

St. John's Episcopal Church

Holy Eucharist & Sunday school-9:30 a.m.



The Very Rev. Sharon Billman, Vicar
Dean of Southeast Convocation

The Vestry

Senior Warden: Verlyn Bolinger, Jr.

Junior Warden: Karla Cox

Clerk: Jupe Allen

Treasurer: Verlyn Bolinger, Jr.

Carrie Tierney

Bess Stone-Bolinger

St. John's Episcopal Church

313 S. 18th St., PO Box 882

Parsons, KS 67357

Address Service Requested

Good News from St. John's



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July 2021

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

Relaxed Safety Restrictions

It appears there is still some confusion on the most recent relaxed safety restrictions from the Bishop.

Fully vaccinated parishioners may remove their masks for church services, with the exception when the children are present, since they are not able to receive the vaccine yet.

Fully vaccinated parishioners should sit in the front 2/3 of the church. (Area not roped off) Area roped off for those not vaccinated and those who prefer to social distance.

When coming forward for communion, please put your mask on and leave it on until you have returned to your pew. Vaccinated parishioners may remove their masks after returning to their pew.

These restrictions supported by the Vestry.

America's Birthday

Independence Day is the national holiday of the United States of America commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This year Independence Day falls on a Sunday, and we will be using the Independence Day propers and singing patriotic hymns.

The three major foundational documents of the United States of America are the Declaration of Independence (July 1776-56 signers), the Articles of Confederation (drafted 1777, ratified 1781-48 signers), and the Constitution of the United States of America (1789-39 signers out of 55 delegates). There are a total of 143 signatures on these documents, representing 118 different signers. Some individuals signed more than one document.

The signers of the Declaration of Independence were a profoundly intelligent, religious and ethically-minded group. Four of the signers were current or former full-time preachers, and many more were sons of clergymen. Other professions held by signers include lawyers, merchants, doctors and educators. These individuals, too, were for the most part active churchgoers and many contributed significantly to their churches, both with contributions as well as their service as lay leaders. The signers were members of religious denominations at a rate that was significantly higher than average for the American Colonies during the late 1700's.

Thirty-two (32) of the Fifty-six (56) signers of the Declaration of Independence were Episcopalian/Anglican representing 57.1% of the signers. Fourteen (14) of the signers of the Articles of Confederation were Episcopalian/Anglican representing 29% of the signers. Thirty-one (31) of the signers, out of the 55 delegates, were Episcopalian/Anglican representing 56.4 %.

Names of the signers of these three documents, who were Episcopalian/Anglican, and whose names are familiar to us, unless you are a history buff are: Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, and George Washington.

Thomas Jefferson was chosen to write the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, and after some revisions, it was officially adopted on July 4, 1776. Benjamin Franklin was also on the committee formed to compose a formal Declaration of Independence. James Madison, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin all signed the Constitution of the United States.

As we celebrate America's birthday, let us give thanks for all the "Founding Fathers", who gave and risked so much that we might; "Hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness".

Mother Sharon

More on the Season after Pentecost

This is a season for learning about your faith as you discover whether you have eyes that will see and ears that will hear, trying your best to follow Jesus with the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the ways of justice, peace, and loving service.

- ❖ How can you keep focused on God in the ordinary time of your life?
- ❖ Where can you find God during vacation and personal Sabbath?
- ❖ What opportunities present themselves to you where you can attend to your spiritual growth?

Commonly called the Catechism, this is an outline of instruction cast in the tradition question and answer form. It is a point of departure for exploring the beliefs and practices of the Episcopal Church. The following areas are especially appropriate to study during the Season after Pentecost.

- ❖ Prayer and Worship-page 856
- ❖ The Sacraments-page 857
- ❖ The Church-page 854
- ❖ The Holy Scriptures-page 853

It is a season of the Spirit. It is a season to celebrate and give thanks for the creation and all the beauty and other gifts of nature. It is a time for thoughtful and reverend stewardship of creation through its use and care. It is a time to recall the history of God's people and the ways God's prophetic Spirit, calling, and wisdom came to them. It is a season when Jesus' promise that "the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you" is fulfilled. How can you continue to be present with and for God in this season when life slows down and going to church weekly may not be your practice?

Adult Education Ministry team
Martha Stone
Mother Sharon

Evangelism Ministry Team
Alice Miller
Verlyn Bolinger, Jr
Bess Stone-Bolinger
Wuanita Tanner
Mother Sharon

Ministry of Deacons

During July we are privileged to have Deacon Ryan Willis with us sharing the ministry of the Diaconate.

The Diaconate is one of three distinctive orders (Bishops, Priests and Deacons) of ministry dating back from the earliest days of the church. The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant to those in need, and to assist Bishops and Priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

Deacons are ordained to encourage the ministries of witness, justice, and compassionate action to which all Christians are called in Baptism. At ordination, a deacon is charged to "serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely...to interpret to the church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world...to make Christ and his redemptive love known by your word and example...and to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself."

The word "Deacon" comes from the Greek word "diakonos" meaning "servant". In the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 6, the apostles cannot handle all the details of everything going on—preaching and helping the poor, so seven were chosen to take over caring for the poor, sick, etc. Deacons are seen as being out in the world, reminding the church of the needs out in the world, and reminding the world the church is out there with them.

In most Episcopal churches, deacons prepare the altar for Communion, proclaim the Gospel, lead the Prayers of the People, and dismiss the people go out into the world to love and serve the Lord. Deacons serve under the leadership of their Bishop and stand around the Bishop during services.

There are two types of deacons; vocational and transitional. Vocational deacons are ordained for a life-long commitment to a ministry of service. Transitional deacons are deacons who feel they are called to be Priests and they serve as a deacon first, to remind them they are servants. Once someone is a deacon, they are always a deacon. They don't quit being a deacon when they become a priest, and they don't quit being a priest when they become a bishop.

Deacons wear their stole over one shoulder, draped across the side, like a towel. Deacons may wear a Dalmatic that has openings for their arms. Priests wear their stole over both shoulders, to remind them they are carrying the yoke of Christ. Priests also wear a Chasuble that only has an opening for their head.

When Ryan is here, ask him about his ministry as a transitional deacon, and the ministry of a deacon in the liturgy. Also take a look at his vestments and the differences in my vestments and how they are worn.

Mother Sharon

THE MINSTER ART PROJECT

Description of Proposal:

Each parish has been asked to create an art project involving the use of various media, chosen by minsters of the Diocese of Kansas, each depicting some visual portrayal of resistance art, social justice, political action, protest art and anti-racism.

The purpose is to get people involved in opening their eyes to the injustices that are everywhere: small towns, churches, signs, big cities and so forth. In essence it is an educational endeavor designed to bring greater awareness to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" It is "The Way of Love" in action. Social justice awareness, education and action on the part of the people of the Diocese of Kansas are the ultimate goals. Finally, this all is designed to make people aware of the suffering of others by doing something not just talking about it.

The vestry has discussed this project, and is considering something pertaining to the Douglass

School, Glenwood Park or the Hispanic community.

If you would like to help with this project please speak to Mother Sharon. We need to have something done by the August minister meeting on August 1, 2021.

Blessings,
Mother Sharon

St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting

May 10, 2021

Present: Carrie Tierney, Bess StoneBolinger, Verlyn Bolinger, Jupe Allen and Mother Sharon. Absent: Karla Cox.

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples included a reading from John 9:18-27.

Treasurer's Report:

The transaction and budget reports were reviewed. The report was approved.

Old Business:

The purchase of new live-stream equipment has been ordered but not yet arrived.

We have decided the Zoom license is not necessary at this time.

The Memorial Garden is a work in progress and over \$1600 has been raised for its benefit.

Vacation Bible School will not be held this summer.

New Business:

St Peter's in Pittsburg will hold a Pentecost service Sunday May 23 at 2 pm.

The Bishop has released new Covid 19 guidelines. They include vaccinated parishioners may sit closer together and singing can resume if a mask is worn.

Ascension in Neodesha will host Ascension Day services Thursday May 13, 2021.

Dinner will follow the service.

Jupe Allen was approved as a Worship Leader.

Ryan Willis, who will be placed at St John's as a Transitional Deacon on a rotational basis, will be ordained as a Transitional Deacon on June 19, 2021 at Grace Cathedral.

Agreed to send a donation of \$50 to AF & FM in memory of Rodney Middleton.

Assessment:

Sharing: Alice Miller has recovered from surgery and returned to Parsons.

Bess gave an update on her KSM studies. She is almost half done with her course of study.

Minutes from the April 12 meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: No report.

Wardens:

Senior: No report.

Junior: No report. Discernment:

Worship & Music: Meeting next week. Will finalize Pentecost plans.

Outreach: Two more totes for Head Start have been packed.

Evangelism: No report.

Communications: No report.

Education: Children's: Children's Chapel will be held before Sunday School on a trial basis.

Adult: No report.

Stewardship: No report. Planned

Giving: No report.

Buildings & Grounds: No report.

Endowment: April 30 balance was \$117,058.37.

ECW: No report.

Next meeting, June 14, 2021 at 5:30.

A prayer by Mother Sharon concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jupe Allen Clerk



Treasurer's Report

Verlyn W. Bolinger Jr.

Treasurer of St. John's Episcopal Church



Prayer List

Our prayers have been asked for:

Teresa, Jim, Mary, Harry, Gina, Gloria, Gale, Ethan, Jim, Janie, Kelly, Wuanita, Jeffrey, Boo, Jane, John & family, Regina, Doug, Valerie, Janice, Ava & Zoe, Bretten, Richard, Robin, Carolyn, Lynn, Dwayne, Doris, Breklyn, Casey, Cayla, Randall, Dominic, Jaylynn, Joe, Marla, Alan, Kay, Tina, Lorrie, Addlee, Jon, Tara, Josh, Vickie, Ron, Daniel, Denise, Randy, Lisa, LuAnn, Mary, Anne, Ron, Lillian, Aaron & family, Andrew, Janet, Scott, Lu, Rita, Bridget, Tommey, Addie, , Keyandria, Bill, William, Debra Lynn, The Adams family, the Forbes family, Cameron, Molly, the Burke family. those with and those recovering from Covid-19 are their families, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, the Southeast Minster project, all clergy in the Southeast Convocation especially Gary, Dick, and David, BKSM students, dispatchers and first responders, the men & women serving our country here and abroad, and those who have served, and educators, students and their parents.

Those who have died:

Bob Adams

Greg Forbes



July Birthdays

3 Patricia Chrisman
8 Jolene Main
9 David Bamberger
10 Brad Meister
11 June Brooks
18 Martha Stone
18 Katrina Balke
20 Brittanya Dunlap
23 Carolyn Adams
26 Sidni Meister
26 Charles Middleton
29 Senta Meister



July 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

JULY 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Mother's day off	3
4 The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	5	6	7	8	9 Mother's day off	10
11 The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	12	13 Vestry meeting 5:30 pm	14	15	16 Mother's day off	17
18 The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22	23 Mother's day off	24
25 The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	26	27	28	29	30 Mother's day off	31

St. John's July 2021 Schedule

	07/4/2021	07/11/2021	07/18/2021	07/25/2021
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Prayers of the People	Deacon Ryan Willis	Jupe Allen	Alice Miller	Martha Stone
Lector	Candy Scarborough	Jupe Allen	Alice Miller	Martha Stone
Acolytes	Alex Meister	Verlyn Bolinger	Sidni Meister	Karla Cox
Greeters	David Bamberger & Tom Tanner	Alice Miller	Karla Cox	Candy Scarborough
Coffee Hour	Help yourself	Help yourself	Help yourself	Help yourself
Counters	Vestry			
Altar Guild	Daria Condon			