National Park to follow up on the progress of Operation Noah's Ark, a project that was launched a bit over 20 years ago in 2003.

In years past this area had a rich diversity of wildlife, and was especially known for the big animals that much of Africa is famous for: giraffes, cheetahs, zebra, oryx (do you know what an oryx is?), wildebeest, and elephants. But also in years past much of Angola was torn apart and destroyed by years and years of civil war. During that time poaching was rampant and unchecked, and the wildlife populations were decimated. Following the end of the internal wars, as the country settled back into peacetime, naturalists in South Africa needed to reduce their herds of elephants and so they loaded 200 elephants and 150 other animals onto a navy ship to bring them up this coast to Quicama. Can you imagine what that voyage was like? I'm happy to report that the herds have accepted their new home, and are thriving.

The church here is thriving, too. While in Luanda I was happy to meet with Filomena Teta Estevas, the first Angolan Anglican woman diocesan bishop, consecrated in 2023. Her father was a pastor and she was raised in the church, but didn't follow her call to ordained ministry until she had university degrees in economics and tax law. She's a brilliant and delightful leader / bishop / pastor / wife / mother of two. She's also an adventurer. In January two years ago she and five other women African Anglican bishops walked a 200 mile pilgrimage to meet up in Kenya for discussions focused on empowering more female leadership in the church. While much of the conservative GAFCON movement of the Anglican Communion is based in Africa, it's refreshing to meet with people like Bishop Filomena and follow her wisdom as she leads with grace and challenges those generations-long conventions. I think there's a reason nature is often referred to as Mother Nature, and it's good to see her regenerative work in action. Please continue to hold the people (and beasts) of Angola and Mozambique in your prayers this Sunday, and think of them whenever you undertake the good work you're doing in God's creation.

Blessings Always,
John the Traveler

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

BIBLE STUDY | WEDNESDAYS AT 2:00 PM | PARISH HALL

Every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., a group meets in the Parish Hall for a lively discussion of the Holy Scriptures. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend! All you need is a bible and an open heart. Please join us!

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST | SATURDAY, APRIL 18 | FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

On the third Saturday of each month, volunteers from St. John's prepare and serve a hot breakfast for up to 200 people from the community at First Reformed Church. Help is always appreciated from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. Please email the office@stjohns-lancaster.org if you are interested in serving or would like to know more about this incredible ministry.

COMMUNITY DINNER | TUESDAY, APRIL 21 | FIRST REFORMED CHURCH

Episcopalians in Lancaster County (ALERT) will be providing the **Community Meal at First Reformed Church on Tuesday, April 21**. We need lots of folks to set up, serve and clean up afterward. Please come around 4pm and plan to stay until we finish cleaning up. If you are able to help, please email drutledge1225@gmail.com

GRATITUDE DINNER | MAY 2 AT 5:00 PM | PARISH HALL

Mark your calendars for our annual Gratitude Dinner! This year, we are celebrating all the ministries who share our campus including the Immigration Clinic, NA/AA groups, theater and dance groups, Citizen's Climate Lobby Group, and others. Please RSVP using the invitation that you received in the mail or stop by the office.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist: Rite I
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist II with Choir
1:00 AM Education for Ministry
4:00 PM Community Prayer Vigil
(Grandview Church | 888 Pleasure Rd)

MONDAY

4:00 PM Caring Ministry Meeting

TUESDAY

2:00 PM Martha's Ministry
2:30 PM Food Pantry
4:00 PM Finance Committee
5:00 PM Immigration Clinic

WEDNESDAY

12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing
2:00 PM Weekly Bible Study

THURSDAY

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30 AM Staff Meeting
1:00 PM Clergy Council
2:30 PM Food Pantry

FRIDAY

Rector's Day off

SATURDAY

8:00 AM Community Breakfast

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Episcopal Church! We are glad you are here. Please tell us a little bit about yourself by filling out a pew card and placing it in the offertory plate.

OUR MINISTERS

All Baptized Members

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Scanlan, Diocesan Bishop

The Rev. Amanda Knouse, Rector
amanda@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Dr. Joe Pritchett, Assistant Rector
joe@stjohns-lancaster.org

The Rev. Rob Kazee, Ecumenical Associate

VESTRY

Drew Dorgan (*Sr. Warden*), Charles Wear (*Treasurer*), Gretchen Walden,
Penn Glazier, Mary Huber, Bruce Waskowicz, Sarah Jones,
Emma Luck, Bruce Morgan, Brad Zuke

DELEGATES REPRESENTING ST. JOHN'S AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION

John Gouveia, Wade Hinkle, Kim Bomberger, Michelle Engle

STAFF

Mark Herr, Minister of Music (*music@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Dana Sanborn, Bookkeeper (*finance@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
John Knouse, Property Manager (*property@stjohns-lancaster.org*)
Stephanie Cabrera, Custodian
Danielle Hill, Nursery Attendant

GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE

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