St. John's Journal
November 2026



We are heading into November. It strikes me that within the boundaries of this month there is much going on that speaks a lot about what our lives are like.

It begins with what feels like a positive note. We celebrate All Saints Day, in which we often remember the stars of the Church, the people who shine as examples of what the Christian life should be like. And yet if we take even a little bit of time to look at their lives, so often we learn that the light that they shine is often in the context of a life of struggle. Life was not easy for them, but they remained faithful in their commitment to God.

Likewise, we tack onto All Saints Day the remembrance of All Souls Day or the celebration of All the Faithful Departed. We remember the stars of the Church that may not be quite so bright, but they are lights that have been personally closer to us. They may not be everybody's lights, but they are ours. In the same way, their lives were probably not easy. They probably were not persecuted or martyred for their faith, but following Christ might not have been easy at times, or they may have sacrificed something of their lives to make a difference in other people's lives. And like the Saints, they are no longer with us, and a hole has been left in our lives because of their absence.

I forgot to mention that the actual beginning of this month is the TIME CHANGE. This is the easier time change because we may get an extra hour of sleep. But there are still adjustments to be made in our lives. So even for us, the month begins with a bit of "suffering." That is a reminder that our lives are much like the lives of those who have gone before us. It is not all smooth sailing. We seek to follow Christ as best we can while negotiating the bumps in our lives.

In contrast, the month draws to a close with encouraging words. As the end of the month nears, we will celebrate Christ the King Sunday. It is a reminder he is the one we are looking for to help us lead our lives and keep us focused upon what really matters. We are his people whom he cares for

and he will protect us. That Sunday will also be the day of our Ingathering for our Stewardship Campaign. In that offering of ourselves we are expressing our thanks to God for all that our Divine King has given to us.

Then we come to Thanksgiving Day itself. It is an important time for stopping and spending some time thinking about the good things that are in our lives that we may often take for granted or that may seem to be overshadowed by difficulties. Those good things need to be lifted up and recognized as gifts from Christ Jesus.

And finally, the month ends with a new beginning. It is the beginning of the liturgical year. It is the First Sunday in Advent. Advent is all about God coming to us. We may be focused mostly upon Christmas and the coming birth of the Christ Child, but Advent is about much more than that. It celebrates the many ways God has come to God's people throughout the centuries and through many forms. It is the reassurance that even when it does not feel like it, God is coming to us and has already come and is here with us right now. We don't have to wait for Christmas. Let us give thanks that even in our darkest times, the Spirit of God has come and wrapped her wings about us. God knows our struggles and has come to walk with us.

Fr. Doug

Musings from Denise

An Expression of Gratitude

As 2026 draws to a close, we begin planning our church's activities for the coming year, and that means considering what financial support each of us can offer St. John's in 2027. This year, as part of our annual stewardship campaign, we are focusing on "Thankful Generosity."

Christian stewardship is the responsible management of God's creation, time, talents, and resources, treating everything as a trust from God rather than our own property. Stewardship is not a gift in itself, but rather our response to the gifts God has given us. We all have something to be thankful for, and it is natural to want to share our gratitude with others.

Financial stewardship is manifested as a pledge to the church. It is a formal, written statement of intent that outlines the specific financial support an individual or family plans to give to their church in the upcoming calendar year. It is not a legally binding contract. It is simply a statement of intent that can be adjusted or canceled if a person's financial or life circumstances change.

Unlike a spontaneous offering placed in a weekly collection plate, a pledge represents an intentional, future-oriented commitment. It is a thankful response to all the blessings we have received, and an act of faith and trust that God will continue to provide for us.

Your estimated pledge enables church leadership and the finance committee to responsibly build annual operating budgets, fund ongoing ministries, manage facilities, and plan outreach programs. So, conversations about pledging and budgeting often go together, but they are really separate. More important than what your pledge allows the church to plan for is how it affects you spiritually. Your pledge is a sacred covenant between you and God. It acts as an outward, visible sign of an inward commitment to follow Jesus' path of love and selflessness.

The pledges we gather each Fall are a conscious acknowledgement that all our resources ultimately belong to God, and giving a portion back to God is an expression of gratitude.

Over the past few years, pledges have funded between 66 and 68% of our operating budget, and "open offerings" (non-pledged donations) have funded another 28.5%. The remaining 5% comes from renting our facilities to outside groups and from fundraising efforts. The draft budget begins with the hope that none of these income sources will be lower in the coming year, especially since even with a "status quo" budget, none of our expenses ever seem to decrease.

Please prayerfully consider what you can pledge for 2027 and turn in your pledge card by November 22nd.



Denise was at The Library of Congress!!

So, Noted! Bishop's Advisory Council Meeting October 11, 2026

Treasurers Report

Reconciliations – The Checking, Money Market and Vicar's Discretionary accounts have all been reconciled for September.

Investments - Morgan Stanley had a net increase of $64.63 in September. The balance at month-end was $46,369.45.

The Sweet Fund had a net increase of $536.58 in August, bringing the balance to $44157.27.

Financial Statements from QuickBooks:

Balance Sheet – The Altar Fund and Memorial Funds had no activity in September. The MLC received $220 and spent $148.58 on equipment in September. The pass-thru fund will need to be distributed before the end of this year. The Capital Fund ended September with a balance of $57,196, some of which can be used for parking lot landscaping expenses.

Income Statement: ("Operating P & L") shows total income through September 30 was $95,578 and total expenses were $71,417. Both Open Offerings and pledges are below budget, but it appears that in October a few people made catch-up payments, so we should be alright.

Individual Pledge Statements: For the first three quarters were distributed last week in person and by mail.

Stewardship Campaign for 2027: The Stewardship Packets that included a letter from Fr. Doug, a monetary pledge form from Denise, and a Time & Talent form updated by Laurea will be distributed at the "Breakfast Kick-off" on Sunday the 25th. We will end with a "Lunch Kickoff" on November 22.

Senior Warden Report: Laurea gave us an update on the potluck and the plans for her and Kay to go to the convention in Salem.

Junior Warden Report

Parking Lot landscaping should be starting soon! The sink in the Sacristy had aged out and was replaced.

Vicar Report

1. Need new officers (Senior & Junior Wardens and Clerk)
2. New BAC (Bishop's Advisory Comm.) members
3. New delegates and alternates

Upcoming Events –

11/1 – All Saints/All Souls Remembrance

11/15 – BAC

11/22 – Christ the King & Stewardship Lunch

11/29 – Advent

12/12 – Rainy Day Book Sale

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

11/7 - Marie Curie

11/9 – Carl Sagan

11/30 - Mark Twain

DIDJA KNOW???

- **Bul (The Eighth Month):** In the ancient Hebrew lunar calendar, November largely aligns with the 8th month (or the 2nd month of the civil year). It is explicitly named *Bul* in **1 Kings 6:38**, which derives from terms associated with rain or produce. [1, 2, 3]
- **Marcheshvan / Cheshvan:** Adopted during the Babylonian exile, this name is often called *Mar Cheshvan* (meaning "bitter Cheshvan") because it is the only month on the Hebrew calendar with **no major holidays or festivals**. [1, 2]

Major Biblical and Historical Events Linked to the Month

- **Completion of Solomon's Temple:** King Solomon finished building the First Temple in Jerusalem during the month of Bul after seven years of labor (**1 Kings 6:38**). [1]
- **The Beginning of Noah's Flood:** According to Jewish tradition and biblical chronology, the great flood began on the 17th day of this month (**Genesis 7:11–12**). [1, 2]
- **The Start of Autumn Rains:** This month marks the arrival of the early seasonal rains (*yoreh*) in the land of Israel, vital for agriculture and sowing wheat and barley. [1, 2]
- **King Jeroboam's Idolatrous Festival:** King Jeroboam of Israel arbitrarily set up a counterfeit festival in this eighth month out of his own heart (**1 Kings 12:32–33**). [1, 2]

Stewardship

Thankful Generosity stewardship focuses on framing giving as a joyful spiritual practice and an expression of gratitude for God's abundance.

Core Principles

- **Gratitude First:** Cultivate thankfulness as the root of generosity.
- **Mission-Driven:** Connect financial support directly to changed lives, community impact, and shared ministry goals.
- **Discipleship:** Stewardship as a holistic invitation to manage time, talent, and resources responsibly.

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Medical Loan Closet
Phone: 541-590-2443

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A Believe Out Loud Congregation

Who We Are

St. John Episcopal Church is a community where God leads us in healing, teaching, reaching out, and stewardship.

We are a community that sees Christ in all people and judges none. We believe in inclusion for all people regardless of race, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation. We aim to break down barriers that separate us from one another and to provide a home for anyone on their spiritual journey. Our work brings together people of faith who believe in the inherent dignity and worth of all people on their journey.

BISHOP'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC)

Bishop's Warden: Laurea Arnoldt

Junior Warden: Kathy Webb

Treasurer: Denise Skillman

Clerk: Jennifer Mello

Members at large: Patti Wood, Lorilyn Colton, & Maggie Lowery

Convention Delegates: Laurea Arnoldt & Kay Marino

Alternates: Mary Garrett

CHURCH STAFF

Vicar: The Rev. Doug Hale

Music Director: Cynthia M0horko

Office: Denise Skillman, Laurea Arnoldt, & Maggie Lowery

Our Vicar, Fr. Doug, is generally in his church office Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m.

FEED MY SHEEP

So, Jesus asked us to do. We can respond by our donations to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, which assists those who are hungry and in need.

A basket in the narthex is there for your donations. In addition to food, things like tooth paste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, and shaving needs are welcome.

"Love God, love our neighbor, and serve one another"

November 2026



S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5 Conversations 10:30 am Choir 6:30 pm	6	7
8 Pentecost	9 7:30 pm AA	10 7:30 pm AA	11 7:30 pm AA	12 Conversations 10:30 am Choir 6:30 pm	13	14
15 Pentecost Healing Service BAC Mtg	16 7:30 pm AA	17 S.E.A. Board Mtg 10-12 pm 7:30 pm AA	18 7:30 pm AA	19 Conversations 10:30 am Choir 6:30 pm	20	21
22 Stewardship Campaign Potluck Lunch	23 7:30 pm AA	24 7:30 pm AA	25 7:30 pm AA	26 **Thanksgiving Day**	27 	28
29 Advent	30					