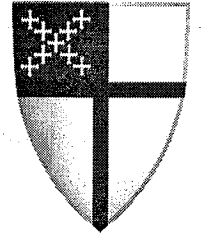


St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2022 – September Newsletter

Greetings in this extraordinary (yet ordinary) time!

This month seems to be a month of transitions. Last month we were delighted to welcome Hannah Draper Burnett as our new music director. This month we prepare to prayerfully send off our brother, The Rev. David-Luke Henton, to his next call (to be announced soon). I am writing this while the evensong on the Feast of St. Bartholomew is still fresh in my mind. The tension between the joy of being able to offer beautiful liturgies imbued with Sacred music and the loss of someone who has been such a large part of our life together over the last three years was difficult to hold all at once.

The Day School is also finishing up the orientation part of the year and gearing up for curriculum around Christian Formation through the scriptures and music enrichment developed and offered by our new Music Director. Hannah, Nancy, and I have already spent one afternoon putting flyers up around town advertising our choirs and look forward to several more opportunities in the future. Please see the information later in this edition about the upcoming meetings for those interested in choir. Hannah is eager to work with members of our church community and our larger community to bring people together over a diverse repertoire of sacred and secular music. Those interested need only bring a desire to sing. We can do the rest. I have also heard that there will be pie.

As you can see, there is much to be grateful for in our life together, and also many changes. This time of year is recognized by many as a time of change. Several indigenous peoples in this area celebrate the beginning of the New year, or at the very least a time to begin the change from the industry of Summer, to the sacred time of winter around this time of year. We will begin our own sacred cycle of story telling very soon.

As we weather these upcoming changes together, may God give us the grace to do so with love and gratitude. Blessings from...

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Getting Over the Big Hurdles in Life

Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

In many ways it felt as if coming out of Covid-time was harder and a bit more confusing than the going in was. At least it felt that way to me.

I'd been really looking forward to taking a camping/hiking/photography trip for a very long time. But something always seemed to pop up and get in the way. Campgrounds shutdown, hiking trails closed due to extreme wildfire risk, and a very generous monsoon season had added to delays, rescheduling and disappointment. Would a trip ever happen? I began to wonder.

Most of the places I wanted to go required reservations. So, finally, out of frustration, I just went ahead and made reservations. The day for travel finally rolled around. The monsoon rains were going strong! Oh my. Camping and hiking in rain and mud? Now what?!

Well, Fr. Michael encouraged me to go ahead, and if nothing else, to enjoy a drive through the beautiful New Mexico and Colorado countryside even if it rained. I'd be seeing new countryside and that could be fun and refreshing. So, off I went!

I'm so glad for Fr. Michael's encouragement! He knew how long I'd waited. And the drive was breathtakingly beautiful! My destination was a campground at about 9400 ft elevation on the side of Mt. Blanca, one of 8 -- 14'ers in the San Luis Basin of Colorado. Joyously the monsoon rains slowed down. As I looked out onto that Basin, I could see the Great Sand Dunes. What a treat! Then I took a short hike to nearby Zapata Falls. It was also beautiful and full of roaring ice-cold water!

The next day I tried hiking higher to reach a mountain lake. It was a beautiful trail with more gorgeous scenery, including a huge field of aspen.

Oh, did I mention I took lots of photographs?

My lesson to self...a good way to overcome fear may be to take it on a little bit at a time. Enjoy that part. Then try another part. Pretty soon you realize that big fearful thing was not that hard to face after all. Thanks be to God!

Schedule of Sunday Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
4-Sep	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalms 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-33
11-Sep	Exodus 32:7-14	Psalms 51:1-11	1 Timothy 1:12-17	Luke 15:1-10
18-Sep	Amos 8:4-7	Psalms 113	1 Timothy 2:1-7	Luke 16:1-13
25-Sep	Amos 6:1a,4-7	Psalms 146	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Luke 16:19-31

Rota

Date	Sunday	Reader - 8:00	Reader - 10:15	Preacher	Altar Guild
4-Sep	Pentecost 13	John Shipe	Yvonne Perkins	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Kelman
11-Sep	Pentecost 14	Joyce Summers	Nancy Gregory	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Henchar
18-Sep	Pentecost 15	Randy Burroughs	Sharon Kelman	The Rev. David-Luke Henton, BSG	Van Vliet
25-Sep	Pentecost 16	Joyce Summers	Hannah D. Burnett	The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater	Elliott

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Randy (9/3), Dottie (9/7), Norm (9/9), Gabe (9/14), Ann (9/20) and Erika (9/21) Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversary:

Harriet and Tom (9/6) 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.

LOVE TO SING? JOIN CHOIR!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES AND
ABILITIES!

St. John's Episcopal Church
1114 Indiana Ave.
Alamogordo NM 88310

informational meetings:

for Church Choirs, Youth Choirs, Training Choir

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

for Community Chorale

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
6:00 P.M.-8:00P.M.

ALL (and we do mean ALL) are welcome!
to learn more, contact [sjalamomusic @ gmail . com](mailto:sjalamomusic@gmail.com)

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. This will be restarting the Saturday following labor day.

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.

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>