



The Signs of St. John's

November, 2022

Disciples at St. John's,

For if you lay the foundation (in order to build a tower) and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, "This person began to build and wasn't able to finish."

These are the closing words in Jesus' "cost of discipleship" parable about the builder who decides to build a tower. (Those who love to over-plan use this passage as a proof text for any such justification and discussion.) Let's talk about our need to plan for a moment.

For the past several months I have been engaging the vestry in a time conversation to begin our next steps in this intentional time as your Interim Rector that hopefully will prepare us for a new rector. We have been discussing such topics as discipleship and membership, vision/mission/values statements and the three questions always on our minds (I hope) that include: Who are we? What is God's mission for us? Who is our neighbor?

I know everyone is looking forward to getting deep into the call process to seek out a rector to lead this congregation into the future. (I know it is called a "search" process, but I think that the word "call" better includes the holy. And after all, we are all called by God to work in the kingdom, whatever that "work" looks like.) But without planning, without asking the right questions, without including ALL of St. John's Church in deciding what we need in a rector, without getting a firm picture of who we are and where we see God leading us, the "tower" that has graced this community these many years will not be able to be continued on the foundation laid by so many dedicated disciples and priests.

It is about planning. But more than planning, it's about counting the costs. What does your faith and discipleship mean in terms of cost? What will you offer to the work of St. John's in this community? What will you gain? . . . AND what will you lose?

It is also about having a vision: Why build the tower? This gets into that conversation about purpose and reason for doing and being the Church. When it comes to our church's vision, of course we need to ask yet another question: Whose vision is it? That's a really important question!

continued on page 2

November Highlights

November 1	Prayerful Crafters
November 5	Oyster Roast
November 6	Confirmation Class
November 12	Yard Clean-up
November 12	Altar Guild
November 13	Confirmation
November 15	Prayerful Crafters
November 17	Vestry Meeting
November 25	Thanksgiving Day



Communications/Evangelism

Please continue to notify Donna Thibault, our office administrator of upcoming events so our church calendar can be kept up to date. Thank you!

We want to hear all about the great things and events going on at St. John's! Please send articles and pictures to Alex Heggie at aheggie@comcast.net by the day after the Vestry Meeting or the 23rd of each month, whichever is later.

A new committee has been formed to address the need for welcoming materials for newcomers to St. John's. This group is working on a new St. John's pamphlet in addition to other handouts. Welcome Bags with information will be given to newcomers soon. If you have any ideas you would like to share, please let me know.

Mary Smith

Stewardship/Finance

The theme of this year's Stewardship campaign is Gratitude: for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon us and, in response, using these gifts from God to do the work that He calls us to do.

In addition to sharing our Time, Talents and Treasures, Father Eric called on several parishioners to share their Testimonies at our Sunday morning services in September and October.

If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider your contributions for 2023 and return your pledge cards on November 6 or shortly thereafter in person or by mail. Thank You.

Nancy Fast

Articles and information for *The Signs of St. John's* should be submitted to Alex Heggie, aheggie@comcast.net, by the day after the Vestry Meeting or the 23rd of each month, whichever is later. Photographs or other illustrations may also be submitted.

continued from page 1

My prayer is that you prayerfully support our leaders, the call/search committee and their chairperson, Larry Maher, as we begin this process. And be sure to take part in what will come next because, in the words of Jesus, "Suppose you want to build a tower...."

*Peace and Joy,
Father Eric*

Confirmation Sunday, November 13

Bishop Susan Haynes to Join Us!

Confirmation to Lift Our Spirits!

On Sunday, November 13, at 10:00 a.m. at St. John's we have the privilege of hosting Bishop Susan Haynes of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. There will be only one service that day. She will be here to preach, celebrate the Eucharist and confirm five young people. Aspen Heggie, August Heggie, Trinity Horner, Elisha Peiris and Leshem Peiris have been in diligent study for some time now. Please keep them in prayers as they soon take upon themselves the responsibilities of their faith journeys by making their "good confession" as St. Paul would say. A reception for the bishop and the confirmands will follow the service. Make sure you welcome our bishop and support our confirmation class of young people by your presence.

Please remember that a special offering (loose offering and other gifts denoted as such) will be received for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. So give generously.

November Birthdays

2- Liz McCauley; 10-Billy Gibbons; 13-Lloyd Edwards, Carolyn Irving; 16-Bill Sloan, Kacey Lotti; 17-Mike Phoenix; 20-Susan Keophilis; 24-Andrea Marotta, Karl Pectal; 28-Joan Jarvis, Una Harrison; 30-Ryan Wood

If your name should be included here, but is not, please call the Church Office so your record can be updated.

Outreach

Did you know that for the size of congregation of St. John's Church, that we do so much to help others in our community?

We support our community and neighbors through regular monetary donations to the Chester Food Bank to combat hunger. Mercy Mall and CARITAS are both programs that we support with projects collecting items to assist their clients who have found themselves in dire circumstances. We help new moms at the Pregnancy Council of Chesterfield. Education and literacy are causes we support through our longstanding involvement with Beulah Elementary School teachers and students. We maintain the book case in the Parish Hall with all proceeds going for Alzheimer's Research. An upcoming project involves St. John's first Little Free Library for adults and children. We also provide for two academic scholarships annually to the Boys Home of Virginia and the Jackson-Feild Home. GraceInside is a prison mission that we donate to annually to provide Bibles to inmates. We love to show our appreciation for our local law enforcement officers with treats and drinks during Police Appreciation Week. Also, we like to remember our furry friends at the Chesterfield Animal Shelter with blankets/towels and we made a local cat rescue donation. We sponsored the Blessing of the Animals service this year as well. When needed we will send donations for hurricane and flood relief through our Episcopal partners. We support Heifer International using our Birthday Box donations to help families in other parts of the world to enrich their lives.

How do we stretch our dollars to do all the work of the Lord? We were blessed to have had Madeline Mumfort bequeath funds to be used specifically for Outreach. Her generous gift has been wisely invested and we use those funds for most of our work. However, we also occasionally ask for active participation from the congregation. We have collected school supplies, dry food for the Food Bank, and pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House (they turn the aluminum in for cash.) We ask for people to give to only those projects they feel comfortable or that interest them. Everyone should not feel obligated to donate to every project.

All contributions of time, talents and treasure are always greatly appreciated.

As we wind down the year and as the holidays approach, our two big remaining 2022 projects will keep us very busy. CCHASM (Chesterfield Colonial Heights Alliance for Social Ministry) provides Thanksgiving dinner bags to 3,100 area families in need of assistance. St. John's participates every year and this year we will donate 25 bags. Christmas Mother will again serve as our Christmas mission this year. Stay tuned for more about that upcoming project. The Outreach Committee is currently comprised of 13 members who work tirelessly to represent St. John's Church to our neighbors and our community. We thank them for their time and talents to help those neighbors in our community in need. Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome.

Liz McCauley

CCHASM Thanksgiving Meals

The 2022 CCHASM meal package contents are listed below. Please bring your donations to the church no later than November 13. Place the items in brown grocery bags and leave them in the office area. Thank you for your continued support of this initiative.

- 1—40 oz. can of yams/sweet potatoes
- 2—boxes of dressing—no bags
- 1—13 oz. box of mashed potatoes
- 2—cans/packages of gravy—no glass jars
- 1—14 oz. can of cranberry sauce
- 1—box of hot chocolate
- 2—15 oz. cans of corn
- 1—box of regular flavor tea bags
- 2—15 oz. cans of green vegetables
- 1—large box or bag of cookies

Looking Ahead

December

18—Lessons and Carols

Parish Life

Good November to all. I hope all enjoyed the Blessing of the Animals and the Parish Picnic. Both events were well attended and I think everyone enjoyed both. Thanks for all the help.

Now for November. There are two important events this month and I hope everyone is ready to have a great time and good food at our annual Oyster Roast which is scheduled for Saturday the 5th. The time frame is from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs if you wish to dine outdoors.



The second only because of the date is the Bishop's Reception for our newly confirmed members of St. John's. The date for this is Sunday the 13th following the 10:00 a.m. service, which is the only service that day.

There is still time for anyone who wants to help with either event to do so. Just drop me an e-mail (billygibbons1949@aol.com) or send a text or call 804-387-1449.

Have a blessed month.

Bill Gibbons

St. John's Financial Summary—September, 2022

	YTD	YTD	Annual
Income	Actual	Budget	Budget
DCF Fund	\$ 3,534.48	\$ 3,375.00	\$ 4,500.00
Prop. Rental	9,450.00	9,450.00	12,600.00
Memorials	1,455.00		
Other	906.98	747.00	1,000.00
Plate Offering	1,160.00	747.00	1,000.00
Pledges—CY	135,431.00	133,384.00	175,180.00
Pledges—PY	1,660.00	500.00	500.00
Env.—No Pledge	7,290.00	4,815.00	6,420.00
Total Income	\$160,887.46	\$153,018.00	\$201,200.00
Expense			
Office	10,559.34	10,425.00	13,350.00
DSV Pledge	15,498.00	15,498.00	20,664.00
Property	78,050.98	49,179.00	61,460.00
Salaries	51,837.55	48,906.00	65,108.00
Special Funds	9,342.70	5,701.00	7,425.00
Total Expense	\$165,288.57	\$129,709.00	\$168,007.00
Net Income	\$ -4,401.11	\$ 23,309.00	\$ 33,193.00

Who Owns Our Church Properties ?

St. John's Episcopal Chester has association with five properties: the church itself, the parish hall, the rental house next to the parish hall, the youth cottage, and the scout cabin.

Episcopal churches historically have held title to property in the names of trustees of the local congregation. Our diocese website provides an excellent description of the role of church trustees.

Key points

Virginia Code requires court-approved trustees to hold title to real property of the church on behalf of the vestry. Trustees may be appointed or removed by the vestry, subject to the local circuit court's approval. If the vestry determines that property should be conveyed or encumbered, the trustees execute all documents necessary.

(See: diosova.org/congregation_res/article419777c9991345.htm)

Our current trustees are: Jeffrey M. Courington, Teresa M. Duncan, and Kent Horner.

In a related issue, the question of ownership when a local church decides to leave the Episcopal Church was addressed by the Virginia Court System in 2013. (See: *The Falls Church v. The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States*). The court's ruling was the local churches that left the Episcopal church were required to convey their properties to the Episcopal church.

This would appear to make a local Diocese the "heir" of a local church's property if that church decided to discontinue its services for any reason.

Ted Kraft and Mike Likavec

Resurrected to new life in Christ

John David Angerer

Rest eternal grant to these, O Lord: let light perpetual shine upon them. May their soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Each Sunday:
Coffee Hour following the
10 o'clock Worship Service

St. John's Episcopal Church NOVEMBER 2022

Each Monday:
7:00 p.m. Boy Scout's meet in the Scout Cabin
7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts meet in the Parish Hall
Each Tuesday and Thursday
7:00 p.m. AA meet in the Parish Hall

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 a.m. Prayerful Crafters 10:00 a.m. Ikebana Flower Design	2 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	3	4	5 4:00 p.m. Oyster Roast
6 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	7	8	9 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	10	11	12 9:00 a.m. Grounds Clean-up 10:00 a.m. Altar Guild Meeting
13 10:00 a.m. Confirmation and Holy Eucharist with Bishop Haynes CCHASM Thanksgiving Meal Packages deadline	14	15 10:00 a.m. Prayerful Crafters	16 9:00 a.m. Chester Garden Club 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice	17 6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	18	19
20 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	21	22 6:30 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting	23	24 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	28	29	30 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice			
			Signs Deadline			

St. John's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 3886
Chester, VA 23831-8471
(804) 748-2182

November 13—Confirmation

St. John's Episcopal Church

Fr. Eric Moehring, Interim Rector

Elizabeth Pectal, Treasurer
Aubrey Lindsey, Music Director

Hazel Sloane, Register
Donna Thibault, Office Administrator

Vestry Members

Kathy Canada—Senior Warden.....mamakats54@att.net.....(804) 241-2811
Hank Dvorak—Junior Warden henry.dvorak@aol.com.....(804) 240-4362
Nancy Fast—Finance..... nan_h_j@live.com.....(804) 821-7044
Billy Gibbons—Parish Life.....billygibbons1949@aol.com.....(804) 387-1449
Brook Heggie—Christian Education.....heggie70@yahoo.com.....(413) 426-1749
Kent Horner, Jr.—Property..... hornercorner1@gmail.com.....(804) 307-3356
Liz McCauley—Outreach horsefan@live.com.....(804) 304-0152
Mary Smith—Communication/ Evangelism.....smithmaryg51@gmail.com.....(804) 337-3132

OUR MISSION:

To promote God in the midst of life and life in the midst of God.

St. John's Episcopal Church
12001 Richmond Street
Chester, Virginia 23831

804-748-2182

www.stjohnschester.com