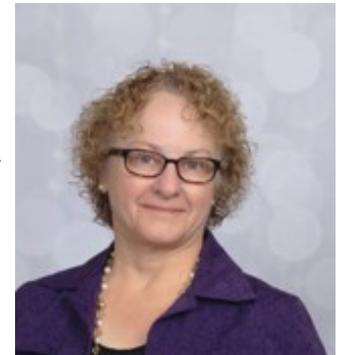




ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

From the Senior Warden May 2019

St. John's says "Hello" to some new employees as others ride off into the sunset! Our new sexton, Racheal Sturgill, replaces Don Sirbaugh who served St. John's with dedication in spite of increasing work duties elsewhere. We thank him for his diligent service as we give a warm welcome to Racheal! Heather Kristine Bradford is our temporary church administrator while Emma Helms-Steinmetz is on maternity leave. Di McCullough is our temporary Confluence director, also covering for Emma until approximately mid-July. Heather and Di, we welcome you and thank you for stepping in at this important time.



We thank Peg Kissel for chairing the Building Use Committee; potential income streams have been identified and research continues into the processes needed to bring these income sources to fruition. More weddings at St. John's and commercial or civic uses for spaces such as the remodeled kitchen are just two of the potential avenues the Mission Council will continue to explore.

Deacon Craig Foster spearheads a Building and Grounds Committee to assume oversight of issues related to upkeep of St. John's campus including the main church building and grounds along with the garden across the street and the Confluence House. He is working hard in a variety of areas to prepare us for his departure on sabbatical beginning **September 1st**; Building and Grounds has been one of the major areas of his expertise and contribution. A Building and Grounds subcommittee being established is the Building Updating Committee charged with reviewing existing needs for repair and/or refurbishment and reporting to the Mission Council.

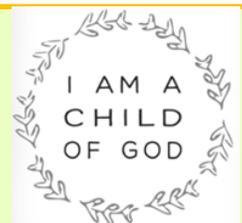
A very important process beginning at St. John's is the search process for our next vicar. Again, Peg Kissel graciously agreed to assume leadership of that committee; we still are forming the committee, but Margaret Sirbaugh also has stepped up to the plate and agreed to serve. Because an Episcopal search process may be different from what many of us expect, I hope you can attend the Mission Council meeting at the church at **6:00 pm on Monday, June 3rd** when Canon Jason Leo will talk us through the process. Ultimately, he is responsible for our search process! For example, all names must go through him before we interview anyone. Financial concerns need to be addressed before a permanent call is made; as a mission church, the Diocese will have some important input into that part of our deliberations. I will have some of this information to share during the AWE (After Worship Experience) on **June 2nd**; but I am sure hearing Jason on the 3rd would be very beneficial for those able to attend.

We soon will be saying a fond farewell to our long-term interim, the Reverend Amanda Highben. She has provided stability and a valuable ministerial presence for St. John's since January 6th. She and her family are moving to a great opportunity out of state; we wish them well and express gratitude that our paths crossed for this short period of time!

As an update of the most recent Mission Council meeting on **May 12th**: St. John's continues to be solid financially. We are in the process of moving investment funds out of the PNC Group into the Episcopal Church Foundation which invests closer to the socially conscious strategies the Mission Council wanted. For example, our monies will no longer be invested in coal-based energy endeavors. We thank the Investment Committee for the multi-year dedication to this endeavor! Kurt Wacker, Karen Brown, Rich Rastetter, Bruce and Meribah Mansfield, and Lee Anne Reat played important roles in starting this process and bringing it to fruition.

I could write more, but I need to quit! The Lord continues to bless St. John's. For that we are most grateful. —
—Suzan Waller

- * **Jed & Raine Dearing welcomed their son, Llewyn Deane into the world in January.**
- * **Emma & Cory Helms-Steinmetz welcomed daughter Penny Inez into the world in April.**



Congratulations to both couples on the coming of their little angels. May God watch over you all, and guide them as they grow.

Thank You, Farewell, and Blessing

"On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22.2).

Last Sunday, May 26, we read this passage from Revelation in our second lesson. I have always been uplifted by these words because they offer a vision of abundance, hope, and new life "for the healing of the nations" (that is, for *all* people).



And I love these words even more so now as I prepare for the end of my service at St. John's. Because even though Revelation speaks of the time when Christ will return to free the world from sin and suffering and death, I believe that the beloved community of St. John's is already at work fulfilling Revelation's prophecy in the here and now. From Street Church to His Place, from caring deeply for the needs of one another to building relationships of love with our neighbors, from welcoming all people to join our community to going out so that we might reach those who are alienated, lonely, or disillusioned...in all of these ways, the good people of St. John's strive to fulfill Revelation's grace-filled vision. Truly, this church embodies Jesus' free gift of boundless grace.

As Zeb, Ceci, and I prepare for our move to North Carolina where Zeb will begin his work as the Director of Music at Duke University Chapel and I seek a new call, please know I will carry in my heart the grace you so abundantly share. I don't know yet where I will serve in our new state, but I pray to find a community like St. John's: one that cares more about faithfulness than perfection, one that desires to feed and nurture the bodies and spirits of our poor and homeless siblings in Christ, and one that believes everyone is made God's divine image and worthy of love and dignity.

In just the brief six months I've been here, you have blessed me beyond measure and have helped me to grow as a pastor and deepen in my own faith. You have opened my eyes to what it means to be a church rooted in and dedicated to its community, and for this, I will be forever grateful. And finally, I am thankful for how much you have graciously welcomed and supported me. I am sad to say farewell, but I trust our friendships will continue and our paths will cross again.

"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this" (1 Thessalonians 5.23-24).

In Deep Peace and Gratitude,

Pastor Amanda

Generosity of Liberty Presbyterian Church to Pay for Renovation of Undercroft

Plans are underway for renovation of the undercroft in July and August of this year, thanks to the generosity of Liberty Presbyterian Church in Delaware. Liberty earmarked \$50,000 for new cabinetry, new counter tops, and new flooring for the undercroft prior to Lee Anne Reat's departure; St. John's – thanks to the leadership of Craig Foster and Kurt Wacker – is able to take advantage of their largesse this summer. Kurt and Craig have been in discussions with vendors and with representatives of Liberty for a few months now; plans are in place and set for implementation as soon as His Place dinners end in June. Not only will our friends and congregants have a spiffy new kitchen and dining area when dinners resume in the fall, but this renovation facilitates potential commercial partners making use of the space at agreed upon times to produce additional revenue streams for St. John's.

Come One, Come All AWE Set for June 2nd

Whew! St. John's is a beehive of activity these days with all sorts of activities and issues and news to be shared. Everyone is invited to stay after worship for a June potluck and an *After Worship Experience* during which the congregation will be updated on Mission Council news and processes that have been percolating in the background in recent months. Among other topics we will discuss the existing St. John's vision statement which is "to be a presence in the community," the nascent Search Committee, and additional opportunities for congregants to serve St. John's. This AWE precedes and will inform the next Mission Council meeting which occurs on **Monday, June 2nd at 5:30 pm** at the church. Reverend Jason Leo, Canon for Transitions and Congregational Vitality with the Diocese of Southern Ohio, will be attending the Mission Council meeting that Monday. We hope everyone will attend!

St. John's to Celebrate Confluence Interns June 23rd

Please join us June 23rd in celebrating *Nicole Defonzo* , *Anna Moore* , and *Lydia Cleaver-Bartholomew* -- our 2018-19 Confluence interns! During our regular coffee hour, we will celebrate their time with us, thank them for their contributions to St. John's and to the broader community, and send them off with blessings of their spiritual journey and growth in Christ. We definitely will have cake on hand! Additionally, finger-food snack items would be welcome that day!



Cleanup Day with The Abbey May 18th

A hearty “*thank you!*” to all who helped with the church cleanup day on May 18th! Weeding, raking, cutting grass, bagging and dragging to the garbage: not necessarily fun things to do on a Saturday except perhaps when members of St. John’s are working with members of The Abbey to spruce up our grounds! Around the church building as well as across the street in the butterfly garden - we cultivated the beauty of our neighborhood as we appreciated the blessings of God’s creation and enjoyed the sunshine and slight breeze of the spring day. We are gratified to hear Pastor Kelsie Meyer say, “It always feels so good when we do something with St. John’s as a community;” the feeling is mutual! The St. John’s Mission Council looks forward to expanding our partnership with The Abbey where spiritual and service synergies appear.

Street Church celebrates 13 years

I wrote this 6 years ago, but the sentiment is still the same, so I decided to share again.

You would be amazed at how much God’s love is shared in just **one hour**. It started for me 13 years ago in an abandon lot in Franklinton at our second service of the day, Street Church. Since we began, we have seen the face of Christ in each other as we worship together outside. No matter what the weather; rain, snow, sleet, wind and (my favorite) sunshine, we come together on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 pm for lessons of Christ’s love and forgiveness, followed by fellowship. I started out thinking I was serving the homeless population of Franklinton but it has grown into much more. Some of those who attend are homeless, some are housed. Our congregation is not only homeless but is made up of business people, professors, clergy, college students; anyone who prefers this service as their way of seeing God’s love in the world. I remember all the friends I have made along the way. I miss some of these friends; some who have died, some who seem to have just disappeared (I worry and pray for them) and some who we know are “ok” but we don’t see anymore. Just like indoor church, parishioners take on roles within the service; one person provides the table we use each week for the alter (alter guild), another is the greeter arriving before others and extending a welcome, others help with communion, we also have those who help serve the meal or collect trash.

I thank God for these people in the service and in my life. We are a community, we are friends, and **we are church!!** ***Thanks be to God!!*** —Cheryl Mellon

2019 PIMIL Luncheon Set for July 20th

The Partners in Ministry in Liberia annual fundraiser is set for Saturday, July 20th from 12:30 to 3:30 pm at St. Philip Episcopal Church on Woodland Avenue. Luncheon tickets are available through Suzan Waller at a suggested price per ticket of \$15, or a donation. St. John’s also may contribute to the fundraiser by arranging a themed basket to be raffled at the silent auction. Once volunteers identify a theme, the Outreach Committee at St. John’s Worthington can help locate items for the basket to facilitate the process. A list of suggested themes with examples of items is posted on the church meeting room bulletin board.

HIS PLACE

For about 40 years we have welcomed the community for dinner on Wednesday evenings. We begin with worship, singing and prayer. The family style meal, graciously provided by many partner churches, emphasizes hospitality and healthy food choices. If you, or your group, would like to host a meal, we still have a few open dates for His Place in 2019.

- June 26, 2019
- October 23, 2019
- October 30, 2019

Leave a message at the church 614-221-9328 and someone will get back to you!



For convenience, you can also use your Financial Institution Bank "Bill Pay"

Remit your regular offering or one-time donation to St. John's using the free remittance service at your financial institution. Set up St. John's Episcopal Church, 1003 W. Town St. Columbus, OH 43222 as a new Vendor/Biller and your bank will remit checks as you direct them anytime.

Activist Ruben Herrera Dead at 61



Long-time activist and friend of St. John's, Ruben Castilla Herrera, died unexpectedly on April 6, 2019. Herrera most recently worked with St. John's in efforts to support the Immokalee workers in obtaining a penny-a-pound raise from commercial tomato purchasers. Largely successful in the effort, Herrera led multiple demonstrations at Wendy's headquarters in the hopes of obtaining agreement from that holdout company. Himself the child of migrant farmworkers, he championed the causes of farmworkers, immigrants, and Latinos. St. John's joins his family and other friends in mourning the passing of this shining light in the so

Activist Ruben Herrera
Dead at 61

WOMEN TO WOMEN

We meet the fourth Wednesday of every month from noon to 1:30 pm.

Please join us this month to share in lunch and great conversation.

Marilyn & Theresa always have something fun and interesting planned for us. Come and join us!

Becky Papp and Gay Roberts



St. John's is a Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio

Mission Council Members

Suzan Waller, Sr. Warden
Karen Brown (also Clerk)
Julie Bull
Cheryl Mellon
Becky Papp
Gay Roberts
Kurt Wacker
Charles Spissiu
Jonathan Youngman

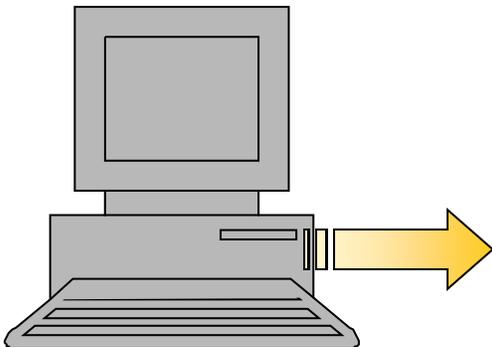
Staff

Pastor Amanda Highben, Interim Pastor
The Rev. Craig Foster, Deacon
Emma Helms-Steinmetz, Confluence Director
Rich Rastetter, St. John's Treasurer
Margaret Sirbaugh, Bookkeeper
Darrell Forren, Director of Music
Racheal Sturgill, Sexton

St. John's is a Body of Christians giving thanks to God through traditional worship in an informal setting and serving God, fully dedicated to being in ministry with our neighborhood and beyond.

The Ministries of St. John's

Sundays	Holy Eucharist Fellowship follows service Street Church	10:30 AM 1:00 PM
Mondays	Alcoholics Anonymous	8:00 PM
Wednesdays	Women to Women (Last Wednesday of month) His Place Worship (September—June) His Place Dinner (September—June) Girl Sprouts (First & Third Wednesday, September—May)	Noon 6:00 PM 6:30 PM 7:00 PM



- Email us at stjohnscbus@gmail.com
- We're on the web at www.st-johns-columbus.diosohio.org
- We're on Facebook at **Saint John's Episcopal**
- We're on Twitter **@stjohnsfrnkIntn**
- Our phone number is **614-221-9328**