



## RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,



I'm sure that you, like me, love this time of year in Centre County. From the crisp weather and changing leaves to Penn State football, all this and much more, make Fall a much-beloved season in Happy Valley. It's a bit surreal to think that this is already my third fall as a Bellefonte resident; and even though I've lived most of my life in the Northeast, I still welcome this time of year with child-like excitement. It also helps that there's an abundance of feasts and observances, both inside and outside the Church: Michaelmas and All Saints, and, of course, Halloween and Thanksgiving.

We kick-off our fall festivities in the Church by celebrating the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels on Sunday, October 3. I want to express a special thanks to Deb Cree, who will be sitting on the bench, while Erik and Christopher Clayton go away on a father-son scout trip. As always, many thanks to Rebecca Clayton and the rest of our choir for leading us in worship and praise. Immediately after the 10:30 a.m. mass, we will launch our first Youth



Confirmation Class. Please keep our youth in your prayers as they prepare for Confirmation—and as they continue to navigate through school during COVID-19.

In the following two weeks we will see much-cherished, and much-needed, events at St. John's. On Sunday, October 10, we will offer our annual Blessing of the Animals. We will gather outside the rectory porch for the blessing rite after the 10:30 a.m. mass, a break from our previous practice of gathering in the back of the church. As always, you are invited to bring your pets to worship, or you can simply join us for the blessing, which should start at 11:30 a.m. or a few minutes thereafter.

On Saturday, October 16, a parish clean-up day and a dinner fundraiser will take place back-to-back. It will be a busy day at Saint John's! Luckily, there is no Penn State football that weekend, so I hope to see you at either activity! You will find more information on these two events later in this issue of *The Herald*.

Finally, we will wrap up October with our second feast-day celebration and parish dinner in our *Let us Keep the Feast* series. On Thursday, October 28, we will celebrate the feast of Saints Simon & Jude with a low mass, organ music, and cantor at 5:30 p.m., followed by a Mediterranean-inspired dinner in the parish hall at 6:00 p.m. If you attended our last dinner or heard about it, expect another wonderful meal. Please RSVP for dinner by contacting the parish office; this will greatly help with food preparations.

As we continue to make our way through a full year under COVID-19 and an ongoing season of uncertainty, I hope and pray that the ceaseless seasons of the Church year – its celebrations, rites, and rituals – will be an aid for you. I look forward to the day when we can return to an even greater sense of normalcy; and as we slowly but surely get there, let us continue to set our eyes on Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Yours in Christ,  
*Fr. Carlos†*

## FROM THE DEACON'S PERCH



Dear friends,

Spiritual Trauma

Fr. John Harwood and I read an interesting article titled *How has the pandemic affected you?* We had conversations on this topic in connection



with the church, your relationship with God, and even with family. We have all experienced isolation these past 18 months, which seems forever. Personally, I feel it affected my ministries both in and outside of church because they all came to a halt due to COVID and its restrictions. I couldn't go to the prison, the nursing home, the hospital, or my classes at CPI. Even spiritual direction was curtailed. So, yes, I had a little trauma. When I saw the church empty and we were Zooming, that was difficult. When we allowed limited attendance, people were wearing masks while staring at the altar. I found it disheartening and many times lonely without that fellowship.

I knew for a long time before COVID came upon us that the Episcopal church

was a family that Ellen and I belonged to. St. John's is our family. I'm writing this letter because, as I said, the original conversation with Fr. John was: "How has the pandemic affected you?" We need to have this conversation because we were all affected by COVID. In many cases we are still worried about masking, booster shots, the coming flu season, anti-vaxers, and misinformation. Only when we have a clearer understanding of what trauma we are experiencing and can talk about it, can we heal one another. We need to acknowledge that something happened to us, and to understand how it affected the church and how we can heal and come together once again a complete family.

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous hand."

Pray this mantra; it is one of the many ways to heal and rebuild. Think about reaching out to a church member you haven't seen in a while. Contact them to ask if they are ok, let them know they are being thought of and prayed for, and invite them to a service. Always remember that we do not judge. That is in God's hands, for we are to love one another as he loves us. Finally, if you found this to be helpful, let me know by text, by e-mail, or in person. Since we all have internal wounds that this pandemic caused, we can also help each other heal.

In our Outreach ministry, we have provided Centre Care with a great gift. Bobbie Salvaterra, head of the Recreation Department, picked up all the gifts that we collected (8 boxes), which included items for the residents to help pass time. They are still restricted on visitations (3 times a week for half an hour). It has been hard on the residents,



being so isolated, but these measures are necessary to in order to slow infections. Goods were also delivered to the food bank. We were a little slack in September, so we will resume the food bank collection again in November.

We will be giving to the Bellefonte Youth Center in October, so please bring individually wrapped snacks and cookies, small juice drinks, small bags of

chips, and fruit wraps to be given to the youth. Fr. Carlos and I look for opportunities to serve the community and beyond. We helped Centre Safe with a monetary gift, and we gave to the Afghan relief fund as well as the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund for Haiti. As a church family, we help all who are in need. Please contact Fr. Carlos or me if there is any need. +

A special thank you for all who cooked a dessert or a dish for our picnic here on Curtin Street. It could not have been more joyous: the food, fellowship, and the weather were fantastic. Thank you, God.



Heads-up: we are holding a church fund-raising dinner on October 16, so mark the calendar (there is no home game that day) to make this a success. I will be one of the many cooks. We need helpers that day; look for a sign-up sheet to assist.

~Deacon Alex†

## **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

**Sunday, October 10 | 11:30 a.m.**



In commemoration of Saint Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Animals, we'll again be offering a Blessing of the Animals. This year's blessing will take place in front of the rectory porch on Lamb Street, after the 10:30 a.m. mass. Bring your furred, feathered, finned, or scaled friends (or a photograph) to mass, or simply join us outside for the blessing rite starting at 11:30 a.m.

## **FREE BREAKFAST/PARISH CLEAN-UP DAY**

**Saturday, October 16 | 9:00 a.m.**



A free breakfast will be provided by Father Carlos. In return, your help is requested after breakfast to help clean up the church grounds. We need at least 8-9 people to help. Focus will be on weeding and trimming dead plants, planting in front of the rectory, and preparing the parish garden beds for winter. If you have them, bring work gloves, clippers, and leaf rakes. It shouldn't take more than a couple of hours—if we have sufficient helpers—to get the church looking ship-shape. If possible, please confirm your participation by emailing the parish office; this will help with planning and food preparations:  
[office@stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.org](mailto:office@stjohnsepiscopalbellefonte.org).

## **POLISH DINNER FUNDRAISER**

**Saturday, October 16 | 4:00-6:00 p.m.**



Save the date and spread the word for our final dinner fundraiser of the year! Charlotte Zmyslo and Deacon Alex will be serving up a traditional Polish dinner of stuffed cabbage, kielbasa, pierogis, and noodles. The charge is \$12 for adults and \$9 for children. Stay tuned for more dinner information, a donation list, and volunteer opportunities!

## LET US KEEP THE FEAST!



**Let us keep the Feast!** is a monthly worship and dinner series that celebrates feast days of the Church that would otherwise go unobserved. Each gathering will begin with mass in the church, followed by a thematic dinner in the rectory or parish hall. Please save the dates below and bring a friend!

### 2021 Feast Days

Thursday, October 28 - Ss. Simon & Jude  
Thursday, November 18 - St. Hilda of Whitby  
Tuesday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross

**Worship - 5:30 p.m.**

**Dinner - 6:00 p.m.**

Please RSVP for dinner by contacting the parish office:

[office@stjohnsepicopalbellefonte.org](mailto:office@stjohnsepicopalbellefonte.org)

## FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

These are exciting times for our children and youth at St. John's. Our fall program began with a lakeside worship, luncheon,

and learning about seven "I AM" statements of Jesus found in scripture.



Our formation and Sunday school program began the following week. Our current curriculum, Spark, follows our weekly church lectionary with an

emphasis on learning about Jesus and the Bible and being part of a community of Christians.

### **COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP**

We are looking for volunteers to help set up, serve beverages, and clean up



afterwards. All beverages and food items will be provided by the church. If you would like to contribute any specialty drinks or food items, you are welcome to do so, but it is not required. **We need volunteers for October and November. To sign up for coffee hour, please visit our new sign-up link: <https://bit.ly/3um2fBp> or contact the parish office.**

### **SUPPORT SAINT JOHN'S ON AMAZON SMILE**

Do you shop on Amazon.com?

Amazon Smile is a website operated by



Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on Amazon Smile, that foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to Saint John's.

To choose Saint John's as your charitable organization, visit our unique

charity link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/24-6020380>

Then simply sign in to your existing Amazon account and shop. It's that easy!

### **VESTRY NEWS (SEPT. MTG.)**



- Rector's Report:
- Sunday Lakeside Worship and Learning was a success
- Children and Youth Formation starts this Sunday
  - First Sunday of the month youth confirmation classes begin in October.
  - Saturday, May 17, 2022, is scheduled for Confirmation mass, followed by a festive reception.
  - Separate confirmation classes for adults will offered in the spring.
- "Let us keep the feast" worship and dinner series
  - First mass and dinner on the front porch was held on September 14.
  - Next dinner: Thursday, October 28.
- Blessing of Animals
  - October 10 outside of rectory after 10:30 mass.
- Fall Clean-Up Day
  - Saturday, October 16
  - Free breakfast beforehand
- Fall Fundraiser Dinner
  - Saturday October 16
  - Cabbage, kielbasa, pierogis, and noodles
  - Take-out will be primary option; limited seating will be available.

- Discussion regarding bringing back singing
    - We should gradually bring back singing, especially for Christmas
    - Hymnals are ok; no need to disinfect them since they are only used @ 10:30 mass then not used for another week
    - Choir carries the hymns
    - Make singing optional
  - Grand Piano
    - Erik heard of piano for sale for \$18K
    - Father Carlos spoke with Treasurer, D. Cree, and Senior Warden
    - Comments:
      - Good idea for the music program
      - Something to think of down the road
      - Where would it be placed?
      - Where would we find funds?
      - Nice idea, but not the right time; would encourage purchase down the line when we have more funds and not so many other pressing matters.
  - Maintenance Projects
    - Roof leaking in the working sacristy
    - Add threshold ramp and rails on rectory porch
    - Rails going up to the altar
    - Floor repairs
      - Pull up carpet in the altar area and fix floor in the entry way
  - Hopefully by year end; project has no tentative date
  - Computer updates
    - Two computers need to be replaced
    - Less than \$1K each
    - Father Carlos gave OK to purchase from business expense line in budget
- Senior Warden's Report**
- Minor crash with computer that treasurer uses
  - Other computer in office very old as well
  - Some leak issues over working sacristy area
    - Spoke with Jeff Wilson, but will also speak with contractor to see what it involves.
- Junior Warden's Report**
- Most renovations are for upgrades
  - Carpet
    - At end of useful life, needs to be taken out
    - Cost of removing carpet and work to be done: \$30K +
    - Perhaps start a capital campaign.
  - Organ
    - How do we get as much as we can out of organ before major renovation?
    - Research what needs to be done.
- Financial:**
- Everything still on track
  - Loose plate – guests have given generously this year



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

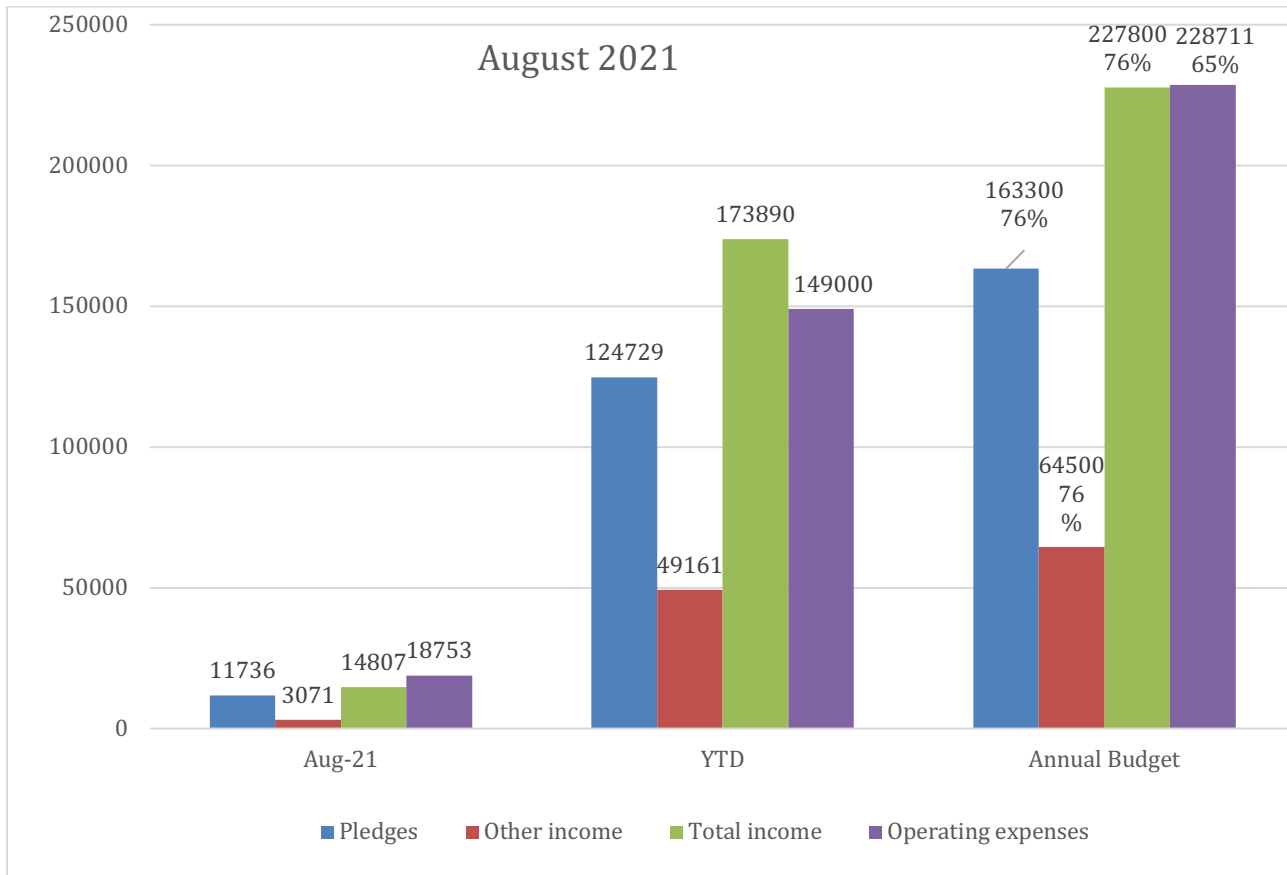
David	Cree	5-Oct
Laura	Reid	5-Oct
Charlotte	Zmyslo	7-Oct
Charlotte	Saylor	12-Oct
Barbara	Roberson	15-Oct
Bryan	Hough	18-Oct
Debra	McGinley	20-Oct
Madison	Arrington	22-Oct
Victoria	Duminiak	24-Oct
Zebulon	Green	25-Oct



**Vestry Members:** Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Matt Perkins (Jr. Warden), John Fusco, Carol Fyfe, Debra Cree, Thomas Quigley, David King, Charlotte Zmyslo, Susan Christy, Peggy Jackson

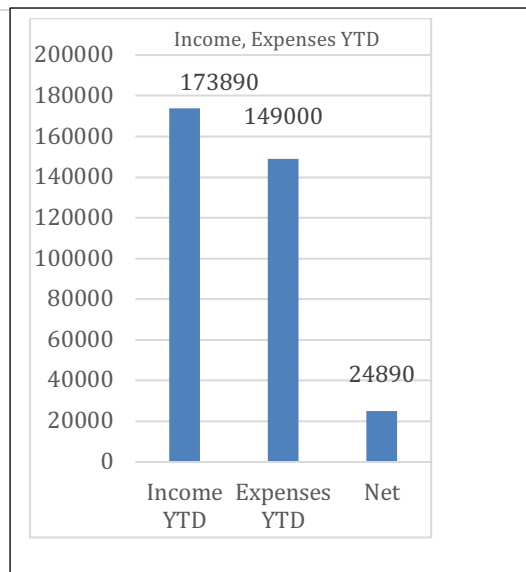
**FINANCIAL**

	Aug-21	YTD	Annual Budget	YTD % of Budget
Pledges	11736	124729	163300	76%
Other income	3071	49161	64500	76%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>14807</b>	<b>173890</b>	<b>227800</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Operating expenses</b>	<b>18753</b>	<b>149000</b>	<b>228711</b>	<b>65%</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-3946</b>	<b>24890</b>		



	Expenses	
<b>Income YTD</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>Net</b>
<b>146302</b>	<b>141453</b>	<b>4849</b>

**Numbers do not include investments, savings, or checking acct balance.**



# OCT 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
					St. Thérèse of Lisieux	The Holy Guardian Angels
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
Solemnity of St. Michael & All Angels: 9:00am Low Mass; 10:30am Solemn Mass	St. Francis of Assisi	Feria	St. Bruno 9:30am Monthly Parish Requiem	Our Lady of the Rosary	Feria	St. Denis, Bishop and Companions
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: 9:00am Low Mass; 10:30am Solemn Mass;  11:30am Blessing of the Animals	St. Philip the Evangelist	St. Wilfrid	St. Edward the Confessor 9:30am Low Mass	St. Callistus I	St. Teresa of Avila	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque 9:00am Free Breakfast & Parish Clean-up Day 4:00pm Polish Dinner Fundraiser
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost: 9:00am Low Mass  10:30am Solemn Mass	St. Luke the Evangelist	Feria	St. Paul of the Cross 9:30am Low Mass 7:00pm Vestry	Feria	Feria	St. James of Jerusalem
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
The Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost: 9:00am Low Mass;  10:30am Solemn Mass	Feria	St. Alfred the Great	Feria	Ss. Simon & Jude, Apostles 5:30pm Low Mass 6:00pm Parish Dinner	Feria	Feria