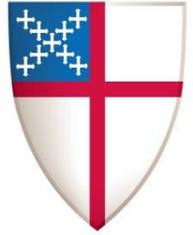


St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

Our Mission is to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel
and to seek and serve Christ in all people



2021 – May Newsletter

Greetings to you in this season of Easter,

First things first, I am sorry for not sending out an April Newsletter. I know how important the Newsletter is to many of us and it is my intention to pick it up again, uninterrupted. It is also my intent to expand our Newsletter ministry and ask others over time to contribute regularly so that each issue contains relevant, timely, and diverse material from the many talented people in our congregation who contribute to our common life. I am excited, for instance, to have a contribution from Deacon Aileen about Richard Hooker, a fascinating theologian who is still remarkably relevant in a time when all of us are feeling the effects of how divided we are as a nation.

For my own part, I would like to speak briefly about the Easter season in which we find ourselves. Just as the last year has felt like an extended Lent, I can feel the joy of Easter not only because of the season, but also because the end of the pandemic is in sight. At the time I am writing this, our county is in the green; following a steady (if not slow) downward trajectory in positive COVID tests.

I want to acknowledge that not all of us feel the same way about coming back into the church for in-person worship; and I mean that in both directions. There are folks that have spoken to me and other leaders in our congregation who are ready to be back in church last Sunday; and others who will not be ready for some time. I want to assure each of you that as we reopen the church for worship in-person we will also continue our ministry to those who have joined us online. I want to assure those of you who have been eagerly waiting to be in our sacred space again that we are working hard to make that happen in a way that doesn't burn out our leadership. It is a difficult line to walk and I ask your prayers for me and the Vestry as we navigate this challenging yet joyful time.

While we are looking to emerge from our pandemic exile; the desert is waking up around us for a season of new growth. May this time be one of growth and new life for each of us and for our community as we celebrate this season of Easter joy and resurrection!

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Diocese of the Rio Grande

Bishop Michael Buerkel Hunn

St. John's Rector:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

St. John's Deacon:

The Rev. Aileen Walther

Day School Director:

Christine Duncan

Day School Business Director:

Karla Warren

Violinist:

Tom Lubenau

Our Vestry

Senior Warden:

Nancy Gregory

Junior Warden:

To be filled

Treasurer:

To be filled

Vestry:

Randy Burroughs, Roy Benavides

Kim Buie, John Shipe

Ministry Contacts

Altar Guild:

Nikki Van Vliet

Community Kitchen:

Bill Henchar

Eucharist Ministers:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

Lectors:

The Rev. Michael Drinkwater

Mission and Outreach:

Available

Senior Warden's Corner

Dear friends of St. John's church,

I'll bet that without too many guesses, I could tell what each one of us is wondering! Tell us Nancy, when are we going to be able to worship again in-person at St. John's?

I sure wish I had that answer. What I do know is that Fr. Michael and our very dedicated Vestry are diligently getting prepared for just that opportunity! There is a lot to consider. The Bishop is helping us and guiding us in the decision-making process, so that we reduce the chances of overlooking anything important.

Fr. Michael sent us each a letter about a month ago alerting us to the fact that the conditions that were limiting us from returning to in-person worship appear to be changing. And now we can plan in earnest for return to what we hope will be regular in-person worship. That is welcome news indeed!

We all want to feel comfortable with the return to in-person worship. The act of returning may seem a little strange and wonderful all at the same time. And we wish to act responsibly so that each of us feels safe. The amount of care and caution needed may mean different things to each of us. We will strive to take an approach where all of us can feel safe and share a time of loving worship together. As God loves each one of us, so we, through our welcoming actions, show that we love each other.

It looks like we will continue with the same online worship opportunities that we've been offering throughout COVID. The online worship would be offered in addition to our in-person services. There are several reasons why we would take this approach. Some of us may not be ready to return to in-person worship. Other folks who connect with us from out of our immediate vicinity have become a part of our congregation and we don't want to lose them! By placing our services on Zoom and Facebook, many more folks have been able to worship with us. Our community is broadening and we rejoice in this!

If you have any thoughts about this or other topics you want the Vestry to discuss, please feel free to contact me. I continue to thank you all for your kind support and sharing of ideas. Your kindness makes this job even more fun!

Peace,

Nancy Gregory

What Would Richard Say?

By Deacon Aileen Pallister Walther

Some of you may know that I have been working on an academic program for some time now through Graduate Theological Foundation (Oklahoma) on Richard Hooker, one of the best known theologians from the Church of England during the 16th century. For many Episcopalians today, though, he is not well known. Therefore, several from St. John's have asked me to say a few words about him.

During the time in which Hooker lived, church life was controlled by the monarch and the Parliament. Thus, the monarch determined what was possible and what was not. As most of us know, Henry VIII had a good deal to say about that when he had difficulty having his marriage to Catherine of Aragon ended and another marriage initiated. He believed he had good reason to do so, as we all do when we want our wills to come first and come up with reasons why that ought to be so. To shorten the story, what ultimately happened was a break with the Church of Rome and a change from being the Church in England to becoming the Church of England in 1534 when the Act of Supremacy made Henry Supreme Head of the Church of England.

Since I was born in England of a very British mother, things English have always been very interesting to me, and as a child I became very interested in English history. The person I chose to study for my PhD, which has now been granted, was Richard Hooker. The world Hooker lived in was much in turmoil as to how one should worship God. Conflict between Catholics and Protestants was very hot, and how one chose to worship could cost much, including for Catholics their lives.

What did Richard Hooker choose to do under these circumstances? He chose to write something with a very long title called *The Lawes of Ecclesiastical Polity*. Why in the world did he do that? The answer, I believe, is that God was central to him as to many in those times. Hooker's desire was to bring the Puritans of that day and the faithful members of the Church of England together. That sounds like a noble goal, but did not succeed in doing so, in spite of spending the rest of his life writing his *Lawes*. What he did succeed in doing is delving deep into what made the Church of England Christian and how to worship God more deeply. My thesis addresses these matters more thoroughly, especially regarding prayer, the Eucharist, how to live virtuously, and how Hooker has been understood in the centuries since his death in 1600.

Should you be interested in learning more, let's talk. Let me close with a quote from Hooker that I hope will interest you in learning more. It is as follows:

Between the throne of God in heaven and his Church upon earth here militant if it be so that Angels have their continual intercourse, where should we finde the same more verified then in these two ghostlie exercises, the one 'Doctrine', the other 'Prayer'?... As teachinge bringeth us to know that God is our supreme truth; so prayer testifieth that we acknowledge him our soveraigne good. (*Lawes*, V.23.1, p. 110).

CLASSROOM FUN:

Isaiah in Ms. Angie's class

The Very Hungry Caterpillar



Toddlers/Garden Time



Ms. Randi's Class/
Garden Time

Ms. Hortencia's Class/Time for lunch



Ms. Roxanne's Class/
Learning about parts of the plant

Ms. Kami's Class/
Jesus walks on water



From the Day School:

MAY:

Bible Verse: Let the little children come to me. Mark 10:14

ANNIVERSARIES: None

Special Dates: We will be closed May 7th, 27th, 28th, and 31st.

Special Events: Preschool Graduation, May 20th, 10:00 a.m. - RECORDED

News:

We have started our spring gardens and seeds have already started popping up! It is great to see the children go out each morning to check their gardens, see what is new, and water each other (I mean the gardens)!

Graduation, graduation, graduation...spring fever! The students are anxious to be done with school-work, and the four-year-old's are putting all their effort into their big performance on the 20th!

Teacher's week is May 2nd thru 8th. We have some special things planned for our teachers, as well as a lunch and breakfast. Families will be participating by helping their students create art-work at home to bring in each day. Friday, May 21st is the last day of our fall program. We have a lot to get to before that!

Our summer program begins June 1st!

Community Kitchen Serving Schedule

May 4	St. Joseph's
May 11	St. John's
May 18	Christ Community Church
May 25	First Presbyterian Church

Schedule of Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
2-May	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 22:24-30	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8
9-May	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
16-May	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Psalm 1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
23-May	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
30-May	Isaiah 6:1-8	Psalm 29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brotherhood of St. Andrew Bible Seminar

The Brotherhood is a group of men who engage in the study of scripture and service. We currently meet each Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. for a Bible seminar. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in February

Birthdays for May 2021:

Boogee Woltz (5/9), Lloyd Fink (5/11), Lilah Drinkwater (5/17), and Susan Morrison (5/19)

Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversaries for May 2021:

Chuck and Dottie Moon (5/31)

Happy Anniversary to Chuck and Dottie!

Caring card ministry

Our card ministry is still active during these challenging times. We (as a church family) are recognizing birthdays and anniversaries for all who signed up. I am signing the cards on behalf of our congregation, since I can't legally sign anyone's name. If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving one of our cards, please let me know. I would be happy to extend our get well wishes, sympathy or congratulations on behalf of our church to them. This includes any pets/owners that are in need of prayers. Sharon's email:ke4zia@gmail.com; call/text: 757 718 9451. If you would like to join our birthday or anniversary lists, please contact me. I will be happy to include you in our list.

Pet Prayer Chain

Many people in our congregation have pets. We all love our pets. They are part of our family. When they are sick, elderly or lost, it is a comfort to know that our church family is praying for them as well as us. If you have or know of a pet that could benefit from our ministry, please let me know. Please consider joining our pet prayer chain volunteers. You may contact: Sharon Kelman email:ke4zia@gmail.com or 757 718-9451 call or text.

Daily Office

Morning Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. Evening Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 4:00 p.m.

Links to these services can be found on the website. The service is also streamed to our Facebook page when technology allows.

Formation Hour

Join us on Sundays at 9 for our Bible Study on Exodus. We began our journey with Abraham and are now reading through the story of Exodus. Links to the bible study can be found on our website.

Digital Coffee Hour

Join us on Sundays at 1115 for coffee hour. This is our time to catch up, share prayer intentions, and enjoy each other's company in an unstructured time. Links to our Digital Coffee hour can be found on our website.

St. John's Episcopal Church

1114 Indiana Avenue, Alamogordo

Sunday Services: 8:00am Rite I; 10:15am Rite II

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