

Good News from St. John's

April 2020

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.

Communications from St. John's

I hope all of you have been notified that our Bishop has suspended all in person church services until May 17, 2020. As the Dean of the Southeast Convocation, I am on a conference call, weekly, with the Bishop. As new directives are issued, I will have Alice send out an eblast.

Since many of the churches in the Diocese have been live streaming their services, we have been discussing about trying to set this up for St. John's.

As of this printing, we are not there yet, but will continue to work on it as well as other types of communication through Holy Week. If you have not provided the church office your email address, please do so.

List of Resources

So, for now, please go to the Diocese of Kansas website, click on News & Information, then latest news. You will then see the Coronavirus symbol and click on Resources for Churches. About $\frac{3}{4}$ way down the page, Worship on line, open it for list of churches offering live streaming of services. Also Outside the Diocese list for services from our National Cathedral and others in New York.

We hope you will take time on Sunday morning to join one of these worship services.

For now, the best way for us to stay connected is through our Facebook page and eblasts. I am staying in as much as possible, and definitely avoiding any size gatherings. Stay safe.

Blessings,
Mother Sharon

Please read the Treasurer's Report about your pledges.

Please pray the Pandemic Prayer daily as it affects so many people.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable
May we who have the luxury of working from
home
Remember those who must choose
Between their health and making the rent
May we have flexibility to care for our children
Remember those who have no options
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those who have no place to go
May we who are losing our margin money
In the turmoil of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all
May we settle in for quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home
As fear grips our country
Let us choose love
During this time when we cannot physically
Wrap our arms around each other,
Let us find ways to be the
loving embrace of God to our neighbors.
Amen
-Cameron Bellm

The Great Fifty Days of Easter

The Easter services and Easter egg hunts are over. But Easter isn't over, at least not for millions of Christians. We have entered into a new church season: Eastertide.

Celebrating Easter for 50 days is not duplicating Easter Sunday fifty times over. It's taking time to reflect upon and delight in the truth of Easter and its implications for our lives. The basic truth of Easter is simple.

*Alleluia. Christ is Risen! The Lord is Risen, indeed!
Alleluia.*

The Season of Easter gives us a chance to reflect more broadly and deeply on the multifaceted meaning of the resurrection of Jesus.

- ❖ You could meditate upon what the resurrections says about the character of Jesus Christ as the Righteous One of God (Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:25-28).
- ❖ You might ponder the fact that death has been swallowed up in victory (1 Corinthians 15:54-56).
- ❖ You could reflect upon the fact that the very power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to you today (Ephesians 1:15-23).
- ❖ You might think of how the resurrection of Jesus is a precursor to your own resurrection (1 Corinthians 15).
- ❖ You could consider how the resurrection gives us "new birth into a living hope" (1 Peter 1:3).

Eastertide allows us to think deeply and broadly about what the resurrection of Jesus means, both to us and to our world. Recognizing Eastertide gives us a chance to take the truths of Scripture and to allow them to percolate in our hearts.

What would happen in our lives if we went through each day with a sixth-sense awareness of the resurrection? What would we attempt if we truly believed that the power that raised Jesus from the dead was available to us? What difference would it make if we knew for sure that death had been defeated through Christ?

The Great Fifty (50) Days of Easter helps us surrender to the grace of God's love. Lust 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 our lives more in harmony with desire of God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Mother Sharon

**St. John's Episcopal Church
February 2020 Vestry Meeting**

Present: Martha Stone, Verlyn Bolinger, Dennis Condon, Karla Cox Jupe Allen and Mother Sharon.

Development: Gospel Based Disciples including a reading from John 7:37-52.

Treasurer's report: The transaction report and the budget were reviewed and the treasurer's report was approved.

The Parochial Report was reviewed and approved.

Old Business: The handicap parking project has been delayed by illness and weather. B&G will contact the contractor for an update. The memorial plaques are on schedule for spring completion and installation with a blessing. Dirt for the yard should be placed by springtime grass planting time. The Southeast Minster met the first Sunday of the month. An invitation to Galena to celebrate St Mary's Day in August was extended. Efforts are being explored to coordinate services provided by each parish.

New Business: Jupe Allen was welcomed as a new vestry member. Rehabilitation of the beds in the south garden was discussed. Candy and Jim and Linda are interested in helping. B&G will coordinate. Lenten Study of Walk in Love will begin March 4 and continue through April 1. Wednesday of Holy week-April 8 a Tenebrae service will be held at 6:30pm.

Assessment: Minutes from the January 13 meeting were approved with corrections. Minutes from the special meeting January 26 were approved.

Vicar's Report: Attended with Deacon Charles the First Christian ordination of Rene Goodwin.

Reports from the Wardens: Senior: Met with Mother Sharon. Junior: Getting set up to send cards to parishioners in need.

Discernment: Worship & Music: Plan to meet next week. Outreach: Met January 19. Seeking a daily donation of food during Lent to benefit the Labette Assistance Center. Ordered Lenten booklets. Designated surplus funds from 2019 be applied to past due lunches in USD 502 and 506. Leftover

money from the firewood raffle has been sent to Kenya to help with school uniforms.

Communications: No report.

Stewardship/Planned Giving: No report.

Evangelism: Have cleared with the city the banner locations for the year. Plans are in place for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Education: Children: See article in the newsletter.

Adult: Covered earlier.

Buildings & Grounds: Covered earlier.

Endowment: Have received the annual endowment disbursement. \$6,562.55.

ECW: No report.

Next meeting: March 9, 2020. A prayer by Mother Sharon. concluded the meeting Jupe Allen, Clerk



Treasurer Report

To our beloved parishioners:

Even though we are not presently able to worship in person, the daily operations (expenses) of the church continues.

Would you please mail your pledge (check or money order-no cash please) to St. John's Episcopal Church, PO Box 882, Parsons, KS 67357 ATTN: Verlyn. Mail will be picked up weekly, counted and deposited. I will be provided the counters sheet to record to your pledge sheets.

I would like to personally thank you for your continued support of St. John's ministries during the unfortunate times we are currently in.

You are all in my thoughts are prayers,
Verlyn W. Bolinger Jr.

Treasurer – St. John's Episcopal Church



Prayer List

Teresa, Jim, Mary, Harry, Gina, Gloria, Ethan, Jim, Janie, Kelly, Kara, Phyllis, Wuanita, Raymond, Jeffrey, Barry, Boo, Jane, John & family, Regina, Doug, Gale, Valerie, Janice, Ava & Zoe, Bretton, Kathy, Richard, Alden, Mindy, Darren, Robin, Bob, Lynn, Carolyn, Lynn, Dwayne, Doris, Robbie, Breklyn, Casey, Cayla, Randall, Dominic, Jaylyn, Joe, Rachal, Marla, Alan, Kay, Jennifer, Darrell & Andrea, Leslie, Jim, Peg, Amy, Lorrie, Tina, Addlee, Maya, Laura, Ted, Andrew, Randy, Jon, Shanna, those affected by the coronavirus, Bishop Cathleen and her family, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, the Southeast minster project, all Southeast Convocation clergy especially Gary, Dick, and David, BKSM students, dispatchers and 1st responders, 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:

Ruth Chubb

Bishop Barbara Harris

Dennis Wilson

Charlie Olson

Those from the Coronavirus



April Birthdays

3 Frank Vernacchia

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.

