

# **ST. JOHN'S CONCORD** **NEWSLETTER**

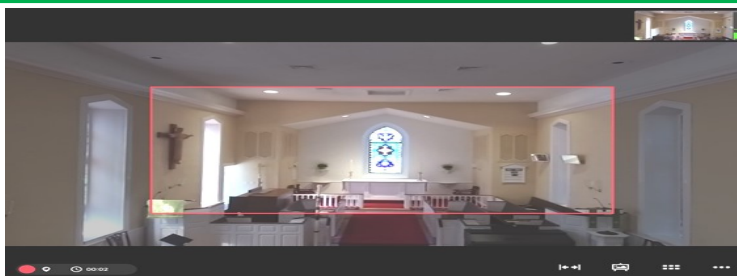
## Summer 2020



St John's has begun having live services again! Services are held at 8 am and 10 am every Sunday and Fellowship is being held outside under the trees. Beginning September 13th, we will return to the fall /winter schedule of Services at 8:00, 9:15 and 11:00.



If you are going to attend the live service, it is requested that you register using Sign Up Genius. The link to the Sign up Genius is emailed to all parishioners multiple times during the week.



If you are not well, or just can not make it to Church, please watch our Live Stream Service! You can watch the 10:00 service live, or watch the recording anytime.

### **Parish Hall Renovation Project Update**

We have completed 90% of the Phase 2 project which included the handicap accessible restrooms, the new nursery and the 1702 Annex. I am happy to report that through the generosity of our parish family, the outstanding bill of a bit over \$40,000 has been completely paid for. Our thanks go out to Chris Ryan, our contractor, for working with us to allow us to pay the outstanding bill over a period of time. Yet to be completed in the over-all project is the dish washing room, painting the upstairs and stairwells, modifying the front of the building, to make it handicap accessible, and renovating and modernizing the front administrative offices. Right now, all work is on hold. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have so generously contributed to this campaign. With both big and small donations, approximately 80% of the parish community has made contributions! Thanks to all!!!

Paul Costello , for the Capital Campaign Committee

**More on Live Streaming:** At the beginning of the pandemic, we had to figure out and implement systems to allow us to Live Stream the services. We owe a great deal of thanks to Philip Thompson who quickly worked with Father Dan and Martha Pearlman to identify how to Live Stream the Services. As it became clearer that we would need an ongoing Live Stream ability, Philip donated a Live Streaming Camera which is now mounted on the balcony. We are now able to Live Stream to Facebook and YouTube, as well as to broadcast to the Parish Hall. We would like to thank Philip, Paul & Martha Pearlman, Burt Blackburn and Margie Hatcher for their contributions in setting up and running the system.



The Pastoral Care Committee has been making phone calls to every member of the Parish. The intent is to check on everyone's well being during this difficult time, and to connect to people who have been out of touch. If you would be interested in joining the Pastoral Care Committee in their future endeavors, please contact the church office.

Since the Open House in February, work has continued on the Rectory remodel and it is almost ready for a new occupant. Property Committee Chairman, Paul Pearlman says, "We want to thank everyone who has helped with the project especially Bob McGonigal and Marti Keenan without whose help we wouldn't have made such progress. We also want to thank those members who have made financial contributions to this project. Several members made directed financial contributions which allowed us to add some scope to the project."

### St John's needs your email address!

We are attempting to send out the quarterly contribution statements via email. Father Dan also sends out important updates via email every week. If you are not receiving these emails, we probably do not have your correct email address. To update your information, please email [Office@saintjohnsconcord.com](mailto:Office@saintjohnsconcord.com), or call the office at 610-459-2994. Thank you!



Bob McGonigal and Paul Pearlman in the Rectory, March, 2020.



After renovations, July, 2020.

### *An update from the Treasurer, Burt Blackburn:*

For the first half of 2020, St John's operating revenues were higher than budgeted, while the expenses were lower than budgeted. In summary, our financial outlook for the time being is very good. Our positive financial situation can be attributed to all of you who have maintained your pledges as well as those of you who have pre-paid this year's commitment. I know for some it has been a real sacrifice to maintain their pledge. Thank you everyone for your continued support of our parish. I feel we are very blessed to have such a committed congregation.

## St Mary's Food Cupboard

We continue to support the St. Mary's Food Cupboard during the pandemic. People are still hungry. Every Wednesday, Ronnie Liberi or John Keenan collect baked goods from Costco, (thanks to Ron Hammer) and deliver them to St. Mary's in Chester. We also deliver the contributions that our fellow parishioners have given. Although the Food Cupboard closes every year for the month of August, please continue to bring your donations and they will be delivered in early September.



# Guatamala Update

As in most parts of the world the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting Guatemala and the country's citizens in dramatic ways. Guatemalans are under an overnight curfew, travel is restricted to the department (state) where they live, public transportation has been shut down and apparently there is minimal government intervention and assistance for the many vulnerable people. Normally many Guatemalans survive in an informal economy living day-to-day, so with the Guatemalan government regulations their survival has become extremely difficult.



The Episcopal Church in Guatemala is directly involved in providing assistance and food to the many families suffering during the crisis. Please see Bishop Romero's message regarding the diocese of Guatemala's response.

<https://www.facebook.com/nuestravida.diocesana/videos/293861048304839/>

Since March when I traveled to Guatemala with our diocesan Guatemalan Companion Committee to meet with Padre Miguel, Bishop Romero and other members of the Guatemala Diocese leadership team, I have been in regular contact with Padre Miguel regarding their situation. Recently, Padre Miguel sent a request to see if we would be able to assist him in establishing a food program for a number of families in our companion parish as well as other local families in the San Andreas area who are in great distress and need. Following discussion with Padre Miguel and Bishop Romero, I did propose to our outreach/mission committee that we assist with Padre Miguel's food program. Following outreach committee and Vestry approval, we allocated \$3,000 for the program. In addition, we received another donation of \$1,000 from a friend of Saint John's Parish to assist with the undertaking.



The funds sent are being used to establish communal and family gardens to provide food and resources for the local community. The program is also providing chickens and pigs for the families to raise for additional food and to be a potential in-

come source for the families. Padre Miguel explained that the initial plan will benefit at least 25 families and since many of the families are multi-generational the program will serve over 200 people.

When thinking about Padre Miguel's request, I feel one of the great gifts we share with our friends in Guatemala is the gift of solidarity and hope. Padre Miguel's response when I told him of the Vestry's approval was heartwarming. *"Receive greetings from your brothers and sisters in San Andres, in Itzapa Chimaltenango. We receive with great joy the email that you have sent us, with the great news of the Food and Vegetables Program being raised. The ministry that you carry out with us is great and so to share the love of God, with the benefited families."* (google translate)

Please know that our relationship and support of our companion parish is greatly appreciated and valued.

Written by Burt Blackburn

Please Contact Us:

Church website: [www.saintjohnsconcord.com](http://www.saintjohnsconcord.com)

Church phone: 610-459-2994

Church email: [office@saintjohnsconcord.com](mailto:office@saintjohnsconcord.com)



**Search Committee Update** : The Search Committee has received six applications from candidates thus far and is in the interviewing process. They will continue receiving applications until August 31. They will continue meeting biweekly via zoom until a new Rector has been chosen.

## ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL LIVE & SILENT AUCTION IS CANCELLED FOR 2020

Since the Annual Auction will not be held this year due to current restrictions, the auction committee is looking for fresh ideas and people to create a platform to raise monies for St. John's many programs previously supported by the auction proceeds. They have a few ideas but would love to hear from other St. John's parishioners to help make our alternative fund-raisers a success. If anyone has any input or would just like to get involved, please contact Carol Angus at [carol.angus@verizon.net](mailto:carol.angus@verizon.net).



### From the Interim Rector's Study

I began my ministry as your Interim Rector almost one year ago, on September 1, 2019. Who could have imagined what this year would bring? A deadly Corona Virus Pandemic that has forced churches to close and offer live-streamed worship only, and the ongoing Black Lives Matter protests against police brutality and racism, and a contentious Presidential Election on top of everything else have made this the most interesting year of my life. It truly is a watershed year in American history, too. Things will not be the same. I am ready for some time off.

I will be on vacation from Saturday, August 15 through Sunday, August 23. Barbara and I will be camping and hiking with our dog, Sassy, in the Mountains of New Hampshire. Believe it or not, I am looking forward to not having any internet and just being out in nature. If you have a Pastoral Emergency while I am on vacation and out of state, call the church office (610) 459-2994 or one of the Wardens – Martha Pearlman (610) 299-5342 or Ted Stipa (302) 547-5656. Joan Marie, Martha or Ted will then put you in touch with an on-call priest.

The weeks before and after my vacation, Monday – Friday, August 10 – 14 & August 24 – 28, I will be using my Continuing Education leave and will not be in the office. I plan to further my studies in Christian Non-violence and the American Peace tradition, Scottish Gaelic and New Testament Greek during this time. I will also be getting some much needed spiritual refreshment through prayer, hiking and riding my new recumbent tricycle. I will be home in West Chester, so if you have a Pastoral Emergency, feel free to call me (610) 223-5588 or email me [frdanstjohnsconcord@gmail.com](mailto:frdanstjohnsconcord@gmail.com).

I look forward to our New 2020/2021 Season. It begins with Rally Sunday on September 13. We will resume the regular Sunday morning schedule of three worship services: 8 am, 9:15 am & 11:00 am. An interesting hybrid of special on-site activities plus Zoom Sunday School lessons is being planned for the children, and some Adult educational and spiritual opportunities as well. Be Safe. Be Well. I hope that you all will have some relaxing and interesting time off this summer, too.

*Fr. Dan +*

## Sunday School News

We're bringing Fall Fun into the parking lot of Saint John's! With a little bit of Faith we'll have a lot of fun – All you need to do is park – we'll bring everything else to you!

### **Rally Sunday, 9/13 4 pm -**

Come park in the special chalk outlined parking spaces, and bring some snacks and drinks for your family. We will have ice cream and fun and games planned for everyone!



### **St. Francis Celebration, Sunday, 10/4, 4 pm -**

Bring your pets and/or stuffed animals for a blessing from Father Dan. We will have games for each family too!



### **Halloween Party, Friday,**

**10/25, 6:30 pm –** Dress up for a family scavenger hunt! More info to come...



**Our Fall theme is Heroes of the Bible!** Beginning Sunday, September 20th we will have a zoom Sunday School presented by one of our teachers at **4 pm each Sunday for the first 3 Sundays of each month.** A schedule will be available soon.