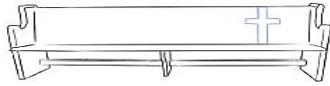


NEWS FOR THE PEWS

November 16, 2025



Welcome!

We are thrilled to have you celebrating the joy of the resurrection with us today and every day. We strive to be an open community and safe place where YOU can receive God's grace, grow in faith, experience fellowship, and serve our world. Whether it is your first service with us or you have been attending your whole life, we hope you know how beloved you are in this family.

THIS WEEK AT ST JOHN'S

Sunday, November 16	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	8:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Adult Forum
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Coffee Hour
Monday November 17	12:00 PM 7:00 PM	Kiwanis Meeting Boy and Cub Scouts
Tuesday November 18	7:00 PM	AA/Al-Anon
Wednesday November 19	8:30 AM 7:30 PM	Chester Garden Club Choir Practice
Thursday November 20	6:30 PM	Vestry Meeting
Sunday November 23	8:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	8:30 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 AM	Adult Forum
	10:00 AM	Holy Eucharist
	11:00 AM	Fellowship Coffee Hour

ALTAR GUILD

The flowers on the retable are to the Glory of God in loving memory of Michael Phoenix, husband of Rusty Phoenix.

BIRTHDAYS FOR NOVEMBER

2 Liz McCauley 16 Bill Sloane, Kacee Lotti
20 Susan Keophila 23 Andrea Marotta
28 Una Harrison 30 Ryan Wood

If our name should be included here, please call the Church office so your record can be updated.

CHURCHYARD CLEANUP

As The Episcopal Church approaches the season of Advent, St. John's approaches the season of churchyard maintenance. Well, not a full season actually, but three hours on Saturday, November 22, from 9:00 am until noon. Please bring your work gloves, rakes, hedge trimmers, etc. and join us as we work to beautify our grounds. Our hosted scout troops have been invited to help as well; we'll look forward to their energetic participation.

THANKSGIVING MEALS

The **2025 Meal Package** Contents are listed below. Please bring your donations to the church office beginning October 20th through November 16th. Please bring items in brown grocery bags as in years past. Thank you for your continued support of this initiative. Please contact **Tamara Evans** if you have any questions. Thank you.



2025 Meal Gift Package Contents

1 – 40 oz. can of yams/sweet potatoes
1 – 13 oz. box of mashed potatoes
1 – 14 oz. can of cranberry sauce
2 – 15 oz. cans of corn
2 – 15 oz. cans of green vegetables
2 - boxes of Stove Top – no bags
2 – cans/packages of gravy – no glass jars
1 – box of hot chocolate
1 – box of regular flavor tea bags
1 – large box or box of cookies
1 - \$20 Grocery Gift Card

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are deeply grateful for the generosity of our parish family, with **\$213,830 in pledges** received so far toward our goal of **\$300,000**. Each pledge is a faithful expression of gratitude and commitment to St. John's and the good works we are accomplishing. If you have not yet made your pledge, please prayerfully consider joining us in this important effort. Together, we can continue to grow in faith and serve as a beacon of God's love in our community.

Kim Courington

SHARING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

It's already time to select a gift tag from our tree to fulfill a Christmas wish for someone less fortunate in our own community. The **Christmas Mother** program works directly with the Department of Social Services, schools and churches to identify seniors and families in need. This year we have "adopted" a mother with four children ages 4, 5, 8 and 14. We're also caring for three senior citizens: two females and one male.

Gift tags will be placed on a tree in the lobby outside the office. The wish lists include new toys, new clothes, household items or a gift card for Christmas dinner. We need to receive the unwrapped gifts at St. John's no later than **November 30**. Please place the gifts in a collection bin located in the office lobby. Make sure you attach our tag to the gift and include the receipt in case an exchange is necessary. Gifts will be moved periodically to a secure area. If you'd prefer to have the Outreach Committee shop for you, which we are happy to do, we'll need your donation no later than November 23. If you put a check or cash in the Sunday collection plate, please add a note that it is for the Christmas Mother.

The gifts we provide will likely be the only ones they receive this Christmas. More information is posted by the tree. If you have any questions, please contact JoAnn Maher (804)661-0093 or Lnjmaher@aol.com. Thank you!

BIRTHDAY BOX

A little handmade wooden box can be found in the back of the church. There is a tradition that when your birthday comes around each year, you make a small donation in God's name for the blessing of another birthday. The Outreach Committee tracks the money and when a sufficient amount has been collected, we send it to Heifer International. Funds are used to purchase animals for families in poverty as a way for them to start a small business. Our past animal purchases have included goats, chicks, ducks, honeybees, water buffaloes, and heifers. If this is your birthday month, please consider dropping in a check to St. John's with a notation Heifer or make a cash donation. Thank you!

TENNIS BALL UPDATE

We would like to thank everyone for the contribution of tennis balls for the chairs in the choir loft. We have reached our goal. All the chairs now have tennis balls on their feet. The choir can now move around more quietly. Thank you for all you do for St. John's.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee will be collecting hygiene supplies for our CCPS school-aged children. Mardi Bras has notified us that there is a great need. There will be an empty bin in the church lobby. Items to include are: Shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary products, etc. Thank you to all for your continued support.

MANAKIN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. Gini DiStanislao, the Rector at Manakin Episcopal has invited all to their annual bazaar on Saturday, November 22 from 10 am until 3 pm. There will be artisans, crafters, DIY, Christmas Ornaments, Wreaths, Jewelry, Gourmet Cookies, Candles, Quilting projects and Artwork. 10% of all sales go to Outreach activities. It is a great opportunity to Christmas shop!

KIWANIS CHRISTMAS PARADE

St. John's has been invited to participate in the Kiwanis Christmas Parade this year. The theme of the parade is "Peace on Earth."

The application which contains the requirements is located in the church office. Please stop by if you are interested or have any ideas for St. John's participation. The deadline for registration is November 28 and the parade is on December 14 at 2pm.

Thank you.

<i>UPCOMING EVENTS</i>		
November 30	8&10 am	Children's Homily Advent 1
December 6	4:30 pm	Family Time Worship
December 7	4:30 pm	Evensong at St. John's
December 21	3:00 pm	Christ & Grace St. John's Choir will perform Christmas Celebration
December 24	4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Service at St. John's

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Phillipa Smith, Jaydon Robinson, Jordyn Prohett,
Al Day (Chris Day's brother),
Kim Gentry (Father Keith's brother).
Quinten Sierra, Rosa Maria Julia Barrientos
(Mauricio's Mother), Cathy Frazer,
The Germiller Family, Britt Young and Family,
Marguerite Alley, Marianne Branigan,
Gene Thompson, Rita & Billy Johnson,
Melissa Fields, Jim Krech, Una Harrison,
Webster and Joy Maughan, Vienna Grace Cale,
The Cale Family, The Macri Family

Those Who Serve

Col. Ernesto M. DiVittorio,
Rear Admiral Brett W. Mietus,
Colonel Amalia DiVittorio, Major Jeffrey Shields,
Staff Sergeant Reade Whitner Enochs,
Staff Sergeant Ryan Steidel and
Petty Officer 3rd Class Damien Carter,
Deputy Sheriff Donald H. Farr

In God's Eternal Keeping

Dr. Virginia Cherry
Patricia Frazer
Dr. Joe Hillier
Thomas Gardner

Parishioners @ Home

Maggi Twilley, Betty Ann Messerly, Julie Johnson,
Sandy Weilbacher, and Millie Johnson



Left your contribution at home? Scan
this QR code with your smartphone to
make a donation to St. John's.

Participating in Today's Liturgy

November 16, 2025

Ministers: The People of St. John's
Reverend Mary Margaret Winn, Rector
Aubrey Lindsey, Organist and Music Director
Bryant Watson, Violinist

Cantor, Mike Phaup

Parker Eads, Live Streaming

8:00 am Security, Guy Smith

10:00 am Inside Security, JoAnn Maher

Outside Security, Larry Maher

(Lay Eucharist Ministers) LEMs

8:00 am – Kent Horner

10:00 am – Lin Corbin-Howerton

Lectors: 8:00 am

1st Lesson – Paula Saddler

2nd Lesson – Bryan Saddler

Lectors: 10:00 am

1st Lesson – Ruby DiVittorio

2nd Lesson – Sadie Morgan

Ruby DiVittorio & Chris Day - Ushers
Joe Blankenship & Jay Ellington - Tellers

Mary Smith, Rusty Phoenix
and Donna Horner - Altar Guild

Tamara Evans - Flowers

St. John's Vestry

Kathy Ellington, Senior Warden
Larry Maher, Junior Warden (Property)
John Maxwell, Junior Warden (Strategy)
Kim Courington, Stewardship & Finance
Guy Smith, Health & Safety
Jody Mountfort, Parish Life
Tanya Scott, Christian Formation

Hazel Sloane, Register

Lalin Peiris, Treasurer

Church Staff

Rev. Mary Margaret Winn, Rector

rector@stjohnschester.com

Aubrey Lindsey

Organist and Choir Master

office@stjohnschester.com

Donna C. Thibault

Parish Office Administrator

office@stjohnschester.com