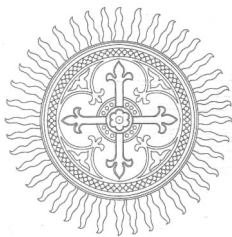


St. John's Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-262-1937
Fax: 334-262-1931
Website:
stjohnsmontgomery.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #376
Montgomery, Alabama
36104



St. John's Episcopal Church

The Eagle

October 2022

“Faith Isn’t for Measuring; It Is for Living”

Yes! Great headline! Fantastic phrase! Beautiful wisdom! Amen! I only wish I’d said it. But I didn’t.

The source of this gem of spiritual treasure is Deonna and she dropped it into our ears last Sunday in her sermon. It got me thinking.

Faith, we can believe, is the opposite of unbelief. **Faith, we think, is the same as certainty.** If this is true, then it follows that if we have doubts our faith is weak or fake. So, if we are not certain that an event in the Old Testament actually happened, or that something in the New Testament occurred exactly the way it is described, then our faith is inadequate. It’s as if certainty is the goal. Our faith is only as strong as we are free of doubt. So, if I’m experiencing doubt then my faith is weak, and if I’m not then my faith is strong. So, a solid, robust faith is not compatible with doubt, the two can’t exist at the same time in the same person. So we can think.

But what if the Good News is better than that? Be honest - it is simply impossible to be **certain** about our Christian beliefs. Truth is, we can’t be certain about **any** of the most important things in life. Doubting aspects of the Christian Faith does not make you a bad Christian, it makes you human. It is perfectly possible and, indeed, it should be the goal of our life, to **live with uncertainty, but to act as if our beliefs are true.**

James, in his letter, says that the way we know our faith is genuine is that we will act on it. So...

- If you have enough faith to pray, even if you aren’t *certain* God is listening, then you have enough faith.
- If you have enough faith to love God and your neighbor, even if you aren’t *certain* that God loves you, then you have enough faith.
- If you have enough faith to serve God and the people he loves, even if you are not *certain* that Jesus has died and been raised, then you have enough faith.
- And if you have enough faith to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Christ, even if you are not *certain* he is real, then you have enough faith.
- If you are reading this article because you want to be a better follower of Christ, then you have enough faith. Your faith is forcing you to **do** something, and that is the only measure of true faith.

Someone sidles up to you in the street and, whispering suspiciously, asks if you’d like to buy a pair of Levi’s for ten bucks. How do you know they are genuine Levi’s and not a cheap knock-off? (Unbelievably, 7% of all the goods traded in the world are counterfeit! Ouch!)

Well, Levi Strauss has included some features in their jeans that prove they are the genuine article ... the ‘Levi’s’ tab on the back right pocket of your jeans will be **red**, the top button will have “LEVI STRAUSS & CO” embossed onto the front side, and there will be a 3 or 4 digit number stamped into the back, and the rivets will say, ‘LS & CO. S.F.’. And, according to scripture, there is a test to show us if our faith is genuine ... does it force us to **do** something – to live right, to pray, to show kindness, to love, to forgive?

So take heart – you have enough faith, now just go and show it!



Stewardship Sunday October 16, 2022

These are exciting days. We at St. John’s have come through so much, including a pandemic. There are still uncertainties ahead, and we carry with us the brokenness of our society and our own lives. And yet, God has kept us, protected us, and used us. He has placed excitement in our hearts, vision in our minds, and open doors in our sight.

I have been thinking about our logo - the image of the sun that decorates our nave ceiling and now adorns our website and stationery. I think God is telling us something. **We are called to be light to our town and our neighbors.** Montgomery needs St John’s to shine God’s warm, safe, energizing light in our streets and neighborhoods. The people in your life need a living witness to God’s love, embodied in you and empowered through your regular worship in our glorious building. **We have a mission – to shine the beacon of God’s compassion in places that lack it. We have been called and equipped to be God’s light-bearers.**

We have the most amazing history, filled with God’s blessing, and built on the service of saints who have gone before us. Now, God is writing a new chapter. We are embracing new challenges, such as how we can **shine the light with children and young families** and **address the needs of our town more effectively.** But these challenges are merely invitations to stand back and watch God perform miracles. I’m thrilled that you will be a part of what God will do through us.

Now is the time to become excited about how God will use us to **Shine the Light.** May I, therefore, invite you to prayerfully consider pledging a proportion of your income to St John’s in 2023. As a guide, our budget for 2022 was \$1.7mn, and the average pledge was \$7,376 per household. However, please feel no obligation to match or exceed the average. All I ask is that you pray, consider your income, and find a sum that is right for you. Then, complete the enclosed Shining our Light pledge card and bring it to church on October 16th, when we will celebrate God’s abundance and our eager response.

With my gratitude and God’s every blessing, Duncan



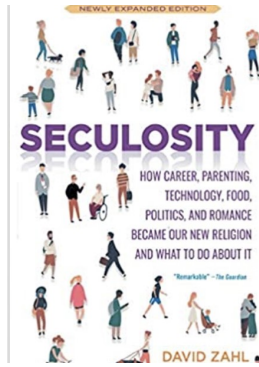
Installation of the 17th Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church The Rev. Dr. Duncan Johnston October 12, 2022 @ 6:00pm

St. John's will officially install Duncan Johnston as the 17th Rector of the parish on Oct. 12th at 6pm. All are invited to this beautiful service led by The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry. A reception in the parish house will follow.

Adult Christian Formation

What People Believe in when They Stop Believing in Organized Religion—A Look at Some of Today's Secular Faiths Sept 18-Nov. 20 in the parish house

Duncan is teaching a fascinating class entitled: **What People Believe in when They Stop Believing in Organized Religion—A Look at Some of Today's Secular Faiths**. He will use a book called **Seculosity** by David Zahl. The book is not necessary for the class, but if you would like a copy, they can be found through online book sellers. This class will continue until Nov. 20.



Young Adult Halloween Supper Club Friday, Oct. 21 @ 6pm 1302 Augusta Ave.

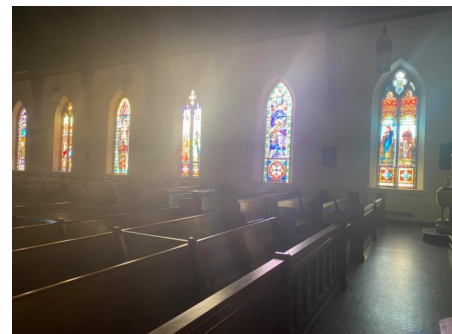
The young adults of the parish will have a Halloween themed supper club at the home of Mary Martin & Scott Mitchell on Friday, Oct. 21st at 6pm. Bring a spooky side dish to share and your favorite witches' brew. Children and costumes are welcome.

Trunk or Treat Wednesday, Oct. 26 at 6pm

Everyone is invited to join us for Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, Oct. 26th. Trunk or treating begins at 6pm, so please have your car set up and decorated by 5:55pm. Everyone is responsible for their own decorations. There will be a prize for the best decorated car! We'll have corn dogs, french fries and cookie cake for dinner. It doesn't get any healthier than that!



Blessing & Rededication of the St. John's Windows October 23, 2022



While we won't be quite done reinstalling all of our windows, we will celebrate their reinstallation, and bless them as part of our 10:30am service on October 23rd. The Bishop will be here, and there will be a reception afterwards (Lots of food!). Everyone's financial support of the Light Campaign, and patience with the boarded up windows and the scaffolding is gratefully appreciated. Come celebrate what your gifts have achieved.

October In-Gathering



For our October In-Gathering, we will be collecting shelf stable milks and small canned proteins with pull tab tops for our food backpack program for homeless students at Carver high school. All items may be left on the round table in the hallway outside of Duncan's office.



Bazaar News

The Bazaar will be Nov. 16 with sale hours from 10am-2pm AND 5pm-7pm. We will have our traditional luncheon from 11am-1pm, and will sell Boston butts from 5pm-7pm. Shopping will be available during the midday after afternoon hours.

Treasure Attic

The Treasure Attic **REALLY** needs your pre-loved items! We are only 5 weeks away from the Bazaar and the collections for this room are thin! Please look in your closets and see if there is anything cluttering your home that you'd like to donate. You may bring any items you would like to donate to the church office building, and leave them under the stairs. Items we're looking for include, but are not limited to: tableware, china, silver/brass/pewter, linens, decorative items, and jewelry.

Silent Auction

The silent auction also desperately needs of more items. We would like to stock the Auction with loved items that would entice competitive bidding: Autographed memorabilia, art work, home accessories, weekend at the lake or beach, dining restaurant certificates, jewelry, special experiences, antiques, and whatever item you know would be sought after. Please mark your items for the silent auction, and bring them to the educational building lobby. Contact Kathleen Bradford, kbradbrad@aol.com or Katie Keller, kkeller2009@charter.net, co-chairs of the Silent Auction with any questions or assistance.

Arts & Crafts & Pantry

Arts & crafts and the pantry continue to work on their projects. The arts & crafts crew meet every Wednesday morning, and also create things at home. The pantry volunteers cook every Tuesday & Thursday morning. There will also be a **Sunday afternoon pantry cooking event** on Sunday, Oct. 23rd at 5pm. Both committees love and want new volunteers!

How do I Participate?

There are many ways to participate in the Bazaar. As you can see, many groups are already hard at work, and welcome new volunteers any time. The day of the Bazaar always requires a great deal of volunteer work, and with the new evening hours, we hope there may be some new faces to help with the 5pm-7pm shift. We want you; we need you! Contact the Bazaar chair, Betsy Cannon, 317-285-8172/bcannon66@yahoo.com

EYC is BACK!



While we are still searching for a permanent youth director, Ryan Branton, who assisted Joleen for many years, has agreed to step in as our interim. Sunday morning EYC (9:15am), and Sunday PM EYC (5pm) resumes this Sunday, Oct. 9. Wednesday coffee (5:30) returns on Oct. 12.

Online Statements

Pledge/donation statements will be available next week. Anyone who has an active email address in the database will receive an email with a link included. Click the link to access your statement. Those without an email address will have a paper statement mailed to you. If you would prefer a mailed statement, please call or email Heather Herring, 262-1937/heather@stjohnsmontgomery.org