

Good News from St. John's

April 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.

FIFTY DAYS OF EASTER

Lent was the season when we challenged ourselves to strip down our lives and pay attention to the essentials. The Church in her wisdom knows that we need to do this because we are prone to mistaking wants for needs. Just as importantly the Lenten season of preparation allows us to value the outrageous abundance which God places at our disposal.

The great fifty days of Easter challenges us to focus on a different set of essentials. If Lent is about pruning back the desires which erode the energy of our lives, Easter is about embracing those things which will give us energy and meaning beyond the narrow confines of our limited experience. First of all, Easter asks us to embrace the risen Lord. Jesus Christ, the God/Man shows us the full nature of God, which is love. God in Jesus Christ is reconciling the world to its true purpose, living in God's love. The empty tomb not only represents the limitations of our experience in this life but beckons us to consider realities greater than ourselves, our souls, and our bodies.

What makes the Resurrection so hard for us to fully embrace is that it puts God at the center and not us. The Resurrection is an extension of the love poured at the beginning of creation. It is the ultimate manifestation of the vulnerability that God has always shown in dealing with us. By making us in God's image, our Creator gave us freedom to make choices. The Father's desire was that we live lives of love, creativity, reason, and harmony with Creation and with God. But we choose to misuse our freedom and make choices based on limited knowledge of self and our experience. By putting ourselves in the place of God, we segregate ourselves from full participation in God's love and live in disharmony with creation and each other.

John's Gospel, the one we most read during Easter, makes it abundantly clear that the **Way**, the **Truth**, and the **Life** for all creation is to be found most perfectly in Jesus. It is in Jesus that sin and death are overcome and the way is opened for eternal life.

Throughout Easter the Church gives us opportunity to encounter the resurrected Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Because the Holy Spirit is able to use all sorts and kinds of encounters, the season is rich with the abundance of images, stories, and opportunities for festal celebration. Each experience of the Resurrection has within itself opportunity to embrace the empty tomb and live into the possibilities of the Resurrection. The challenge is and has always been to live into this truth in ways that are not sectarian but acknowledges the universality of God's reconciliation of creation. This does not mean abandoning the radical particularity of God in Jesus Christ in order not to offend those of other faith traditions. It does mean living more openly and vulnerably so that God may use us as a proclamation of Love and through that love bring people into the Resurrected Life.

This great Fifty Days of Easter helps us surrender to the grace of God's love. Let us challenge each other to embrace the energy, which only comes from knowing the Lord of Life that we might move beyond the narrow confines of our imaginings, and catch a glimpse of the limitless world of the Kingdom of God. Together as a Body that has died and risen again in the waters of Baptism we can live lives more in harmony with desire of God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Mother Sharon

**St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
March 12, 2018**

Present: Alice Miller, Martha Stone, Candy Scarborough, Verlyn Bolinger, and Mother Sharon.

Absent: Jupe Allen.

Development:
Gospel Based Disciples including a reading from Mark 7: 24-37

Treasurer's report:
The transaction report was reviewed and the treasurers report was approved.

Old Business:
The new exterior doors are in. The cost is more than had been originally quoted. They will be billed in the church name and will save us the sales tax which will bring the cost back down to approximately where it was originally. Verlyn will take a tax exempt form to T.H. Rogers this week.

Approximately 70 people attended the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and a free will offering of approximately \$40.00 was received. Waiting on the bill for the sausage.

Nineteen (19) people received Ashes to Go at both locations on Ash Wednesday.

The Morning Prayer booklet will be sent to Alice to print for use beginning April 21st.

Six or seven people are attending the Wednesday evening Great Litany and study on the Holy Spirit in the BCP.

A key, to the door at the top of the ramp, has been placed in the narthex by the statue on the south wall.

New Business:
A request will be sent to Canon Torey Lightcap that the 1st or 3rd Wednesdays will be good for his visit.

Assessment:

Minutes from the February 12, 2018 were approved.

Vicar's Report: Mother Sharon reported she attended the funeral of Jim Ellis earlier in the day. Daria Condon and Senta Meister read scripture, and Fr. McCandless officiated at the Committal.

Reports from the Wardens:
Senior: No report.
Junior: Several conversations with Mother Sharon.

Discernment:
Worship & Music: Community Holy Week Schedule. We will serve lunch on Wednesday with the Presbyterian Church, and Bess will sign on Thursday.

Outreach: Snacks will need packed again before the end of the semester.

College Ministry: Getting by with 6 washers and 7 dryers. Averaging 7-9 students weekly.

Communications: Posting pictures on face book from recent church events.

Stewardship/Planned Giving: No report.

Evangelism: Planning a Family Fun Night, with the Presbyterian Church, for April 20th. Also planning to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

Education:
Children: Bess submitted information for a new split door in the nursery, costing \$787.93. It was decided to ask Richard Tobel if he can split the current door.
Adult: Reported above.

Buildings & Grounds: No report.

Endowment: January statement-\$111,902.14. February statement-\$113,767.63.

ECW: Planning for the Holy Week meal on Wednesday of Holy Week.

Next meeting: April 9, 2018.

Meeting closed with a prayer by Mother Sharon.

Mother Sharon in the absence of the clerk.



Treasurer Report

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:

Terry, Teresa, Jim, Sharon, Sammie, Ruth, Kris, Terrell, Mary, Harry, Jolene, Syrus, Gina, Gloria, Ethan, Jim, Janie, William, Becky, Troy, Diane & the Young family, Jackie, Kelly, Nick, Nicky, Kara, Phyllis, Wuanita, Shelby, Raymond, Wally, Ed, Sue & family, Jim, Bob, Kip, Vincent, Bev, Jeffrey, Barry, Gabriel, Sandy, Boo, Betty, Jane, Susie, Brittany, John & family, Lisa & family, Karla, Addlee, Mary Ruth, Randy, Regina, Les, Chuck Minor family, Larry, Becky, Doug, Allan, Louise, Betts & Umbarger families, Gale, Verlyn Sr, Pat & Shanna, Evelyn, 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:

Jim Ellis



April Birthdays

- 6 L.T. Tierney
- 18 Jordan Stone
- 26 Gary Chubb
- 27 Jim Nichols



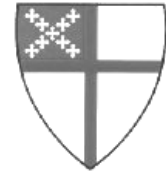
April Anniversaries:

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

APRIL 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The Sunday of the Resurrection – Easter Sunday Holy Communion 9:30 am	2	3	4 Outreach Meeting	5 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	6 Mother's day off	7
8 The Second Sunday of Easter Lunch Bunch Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	9 Vestry 5:30 p.m.	10	11	12 Mother in office 3-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	13 Mother's day off	14
15 The Third Sunday of Easter Pack Snack Packs Holy Communion 9:30 am Sunday School 9:30 a.m.	16 Newsletter Deadline Vestry dinner meeting 5:30 pm	17	18 Worship & Music 6:00 p.m.	19 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	20 Mother's day off	21
22 The Fourth Sunday of Easter Morning Prayer and Sunday School 9:30 am	23 Evangelism 5:30 p.m.	24	25	26 L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	27 Mother's day off	28
29 The Fifth Sunday of Easter Holy Communion 9:30 am Fr. Wiley Here	30					

St. John's April 2018 Schedule

	Easter 04/01/2018	04/08/2018	04/15/2018	04/22/2018	04/29/2018
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Joe Stone	Fr. George Wiley
Eucharistic Minister	Candy Scarborough	Joe Stone	Verlyn Bolinger	None	Martha Stone
Lector	Alice Miller	Jupe Allen	Daria Condon	Bess Stone-Bolinger	Linda Nichols
Acolytes	All	Tim Downum	Karla Cox	Verlyn Bolinger	Tim Downum
Eucharistic/ Pastoral Visitor	Senta Meister	None	Daria Condon	None	None
Greeters	Bruce Lindemann and David Bamberger	Carrie & L.T. Tierney	Alice Miller	Tom & Wuanita Tanner	
Coffee Hour	ECW	Katrina & Brody Balke	Alice Miller	Carrie & L.T. Tierney	Glenda Johnson & Brittanya Dunlap
Counters	Vestry Members				
Altar Guild	Bess Stone-Bolinger				