



St. John's Church

The Eagle

Advent 2022



Directory

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Rector

Fr. Steven J. Kelly, SSC

Assisting Priest Emeritus

Fr. Michael J. Bedford

Dir. of Music, Organist, & Master of the Choir

Dr. Huw R. Lewis, FRCO

Edwards Organ Scholar

Abraham Wallace, MMus

Ministry & Staff

Office Manager

Elizabeth Savage

Senior Warden

Peter Grim

Junior Warden

Morley Stevenson

Interim Treasurer

Glenn Burton

Assistant Treasurer

Cathy Morgan

Acolyte Master

Morley Stevenson

Altar Guild Directresses

Virginia Burton &
Sarah Babcock

Armitage Men's Club

Pat Walters

Daughters of the King

Lena Nealley

Episcopal Church Women

Debbie Swain

Graphics Design

Cam Walker

Lectors Guild

Brian Campbell

Outreach Committee Chair

Catherine Morgan

Usher Captains



From the Rector

A new church year has begun as we enter Advent! We reset the liturgical calendar, and begin once again not with the birth of

Jesus, but with the PREPARATION for His birth AND for His return in glorious majesty to judge the world!

I once saw a bumper sticker on a car on I-75 that said "Jesus is coming back - look busy". Funny, but terrible theology! Looking busy won't cut it with Jesus. A better theological statement would be "Jesus is coming back - be faithful" since it is by grace through faith that we are saved. But the Christian life can be busy, and there are plenty of opportunities for that here at St. John's in Advent.

Detailed in this Eagle are lots of opportunities for participating in the life of St. John's, and to grow in the spiritual life. Please take advantage of as many of the things that you can!. These things are not only good for you, but your par-

ticipation in them is an encouragement to the others in the parish who are attending, fort those who have organized the events, and for those guests who are joining us for them. As they say, the more the merrier.

Primary to our participation is attendance at Sunday worship. Although we continue to see more people each week at Services, there are still some who have not returned from the pandemic layoff, and others who have not become 'regular' about attending. We need everyone to make worship attendance the #1 priority - for the sake of our own souls, and an encouragement to others who are also there.

Finally, as the calendar year draws to a close I hope that you will continue to be generous in your financial support of St. John's. There may be tax advantages to an end of the year donation, so speak to your financial advisor how you can both help yourself and St. John's with a cash, stock, or other offering before the end of the calendar year.

Financial Report

As of the end of October, with 83% of the financial year complete, the contributions and operating income to the parish is at 80% of budget projections, and expenses are also at 80%. Pledge contributions from parishioners are at 75% of projected budget.

As the stock market has declined, so has the value of our investments. But we have not had to use any of the endowment funds for the operations of the parish since 2009. Only the Edwards Organ Scholar endowment is used to provide the scholarship for our Edwards Organ Scholar.

The last two months of the year traditionally have seen an increase in contributions. We hope that this will continue to be true this year. December, especially, is the time when people make up for pledges promised, and make an extra donation during the holiday season.

Also, be sure to talk with your financial advisor about a year end donation of stock or bonds to St. John's to keep from having to pay capital gains taxes. Some parishioners make a regular habit of this method of contribution and tax savings. We are most grateful to be able to help.

The Vestry is also working on a budget for 2023 and we are hoping that everyone who is a contributor will fill out a pledge card, and increase their weekly/monthly donation for the coming year. A pledge card is a concrete way to show your gratitude for the ministry of St. John's, as well as a sign of your intention to be faithful in the year ahead (God willing) to being regular about the support of the parish, financially as well as with your presence at worship and other opportunities for ministry, education and fellowship;

Pastoral Care

Please inform the clergy if you or a family member are ill, hospitalized, or unable to attend the regular worship of the Church so that a pastoral visit can be arranged. Please contact the clergy to discuss arrangements for baptisms, weddings, or burials **before** any announcement or other plans are made.

Outreach

Every Sunday: *Food or toiletries* may be deposited in the basket at the entrance of the church in the ministry center to aid the neighborhood ministries.

First Sunday of the month: The *loose offerings* collected are given to support the mission work of the Church in Malawi, Central Africa. Please add a cash gift or extra check in the collection plate every first Sunday of the month!

Third Sunday of the month: The *loose offerings* collected are given to support the ministry of the Rector's Discretionary Fund.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE @ ST. JOHN'S

Sunday	7:00 A 7:30 A 8:00 A 10:00 A 11:15 A 5:30 P	Morning Meditation (online) Morning Prayer (chapel) Holy Communion (chapel) Choral Holy Communion Sunday School Coffee Hour Evening Prayer
Monday	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 PM 5:00 P 6:30 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer AA Meeting Alpha Course
Tuesday	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer
Wednesday	7:00 A 12:15 P 4:00 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion Evening Prayer AA Meeting
Thursday	7:00 A 10:00 A 4:00 P 5:00 P	Morning Meditation (online) Holy Communion and Benediction Evening Prayer AA Meeting
Friday	7:00 A 11:00 A	Morning Meditation (online) AA Meeting
Saturday	7:00 A	Morning Meditation (online)
OFFICE HOURS	9 A to 5 P	Monday through Friday
CHURCH DOORS OPEN FOR PRAYER	11 A to 4 P	Monday through Thursday (or enter through the ministry center during office hours)

The Collect for the First Sunday in Advent

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

¶ *This Collect is to be repeated every day, after the other Collects in Advent, until Christmas Day*

An Advent Tea **Saturday, December 3rd** **1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**



**Hosted by the St. Margaret's Chapter
of the Daughters of the King**

The Advent Tea allows us to stop and consider the Advent themes of - Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. This is an opportunity in preparation for the holidays to focus on the most important gift to us, the gift of Emmanuel—God with us.

RSVP –cmgolembiewski@yahoo.com

Garden Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 4th
5:30 PM



Join us as we start a new St. John's tradition. A Tree will be set up in the garden area and after a brief Evening Prayer Service we will officially light the tree, sing Christmas Carols, and enjoy Hot Chocolate and other treats.

We will be inviting those living in the neighborhood, and you should plan on coming and inviting friends to join us for this special event

Announcements

SUNDAY EVENING PRAYER

Sunday Evening Prayer is prayed at St. John's at **5:30 PM**. Join us for this 25 minute Service to finish the Sabbath Day as we started it - in worship and thanksgiving.

Weekday Services This Week –

Morning Meditation

- ◆ Streamed daily at 7:00 AM

Holy Communion

- ◆ Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday at 12:15 PM
- ◆ Thursday 10:30 AM

Evening Prayer

- ◆ Monday - Thursday at 4 PM (Ministry Center)

Services can be attended in person, or by livestream

Christian Education – Sunday School meets at 10 AM in the Undercroft. All children welcome.

Gift Giving Tree - Be sure to take a tag, and bring back an unwrapped gift or two in support of the Georgia Street Community Collective. Gifts due by December 11. The tree is in the ministry center.

Advent Tea - All women of the parish are invited to an special afternoon of fellowship and spiritual encouragement on **December 3, 2022 from 1pm to 3 pm**, hosted by the Daughters of the King. Sign up in the undercroft today.

Garden Tree Lighting - Be sure to join us on Sunday, December 4th at 5:30 as we light our Garden Tree. A short service of prayer, and lots of caroling, will be offered, and refreshments.

Pledge Cards - be sure to submit your 2023 Pledge Card as soon as possible.

Alpha Course - Meeting on Monday Nights. Next session will take place in January, day of the week to be determined.

Parking Note - being a member of St. John's does not mean that we can park in our side lot for free for Pistons/Red Wings games, shows at the Fox, etc. The lot is leased to Olympia Development, and we have use of it for our church related events, but not at other times when they are using it.

LOVE JESUS & LOVE NEIGHBOR

The Gift Giving Tree



Take a tag, buy the item (or anything else you want to add) and bring it back, unwrapped, to give to the kids at the Georgia Steet Community Collective. Also collecting coats and socks.

**Gifts due by Sunday,
December 11th**

After December 11th this becomes the **Warm Fuzzy**

Tree, collecting hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, etc., until January 15th.

Thank you for your generosity.

The Cookie Walk Sunday, December 11

**Bake
Buy
Share**



The Vestry and Officers of St. John's

Peter Grim, Senior Warden
Morley Stevenson, Junior Warden
Durene Brown, Secretary
Glenn Burton, Interim Treasurer
Cathy Morgan, Assistant Treasurer

Terms expire January 2023

Sarah Babcock	John Barge
Jimmie Baber	Rod Gillespie
Peter Grim	Tracy McAllister

Terms expire January 2024

Glenn Burton	Morley Stevenson
Cathy Morgan	Tristan Williams

Terms expire January 2024

Durene Brown	Charles Roby
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The Vestry typically meets monthly at 6:30 PM in the undercroft, September through June. All St. John's parishioners are welcome to attend.

St. John's Teaching Notes

Some thoughts on Advent

One criticism some churches have of Anglican/Episcopal Churches is the rigidity of the liturgical calendar. Some even berate the celebration of things like Christmas at all (not the birth of Jesus, but setting a date to celebrate it).

However, as human beings, we live in this space and time, and the cycles of the year (winter, spring, summer, and fall) are a reality. So too is the reality that the Church calendar takes this into account and helps us to order our year around different aspects of the story of our salvation through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Those without a set calendar or lectionary find themselves stuck with the whim and whimsy of the pastor's preaching choices. Having a set year, which has remained mostly unchanged for about 1900 years of Church history, frees us to cover multiple aspects of our Lord's life and ministry. And in our unhappy sinful divisions, it is a comfort to know that we follow a very similar calendar with the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic, along with many Reformed Churches.

So bring on the purple vestments and hangings! It is time for us to begin by looking at the end (of time that is ... our Lord's return) as well as the preparation of the people of the original covenant for the fulfillment of the coming of their Messiah in the birth of Jesus.

And just as we make resolutions at the secular New Year, perhaps the Church New Year is a good time to make some as well. Here are a few suggestions:

- 1] Attend Church every Sunday (*great* for your spiritual health *and* God wills it).
- 2] Pray every day.
- 3] Read the Bible every day (you may use as a guide the lectionary for the Daily Office at the front of the Prayer Book, (which is also reprinted on page 3)).
- 4] If you do not already belong to one, choose a Church ministry or organization in which to become involved (Alpha, Altar Guild, Ushers, Acolytes, Lay Readers, Episcopal Church Women, Daughters of the King, Armitage Men's Club, Sunday School teacher, Prayer Group, Coffee Hour host, etc.)
- 5] Help with the outreach ministries of the parish ("A can a week", Gift Giving Tree, Warm Fuzzy Tree, toiletry collection, etc.) just to name a few.

~ Reprinted from 11/29/2009

A DAILY PRAYER FOR**St. John's Church**

Bless, O Lord, this parish, and grant that Thy Name may be worshipped here in truth and purity, to all generations. Give Thy grace and wisdom to our Clergy, that they may exercise holy discipline, and be themselves patterns of holiness, simplicity, and self-denial. Bless all who worship here; take from us all pride, vanity and self-conceit, and give to us true humility and self-abasement. Enlighten our minds, subdue our wills, purify our hearts, and so penetrate us with Thy Spirit, and fill us with Thy love that we may go forth animated with earnest zeal for Thy glory; and may Thy living Word so dwell within our hearts that we may speak with that resistless energy of love which shall melt the hearts of sinners to the love of Thee. Open, O Lord, the hearts and hands of Thy people, that we may be ready to give and glad to distribute to our necessities. Bless the founders and benefactors of this parish, and recompense them with the riches of Thine everlasting kingdom, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Advent Soup Luncheon

Sunday, December 18th

Join us for a bowl of soup after the 10 AM Service, before participating in the Greening of the Church! Donations support the ministry of the St. Catherine's Guild

Greening of the Nave and Narthex

Saturday, December 17
10 AM to Noon



Greening of the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 18
After the 10 AM Service

Many hands make for light work! Join us!

Christmas at St. John's



Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24th

4:00 PM - Children's Pageant
Communion Service

8:30 PM Carol Prelude

9:00 PM Candlelight Choral High Mass

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25th

11:00 AM Low Mass with Carols



Next Course begins January 18th