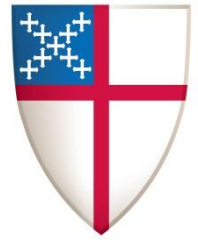




St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2022 – February Newsletter

Greetings to each of you in this season of Epiphany,

Something cool that has happened just recently that I would like to share with you is a prospective partnership with the Otero Hunger Coalition. When we collaborated with other organizations, including another Episcopal Church in La Union, to develop what became the Food Box ministry. Otero Hunger was the organization that managed that relationship for everyone else in the county. They have had their hardships, including the tragic and recent loss of a much-beloved director, Janett Quick. We have, too. Even though we still have several dedicated groups and individuals which serve in our Community Kitchen and a wonderful pair of Kitchen managers, our groups seem to be telling us that something needs to change in how we provide services.

Though it is still in the early stages, I am confident that a partnership with Otero Hunger Coalition insures that we move forward in that conversation with the care, experience, and support that we need to navigate the next stage of the community kitchen's ministry to our community. It also invites us to change our relationship with our space. As it gets harder for many of us to volunteer, members of St. John's can support the work of feeding the hungry through our space, something that belongs to all of us and that we can provide as a community to work which benefits our larger community.

And in so doing we stand in a long tradition. Though I haven't verified it, I believe the Community Kitchen is older than I am and our Day School is close to that age or older. Our building has been used for the good of our community for a long time; and I look forward to this next season for this little church with big dreams of building up the kingdom of God in our midst. Blessings from...

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Life of a seed

by Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

I was taking a little walk around my back yard, trying to think up a topic for my next church newsletter article. I try to choose things that describe the life of the church, my part in it, and things that are about to happen.

This last month feels like it has been a jumble of very different activities and at the moment I was having trouble coming up with any theme.

I glanced around the corners and edges of my back yard as I walked. My newly planted baby red yucca plants caught my eye and my mind drifted back in time to how they had entered my life.

I am fond of propagating native plants and I noticed how lovely the red yucca plant was. So, I thought I'd try propagating it. I found some seeds, read up on how to treat them, and got the project started. That was over 2 years ago! Did I mention that propagating plants takes a lot of patience?

These little seeds, barely as big as my smallest fingernail, had been sitting in a tray near one of my windows, and as I gave them a bit of soil and water and light, they soon began to respond and to show signs of life. Tiny white sprouts poked out of the seeds. These gradually turned green and grew taller. Every time I looked at them, I felt a message of hopeful energy spreading all around, boosting my spirits.

Feels like patience has been in short supply with me these days. But why? Maybe the frustration of what seems to be an unending litany of Covid problems. Just when we think things are better, they get worse, even worse than before. How can we keep going?

Then I looked at my courageous, graceful, energized, and faithful baby yuccas. They were barely a foot tall. Now planted outside bravely facing extremes of temperature and uneven water supply. They have been patient for over 2 years so far and I'll bet they will keep on being patient. Their DNA is guiding them on a path of propagation and health. A path that includes providing food for other species, such as hummingbirds, moths, bees, and also beauty for us to enjoy and appreciate. That beauty nourishes us as it reminds us of God's grace.

Maybe that's the topic for this month. To take a lesson from nature. Be patient, have hope, keep on following the important basics, care for nature and each other. Pay attention Nancy, these little seeds seem to be saying. Follow us, do what we do, have faith.

That's a good message.

Have you ever wondered how our Sunday Bible readings are chosen?

Public reading of the Scriptures in the liturgy likely predates Christianity by many centuries, and most liturgical scholars believe that ancient Jewish practice--- much like our own today--- consisted of *lectio continua*, a process in which a Book of the Bible would be broken down into smaller passages and read over multiple liturgies sequentially. Within Christianity, though extant evidence of assigned lectionaries (Bible readings for public worship) dates only to the 6th century, the writings of the earliest church fathers and mothers suggest that specific lectionaries were likely commonplace in the early church, a natural legacy of Judaic practice.

Over the centuries as the liturgical year became more complex, the lectionaries of the church increased in complexity as well. In addition, nonscriptural readings from various ecclesial figures grew to dominate lectionaries so prominently that a return to Holy Scripture at public worship became a key goal of the English Reformation. In his 1549 Daily Office Lectionary, Thomas Cranmer instituted a radically inclusive *lectio continua*, such that the Hebrew Scripture, Psalms, Epistles and Gospels were preserved almost in their entirety with little interruption. Though we have subsequently adopted (and/or readopted) additional Lections for major feast days, this principle of *lectio continua* has continued to guide successive revisions of the Book of Common Prayer and of the Daily Office Lectionary of the Episcopal Church to the present day.

Among the changes in the Book of Common Prayer in 1979, Lectionary readings at the Sunday Eucharist were increased from two to three, and the cycle of those readings was increased from one-year to three-years. In recognition that the Holy Eucharist “is the principal act of Christian worship on the Lord’s Day and other major feasts” (BCP) the effective impact of these changes was to expose the regular Sunday worshiper to much more Scripture as part of Sunday worship.

In 2007, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church authorized the use of the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), which is the product of two ecumenical bodies, the North American Consultation on Common Texts and the International English Language Liturgical Consultation. For most of ‘green season’, Ordinary Time between Trinity Sunday and the Feast of Christ the King, the RCL offers two different tracks—one thematic and one *lectio continua*, widening lectionary options and increasing complexity somewhat.

A decided strength of the RCL is that it is used by most North American Protestant Churches every Sunday. It also frequently corresponds with the Roman Catholic Lectionary, although the latter has some different readings for Sunday Feast Days unique to Roman Catholicism. On any given Sunday, the majority of Christians in the U.S. & Canada are reading, praying with, studying, and hearing sermons from the very same texts! And, over the course of the three-year cycle, they are covering much of the Bible systematically together.

For further information on the Revised Common Lectionary, a really outstanding site is that of the Vanderbilt Divinity School: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>.

Soli Deo Gloria, with love and prayer, David-Luke, BSG

1. Most of this information is drawn from:

Strout, Shawn O. (2018). “‘The Word of the Lord’: An Examination of the Use of Lectionaries in the Episcopal Church”. In Robert W. Prichard (Ed.), *Issues in Prayer Book Revision*. New York: Church Publishing

What would Richard say? By The Rev. Aileen Walther

Richard Hooker had much to deal with in his society. There was religious and international conflict, as well as disagreement on worship, doctrine, and what was appropriate conduct. He emphasized faith, hope, and charity, as did most Christians. In Book I of his *Laws*, he wrote about the centrality of *faith*. For *example*, he said:

*God doth require nothing unto happiness at the hands of men saving only naked belief ...
but that without believe
all other things are as nothing,
and it is the ground of those other divine virtues. concerning faith the principal object
whereof is that eternal veritie which hath discovered the treasures of hidden wisdom in Christ.*

Let us focus for a minute on what faith does. Without faith we would never come to know God or grow in our faith. It is what separates a Christian from a non-Christian. Faith, even a small amount of faith, leads to prayer. It opens the door to God. As we grow in faith, hope, and charity, we develop as human beings. We need to acknowledge that faith can grow, or it can weaken. This is true of hope and charity as well. The more we grow in our faith, the more hope we will have and the more charitable we will be toward those who are unlike us or are people we do not understand. I don't know about you, but I think we need more faith, hope and charity in a challenging world.

Schedule of Sunday Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
6-Feb	Isaiah 6:1-13	Psalm 138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
13-Feb	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Psalm 1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
20-Feb	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42	1 Corinthians 15:35-38,42-50	Luke 6:27-38
27-Feb	Exodus 34:29-35	Psalm 99	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Luke 9:28-43a

Rota

Date	Sunday	Reader - 8:00	Reader - 10:15	Preacher
6-Feb	Epiphany 5	Randy Burroughs	Sharon Kelman	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater
13-Feb	Epiphany 6	John Shipe	Nancy Gregory	The Rev. David-Luke Henton, BSG
20-Feb	Epiphany 7	Joyce Summers	Sharon Kelman	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater
27-Feb	Epiphany Last	Randy Burroughs	Nancy Gregory	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 our community kitchen.

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries in February

Birthdays:

Alec (2/11), George "Skip" (2/16) and Sharon (2/26) Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversaries:

Ligia and John (2/14) and Rev. David-Luke and (2/15)

Happy Anniversary to all!

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 Leviticus. We began our journey with Abraham and are now reading through the story of Leviticus. In December, we will likely continue into the story of Numbers.

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

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

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