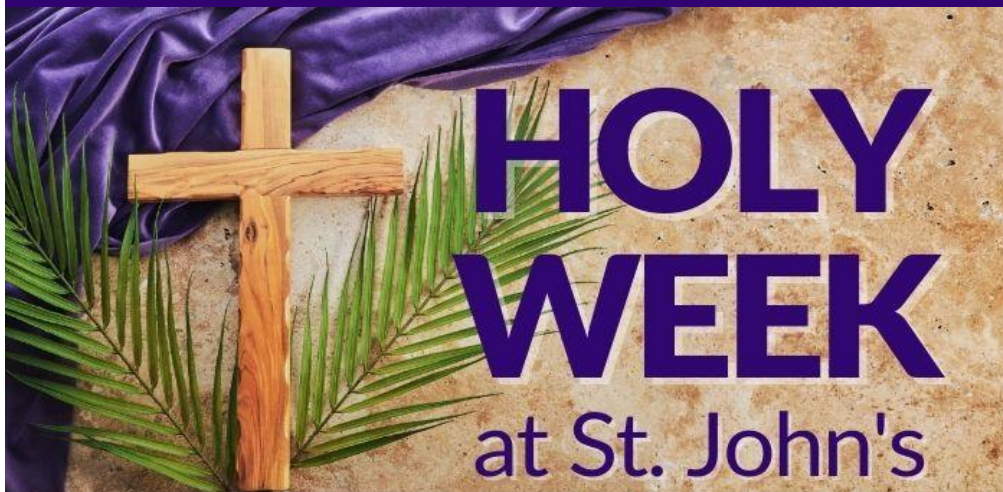




St. John's
Episcopal Church
LYNCHBURG

TIDINGS

A PUBLICATION OF STJOHNSLYNCHBURG.ORG



Palm Sunday, March 24

8:00a and 10:30a Holy Eucharist

8:50a Breakfast

9:30a Activities, Classes, Forums

Monday, March 25-

Good Friday, March 29

8:00a Morning Prayer

Wednesday, March 27

12:10p Holy Eucharist, Chapel

Thursday, March 28

7:00p Maundy Thursday Service, Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar
8:00p Gethsemane Watch, Chapel

Friday, March 29

3:00p Good Friday Service

Saturday, March 30

8:00p The Vigil of Easter
(Incense will be used.)

Easter Sunday, March 31
The Resurrection of Our Lord
8:00a Holy Eucharist
10:30a Holy Eucharist, Baptism and Flowering of the Cross



MARCH 2024

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RECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Saints of St. John's,

Do you feel it? Do you feel as though St. John's is having a Pentecost moment where the Spirit is present in exciting ways? I sure feel it.

Your participation in Pack-the-Church Sunday was phenomenal and you've kept attendance high ever since. The billboard was the talk of the town (and will return from August to October) and a visit by a local blogger about Lynchburg Churches gave us some great PR on social media. We have a large Confirmation class while youth group and Sunday School attendance is also up. Chapel Chat, Adult Forum, and Wednesday Lenten Suppers are also enjoying increased attendance. We have a solid group of Morning Prayer attendees, including some from outside our parish. The work on the new property (I'm refusing to call it "the bank" any longer) is progressing and you'll soon see construction activity for the new playground. Young families, especially from the Day School, are continuing to accept our invitation to join the parish!

These exciting trends empower you to do the work that God has called you to do in the world. The Spirit of Christ flows through these experiences here, and from here you are being sent into the world to bless the world in the name of Jesus. Our church is not a closed system, but an open and loving community that seeks to bring Christ wherever we go.

These are, without a doubt, exciting times. Yet, as I sit in Vestry and Stewardship meetings, there is a strong undercurrent of anxiety about our finances. My faith is in the Lord. And my trust is in you. An increase of 11% by every pledging unit would put us on terra firma – solid ground. Those increases can begin this year if you're able. And, please, don't forget to include St. John's in your estate planning. These are all things we've talked about before, but now is the time of urgency and action.

During this time of Lenten sacrifice, we look towards the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at Easter and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Similarly, during this time of financial sacrifice, we look forward to a day of joy without financial anxiety so that we can do the things God is calling us to do.

Through faith, prayers, and contributions, you can help us help you help the world.

Faithfully in Christ,

Chris

THE REV. CHRIS ROUSSELL, RECTOR

REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Lenten Weekday Morning Prayer:
Through March 29, 8a, via [Zoom](#)

SUNDAYS

- 8:00a Holy Eucharist, Church
- 9:00a Breakfast
- 9:20a Nursery available
- 9:30a Adult Forum, Middle and High School Formation, Chapel Chat and Sunday School Prek-5th
- 10:30a Holy Eucharist, Church & [Livestream](#)

TUESDAYS

- 8:00a George Bean Men's Group, Magill Hall

WEDNESDAYS

- 11:00a Bible Study, - The Book of Mark, Magill Hall
- 12:10p Holy Eucharist, Chapel
- 5:30p Children's Lenten Choir, Choir Rm
- 6:00p Lenten Program on Spirituality and the Arts, Magill (through March 20)

THURSDAYS

- 10:00a Women's Book Study, Library
- 4:00p Evening Prayer, Westminster Canterbury Chapel
- 7:00p Parish Choir Rehearsal

LOOKING AHEAD: MARCH

- 18 5:30p Vestry Meeting, Chapter Rm
- 20 5:30p Children's Lenten Choir, Choir Rm
- 6:00p Lenten Program, Magill
- 21 5:30p SJDS Board Mtg, Chapter Rm
- 22 5:30p Stations of the Cross, Church
- 23 9:00a Mulch the Gardens
- 24 4:30p Youth Group, Youth House
- 28 7:00p Maundy Thursday Service, Church
- 8:00p Gethsemane Watch, Chapel
- 29 3:00p Good Friday Service, Church
- And Church Office Closed
- 30 8:00p The Vigil of Easter
- 31 Easter Sunday, 8:00a and 10:30a Holy Eucharist

LOOKING AHEAD: APRIL

- 1 Church Office Closed
- 4 11:45a Westminster Canterbury Luncheon, WC
- 8 10:00a Children's Ministry Meeting, Chapter Rm
- 9 5:15a COA Meeting, Chapter Rm
- 14 4:00p Youth Group, Ropes Course at Camp Kum-Ba-Yah
- 15 5:30p Vestry Meeting, Chapter Rm

ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Siblings in Christ,

What is a pilgrimage? Pilgrimage is an experience, a journey, that involves a new or expanded understanding of self, others, and God. From the very beginnings of Christianity, pilgrims went to Jerusalem to walk the way of the cross—Jesus' journey from his triumphal entry, through his crucifixion, into his resurrection. This journey was how the first Christians understood the faith in a tangible way—and it has been passed down in the way our Gospels were written, the church year and our Holy Week customs set into stone, and in a special liturgy called the **Way of the Cross**.



This Lent, we will celebrate Holy Week in full as we do each year beginning with Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. If it is possible for you to attend any of these services, or stream them online, I highly encourage you to do so. Holy Week, especially the Triduum (Maundy Thursday-Easter) are the three holiest days in the Christian year. Our service times and information can be found on the front page of this edition of the *Tidings*!

We also will offer **Stations of the Cross** for the first time in several years on March 22 at 5:30p. This service of scripture readings, musical responses, and prayer will allow us to tell the story of Jesus' last week in a different way than reading the passion on Palm Sunday or attending the liturgies. Many Christians pray through the stations each Friday in Lent; my prayer is that it will be another option to enhance your understanding and prayer life as you get ready for Holy Week. We will not stream it since we will be "moving locations" several times during the liturgy—but we will have seating at all four locations, and it should be accessible to all our parishioners who desire to attend. **Join us this year for these special services!**

God bless you!

Ben

THE REV. BENJAMIN COWGILL
ASSOCIATE RECTOR
ben@stjohnslynchburg.org

Worship Opportunities



St. John's
Episcopal Church
LYNCHBURG

weekdays during Lent

MORNING PRAYER

Every
Monday-Friday
8a | via Zoom
Feb 15-Mar 29



STATIONS *of the* CROSS



Friday, March 22
5:30p



ST. JOHN'S Day School

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! (Psalm 127:3-5).

BY AMY PANZER

With the arrival of March, so too, comes the joy that spring is just around the corner! Warmer weather, flowers and trees in bloom, and the children happy to be outside. Teachers have taken advantage of the beautiful weather with picnics, nature walks, a scavenger hunt searching for Leo the Leprechaun's pot o'gold and of course, an Easter Egg Hunt later in the month!

March is also Community Hero month in the day school. We have several of our amazing parents coming in to share their jobs with our students including nurses, actors and even a magician! What fun jobs! Our students once again are collecting coins for the Change 4 Change Meters and showing that heroes come of all ages, and that



small things can make a big difference.

Finally, all of us down in the school would like to express great gratitude for all of you, our community heroes, for the wonderful support the people of St. John's Church continue to send our way. We are humbled and grateful for you. We wish you many wonderful Easter blessings. ❖





Greetings Children, Tweens, Teens, Parents & Grandparents!

BY LALLA SYDNOR JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

Goodbye winter, hello springtime.

February was not full of snowy, outdoor fun, but we enjoyed it anyway at St. John's! Children, parents, and grandparents enjoyed a lovely Valentine's Open House. People dropped in for soup, salad and to fill Bags of Love for our friends at the Miller Home. Thank you to Carter and Tom Jennings for providing delicious, homemade soup and to Heather Zippel for a beautiful salad and her skills in the kitchen. Margaret Keller along with Club 54 kids: Eleanor Bobbit, Lalla Johnson, and Ana Meyer patiently helped our youngest children make Valentine cards and other fun art projects. St. John's Youth Group designed t-shirts, planned for spring service opportunities, and filled lunch bags with trail mix, applesauce and 130 PB&Js for Lynchburg Daily Bread!

We are in the Season of Lent and so is our Wednesday evening Lenten program *Blessed Art Thou*. Our turnout has been wonderful with at least 15 children in attendance each week. We read my favorite Eric Carle book, *The Artist Who Painted a Blue Horse* and painted a still life with Alex Sayer. The second Wednesday, we wrote spring acrostic poems and used straws, paint, and fingerprints to make cherry blossom trees. The Lenten series has provided creativity and fun for the whole family.

There are many opportunities to get involved with the children at St. John's. Nursery, Children's Chapel, Youth Group, Club 54, Sunday School, and our upcoming children's summer program: All Things Bright and

Beautiful are in need of helping hands! We need more volunteers! If you are ready to have some fun, text, call or email me and we will find the right ministry for you!

Lalla

Lalla Sydnor
Cell: 434-944-3407
Office: 434-473-7521
lalla@stjohnslynchburg.org

**HAVE FUN!
HELP OUT!
HAPPY HEARTS!**



Outreach Update

BY CATHY DALTON, OUTREACH CHAIR

2024 will be a busy year!

Meetings will be June 4, September 3, and November 5 at 5:30p in the Chapter Room. If you cannot join us for the meetings, please join us in our activities.

Upcoming Lynchburg Daily Bread 2024 Dates

- Thursday, April 4
- Tuesday, June 4
- Friday, August 9
- Tuesday, November 5

Miriam's House

We are collecting small items for Easter Bags for the children serviced by Miriam's House please sign up here:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C49A4AE23A5FE3-48200280-miriams?utm_source=qrcode#/

We need:

- 16-count box of crayons
- 12-count box of colored pencils
- 50-piece bag of wrapped candies

Easter themed stickers, erasers, stamps, ChapSticks, small bubbles, etc. ❖

SAVE THE DATE!
Day of Sharing
October 19



Easter Offering

The Easter Offering will be designated for Interfaith Outreach this year. You can drop a check or cash in the offering plate, mail in a check or give [online](https://onrealm.org/stjohnslynchburg/give/easteroffering). Please make sure that checks have Easter Offering in the memo line. Online URL: <https://onrealm.org/stjohnslynchburg/give/easteroffering>



Garden Angels

March 23, 9:00a

Join us for a couple of hours of work spreading mulch and sprucing up the grounds ahead of Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter.

We would love to have you! If you have any questions, contact David Frantz.

MUSICAL

CORNER

BY PEGGY HAAS HOWELL, ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER



The Children's Lenten Choir is shown rehearsing on Sunday morning, March 10, and then during the service that day. This group of 9 singers has been rehearsing on Wednesdays before the Lenten Dinners. Two of the singers, Trey and Sam Watts, are third generation choir singers at St. John's! Randall Watts, their grandmother, sings in the choir, and Drake Watts, their dad, also sang in the choir for many years. We look forward to hearing the Lenten Choir sing again on Palm Sunday, March 24.

Easter is fast approaching, and the music promises to be spectacular for all three Easter services! A brass quartet and timpani will join our choir to make exciting music for the 10:30a service that day! Easter Vigil on Saturday night will feature the choir and a trumpeter. On Easter Day at 8:00a, a trumpet and the organ will provide instrumental music and accompany the hymns. ❖

FINANCIAL UPDATE

St. John's Episcopal Church Statement of Activities 02/29/2024

Description	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Pledge Income	\$ 166,038	\$ 188,468	\$ (22,430)
Other Contributions	6,229	1,345	4,884
Other Revenue	23,938	20,391	3,547
Total Revenue	\$ 196,205	\$ 210,204	\$ (13,999)
Administration	\$ 126,190	\$ 128,309	\$ 2,119
Property	\$ 28,346	\$ 29,679	\$ 1,333
Christian Formation	\$ 1,239	\$ 1,472	\$ 233
Worship/Music	\$ 4,253	\$ 3,262	\$ (991)
Parish Life and Care	\$ 1,563	\$ 1,086	\$ (477)
Total Expenses	\$ 184,628	\$ 183,326	\$ (1,302)
Net	\$ 11,577	\$ 26,878	\$ (15,301)

GAS LEAK FIXED!



MILLER HOME

BY ALEX SAYER

A big THANKS to our St. John's parishioners for another super successful Stock The Freezer drive for the Miller Home!

This year our church really stepped it up and provided not only lots of frozen foods but also pantry, and household items as well. We sent them delicious homemade casseroles and pies, fries, meats, comforters, toilet paper, cleaning supplies and so much more! The Miller Home is incredibly grateful for our continued support of their girls. Thank you all for another year of filling the freeze and home of one of our beloved community partners.



MARDI GRAS FUN!



The 2024 Mardi Gras celebration at St. John's was a huge success!

We had more families and children than ever before. With excellent Shrimp and Grits and other treats, we definitely put the 'fat' in Fat Tuesday. A procession of wagon-floats had the kids marching and parading in no time. It was the perfect way to prepare our spirits for the onset of Lent the following day.

Thank you to all who volunteered to make it such an incredible experience for all.



LENT AT ST. JOHN'S

Blessed Art Thou

Wednesdays, through March 20

The Lenten Program “Blessed Art Thou” has been a huge success. Our Stellar Presenters and faithful parishioners have made this year’s offering one of the best we’ve ever had.

There is one final opportunity to attend on Wednesday, March 20th when we will have 3 unique workshops. Join us and experience the joy of art and faith.❖



ANNIVERSARIES



St. John's
Episcopal Church
LYNCHBURG

MARCH

March 1

Amy and Larry Mays (21 yrs)

March 3

Karen and George Lupton (34 yrs)

March 4

Susan and Peter Dobroff (25 yrs)

March 5

Heather and Bobby Harris (13 yrs)

March 12

Kay and Kent Van Allen (30 yrs)

March 14

Nollner and Smokie Watts (65 yrs)

March 17

Ella and David Marks (51 yrs)

March 25

Erin and Mac McWane (7 yrs)

Lou and Sandi Redd, Jr. (59 yrs)

March 26

Gracy and Don Martin (64 yrs)

March 29

Andrea and Allen Dukes (27 yrs)

APRIL

April 5

Allen and Rebekah Moody (16 yrs)

April 8

Cheryl & Mark Warren (29 yrs)

April 9

Emily & Neal Davidson (19 yrs)

April 16

Dee & Scott Rainey (8 yrs)

April 17

Sarah & Tray Petty (20 yrs)

April 18

Sue & Jerry Bass (65 yrs)

April 19

Katherine & Joe Payne (55 yrs)

Patricia & William Townsend (55 yrs)

Mary Jane & Charles Pryor (44 yrs)

April 20

Suzanne & Chris Saunders (28 yrs)

April 21

Dave & Linda Johnson (17 yrs)

April 22

Gail & Frank Morrison (40 yrs)

April 23

Nora & Brian Moore (19 yrs)

April 24

Ashley & Bruce Carrington (31 yrs)

April 25

Beth & Mike Doucette (26 yrs)

Caroline & Mike Malott (26 yrs)

April 29

Mollie & Ray Snead (57 yrs)

April 30

Anna & Paul McWane (36 yrs)

Leah & Jimmy Thompson (19 yrs)

IN SERVICE

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas,
Bishop of Southwestern Virginia
The Rev. Christopher Roussell, Rector
The Rev. Benjamin Cowgill, Associate
Rector for Formation

LAY STAFF

Peggy Haas Howell, Organist and
Choirmaster
Nicole Cook, Executive Assistant to the
Rector
Pam Reynolds, Parish Administrator
Amy Panzer, Director of St. John's Day
School
Lalla Sydnor Johnson, Director of
Children, Youth and Family Ministries
Gracie Johnson, Sexton
River Segel, Sexton

VESTRY 2024

Commission on Administration

John Casler (Sr. Warden) (2025)
John B. Morgan III (Jr. Warden) (2025)
Charlie Larson (Sr. Warden Elect) (2026)
Jack McCarthy (Jr. Warden Elect) (2026)
Betsy Worthington (2024)
Neal Davidson (2024)

Commission on Christian Formation

Farley Dawson (2026)
Julie Andrews (2025)

Commission on Outreach

Bill Burruss (2026)
Tom Eppes (2025)

Commission on Liturgy & Music

Eleanor Dovel (2024)
Anna McWane (2024)

Commission on Parish Life and Care

Judy Frantz (2026)
Walker Sigler (2024)
Brenda Kincaid (2025)

Office: (434) 528-1138



Honor a Loved One This Easter

Easter Offering for Music or Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a contribution for Easter flowers or to Easter Music in honor of or in memory of a loved one, we will have order forms available in the bulletin and in Fauber Gallery. The deadline is Wednesday, March 20.

St. John's Episcopal Church
205 Elmwood Avenue
P.O. Box 3123
Lynchburg, VA 24503
434-528-1138

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