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THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S

Wednesday, Dec 28- Tuesday, Jan. 03

A MESSAGE FROM DUNCAN



“The Perfect Set of Arms to Run Into” *

Well, if that picture didn't grab your attention, nothing will. I am a sucker for chocolate, cherries, and cream, so this image is front and center in my personal art gallery (just next to the sticky toffee pudding and the New York cheesecake.) I can't help it; I just love desserts.

so dearly-loved is really quite shocking. To look at its simple format, its inexpensive homeliness, and its quaint innocence you would predict that its chances of becoming a cult TV show in the US would be very slim. But you'd be wrong. The millions of devotees on Netflix have made this UK import compulsive, feel-good TV.

If you haven't guessed by now, I'm talking about the Great British Baking Show.

So, why is it so popular? Were American viewers really crying out for another reality-TV cooking competition? Surely not. So, what were they wanting that they couldn't get from the others? Well, there is the show's understated simplicity, for one thing. There are no flashy prizes (unless you call a cake stand fancy), no lavish sets, hairdos, or costumes; and no oversized egos – either from the contestants or the presenters and judges.

Then there's the captivating realization that the contestants seem to be nice people – the kind you might want to meet and make friends with. There's no meanness, no drama, and no tears (except when a soufflé collapses.)

Finally, when you watch the show, you get the sense that you're not being sold anything. There's no sponsorship or product-placement, and the presenters are not dressed by some fashion house on 5th Avenue, the name of which you will see in the closing credits.

The Great British Baking Show is brilliant in its niceness. It evokes memories of an age and a culture that none of us knew, and may not actually have existed. In this way it's like a Victorian novel, but without the insufferable aristocrats.

The fact that it has achieved cult status says more about our popular culture than anything. Maybe the show's creators have discovered a deep but overlooked truth – that simplicity, contentment, and humility are beautiful qualities. Indeed, they are aspects of a person whose life is in Christ.

As I was writing this article a scripture came to mind. "Let your gentleness be evident to all." In its context, it is even more exciting and inspiring: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:4-7)

Here's the difference between those words of St Paul to his friends in Philippi, and so much of our popular culture ... Often when I watch TV (especially a 24-hour news channel), I find myself becoming a worse person – angry, envious, opinionated, judgmental. When I read Paul's words, I want to be a better person. Of course, I'm not crediting the Baking Show with miraculous godly powers, but it at least it genuinely makes you feel good.

-Duncan







The Welcome Course

An engaging program of presentations and discussions about The Christian Faith and the Episcopal tradition.

If...

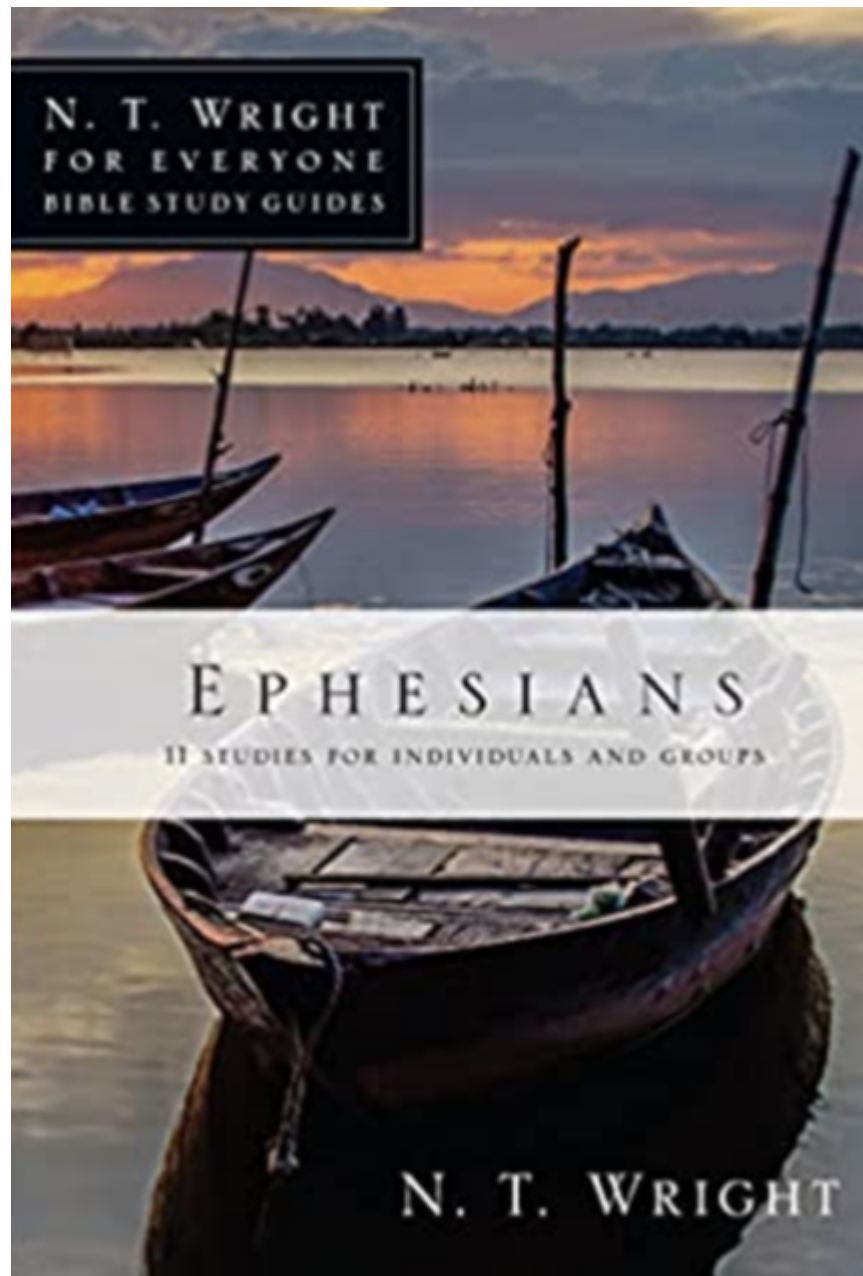
- You're new to Christianity, or
- You've been to a lot of church services over a long time, but still have many questions about God and faith, or
- You've been a Christian for years, but have never had the chance to seriously examine your faith in a friendly, accepting place, or
- You want to make an adult declaration of faith and commitment to God by being baptized or confirmed, or
- You've been a member of another church but want to know what Episcopalians believe, and how St John's is different from the church you grew up in,

... then the Welcome Course may be right for you.

The Welcome Course Schedule

(Sundays at 9.15am in the Library)

January 15	Who is God?
January 22	What does Christianity teach?
January 29	How do we worship?
February 6	What about evil?
February 12	What is our purpose?
February 19	How should we live?



Winter Bible Study on Ephesians

Deonna will lead an 11-week Bible study on Paul's letter to the Ephesians beginning Sunday, January 8th, 2023. Two identical sessions will be offered to provide a variety of participation options.

- 1) Sunday mornings (in-person in the Archives room on the 3rd floor) from 9.15 to 10.15am.
- 2) Tuesday nights (via Zoom) from 7pm to 8pm.

We will be using NT Wright's Study Guide *Ephesians: 11 Studies for Individuals and Groups*. You can purchase it online via the link [HERE](#) or from the bookstore after the New Year, the price will

Warden's Report



WARDENS REPORT

The final Vestry meeting for 2022 was quite active. Here are the highlights:

- * The Vestry gives a grateful thanks to those who have already pledged for 2023. Your able treasurer, **Richard Bradford** reported that we only have a few remaining parishioners who have been faithful givers in the past from whom we have not yet received 2023 pledge cards. **William Haynes** is organizing a final push to make contact with these parishioners to encourage them to include the church in their charitable giving plans for 2023. Richard also reported that we are on a good path to collecting fully the pledges for 2022, but we still have a few more 2022 pledges that need to be fulfilled.
- * We are still on track to have the Windows project completed no later than February 2023 at which time the scaffolding (finally) will be fully removed.
- * The Vestry APPROVED a painting restoration and cleaning project to go forward in early 2023 for the two large Rubens copies that have hung in our Nave for nearly 100 years. The committee that will oversee this project will **Melissa Carter, Hank Johnson, Duncan Johnston, Seibels Marshall, Fred Matthews** and **Will Hill Tankersley**. The Vestry anticipates that there will be sufficient surplus funds from the Windows project to cover the initial estimated costs of this painting project. The Vestry also anticipates the paintings will be removed in January 2023 and returned in June 2023.
- * The Vestry also anticipates that beginning in March 2023 there will be repairs to the wooden frames for the hallway windows on the eastern (parking lot) side of the church and that (thanks to **William Haynes** and his finance and administration committee) our flat roof drainage problems for the roof over the Sacristy finally will be corrected.
- * The Vestry has APPROVED the following Vestry Class of 2025 to be presented to the parish at the annual meeting on Sunday January 22, 2022: **Melissa Carter, Mark Chappell, Anne Hamner, Catherine McLemore, Keith Miller** and **Allison Prillaman**. Vestry bios and pictures of the proposed members of the class of 2025 will be available in advance of the annual meeting.
- * The Vestry also APPROVED the wardens' and rector's joint motion that **Margaret Ann Selman** serve as the 2023 Junior Warden. Margaret Ann will assume her Junior Warden duties

* The Vestry APPROVED the recommendations of a select committee to consider security enhancements to the church. This select committee was comprised of **Jim Beck, John Carter, Duncan Johnston, Nina Knapp, Casey Shaw** and **Will Hill Tankersley**.

* The Vestry also said farewell to the Vestry Class of 2022 (**Betsy Cannon, Cissy Johnson, Brice Johnston, J.R. Marshall, Scott Mitchell, Dudley Perry** and **Will Hill Tankersley**). This Vestry Class of 2022 faced the many challenges and opportunities of the last three years with a faithful and energetic determination to be active in the leadership of the church as well as a commitment to keep the parish informed about the actions of the Vestry.

Every Blessing:

The Wardens (Will Hill Tankersley and William Haynes)



Holy Comforter Food Pantry

Listed below are some suggested items that are popular.

- Canned Fruit
- Condiments(mayo, mustard, ketchup, relish, & pickles)
- Instant coffee & regular tea bags

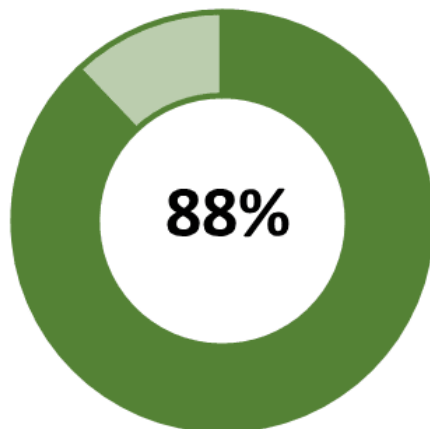
- Instant potatoes & ramen noodles
 - Healthy snacks, such as granola bars & crackers
 - Jelly & syrup
 - Canned meats: Spam, tuna, Vienna sausages, SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, etc.
 - “Southern style” canned vegetables-Margaret Holmes & Glory brands
 - Toilet tissue & paper towels (individually wrapped)
 - Small bags of flour, sugar, & cornmeal
-



Mercy House Lunch Servers

Thanks to everyone who has taken the time to volunteer at [Mercy House](#) this fall. This has been a wonderful opportunity for Ascension and St. John's to come together in service. For anyone who is interested, the work is pretty simple. Mercy House prepares the food to be handed out and we just assist with bagging it and getting it out the door. Some meals are delivered via Door Dash and others are served to clients onsite in take-home containers. A new Sign Up Genius link is available with dates to volunteer for Thursdays (11:00 – 1:00) from December through March at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10CoC4AAEA622A4FC1-mercy1>.

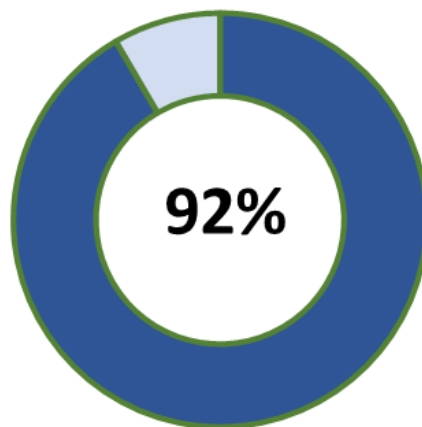
This group could use a few people who would be willing to serve as substitutes on short notice when issues arise. If you are willing to serve in that role, please let Stephanie Norrell know. You can reach her at 334-467-6989 or sbnorrell@gmail.com.



Based on 148 Pledging Households

[Click Here to Schedule your 2023 General Fund Pledge](#)

2022 Pledge Payment Fulfillment Update



Please remit payments by 12/31/22

[Click Here to Make a Payment on your 2022 Pledge](#)

New pledge envelopes have been mailed and should arrive this week. We are using a new company, so they will look different. Envelopes will now be mailed quarterly instead of annually. **Weekly, monthly and annual pledges may also be made online using the St. John website.** If you would like to make your pledges online, please let Heather Herring (heather@st.Johnsmontgomery.org) know so she can stop your pledging envelopes.



TREASURE HUNT

WE ARE SO LUCKY TO BE SURROUNDED WITH AMAZING TREASURES HERE AT ST. JOHN'S! JOIN US FOR A TREASURE HUNT AROUND THE CHURCH. EACH WEEK WE WILL FEATURE A PRECIOUS ITEM LOCATED SOMEWHERE IN THE CHURCH BUILDINGS OR GROUNDS. IF YOU FIND IT, TELL MS. SARAH AND GET A REWARD.

Can you find me? Clue: I overhear the most lovely sounds!

If you have a favorite treasure that you'd like us to highlight email Constance@stjohnsmontgmary.org.



Clue: I Have the best view of the congregation and the courtyard!



WEEKDAY OFFERINGS

Tuesdays

- 7:30 AM Holy Eucharist in Chapel
- 9:00 PM Compline (Facebook Live)

Wednesdays

- 11:30AM Contemplative Prayer in the Library

Thursdays

- 12:05 PM Healing Eucharist in Chapel
- 9:00 PM Compline (Facebook Live)



LAY MINISTRY - JANUARY 01

REMINDERS

Listed below are who will be serving as Ushers, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Lectors and Flower Delivery on Sunday.

10:00 AM – Holy Eucharist Rite I

- *Ushers/Greeters:* Will Hill Tankersley, Betsy Cannon, Cissy Johnson, Michele Shaw

Wednesday
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CALENDAR REMINDER

This Week At St. John's

See below the church schedule for the next week

DECEMBER
2022

WEDNESDAY 28

11:30 AM Contemplative Prayer
5:00 PM Instrumentalist Practice

THURSDAY 29

12:05 PM Healing Eucharist in Chapel
12:45 PM Cursillo Reunion Group
1:30 PM Archives Committee Meeting
5:30 Instrumentalists Rehearse
9:00 PM Compline (Facebook Live)

FRIDAY 30

12:05 PM Healing Eucharist in Chapel
12:45 PM Cursillo Reunion Group
1:30 PM Archives Committee Meeting
5:30 Instrumentalists Rehearse
9:00 PM Compline (Facebook Live)

SUNDAY 01

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist Rite I

MONDAY 02

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY 03

6:30 AM Al-Anon Meeting in Loft
7:30 AM Holy Eucharist in Chapel
8:30 AM Prayer Group in SCR
3pm J. Conely organ practice
9:00 PM Compline (Facebook Live)



Joys & Concerns

PLEASE NOTIFY US WHEN YOU ARE SICK OR HOSPITALIZED SO THAT WE MIGHT PROVIDE PASTORAL CARE. THE PRAYER LIST WILL BE UPDATED MONTHLY. PLEASE NOTIFY IF THE NAME LISTED NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED LONGER.

Your prayers are requested for the following parishioners: Jim Bennett, Bill and Lida Bowman, Rod Frazer, Karen Jarrell, Leslie Little, Ken Mahan, Christopher Marshall, Richard McCrory, Eddie McDowell, Marilyn Pickett, Shirley Price, Carrie Shaw, Evelyn Sherbert, Tommy Tyson, Larry Worrilow.

Prayers are also requested for these friends: Jodelle Oakley, Rowan Osbourne, Johnathon Pace, Karen and Angelo Pacheco, Robert Proctor, Sarah Stone Walker

remain on this list, or if you have a friend in need of prayer, you may email prayer requests to Constance@stjohnsmontgomery.org

If you or someone you know needs Pastoral Care, please contact December's pastoral care team: Betsy Cannon, Michelle Shaw, Josie Eskridge, Mary-Nelms Parsons, Renee Taylor, Laura Knapp

[Click here for the Sunday Bulletins](#)

[Click here for this Sunday's Lessons](#)

[Click here to meet our staff and vestry](#)



Links to all of the St. John's Offerings

Church Services:

[St. John's Facebook Page](#)

[St. John's YouTube Page](#) (Sunday morning services & adult Christian Ed classes)



Our mailing address is:
St. John's Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104
Phone: 334-262-1937

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