

# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**DECEMBER 2019**

Volume 33.12

## St. John's United Church of Christ

*St. John's United Church of Christ is a diverse community forming a united congregation, seeking to grow our faith, share it with others, and serve God's people wherever the need is present. We are living God's love and all are invited!!!*

## An Open and Affirming Congregation

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# THE *Messenger*



Dear All,

We who are part of the St. John's family know that life is different right now. We worship in the fellowship hall due to not having heat in the sanctuary. We wait to have parking again that is not along Monument Avenue where we compete with our neighbors and

that means being flexible in how we celebrate as well. This year we have plans for a wonderful Advent and Christmas season, but it is not our traditional.

We will deck the parish hall to focus our celebration, last year we added stars this year we will add feathers to help us focus on the messages of the angels in the Christmas story. December 8<sup>th</sup> we will do a mission project together following worship. We will fill health kits to go to Church World Service for people following disasters. December 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our Christmas celebration. This will include both communion and candle lighting and be followed by a potluck luncheon. You are invited to plan to celebrate Christmas with your church family on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and then be with family or friends on Christmas Eve. If you worship at another church that night bring back ideas for next year at St John's.

I know that all this transition is hard on our church family, and I wish I could assure you that renovations would end it, but we all know that is not true. We are in the midst of a time when all religious institutions are needing to transform or die. All organisms just like our own bodies are always either growing or dying and churches are no different. Many have memories of another time in church life, but we cannot go back only forward. Once we have done what we can with the building we will need to decide how we live in it and what we as a community are going to create in the space. Next year will include a lot of visioning and moving into a new time and a new way of using the space called St John's.

As we enter the new year and new decade, the council will invite you to be part of planning for the future.

Pastor Linda

*Linda Higgins*



## *Worship & Music Ministry*

If you are reading this, then you probably have read Pastor Linda's in-depth account of the theme and variations of our Advent worship. "Angels Among Us" is the theme and we will hear again and in new ways the angelic messages that herald the birth of Christ and call us to be messengers of good news. These messages will be enhanced by music and **a choir is needed for each Sunday in Advent and the Sunday after Christmas**. If you are a regular choir member or an irregular choir member or you have been toying with the idea of joining the choir, this is the time to jump in and sing your heart out. Rehearsals are at 9:00 AM and sometimes after worship as well. **Call Shirley Townsend at 804-732-7835** to get the rehearsal schedule and the music.

Our Advent worship series will also **need several different "voices" in worship and so we ask for at least three people to sign up to "read" for each Sunday in Advent**. The sign-up sheet should be in Fellowship Hall. We will also be having **a special Christmas Dinner after worship on December 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Please read your weekly Eblast and other communications to find out what you can bring to share in this meal.

Your Worship and Music Committee is still in want of more people on our committee. Some of our responsibilities include: evaluating the worship programs to ascertain if they are meeting the needs of the worshippers, working with the Pastor in developing worship services, evaluating the music programs, establishing a standard of quality for the church music, assisting in helping to plan special music programs/events. We are also responsible for enlisting people to participate in worship in many varied ways. If you have ever experienced worship that truly touched your soul or awakened your mind or opened your heart, then God may be calling you to join us and share how the Spirit has moved you. Worship is a quintessential part of our life together in Christ. It is far too important to leave to the oversight of just three people. You are needed.

As always, we urge you sign up to host a Coffee Hour or be a liturgist. The sign-up sheets are on the easel in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions or concerns about either of those commitments, joining the Worship and Music committee or participating in any of the other aspects of worship, **please call Rev. Beverly Lindsey at (804) 275-7165**.





## **Updates & Announcements**

### **Church Council Update**

As Advent gets started, and the engine of consumerism prepares to grab us, let's take a moment to concentrate to what 'The Prince of Peace' means in today's world.

During the time of Jesus peace was a little known thing. His country was occupied by a hostile force and made to pay taxes, reparations to Rome. His country's leadership had been co-opted by the love of power over others. His fellow countrymen, those not in power, were fearful of their lives, their families' lives, and their lively hood. They were being forced to live a life of scarcity and fear. Into this time of upheaval and uncertainty God inserts God's own self in human form to remind us there is enough, to remind us we are not alone, to remind us God is always with us even in times of uncertainty.

Peace is freedom of disturbance, tranquility, and to be at rest. This the message God sent humanity over 2000 years ago. "Fear not, be at peace, I am always with you"

Be boldly peaceful this Advent, be decidedly kind and compassionate.

The commandment given to 'Love your neighbor as yourself' has two important parts:

Love your neighbor

Love yourself

Be at peace this holiday season and remember God gives us permission to LOVE and well as be at peace.

Dreama

Church Council President.

### **Mission and Outreach Update**

Please join us after worship on Sunday, December 8th, to assemble health kits for Church World Service. CWS Kits are small packages of supplies assembled by volunteers and shipped to families and communities in need around the world, especially in the aftermath of disasters such as hurricanes, floods and fires.

CWS supplies to our neighbors in the wake of these disasters around the world. We need your help to assemble kits to help them resupply. See you on the 8th.

We will be receiving the Christmas Offering at our Christmas worship on Sunday, December 22. The Christmas Fund — formerly known as "Veterans of the Cross" — has helped provide supplemental monies for pension and health insurance premiums to low-income retirees. At Christmas, the offering provides gift checks to hundreds of retired clergy, but it also provides emergency assistance to clergy and lay employees and their families throughout the year.



## **Updates & Announcements**

### **Stewardship & Budget Update**

Thank you very much to all of those who have pledged to support our ministry plan for 2020. So far we have received 36 pledges, for a total of \$87,390. On November 3rd, the Congregation voted to approve a 2020 budget that relied on \$100,000 in pledged income; even with that amount, the budget assumes an \$87,000 deficit, which would need to be made up through a loan from the Endowment Fund. If you need a pledge card, or if you have any questions about the adopted budget, a summary of which is reprinted below, please contact Stewardship Chair Jeff Jacobs, at [jwjacobs9@gmail.com](mailto:jwjacobs9@gmail.com) or (202) 361-9887, or any member of Church Council.

### **Renovation Update**

At the November 3rd Congregational meeting, the Trustees reported on the progress of ongoing renovation projects, particularly the installation of a new HVAC system, upgrades to the church elevator and repaving of the back parking area. A copy of the full report, which was handed out at the meeting, is reprinted below.

### **Fellowship Lunch December 12th**

This month we'll have a special holiday treat for the Fellowship Lunch on December 12th, which will be at TJ's at the Jefferson Hotel. This will provide an opportunity to admire the huge decorated tree in the lower lobby, as well as the gingerbread house and other Christmas decorations at the Jefferson. Because of high demand, we were only able to get a reservation for 12 people at 12:30, and one for 8 people at 1:30. Unless you prefer the later seating, we will fill the earlier table first. Please RSVP to Jeff Jacobs at [jwjacobs9@gmail.com](mailto:jwjacobs9@gmail.com) or (202) 361-9887 as soon as possible; first come, first served!

### **PAL Band Christmas Concert December 14th**

The 2019 PAL Band Christmas Concert will be held on Saturday, December 14th, at 2 p.m. at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Admission and parking are free. Call 804-221-9533 for more information.

### **New Members Class December 15th**

New Members Class will be held on Sunday, December 15th, following worship. See Pastor Linda for more information.

### **Christmas Potluck December 22nd**

Our 2019 Christmas Potluck will be held on Sunday, December 22nd, following worship. A signup sheet for food and help is in the Fellowship Hall.

***Thanks to all who helped decorate the church for the Christmas season!***



# **St. John's Volunteers and You Should Too**

## **Circle Center**

Betsy and Richard Bighinatti

## **English as a Second Language**

Beverly Lindsey

## **Feedmore**

David Agee

## **International Rescue Committee**

Marcie Agee

## **Nursing Homes**

Virginia Clark

## **Sportable**

Dreama Terrill

## **St. John's Players**

Rob Osborn

Anita & Tony Sharpenstein

Betsy Bighinatti

**This information comes from the survey done in June. If you volunteer and would be willing to help connect people who are interested to the organization you support, please contact the church office so**





# **December** Volunteer Ministries

Ministry	Dec. 1 Team 1	Dec. 8 Team 1	Dec. 15 Team 2	Dec. 22 Team 2	Dec. 29 Team 3
<b>Welcome Team Leader</b>	Richard Bighinatti	Richard Bighinatti	Lynn Snyder	Lynn Snyder	Pam Miller
<b>Sound System</b>	David Pittman	David Pittman	Daniel Martin	Daniel Martin	Bruce Miller
<b>Tellers</b>	Bud Higgins Beverly Lindsey	Jeff Jacobs Terri Weaver	Mark Souza Betsy Bighinatti	Mark Souza Betsy Bighinatti	Terri Weaver Beverly Lindsey
<b>Liturgist</b>	Elisabeth Burnette Beverly Lindsey Donovan Martin Rick Sumner	Chris Wing Daniel Martin Johanna Gilbert Sandy Higgins	Beverly Lindsey Scott Siefert Matthew Gilbert	Marcie Agee Johanna Gilbert Sandy Higgins June Smyth Rick Sumner	Sandy Higgins Beverly Lindsey
<b>Facilities</b>	Richard Bighinatti	Richard Bighinatti	Jeff Hetzer	Jeff Hetzer	Bill Watson
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Erin Burnette Georgianne Stinnette	Lynda Merry	Johanna Gilbert Charlotte Quick	Helen Bunch	Erin Burnette Georgianne Stinnette
<b>Fellowship Hosts</b>	Betsy and Richard Bighinatti	Chris Wing Scott Siefert	Charlie & Terri Weaver	Robin Walsh Jessica Dayweather	Elisabeth Burnette

**Teller Coordinator:**  
Bud Higgins  
301-5059

**Fellowship Host Coordinator:**  
Rev. Beverly Lindsey  
(804) 275-7165

**Celebrating a special occasion?  
Honoring a loved one?**



*Please find a substitute if you are unable to perform your ministry and contact your Team Coordinator AND the office to let them know who will be filling in for you. Thank you for making our church ministries run smoothly!*

# DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am Worship	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10 am Worship Following Service - Filling Health Kits for CWS	9 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting @ ACTS	10	11	12 Fellowship Lunch @ TJ's at the Jefferson— two seatings	13	14 2019 PAL Band Christmas Concert 2 p.m. Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church
15 10 am Worship  New Members Class—following service	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 10 am Worship  Potluck Christmas Lunch—following service	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29 10 am Worship	30	31				



- 2 Ulysses Hall  
Robert Wieckmann
- 3 Jeff Hetzer
- 7 Anita Sharpenstein
- 9 Chris Burnette
- 14 Eric Hetzer
- 16 Julia Eliades
- 31 Iola Miller

## **Trustees/Renovation Committee Update**

### **Current Project Status – November 3, 2019**

#### **HVAC Replacement**

We received bids for the new HVAC system at the end of September, and unfortunately they were over \$300,000 above what we had anticipated and budgeted. We have selected a contractor to move forward on heating and cooling for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall while we explore less expensive alternatives for the education/office wing. We are hoping to have the new system in place for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall by early next year.

#### **Elevator Recondition**

We have entered into a contract for upgrading the current elevator motor, and updating the elevator controls to improve access and ease of operation. This should be completed by the end of this year or early next year.

#### **Chair Lift**

The contractor who is handling the elevator upgrade will also be installing a chair lift on the stairway by our back parking area. This will enable people with mobility issues to have another way of accessing the church parlor and sanctuary. We hope this will also be completed by the end of this year or early next year.

#### **Repair Concrete Walkway and Repave Back Parking Area**

We have selected a contractor to repair the broken cement sidewalk in front of the church and the broken cement walkway at the bottom of the steps by the front side entrance of the church. This contractor will also be repaving the parking area at the back of the church. The apartment building developer will be reimbursing us for the cost of this work, and it will move forward when the alley is paved, hopefully within the next 6-8 weeks.

#### **Remediate Underground Oil Tank**

In connection with the repaving described in #4 above, we have selected a contractor to remove the 6,000-gallon oil tank located underneath the back parking lot. This will require pumping out approximately 4,000 gallons of oil and about 100 gallons of water, then cleaning and removing the tank. This will be done once the contractor can access the back parking area.

#### **Roofing Leaks**

We have selected a contractor to repair roofing and address leaks in the balcony stairs, the former choir office on the second floor, the robing room, the upper kitchen, and the activities room on the third floor.

#### **Third Floor Ceiling Repairs**

We need to reinforce the third floor ceiling in order to prevent further damage from plaster that may fall from the underside of the roof. We have received one bid, for \$18,400, and are soliciting additional proposals.

#### **Stained Glass Window Protection/Repair**

We are soliciting proposals to replace the yellowed Plexiglas currently protecting the stained glass windows, and making repairs on the Brauer (rose) window and the 16 smaller windows. We have one proposal of \$9,500 for the rose window and approximately \$29,700 for the smaller windows, and are soliciting additional proposals.

#### **Additional Projects**

In addition, we are considering projects to refurbish the church parlor; redesign, update and install hot water in the first floor and basement restrooms; restore the exterior doors and refurbish the entry foyer by the copy room entrance; and replace the broken windows in the education wing classrooms. Your input on these projects, and ideas for any additional renovation projects, would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact the members of the Renovation Committee with your questions, comments or suggestions:

Sarah Allen (Trustee Emeritus)  
Betsy Bighinatti (Endowment Board President)  
Richard Bighinatti (Facilities Chair)  
Jeff Hetzer (Trustee)  
Jeff Jacobs (Trustee)  
Rob Osborn (Trustee)  
Dreama Terrill (Council President)  
Rev. Linda Higgins (Pastor)



**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
Proposed 2020 Ministry Plan Expenses

	2019	2020
<b>Personnel Support</b>	<b>\$156,882</b>	<b>\$146,626</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pastor Salary</li> <li>• Pastor Housing, Benefits, Taxes</li> <li>• Administrative Assistant Salary (part time)</li> <li>• Nursery Worker Salary</li> <li>• Guest Minister and Organists</li> <li>• Organist/Choir Director</li> <li>• Payroll Processing</li> </ul>		
<b>Committee Support</b>	<b>\$18,925</b>	<b>\$21,485</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Committee Allocations for Committees</li> <li>• Committees include Youth, Mission and Outreach, Christian Education, Worship and Music, Stewardship, Congregational Life</li> </ul>		
<b>Operations</b>	<b>\$69,000</b>	<b>\$77,200</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilities</li> <li>• Office Equipment and Office Supplies</li> <li>• Insurance</li> <li>• Accounting/professional services</li> </ul>		
<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>\$40,500</b>	<b>\$32,700</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repairs and Upkeep</li> <li>• Custodial Services and Supplies</li> </ul>		
<b>OCWM/Local Benevolences (Non Stille Grant funded)</b>	*	<b>\$11,900</b>
Support to Local Groups and Benevolences in the Community. Examples include:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missions</li> <li>• UCC Benevolences</li> <li>• Pastor's Discretionary</li> </ul>		
<b>Memberships</b>	<b>\$9,300</b>	<b>\$8,900</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potomac Assn.</li> <li>• Conference and National</li> </ul>		
<b>Total Budgeted Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$294,607</u></b>	<b><u>\$298,811</u></b>

**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
2020 Ministry Plan Revenue

<b>Estimated sources of revenue:</b>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Pledge Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Your generous and faithful pledges of support</li></ul>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>OCWM/Local Benevolences (Non-Stille Grant)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Missions</li><li>• UCC/Benevolences</li><li>• Pastors Discretionary</li></ul>	*	<b>\$11,300</b>
<b>Offerings (cash, memorial gifts)</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>
<b>Other Income</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Weddings</li><li>• Flower Fund</li><li>• Fund raisers</li></ul>	<b>\$4,550</b>	<b>\$8,550</b>
<b>Dedicated Endowment Support (Gift)</b>	<b><u>\$85,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$85,000</u></b>
<b>Revenue Total</b>	<b>\$195,550</b>	<b>\$211,850</b>
<b>Excess/ (Deficit) Revenue to Expenses</b>	<b>(\$99,057)</b>	<b>(\$86,961)</b>

\*For 2019, non-Stille Grant income and expense not included in budget

SJUCC applies for and may receive an annual grant from the Stille Fund. These funds, if received, must be used to support local charitable organizations. The Mission and Outreach Committee is responsible for the preparation of the grant submittal and distribution of any received funds to appropriate organizations.

*Balancing the budget assumes that the St. John's Endowment Board will approve an annual gift of \$85,000 and an additional loan to cover any extra Council-approved needs of the church.*