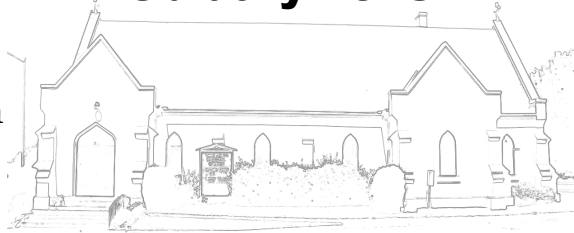


Good News from St. John's

February 2018

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.

LENT 2018

The highlight of the year for Christians is Easter, the day when our Lord rose from the dead. Lent is a 40 day season of preparation for Easter.

We will begin the season of Lent with the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday February 13 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.** Shrove Tuesday is also called "Fat Tuesday" because on that day a thrifty housewife uses up the fats that she has kept around for cooking, but that she will not use during Lent. Since pancakes are a standard way of using up fat, that is why we have a pancake meal.

Our first Lenten service begins on **Ash Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. on February 14th.** All candles on the Lenten Wreath will be lit at this service, and beginning on the First Sunday of Lent, one will be extinguished each week, with the final candle extinguished on Good Friday.

On Sunday's we will begin with **The Holy Eucharist: Rite One** in the BCP on page 323. There are many changes in this service. We sing the Kyrie, say the second version of the Nicene Creed, a different form of the Prayers of the People, different version of the confession, the Comfortable Words, Eucharistic Prayer 1, a different version of the Sanctus, prayer of Humble Access, a different post-communion prayer, and the Solemn prayers over the people. There is no blessing at the end of the service during Lent. I encourage you to look this service over before Lent, so you can be as comfortable as possible, and enjoy your Lenten journey.

Mother Sharon

THE SEASON OF LENT-2018

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.

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.

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.

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

LENT 2018 ADULT STUDY

“The Holy Spirit in The Book of Common Prayer”

This topic was chosen to see in a renewed way the dramatic role the Holy Spirit plays in all of the rites and prayers in the Book of Common Prayer.

Sessions will begin on Wednesday February 21st at 6:00 pm. and continue through Wednesday March 21 beginning with The Great Litany, followed with meatless soup, with bread or crackers, and the study. All sessions will end no later than 8:00 pm.

Please let Mother Sharon know if you are planning on attending so books can be ordered.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday (widely known as **Pancake Day**) is a day in February or March, preceding Ash Wednesday (the first day of Lent), which is celebrated in many countries by consuming pancakes.

Shrove Tuesday, a movable feast, is determined by Easter. The expression “Shrove Tuesday” comes from the word shrive, meaning “confess”. Shrove Tuesday is observed by many Christians, including Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and Roman Catholics, who “make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they especially need to ask God’s help in dealing with.”

Being the last day before the penitential season of Lent, related popular practices, such as indulging in food that one sacrifices for the upcoming forty days, are associated with Shrove Tuesday celebrations, before commencing the fasting and religious obligations associated with Lent. The term Mardi Gras is French for “Fat Tuesday”, referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday.

St. John’s Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
January 15, 2018

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

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples included a reading from John 2:23-3:15..

Treasurer’s report:

The year-end financial reports were reviewed. The plate receipts and the pledge offerings were both in excess of estimates.

A deposit in the sum of \$10,000 was made to the Clergy Support Fund.

. The December report was approved after reviewing the transaction report.

The January report was approved.

Old Business:

Funding to completely pay for, hopefully, the repair and replacement of the church and parish house doors will be sought at the annual meeting.

The proposed amendment to reduce the number of vestry members from 7 members to 5 has been approved by the Council of Trustees. Approval of this amendment will be voted at the Annual Meeting.

The due date for reports from all ministries has been extended from January 15 to January 20.

The slate for election/reelection is as follows:

Vestry- Martha Stone

Endowment- Tommey McLarty

Convocation Delegate-Candy Scarborough/ Alternate-Bess StoneBolinger

All positions at this time are unopposed.

New Business:

The deterioration of the chimney on the church was discussed. Bids will be sought to remove the existing chimney and replace it with a metal pipe. A bid to repair the existing brick and stucco chimney thereby preserving the architecture of the church is also wanted. Further action will await the receipt of the bids.

The annual Meeting will include a brunch planned by ECW.

A discussion concerning locking the parish house doors during the church service resulted in no action taken until affected parties are consulted.

Coffee hour hosts are in short supply. A more aggressive recruiting process will be attempted before any changes are considered.

Shrove Tuesday, on February 13, will feature a pancake and sausage supper.

Details on time and guests to be invited will follow.

The Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6:30.

A request has been received to post the Vestry Meeting agenda before the meeting allowing the congregation time to comment. The agenda will be posted on the bulletin board in the vesting room.

Assessment:

Minutes from the December 18 meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: Mother Sharon expressed her appreciation for those who filled in during her absence.

Reports from the Wardens:

Senior: No report.

Junior: No report

Discernment:

Worship & Music: Parsons Ministerial Alliance discussed having a Ash Wednesday service during the mid-day. Details to follow.

A request to consider printing a booklet for Morning Prayer services for use by the congregation to make the service more meaningful will be discussed.

Outreach: Snacks were packed for Head Start.

College Ministry: Laundry and Latte will resume January 18.

Communications: A calendar is being developed to facilitate preparation for future events.

Stewardship/Planned Giving: No report.

Evangelism: Preparations for Pentecost are underway.

Education: Children- No report

Adult- Lenten Studies will be held on Wednesday this year starting after Ash Wednesday. The study will examine the Holy Spirit.

Building & Grounds: No report.

Endowment: October 31 balance \$120,260.93

ECW: No report.

Next meeting: Monday February 12, 2018.
Meeting closed with a prayer by Mother Sharon.
Jupe Allen, Clerk



Treasurer Report

The budget team budgeted \$61,716 and we came in at \$63,171 for total pledges in 2017. The plate was \$1,049 and we budgeted \$1,000. We ran ahead most of the year. I was able to cut our expenses in 2017 to keep us in check. I remember when I took over as treasurer 16 years ago. I really had to watch everything closely. We have very little issues today. Our General fund is growing and we were able to send \$10,000 to the Diocese of Kansas Endowment to support our clergy in the future. We have a little over \$50,000 set aside in the Dioceses of Kansas Endowment. Thank you for pledging in 2018 and for your support of our church.

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



Prayer List

Our prayers have been asked for:

Jim, Terry, Teresa, Jim, Sharon, Sammie, Ruth, Kris, Terrell, Mary, Harry, Jolene, Syrus, Gina, Gloria, James, Ethan, Betts & Umbarger families, Jim, Janie, Michael, Jamie, Jim, William, Becky, Troy, Diane & the Young family, Jackie, Kelly, Nick, Nicky, Kara, Phyllis, Wuanita, Trinity, Shelby, Bruce, Vickie, Raymond, Ellie, Wally, Chris, Ed, Sue & family, Michelle, Jim, Doug, Betty, Bob, Kip, Michelle, Ron, Pat, Vincent, Bev, Barbara, Jeffrey, Barry, Gabriel, Sandy, Boo, Betty, Jane, Susie, Brittany, John & family, Lisa & family, Bill, Karla, Anna, Cheryl, Addlee, Ken, Mary Ruth, Harriett, Greg, John, Tiffany, Courtney, Vernell, Regina, Tandy, Charlaine, Les, Jake, Christie & family, Chuck Minor family, Jason & Callie, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, President Trump & his family, all college ministries in the Diocese of Kansas, all

Southeast Convocation clergy especially Gary, Dick, and David, the Diocese of Kansas Council of Trustees and staff, the Bishop's search and transition committees, those studying for ordination and lay certificates, 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:

Dick Coulter



February Birthdays

2 Terrell Scarborough
6 Joe Brooks
14 John Daley



February Anniversaries:

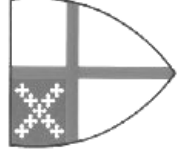
12 Anna & Verlyn Bolinger, Sr.

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

FEBRUARY 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	2 Mother's day off	3
4 The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	5	6	7	8 Mother in office 3-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	9 Mother's day off	10
11 The Last Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion 9:30 am SE Convocation Board Mtg. 2:30 pm	12 Vestry dinner meeting 5:30 pm	13	14 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm	15 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	16 Mother's day off	17
18 The First Sunday in Lent Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am Worship & Music Mtg. during coffee hour	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21 Adult Lent Service & Study 6 – 8 pm	22 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	23 Mother's day off	24
25 The Second Sunday in Lent Holy Communion & Sunday School 9:30 am	26	27	28 Adult Lent Service & Study 6 – 8 pm			

St. John's February 2018 schedule

	02/04/2018	02/11/2018	Ash Wed. 02/14/2018	02/18/2018	02/25/2018
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Eucharistic Minister	Candy Scarborough	Verlyn Bolinger	Martha Stone	Joe Stone	Candy Scarborough
Lector	Alice Miller	Linda Nichols	Daria Condon	Bess Stone-Bolinger	Jupe Allen
Acolytes	Verlyn Bolinger, Alex Meister	Karla Cox	Verlyn Bolinger, Tim Downum	Verlyn Bolinger, Sidni Meister	Tim Downum
Eucharistic/Pastoral Visitor	Senta Meister Bruce Lindemann, David Bamberger	None	None	Daria Condon	None
Greeters		Alice Miller		Bob & Carolyn Adams	Karla Cox
Coffee Hour	Daria Condon	Alice Miller	None		Jupe Allen
Counters					
Altar Guild	Daria Condon				