

Good News from St. John's

February 2016

St. John's Episcopal Church
313 S. 18th St. — PO Box 882
Parsons, KS 67357



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MISSION STATEMENT: With God's help we seek to share our love, fellowship, charity and faith with all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

THE SEASON OF LENT-2016

What is the meaning and purpose of Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is a wake-up call. Ash Wednesday hits us squarely between the eyes, forcing us to face mortality and sinfulness. We hear Scripture readings that are urgent and vivid. We have black ashes rubbed into our foreheads. We recite a Litany of Penitence that takes our breath away. According to the Episcopal Church calendar, it is also a "fast" day. So what does fasting mean? Restricting the food we eat, and also the size and number of meals. You can be as strict or as lenient as you want to be. A spirit of "fasting" can also include restriction of television watching, shopping and going out with friends, or a special kind of giving to those in need, by donating our time, talents and treasures, during Lent.

Ash Wednesday is the gateway to Lent. We have forty precious days to open ourselves up most particularly to God, to examine ourselves and learn to not be afraid of our sinfulness. We are dust, and to dust we shall return, but with God's grace we can learn to live life more fully, embracing our sinfulness, allowing God to transform us.

The Lenten journey, with its climax in Holy Week and Good Friday and Easter, is about participating in the death and resurrection of Jesus. It means dying to an old way of being, and being born into a new way of being, a way of being centered once again in God.

The Lenten Wreath of Thorns.

On Ash Wednesday all the candles on the wreath will be lit and all extinguished at the end of the service. However, on the first Sunday in Lent, and each Sunday thereafter, one of the five purple candles will be extinguished each week. The Red candle will be extinguished on Palm Sunday and the white candle extinguished on Good Friday. The wreath's growing darkness signifies the sacrifice our Lord made for each of us and focuses our personal and spiritual preparation during the Season of Lent.

Other Wood Lenten items.

A wood processional cross with a crown of thorns, wood altar and office candle holders, and wood altar book stand, to help convey the season of lent in a more profound way.

What is Lent?

Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for his ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self-examination, and repentance. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.

Lenten Service and adult formation study in a separate article in this newsletter.

What are the Colors you will see during Lent?

The color used for most of Lent is purple, a color that symbolizes the pain and suffering leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus as well as the suffering of humanity and the world under sin. But purple is also the color of royalty, and so anticipates through the suffering and death of Jesus the coming resurrection and hope of newness that will be celebrated in the Resurrection on Easter. We have new purple vestments, hangings and banners, which we hope will enhance your Lenten journey.

The color changes to Red for Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday, representing the color of the church and Pentecost, but also remembering the martyrs of the church. Since it symbolizes shed blood, it is used on Palm Sunday to symbolize the death of Jesus.

The color changes to black for Good Friday as we extinguish the final Lenten candle symbolizing that Christ has died.

Adult Formation Ministry Team
Gloria Young
Martha Stone
Mother Sharon

Lenten Study

Our Lenten study this year will be on “John: The Gospel of Light and Life.” We will follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best known verses in the New Testament. You will experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal while exploring the major themes of John.

Our study will start on Monday February 15th and continue each Monday through March 21st at 6:30 pm. We will begin, in the church, by saying The Great Litany and then have a light snack and study in the parlor area of Fox Hall.

If you plan to attend, please see Mother Sharon to get your book.

Adult Formation Ministry Team

Vestry Meeting Summary

December 13, 2015

Present: Alice Miller, Candy Scarborough, Gary Chubb, Martha Stone, Gloria Young, Verlyn Bolinger, Mother Sharon. Jupe Allen Clerk was absent.

Development:

Meeting opened with prayer.

Treasurer’s reports from October & November were accepted.

Old Business:

Pledge shortages were discussed with the understanding most of them won’t be coming in. Number of pledges received for 2016 are 17 with a pledge total of \$52,900.00.

Nominating committee reported they have not had anyone agree to seek election for the vestry, except Candy Scarborough. Alice & Gloria are still praying if they will seek a second term.

Two names were mentioned for the SE Convocation Vision Task Force.

Convocation/Convention delegate and alternate; Candy Scarborough will seek election. No one at this time for alternate.

Verlyn Bolinger will seek election as an Endowment Trustee.

Voted to reduce the size of the vestry to 5. If this change is approved by the Bishop, it will be voted on at the annual meeting.

Annual meeting will be January 31, 2016 with reports due by January 17th.

New Business:

Approved the 2016 Mission & Ministry Plan (budget).

Assessment:

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Discernment:

Worship & Music reported there would be special music for Christmas Eve Service.

Outreach reported snack-packs have been delivered for the remainder of this semester. They are purchasing a gaming system and variety of board/dice games for the Youth Crises Shelter.

They will be invited to our Christmas dinner and receive their gifts.

Will be sending any remaining Outreach funds to the Ngeya School in Kenya to purchase firewood.

Laundry & Latte is done for the semester.

Evangelism is planning an Epiphany party after the service on January 6th. They will be sending out email blasts and letters/postcards to the lapsed members.

Endowment balance \$120,044.03.

ECW will meet in January to plan for the annual meeting brunch and Bishop’s visit.

Next meeting-January 11, 2016

Meeting closed with a prayer and blessing by Mother Sharon



Treasurer Report

Number of pledges received for 2016 are 17 with a pledge total of \$52,900.00.

Thank you again for your generous and persistent support of our great church. Thank you for all who have pledged for 2016.



February Anniversaries:
12 Verlyn & Anna Bolinger



Prayer List

Our prayers have been asked for:

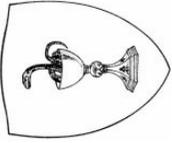
Jim, Marla, Lois, Terry, Teresa, Jim, Sharon, Sammie, Ruth, Kris, Terrell, Jean, Rosie, Mary, Harry, Jolene, Syrus, Gina, Gloria, Michael, Lynn, Breklyn, Ben, Jean, Max, Bill, Jerry, Jennifer, Tony, Jordan, James, Betty, Ethan, Adin, Jane, Judith, Cathryn, Betts & Umbarger families, Jim, Janie, April, Avery, David, Harrison, Gary, Austin, Michael, Fred, Jamie, Jim, Steve, Danny, William, Jim, Becky, Nolan, Troy, Carole, Pat, Diane & the Young family, Jackie, Julia, Able and the McCray family, Kelly, Kent, Veronica, Loretta, Nick, the Smith, Haviland and Stangle families, Nicky, Ginger, Steve, John, Richard, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, President Obama & his family, all college ministries in the Diocese of Kansas, all Southeast Convocation clergy especially JW, Gary, and Dick, the men and women serving our country here and abroad, and those who have served, and those persecuted for their faith in the Sudan.

Those who have died:

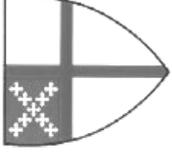


February Birthdays

2 Terrell Scarborough
6 Joe Brooks
14 John Daley



St. John's Episcopal Church FEBRUARY 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Outreach team meeting 6:00 pm	2	3	4 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 -8 pm @ Fabric Care	5 Mother's day off	6
7 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	8 Vestry dinner meeting 5:30 pm	9	10 Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion 6:30 pm	11 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 -8 pm @ Fabric Care	12 Mother's day off	13
14 The First Sunday in Lent Bishop's visit with Baptisms, Confirmation and HC, Sunday School 9:30 am SE Convocation Board Mtg 2:30 pm	15 Newsletter Deadline Lenten Study 6:30 pm	16	17	18 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 -8 pm @ Fabric Care	19 Mother's day off	20
21 The Second Sunday in Lent Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	22 Lenten Study 6:30 pm	23	24 Worship & Music team meeting 6:00 pm	25 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 -8 pm @ Fabric Care	26 Mother's day off	27
28 The Third Sunday in Lent Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	29 Lenten Study 6:30 pm					

St. John's February 2016 Schedule

	02/07/2016	Ash Wed. 02/10/2016	02/14/2016	02/21/2016	02/28/2016
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Bishop Wolfe	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Eucharistic Minister	Candy Scarborough	Gary Chubb	Joe Stone	Martha Stone	Verlyn Bolinger
Lector	Linda Nichols	Bess Stone-Bolinger	Daria Condon	Alice Miller	Gloria Young
Acolytes	Karla Cox	Tim Downum, Verlyn Bolinger, Bess Stone-Bolinger	Meisters, Verlyn Bolinger, Bess Stone-Bolinger	Tim Downum, Karla Cox, Gary Chubb	Joe Stone, Tim Downum, Bess Stone-Bolinger
Eucharistic Visitor	Senta Meister	None	None	Daria Condon	None
Greeters	David Bamberger, Bruce Lindemann	Bruce Lindemann	Meister Family	Alice Miller	Need a Volunteer!
Coffee Hour	Mother Sharon	None	Reception	Need a Volunteer!	Alice Miller
Counters					
Altar Guild	Linda Nichols				