



St. John's  
Episcopal Church  
LYNCHBURG

# TIDINGS

A PUBLICATION OF STJOHNSLYNCHBURG.ORG

ST. JOHN'S LYNCHBURG ASKS YOU TO  
**PACK THE CHURCH**  
8:00a and 10:30a  
**SUNDAY**  
**FEB 18, 2024**



St. John's  
Episcopal Church  
LYNCHBURG



**FEBRUARY 2024**

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**We are asking folks to make a special effort to pack the church on Sunday, Feb 18!**

Invite your friends to join us at 8:00a and 10:30a services and make a special effort to get you and your family there! We will recognize those who will begin confirmation preparation (youth and adult), we will pray the Great Litany, and we will enjoy hearing God's word and receiving Holy Eucharist together as a church family.

Also, our Lenten formation programs will be in full swing: Adult Formation, Chapel Chat, Wednesday nights at St. John's, Confirmation class, daily Morning Prayer, and more.

***Will you join us?***

# RECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Saints of St. John's,

The song "Signs" by the Five Man Electrical Band in 1970 declared that signs were everywhere. It was remade by the band Tesla in 1990 for my generation. It may seem that St. John's signs are everywhere suddenly. Our billboard is up on Boonsboro Road across from the Boonsboro Shopping Center. A "temporary" sign is up on Rivermont Avenue in front of our new building. And – if you've noticed – our interior sign project has wrapped up.

It's an exciting time to be part of St. John's! While it might appear that these signs are pointing to our Church, they're truly pointing to Jesus Christ.

**The billboard reminds us to: Pray. Love. Repeat.** We connect with God through personal and communal prayer. Love flows out of our prayer since we cannot love in isolation from God or neighbor. To love is to be in relationship with God's holy people, most especially God's most vulnerable.



The sign on Rivermont lets everyone know where we are. At times it has felt like we've been hiding in plain sight as people regularly ask where we are in Lynchburg. Making use of the sign that BB&T had is not our permanent solution, but will work for us as we get our plans in place over the next year.

Finally, the interior signs around campus are designed to aid our visitors get where they're going which can be challenging with a historically reconfigured building like ours. These directional signs are part of our welcoming hospitality.

As Christians, we are all a sign pointing – not to ourselves – but to Jesus Christ. Our words and actions are meant to demonstrate what a loving and caring society is to look like. And you do that well, St. John's. Thank you for your faithful prayer and love. Now, let's keep doing it over and over again.

Pointing to Christ,

*Chris*

THE REV. CHRIS ROUSSELL, RECTOR

## REGULAR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Lenten Weekday Morning Prayer:  
February 15-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

### THURSDAYS

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

## LOOKING AHEAD: FEBRUARY

- 19 5:30p Vestry Meeting, Chapter Rm
- 25 5:00p Youth Group PB&J Day, Youth House
- 26 5:30p Stewardship Mtg, Chapter Rm

## LOOKING AHEAD: MARCH

- 1 10:00a Blood Drive
- 3 4:00p Organ Recital, Church
- 7 11:45a Westminster Canterbury Luncheon, WC
- 12 5:15p COA Meeting, Chapter Room

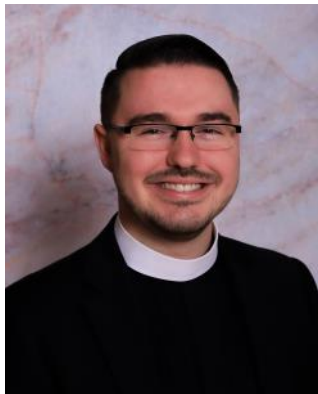




# ASSOCIATE RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This month I write to you about an event in our convocation that is very important to me. Episcopal churches in our area will host a screening of *The Philadelphia Eleven* on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This documentary tells the story of the first eleven women ordained in our denomination; an ordination that was groundbreaking, and pushed the church to accept the ordination of women. Today, so many of our lives have been and continue to be impacted by women in leadership roles—clergy or otherwise—across our church.



We are inviting folks from across our convocation and outside of the Episcopal Church to hear this story on the 50th anniversary of these ordinations. It is an important story to tell as the fight for equity in and outside of the church is not over. I hope you'll join us on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the [Academy Center of the Arts](#) for the show!

God bless you!

*Ben*

THE REV. BENJAMIN COWGILL  
ASSOCIATE RECTOR  
[ben@stjohnslynchburg.org](mailto:ben@stjohnslynchburg.org)

JOIN US FOR  
A FILM SCREENING @PhilElevenDoc



**The Philadelphia Eleven**  
March 3, 2024  
Playing at the Historic Academy Theatre  
Lynchburg, VA  
Reception 4:30pm | Film 5:30pm | Tickets available online

## Lenten Opportunities



weekdays during Lent  
**MORNING  
PRAYER**

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



## Lenten Book Study

Adult Formation  
February 12 - March 17



Join us this Lent as we answer the question "Will you?"

[stjohnslynchburg.org](http://stjohnslynchburg.org)



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# 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**

We have been celebrating full force down in the Day School this past month. Groundhog Day, 100th Day of School, Mardi Gras and, of course, Valentine's Day! The children learned about their shadows, PreK students can count to 100 and lots of treats, games and crafts have been enjoyed. We also held our annual Mardi Gras parade, with beads, floats, and fun outfits galore!

We just finished up with Priority Enrollment and moved into Open Enrollment with only 4 spots available for the 2024-2025 school year. We are now operating on a waitlist for our Caterpillar, Butterfly and PreK classrooms and have just 4 Tuesday/Thursday spots available in our Toddler class. What a blessing for our little school as we look forward to the 30th anniversary of SJDS! ❖







# Greetings Children, Tweens, Teens, Parents & Grandparents!

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

I thought things would calm down after Advent and Christmas, but boy was I wrong! Kindergarten through fifth grade children kept things cozy at our Parent's Night Out PJ Par-tay. They decorated team shirts, dined on chicken nuggets, had an indoor snowball fight, and enjoyed a movie and popcorn in sleeping bags. Thank you to the McCarthys for their skills in the kitchen, Addie Clarke for keeping things under control, and to our middle school "counselors": Landon Marks, Louise Morgan, Worth Sigler, and Sally Waterworth. Club 54 had a freezing, but fabulous time ice skating in January and St. John's Youth Group designed t-shirts and planned for spring service opportunities.

Elementary Sunday School classes are bustling with excited children, lessons about the life and teachings

of Jesus, and fun, hands-on activities. Though I am happy to see our middle/high school youth involved in Youth Group and acolyting, we are still hoping more will join us on Sunday mornings for formation in the Youth House. If low attendance continues, we will look for an alternative way to meet the spiritual needs of our tweens and teens.

The Children's Committee held our St. Valentine's Open House on February 10, and the St. John's annual Mardi Gras Party on February 13 was a huge success. Fat Tuesday should have everyone prepared for Blessed ART Thou: A Lenten Program on Spirituality and the Arts. This Wednesday evening series includes dinner, nursery, children's programming and promises fun for the whole family!

This winter, remember to make church, Sunday School, and the youth activities we provide a priority. You will thank yourself as you watch your children form positive relationships and build a strong Christian foundation. Text, call or email any time! ❖

Lalla Sydnor  
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 Office: 434-473-7521  
[lalla@stjohnslynchburg.org](mailto:lalla@stjohnslynchburg.org)





# 2023 Outreach Year in Review

BY CATHY DALTON, OUTREACH CHAR

## WINTER

Miriam's House Street Outreach Program was supported by the Outreach Committee and the Youth group in January, 2023. The youth collected supplies and put together Blessing Bags for the Homeless.

Miller Home Stock the Freezer event was so successful a note had to be put on the freezer to make sure it was tightly closed it was so full!

## SPRING & SUMMER

Lenten Soup's On Program brought in speakers from Interfaith Outreach, Lynchburg Grows, Lynchburg Daily Bread, and Episcopal Relief and Development who left with donations from the listeners.

Lynchburg Grows had parishioners adopt beds to grow food donations to the Miller Home, Miriam's House, Parkview Mission, food pantries, Daily Bread, and Salvation Army.

Bear Mountain Collection of Back (Packs) to School in July, 2023 turned over 76 backpacks to the Monacan Nation.

## FALL

Lynchburg Daily Bread was supplied with volunteers from St. John's.

On the Day of Sharing, we assisted Camp Kum-Ba-Yah, St. John's Day School, NoWalls Open Table House, the Miller Home, and filled a car for Miriam's House with needed supplies.

One Community One Voice Share the

Warmth Coat Drive was established to collect new and gently used coats to meet the need of many people in our community.

Thanksgiving with the Yoder Center of Tinbridge Hill is always a welcome sharing of community fellowship with our neighbors.

Yoder Center Angel Tree collected generous requested donations for children.

The Christmas Plate Offering of \$3,341.75 was shared with Lynchburg Daily Bread, Meals on Wheels of Greater Lynchburg, and Rivermont Area Emergency Food Pantry.

The following are the ministries we plan to support along with our committee member liaisons:

- Bear Mountain-Back Packs / Chris Roussell
- Boy's Home of Virginia / Chris Roussell
- Lynchburg Daily Bread / Molly Jenkins
- Freedom School / Charlie Larson
- Habitat for Humanity / Kensie Johnson and Charlie Larson
- Interfaith Outreach / Chris Roussell & Doug Lee
- Interfaith Outreach-Furniture Warehouse Organization / Dori Bowden
- Interfaith Outreach-Ramp Ministry / Bill Hobbs
- Kum-ba-yah / Bill Burruss

Lighthouse Mission / Bill Burruss

- Lynchburg Grows / Alex Sayer and Bip Fauber
- Meals on Wheels of Greater Lynchburg / Scott Kowalski
- Miller Home / Alex Sayer Miriam's House / Nicolle Cundiff
- NoWalls Ministry-Open Table / Clay Coleman
- One Community One Voice-Coat Drive / Clay Coleman
- One Community One Voice / Clay Coleman
- Rivermont Area Emergency Food Bank / Mary Kidd
- St Andrews Society-Potato Drop / TBD
- St. John's Day School Heather Zippel
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing / TBD
- Tinbridge Hill-Angel Tree / Kensie Johnson
- Tinbridge Hill-Fish Fry / Kensie Johnson
- Tinbridge Hill-Thanksgiving / Kensie Johnson

Please note we are looking for two volunteers to be on the committee to be our liaisons with St. Andrew's Society, and Salvation Army.

2024 will be a busy year! Plan ahead to join us at our future meetings: March 5, June 4, September 3, November 5, at 5:30p in the Chapter Room. ❖

**Upcoming Daily Bread Date:  
Friday, March 8**



# MUSICAL CORNER

BY PEGGY HAAS HOWELL, ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Jonathan Dimmock's organ recital on March 3 is titled "Chorales and Dances". The chorales include historic works by Sweelinck and Mendelssohn based on hymns. They also include two new pieces: the first work in the program, a prelude on "Lift high the cross" by Christopher Hoh, a composer who lives in Arlington, and a fascinating minimalist piece by the Dutch composer, Bert Matter, on "Von Gott will ich nicht lassen." The dances include two arrangements by Jonathan, a medley of Renaissance dances and a transcription of Copland's "Hoe-down" from "Rodeo." Several Bach works will round out the program!

Jonathan Dimmock is well-known internationally as a concert soloist and recording artist. A resident of San Francisco, he is the Principal Organist at the Legion of Honor Museum, organist for the San Francisco Symphony, and Music Director at Congregation Sherith Israel. A graduate of Oberlin and Yale, he was the first American Organ Scholar of

Westminster Abbey under Simon Preston. He has recorded more than 50 CDs including a Grammy Award-winning CD of Mahler Symphony 8 with the San Francisco Symphony. His teachers and mentors include

Olivier Messiaen, Gillian Weir, Jean Langlais, Peter Hallock, Haskell Thomson, William Porter, Thomas Murray, Harald Vogel, Naji Hakim, and Frédéric Blanc. ❖

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

BY GENE KIDD, TREASURER

Total revenue for January including pledge contributions along with the annual Kirby Trust and quarterly Endowment distributions totaled \$114,065.

Expenses totaled \$83,217 leaving a net positive gain of \$30,848 for the month.

### St. John's Episcopal Church Statement of Activities 01/31/2024

Description	YTD Result
Pledge Income	\$ 91,381
Other Contributions	2,668
Other Revenue	20,016
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 114,065</b>
Administration	\$ 62,531
Property	\$ 18,727
Christian Formation	\$ 144
Worship/Music	\$ 1,322
Parish Life and Care	\$ 493
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 83,217</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 30,848</b>

# STEWARDSHIP UPDATE!



Thank you, St. John's, for your generosity in the Annual Stewardship Campaign! Your pledge gifts totaled \$906,295, an 11% increase over the previous year, and more importantly moved closer to the budget goals set by the Vestry for the coming year.

	Dec-22	Dec-23
<b>Total Pledges in Dollars</b>	\$816,339	\$906,295
<b>Total Number of Pledges</b>	208	209

The Stewardship season allows each of us to consider our giving and the priority we place on the mission and work of St. John's in our lives. We are blessed to have parishioners who recognized the need, and particularly grateful for the parishioner who offered a matching gift for increased pledges. That matching challenge raised a combined \$83,123 in a 10-hour email campaign!

On Monday, February 26, at 5:30p the Stewardship will have a wrap-up session and begin planning for next year. Please consider joining this effort. The committee includes a dynamic group of volunteers working to support the missions of St. John's Church through our combined gifts and talents. Contact any member of the Stewardship Committee for more information.

Gratefully,  
*Pam Bradford*



"And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do..." (BCP, p.366)

#### Responsibilities of the Stewardship Committee include:

- Attending 6-7 meetings per year.
- Calling 10-15 parishioners twice a year, once in the Spring and once in the Fall. Each call is an opportunity to express our gratitude for past support, receive feedback, and to reinforce the importance of a church family who care for one another within the church walls and beyond.
- Serve a 3-year term.

Tommy Battle  
Pam Bradford  
Laura Casler  
John Edmunds  
Chris Kennedy  
Brenda Kincaid  
Joe Krakora

Jennifer McCarthy  
Mac McWane  
John Stone  
John Welker  
Anne Wood  
Heather Zippel



# ST. JOHN'S BRIEFS

Miller  
**HOME**  
for Girls

EST. 1875

**STOCK**  
their **HOME**

Food, personal  
care items &  
more are needed.  
Scan QR code to  
sign up.



## Playground *Progress*

BY NEAL DAVIDSON & JOHN MORGAN



We wanted to update the church on the progress of the newly acquired property. The vestry is currently working on a master plan which we hope to complete in the coming weeks. The playground and the idea to extend the drive to connect the two parking lots is moving forward. Hurt and Proffitt has been hired to do the civil engineering work needed to start both projects. The design on the building itself is still in the works.

We have received \$448,809 of the pledges from the "Bank on our Future" drive. To continue moving forward, it would be very helpful to have some more of the pledges received into the office. Paying on your 2024 pledge portion will be an enormous blessing as we do not want to have to take out a loan for the exciting changes ahead. We appreciate all of your help with this wonderful project! ❖

## THE WILD DAMES DINNER WAS A BIG HIT!





# LENT AT ST. JOHN'S

## BlessedARTHow



A Lenten Program on Spirituality and the Arts

Wednesdays | 6-7p  
Dinner & Children's Activities Provided

## Lenten Program

Wednesdays, Beginning 2/21

Join us Wednesdays in Lent for a conversation on our spirituality and the arts! We will have guest artists from our parish and our community sharing their work with us and exploring how art connects us to God. Each Wednesday will focus on a different type of art, and include an interactive portion where we can experience or create art ourselves.

The program will run from 6:00-7:00p, and dinner will be served at 6:00p, and a children's program will be offered. We are working to make nursery available as well for our little ones. More information about each week's topic and artist(s) will be published in the week ahead of each night! We need your help to provide sides and serve dinner; [please sign up to assist!](#) ❖

## Building Faith through Music in St. John's Children's Lenten Choir

BY PEGGY HAAS HOWELL

The verses below the image at right are from an anthem the children in St. John's Lenten Choir will learn. Students from first through fifth grades will meet in the choir room from 5:30p until 6:00p on five Wednesday evenings during Lent (February 21, 28, March 6, 13 and 20) just before the Lenten suppers.

Our Children's Lenten Choir will sing in church at the 10:30a service on March 10 and on Palm Sunday, March 24.

If you would like to participate, please email Mrs. Howell ([peggy@stjohnslynchburg.org](mailto:peggy@stjohnslynchburg.org)), so she knows how many singers to expect. NO previous choir experience is necessary! Parents are welcome to join the children at the rehearsals. Come and sing songs of love divine as we think about how we can learn and live, serve and love, as Jesus did. ❖



*My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,  
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.  
Oh, who am I, that for my sake  
my Lord should come to earth and die?  
With him I'll stay and sing my song of love divine.  
No grief nor love, O Savior, was e'er like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.*



# ANNIVERSARIES

## FEBRUARY

February 5

Harriet and Jack Hellewell (58 yrs)

February 15

Martha and Gary Clark (32 yrs)

February 16

Diane and Charles Scott (23 yrs)

February 20

Pam and Mike Bradford (31 yrs)

February 25

Keeling and Brad Pennington (18 yrs)

February 29

Joan and Ted Swanson (32 yrs)

## 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)



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## IN SERVICE

### CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas,  
Bishop of Southwestern Virginia  
The Rev. Christopher Roussell, Rector  
The Rev. Benjamin Cowgill, Associate  
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 the music ministry in honor of or in memory of a loved one, we will have order forms available in the bulletin, Fauber Gallery, and in weekly updates beginning in March.

## Altar Flower Notice

There are two Sunday's that remain open this year for dedicating the altar flowers in memory of your loved one. These Sunday's are in the month of June. Please contact Diane Walker for more detailed information via email or phone at [misty.dianewalker@gmail.com](mailto:misty.dianewalker@gmail.com) or (434) 841-0501.

St. John's Episcopal Church  
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