

Good News from St. John's

May 2016

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



620-421-4540
www.StJohnsParsons.org

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.

Ascension Day

The celebration of the Ascension of Jesus marks the transition from Easter to Pentecost, 40 days after Easter, always on a Thursday. This year the date is May 5, 2016.

Ascension Day is one of the earliest Christian festivals dating back to the year 68. Jesus Christ met several times with his disciples during the 40 days after his resurrection to instruct them how to carry out his teachings, and told them He would always be with them and promised them the gift of the Holy Spirit. On the 40th day, he took them to the Mount of Olives, where they watched as he ascended to heaven.

Jesus' return to heaven that we celebrate on Ascension Day signifies a change in how we think of him; now at the right hand of the Father. Yet the blessings and benefits of his physical departure from earth also mean that we understand the Holy Spirit in a new way as Companion and Guide through whatever we may face.

So, where are WE on our journey from Jesus' Resurrection to his Ascension and beyond? Are we still gazing up at the cloud, or have we learned to move on from this glorious event to its implications for our mission in the world? How do we spend our energies, post-Ascension, working on the mandate that Jesus gave us to love the world and to bring it to him?

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the Southeast Convocation Ascension Day service on Thursday May 5, 2016 at 6 pm. At Ascension Church in Neodesha. I plan to go and can take several others.

Mother Sharon

MOTHER'S DAY

Have you ever noticed that May is a month in which themes, both sacred and secular, are intertwined? Do you know the history and purpose of Mother's Day?

The woman credited with the founding of Mother's Day is Anna Jarvis. Anna was inspired by HER mother, Anna Reeves Jarvis, who organized "Mother's Work Day Clubs" in the 1850's. The clubs provided medicines for the poor, inspected milk for children, provided nursing care for the sick, and shelters for children with tuberculosis.

When the Civil War broke out she called together four of her clubs and asked them to make a pledge that friendship and goodwill would not be a casualty of the war. In a remarkable display of courage and compassion the women nursed soldiers from both sides and saved many lives from both sides.

Another one of the earliest promoters of the idea of Mother's Day was Julia Ward Howe. She is most famous as the author of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. She was a militant abolitionist and her "Battle Hymn" poem was inspirational to the cause of the Union Army in the Civil War, the troops sang "God's truth is marching on," as they headed into battle, and "As [Christ] died to make men holy, let us die to make them free," as the war dragged on and she saw the terrible price of conflict, she turned away from the militant attitude expressed so powerfully in her famous hymn.

When the Civil War was over, she focused her attention on other causes: **Voting rights for women, the cause of peace among the nations of the world, the fight against poverty and the abuse of children**, these were the central concerns of those who established Mother's Day. From the beginning this was a day not simply to remember one's own mother, but to find in the experience of such active, courageous mothers as Anna Reeves Jarvis, and Julia Ward Howe, lessons that apply to all.

And this is where you can begin to see the deep connection between the themes of Mother's Day and the sacred themes of Easter.

While he was with his disciples following the resurrection, Jesus also called his family to a higher cause. In the pain of death and in the suffering of the cross, he exhibited a love that knows no bounds. God's love extends across the boundaries that separate families, tribes, and nations from each other. There is nothing more radical than to teach people they are loved by God, and this is a matter of sheer unmerited grace.

It is appropriate to celebrate Mother's Day in the church of God. For in its origin, inspiration and intent, this day touches the deepest truths of our religious tradition. As we are reminded on this day, the most powerful gift that any mother can give is that we are loved unconditionally. This is what each of us needs. In a Mother's love, we see fully the love of God. And it's that love which supports and inspires us as we struggle to make God's love and God's justice real, not only for ourselves, our families, but for all the peoples of the world.

Mother Sharon

St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting February 8, 2016

Present: Alice Miller, Candy Scarborough, Gary Chubb, Gloria Young, Verlyn Bolinger, Jupe Allen and Mother Sharon.

Absent: Martha Stone

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples included a reading from John 18: 15-18, 25-27

Treasurer's report:

Was approved

Old Business:

A ministry review was suggested by Canon Torey Lightcap when he attended the annual meeting. He

planned on moderating the event but has yet to give us a date.

The amendment to reduce the number on the vestry from seven to five was removed. The Bishop did not give the needed approval.

The elections at the annual meeting resulted in the vestry being returned to a full strength of seven members.

Ashes to Go will be offered in front of the church Ash Wednesday from noon to one pm and again from five to six pm.

Renovation of the sound system was discussed and affordable solutions will be sought.

New Business:

The Parochial Report was reviewed and approved.

It listed:

- 101 Active Baptized Members
- 57 Communicants in Good Standing
- 26 Average Sunday Attendance

A thank you note from Labette Assistance was read for items donated in January.

The 2016 Ministry Team Coordinators:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Worship & Music | Mother Sharon |
| Outreach | Lynn Reeves |
| College Ministry | Candy Scarborough |
| Communications | Martha Stone |
| Stewardship | Gary Chubb |
| Planned Giving | Jupe Allen |
| Evangelism | Gloria Young |
| Children's Ed | Carrie Tierney |
| Adult Formation | Martha Stone |
| Building & Grounds | Jupe Allen |
| Endowment | Verlyn Bolinger |
| ECW | Carolyn Adams |
| Publicity | Alice Miller |

Assessment:

Minutes from the January 11, 2016 meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: No report

Reports from the Wardens:

SR-No report

JR- Promoted the Ashes to Go.

Discernment:

Worship & Music: Planning for Ashes to Go. On Mondays of Lent the plan is to say The Great Litany then go in to the Lenten study. Rite I will be used during Lent except for Lent I when the Bishop will be here for baptisms.

Outreach:

Sent \$1000 to Ngeya School in Kenya for firewood. The Parsons Community Foundation grant to help fund the Snack-pack program application has been made. Snacks will be Packed on February 21. College: Laundry and Latte will include feeding the students next week.

Communications: A reminder to put events on Facebook.

Stewardship/Planned Giving: No report.

Evangelism: No report.

Education: Children-No report.

Adult Ed: The Lenten study is about the Ministry of John.

Building & Grounds: No report.

Endowment: No report.

ECW: Plans are in place for Sunday brunch after church with the Bishop.

Next meeting: March 13, 2016. After church Meeting closed with a prayer by Mother Sharon.

Jupe Allen, Clerk



Treasurer Report

The following is a brief report on how our 2016 pledges and donations received to date compare with 2015:

| | <u>2015</u> | <u>2016</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total of pledges received | 22 | 17 |
| Total pledged (annual) | \$59,496 | \$52,900 |

Total Amount Received (to date Number of Pledges Received) \$15,311 we are \$2,086.48 ahead of budget. This is a great start for the year

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

Verlyn W. Bolinger Jr.
Treasurer of St. John's Episcopal Church



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, Kara, Phyllis, Karla, Bess, Wuanita, Kelly, Trinity, Donna, Barbie, Jo, 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 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:



May Birthdays

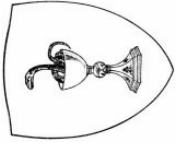
- 5 Bob Adams
- 6 Wuanita Tanner
- 15 Verlyn Bolinger, Sr.
- 17 Alex Meister
- 25 Brian Baker
- 31 Dennis Condon



May Anniversaries:

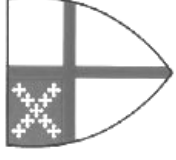
- 29 Dennis and Daria Condon

Please send Articles for The Good News to Senta Meister, sentabradmeister@aol.com or St. John's Episcopal Church, PO Box 882, Parsons, KS 67357.



St. John's Episcopal Church

MAY 2016



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|-----------|--|---|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 The Sixth Sunday of Easter Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am | 2 Outreach Meeting 6:00 pm | 3 | 4 | 5 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 -8 pm @ Fabric Care | 6 Mother's day off | 7 |
| 8 The Seventh Sunday of Easter Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am | 9 Vestry Dinner Meeting 5:30 pm | 10 | 11 | 12 Mother in office 1-5 pm | 13 Mother's day off | 14 |
| 15 The Day of Pentecost Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am Cookout | 16 Newsletter Deadline | 17 | 18 | 19 Mother in office 1-5 pm | 20 Mother's day off | 21 |
| 22 The First Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am | 23 Evangelism Meeting 5:30 pm | 24 | 25 Worship & Music Meeting 6:00 pm | 26 Mother in office 1-5 pm | 27 Mother's day off | 28 |
| 29 The Second Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion 9:30 am | 30 | 31 | | | | |

St. John's May 2016 schedule

| | 05/1/2016 | 05/08/2016 | 05/15/2016 | 05/22/2016 | 05/29/2016 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|--|
| Officiant | Fr. George Wiley | Mother Sharon | Mother Sharon | Mother Sharon | Mother Sharon |
| Eucharistic Minister | Candy Scarborough | Gary Chubb | Verlyn Bolinger | Martha Stone | Martha Stone |
| Lector | Gloria Young | Daria Condon | Bess Stone-Bolinger | Jupe Allen | Alice Miller |
| Acolytes | Karla Cox, Verlyn Bolinger | Tim Downum | Bess Stone-Bolinger, Verlyn Bolinger, Karla Cox, Tim Downum, Joe Stone | Gary Chubb | Tim Downum, Bess Stone-Bolinger, Verlyn Bolinger |
| Eucharistic Visitor | Senta Meister | None | Daria Condon | None | None |
| Greeters | Bruce Lindemann & David Bamberger | Carrie Tierney | Candy Scarborough | | |
| Coffee Hour | | Verlyn Bolinger and Bess Stone-Bolinger | Cookout | Tommy & Fran McLarty | Carolyn Adams |
| Counters | | | | | |
| Altar Guild | Candy Scarborough | | | | |