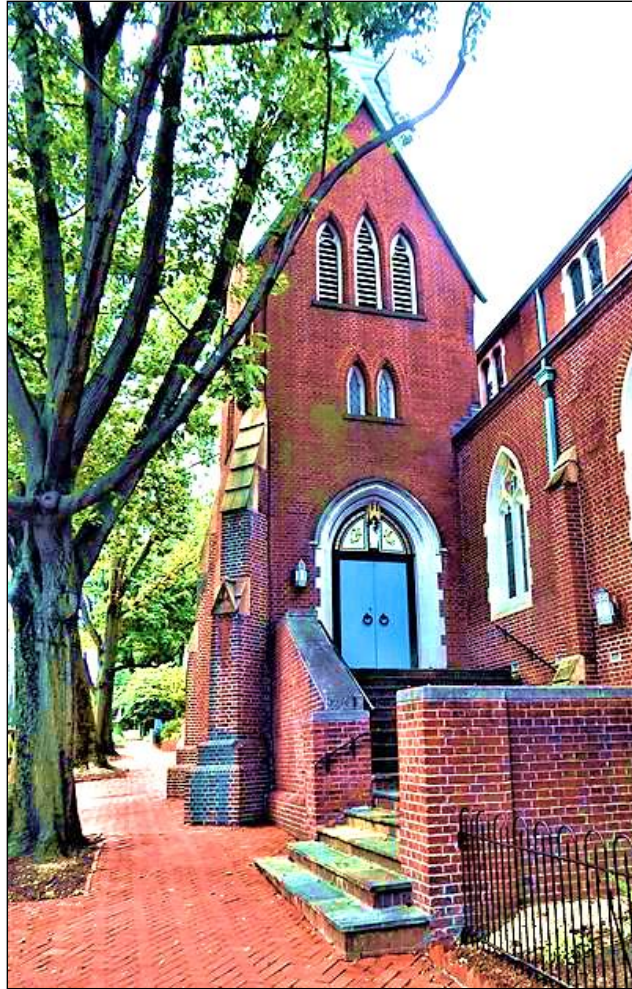


ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II
MAY 3, 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 WORD OF GOD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If you have an announcement, you would like the clergy to share,
please fill out the form on our website or let the office know no later than Thursday.*

PRELUDE *Gather Us In* Marty Haugen

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *Now The Green Blade Riseth* **HYMNAL 204**

OPENING ACCLAMATION (*please remain standing as you are able*)

Officiant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People *The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.*

COLLECT FOR PURITY **BCP 355**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A SONG OF PRAISE *Glory to you* **HYMNAL S-236**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 7:55-60 (*please be seated*)

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

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

PSALM 31:1-5,15-16

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.
- 15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.
- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me.

THE EPISTLE: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner", and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

People

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

Celtic Alleluia

Finton O'Carroll/Christopher Walker, St. Thomas More Centre

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:1-14 (*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.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe

that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

THE REV. AMANDA KNOUSE

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 (*please kneel as you are able*)

BCP 387

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. In the Diocesan and Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for Prince of Peace, Dallas; St. Andrew's in the Valley, Harrisburg; Diocesan Youth; and The Church of North India.

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; **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, Denise Chandler, Kate Benson, Janelle, Jamie, Andrew, and Maria.**

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*Be Not Afraid*

Bob Dufford, S.J.

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.*

S-130

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 - lowed 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

*In Remembrance
Taste And See*

Buryl Red
James E. Moore, Jr.

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.*

*(Refrain) Sing a new song unto the Lord;
Let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
Singing 'alleluia.*

Yahweh's people dance for joy,
O come before the Lord.
And play for Him on glad tambourines,
and let your trumpet sound. *(Refrain)*

Rise, o' children, from your sleep;
your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with song. *(Refrain)*

Glad my soul for I have seen,
the glory of the Lord
The trumpet sounds, the dead shall be raised.
I know my Savior lives. *(Refrain)*

THE DISMISSAL

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

Community Choir Opportunity | Considering Matthew Shepard, A Suite

Calling all interested singers! St. John's and St. James Episcopal Churches are creating a community choir to perform Matthew Shepard, a Suite for a special Pride service on **June 13 at 7:00 p.m.**

Rehearsals will take place on **Thursdays evenings from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. beginning on Thursday, April 23**, at St. John's (321 W. Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA). To indicate your interest and availability to sing, please email, Minister of Music, Mark Herr at music@stjohns-lancaster.org. We would love to have your voice!

St. John's Traveler Letter:

Did you know St. John's has a team of pilgrims who travel every week to the very places we pray for in the Anglican communion? Follow John as he shares a little bit about the church and the places he visits:

Dear Pastors Amanda and Joe,

Namaste from India!

This week, I write to you from the inside of the magnificent St. Thomas' Cathedral in Mumbai. It's hard to picture just how large this city is – I've been here for nearly a week and I still am getting lost everywhere I go. It's one of the biggest and most dense cities in the world, with colonial buildings sitting side-by-side modern glass skyscrapers.

It's no surprise that St. Thomas' is grand, and the strength and good works by the people who live and worship here are no different. I was greeted at the Cathedral not only by the Anglican bishop at St. Thomas, but also by Christian leaders from across India, including Methodists, Presbyterians, and others. Unlike most other dioceses, the Church of North India brings together Protestant churches under one roof. While there are slight differences in each tradition, we have plenty more in common and everyone seems to get along well.

After meeting everyone, we made the short walk from St. Thomas' to a small restaurant for lunch that served us vada pav (spicy potato fritters) and pav bhaji (a vegetable curry). Pav bhaji in particular has become one of the most popular street foods in all of India, and you may have had it at an Indian restaurant in the United States.

To wrap up my time in India, I played in the Diocese's annual sunset cricket tournament last night. For those who don't know, cricket is sort of similar to baseball but can last anywhere from a couple hours to several days. It's the most popular sport here in India and I loved seeing everyone gather together, regardless of denomination, and cheer their team on. In this constantly changing world, I hope you find your own thing – cricket or otherwise – that brings you closer to those around you in celebration.

Blessings always,
John the Traveler

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

TLC GATHERING | MONDAY, MAY 4 AT 5:30 P.M.

TLC, St. John's monthly LGBTQIA+ affirming gathering meets the first Mondays of the month, from 5:30-7pm in the Parish Hall. As it is dinner time, we will begin with a light potluck supper, then discuss pertinent community issues & plan events. If you have questions, please see any regular TLC member or contact Maria Weaver-Hollowniczky at MariaWeaverH@gmail.com.

LEADERSHIP DINNER WITH BISHOP NICHOLS | MAY 6 AT 6:00 P.M.

On **May 6 at 6:00 p.m.**, we will host Bishop Nichols for a leadership dinner at St. John's. All clergy and lay leaders are invited to attend from around our region. Please rsvp to canon missionary, Micalagh Moritz, at mmoritz@diosusquehanna.org.

TRANSFORMING QUESTIONS | ADULT EDUCATION AT 9:15 A.M. STARTING MAY 10

All Adult Learners are invited to join us for Part II of our Enquirer's Class! For this series, we will be discussing Transforming Questions from Forward Movement. We'll explore questions such as: How should we live? Why is there suffering? What happens after death? Does God answer prayer? and others... Join us Sundays: **May 10, 17, 24, 31**

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

TODAY

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

MONDAY

5:30 PM Translving Community

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

12:00 PM Holy Eucharist with Healing
1:00 PM Daytime Foyer Group
2:00 PM Weekly Bible Study
6:00 PM Dinner with Bishop Nichols
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30 AM Staff Meeting
10:00 AM Worship Committee
2:30 PM Food Pantry
6:00 PM Community Choir Rehearsal
7:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY

Rector's Day off

SATURDAY

12:30 PM Citizen's Climate Lobby Group

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*), Emma Luck (*Secretary*),
Gretchen Walden, Penn Glazier, Mary Huber, Bruce Waskowicz,
Sarah Jones, 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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