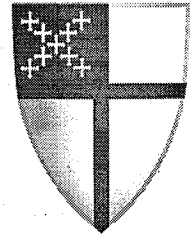


St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2022 – August Newsletter

Greetings in the heat of Summer!

As we come to the close of the Summer season, we look forward with joy to the work of the Fall. Our Day School is excited to greet new students as we move into August and the beginning of another semester and the beginning of new ministry opportunities at St. John's. I am excited to introduce Hannah Draper Burnett as our new Music Director for St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School. Many of you have already met Hannah and her husband Tony as they have visited and volunteered around the church over the last seven or so months.

Hannah's work will be twofold. On the one hand she will work with the children in our Day School to provide opportunities for music education, performance, and enrichment. On the other she will be a staple of our common life together as a parish. She is already working to provide many opportunities to sing and enjoy music both on Sundays and during the week. I hope that you will look out for these opportunities and come when you can. She is eager to hear your feedback and we are eager to provide opportunities for people to worship, pray, and sing in new ways.

This new role will also hopefully serve to strengthen the bonds of ministry between the church and day school as we discern how we are called to serve in our community together. All of that is to say: Welcome, Hannah and Tony! We are glad you are here and we look forward to the ministry we will do together. Blessings from....

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

To my dearest friends of St. John's Episcopal Church, Alamogordo:

Let me take this opportunity to "officially" introduce myself to you. My name is Hannah Draper Burnett, and I've been a musician since age 3. When I began attending services here at St. John's in January, the prospect of my helping to nurture and grow a music program for St. John's Day School and our beloved church wasn't even a thought in my mind. As usual, my big mouth was what started this entire ordeal – I'd been yearning to start a community-based singing group, and an idle mention to our Rector (as well as the gentle prodding of my esteemed colleague and mentor, Ms. Ann Bagby) has seemed to light a fire that is only gaining in strength.

I have been singing since before my living memory. Throughout a troubled and turbulent childhood, through gaining and losing friends and loved ones, through thick and thin, through the happiest and most hopeless times, I would sing. St. Augustine is quoted thusly (attrib.): "When you sing, you pray twice." Music as a form of prayer reaches back far beyond my life, but upon reflection I find that when I sing, I pray – even if I would have never admitted that in my youth! Growing up in poverty and despair in the hollers of eastern Kentucky, I would have never even dreamed that I could try and help other people find meaning and hope through music. While the journey has been wandering, throughout all the places I've been and people I have known, singing as prayer has been the eternal golden thread of my life.

It is with incredible humility (and a continuing sense of shock, if I'm honest) that I have accepted the Director of Music position here at St. John's. Concurrently, I will also serve on the staff of our wonderful Day School, where I hope to build, nurture, grow, and enrich our bright and joyful students in the beauty of making music. It is with a spirit of resurrection that I begin this endeavor, alongside the trepidation of beginning any new venture. I can only offer you what little knowledge I have and a willing heart – willing to serve, to listen, and to help this community enrich its connection to Father, Son, and

Holy Spirit through the prayer of music. The challenges are a bit daunting – coronavirus and its attendant restrictions, scattered resources, time, and energy, and a community where music has stayed alive thanks to the magnificent (and Herculean) efforts of my dear friends and colleagues: Ann, Casey, Gabe, Tom, Helen, and many others. It is my desire to create a space for rebirth of our community and ourselves through music, with an emphasis on spiritual formation, community outreach, social justice, and radical loving-kindness – coupled with high musical standards and a strong educational piece.

Here's the deal, though: I need you. Yes, you, reading this letter and waiting for services to begin, or having a cup of coffee in the backyard, or hastily checking your email from the Rector for this month's newsletter. I need you. I need your spirit, I need your guidance, I need your thoughts, questions, comments, concerns and complaints. I need your prayers. I need your beautiful soul to join us as we begin this new journey together. You are vital, you are important, you are loved, and you are

wanted to become a part of this new chapter in the life of our church. You do not need to be perfect. You do not need to hold yourself to impossible standards. You need to be you, and be willing to engage in prayer through music.

The desire is the gift – your willingness to serve, to be radically vulnerable, to praise God with joyful noise is all you need to be a part of music at St. John's.

It will not always be easy – any and every birth is accompanied by pain, struggle, sacrifice, and compromise. Rebirth is especially difficult. My dream for this program would be to reinvigorate our beautiful traditions – “our way” of worship – while also introducing y'all to the incredibly diverse world of sacred music – but for this to work, I need you . In the coming weeks, I will be working to open a dialogue with our congregation, vestry, and leadership about how we can continue to build on our current musical offerings as well as use our music to further reach out to the community, working

in tandem and cooperation with the vital and essential work of our Community Meal, Blessing Bag, and other outreach ministries.

Please know that my door is always, always open to all of you, day or night. I can't profess to have all the answers, but I will do my best. Never hesitate to ask questions, make suggestions, or bring your ideas to me, because (as you might have noticed) I am not beholden to any particular traditions – the radical diversity and inherent spirituality of all music is available to us for the glory of God.

JOIN CHOIR.

With all love, humility, hope, and gratefulness.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Hannah Draper Burnett

The Senior Warden shares highlights of recent Vestry meetings

June 22, 2022

St John's Episcopal Church, Alamogordo, NM

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Fr Michael called the meeting to order at about 1:05pm. Nancy volunteered to be Clerk of the day.

Next order of business was a review of the May financial statements that had been previously emailed to the Vestry. Members asked several clarifying questions. Fr. Michael will arrange for a meeting with our bookkeeper to further answer the Vestry's questions. Nancy moved to accept the financials and John seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Fr. Michael asked if there were any changes needed in last month's meeting minutes. John made a motion to accept the minutes, Steve seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Fr. Michael gave his report. He began with suggesting that we set a time for a meeting of the congregation to receive feedback and to discuss plans for a return to the Common Cup as recommended by Bishop Hunn. Fr. Michael suggested a Sunday meeting in place of the Adult Formation Hour. A member suggested that we hold off for a bit since the county has just returned to the yellow. All agreed.

Next, Fr. Michael discussed several matters surrounding the Day School, music, and bringing on Hannah as Music Director. He and Hannah have recently worked out the details of her Letter of Agreement, and he anticipates it will be signed in a week or two. The Vestry will see a new line item in the financials. Fr. Michael anticipates that the value of Music Education to the Day School will be recognized in the community and help our Day School grow. The Vestry agreed. Fr. Michael was glad to report that Kami Allen has accepted the offer of Day School Director, and she now has all the necessary certifications. She will no longer be "interim." Enrollments are up even with our increased fees. The long-term health of the Day School is looking very good.

Nancy gave a brief report on the status of St. John's Annual Congregational Audit for 2021. We are grateful for the people who have volunteered to do the audit, Kathy Ann Henchar, Louise Elliott and Tony Burnett. A date has been set to perform the work.

John gave his report summarizing his work in the last month, including tending the columbarium garden, trapping stray cats living under the church and taking them to animal control. John also investigated the cost benefit of changing the fluorescent lights in the parish hall to LED lights. He recommended that we hold off making the change.

There was a good discussion of vestry members questions about our janitorial service and the cost of natural gas on our financials. The vestry may consider holding a fund raiser to replace the gas stove with a more energy efficient model.

Nancy made a motion to adjourn at 2:19pm. Fr. Michael led the vestry in the Lord's Prayer.

Faithfully submitted,

Nancy Gregory, Clerk of the Day

Reading and Praying with the Sunday Gospel: A Spiritual Practice for Ordinary Time

Many of you know of my multiple connections with St. Luke (being born on St. Luke's Day in St. Luke's Hospital to a father on the staff of St. Luke's Church and a mother teaching at St. Luke's School; selecting David-Luke as my 'name in religion' within the Brotherhood of St. Gregory; and then legally changing my name per our Constitution). But Luke also is my favorite Gospel, and the portion of it in our Year C Eucharistic Lectionary for Ordinary Time contains some of the richest and most unique teachings of Jesus in all of the Gospels.

In late June, we began Luke's account of Jesus' Journey to Jerusalem (chapters 10-19), which is commonly known as Luke's Travel Narrative. It is a strange sort of 'travel narrative' because it has little to do with travel and the places through which Jesus and his disciples are moving on their journey to Jerusalem. It is more theological than geographical: places and events are nothing more than a backdrop for Jesus' rich teachings, many of which are found nowhere else in the Gospels. (Biblical scholars attribute this material to an "L source" [for Luke] in contrast to the "Q source" thought to account for much of the shared material in Matthew and Luke, and the Gospel of Mark, likely the first Gospel and already available and familiar to the other Gospel writers.) In all, the Gospel of Luke features eleven unique parables of Jesus, including some of the most familiar, powerful and beloved, such as the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son.

We will continue to journey with Jesus through Luke's Travel Narrative until All Saints' Day in November. As the focus of this large section of Luke is thematic rather than chronological, it lends itself easily to beginning Bible study or prayer at any time with the Sunday lectionary, which can be found in calendar form at: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/lectionary/> or in the St. John's newsletter.

One simple strategy for reading and praying with the Sunday Gospel is a modified Lectio Divina, consisting of these three steps, with generous pauses before, between, and after for prayer:

1. Read the Gospel passage slowly, carefully and attentively without preconception.
2. Read the passage again, being open to a word or phrase that draws your attention.
3. Read the passage again, and reflect: What is Jesus saying to you? What (if anything) is Jesus calling you to do? What is your response to this Gospel passage in thought, word and/or deed?

Soli Deo Gloria, David-Luke, BSG +

BLESSING BAG/BORDERLAND MINISTRIES

FOR JULY 2022

BLESSING BAGS: COMMUNITY KITCHEN

MALE: 12

FEMALE : 12

BORDERLAND

JULY DONATIONS FOR BORDERLAND BULKY ITEM MINISTRY WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Men: 15 pairs of socks, 12 pairs underwear and 12 tee shirts

Women: 1 Skirt, 1 Top, 21pairs of socks (variety), bras and camisoles (variety) 19 and 8 pairs gloves

Specific Items Needed:

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream and feminine hygiene products.

Thank you for your donations, we now have a bulky item ministry for Borderland! These are items come packaged and are not included in the Blessing Bag itself.

I am humbled by your generosity in supporting this ministry. God bless you all!

Blessings,

Sharon Kelman

Schedule of Sunday Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
7-Aug	Genesis 15:1-6	Psalm 33:12-22	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Luke 12:32-40
14-Aug	Jeremiah 23:23-29	Psalm 82	Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Luke 12:49-56
21-Aug	Isaiah 58:9b-14	Psalm 103:1-8	Hebrews 12:18-29	Luke 13:10-17
28-Aug	Sirach 10:12-18	Psalm 112	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Luke 14:1, 7-14

Rota

Date	Sunday	Reader - 8:00	Reader - 10:15	Preacher	Altar Guild
7-Aug	Pentecost 9	Joyce Summers	Yvonne Perkins	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Kelman
14-Aug	Pentecost 10	John Shipe	Nancy Gregory	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Henchar
21-Aug	Pentecost 11	Randy Burroughs	Sharon Kelman	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Van Vliet
28-Aug	Pentecost 12	Joyce Summers	Hannah D. Burnett	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Elliott

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

August Birthdays:

Harriet (8/10), Steve (8/2), Darlene (8/4), Nikki (8/6), Geoff (8/15), Deanna (8/17) and Sarah (8/18)
Happy Birthday to all!

August Anniversary:

Makayla and Alec (8/6) Happy Anniversary!

Blessing Bag Ministry

Blessing Bags contain **travel** size items (i.e. hand sanitizer, small note books, toothbrush, toothpaste, pens, pencils, shampoo, deodorant, granola bars, soap, tuna/cracker packs, underwear, socks etc). We place several of the items in a gallon storage bag and distribute them to those in need. Currently, we are working closely with COPE and local partners in addition to Rio Grande Borderland Ministries.

If you are interested in helping in this ministry, please contact Sharon Kelman at 757 718 9451 or email ke4zia@gmail.com. You may bring any items you purchase to the church and deposit them in the bag that is located in the Narthex any Sunday.

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 Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. for a Bible seminar in the Parish Hall. All men and women from the community with an interest in the study of scripture are invited to attend.

Caring card ministry

I would like to thank everyone who has donated cards, stamps and stickers to this ministry. We would like to help you celebrate **ALL** occasions. So, if you haven't signed up on our birthday (we just need month and day-**NO YEARS**) and anniversary lists, please do so. If you know of someone who may enjoy receiving one of our cards, please let me know. The sign-up sheets are on the table in the Narthex. If you prefer, you may contact me directly: Sharon Kelman email: ke4zia@gmail.com or 757-718 9451 call or text.

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 David-Luke or Nancy know.

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 Deuteronomy. Been to a lot of bible studies? None? All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? Are you interested in doing it as part of an ongoing spiritual practice that gives back to the community? If you are and would like more information, like patterns or prayers, please contact Joyce at joycesummers@mac.com

St. John's Episcopal Church

1114 Indiana Avenue, Alamogordo

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

Office Phone: 575.437.3891

Email: stjohnsalamo@tularosa.net Website: <http://www.stjohnsalamo.com>