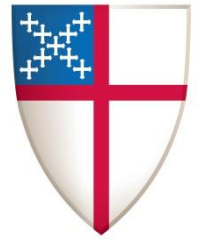




St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School

Alamogordo, New Mexico

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



2023 – May Newsletter

Greetings in this season of resurrection!

I am always reminded in the quick turnover between the Easter Vigil and our first service on Easter morning of the stark contrast between Lent and Easter. The symbols and the language that we use are different. We even use different Eucharistic prayers with other visual differences to accentuate this contrast. There is one thing, however, that Lent and Easter hold in common in spite of all of the differences. Both seasons are part of the discipline of the Church year.

In our culture we can often confuse discipline and punishment, so it may seem strange for me to use a term like discipline to describe the Great 50 days of Easter. Here I define discipline as a tool of teaching within our tradition. I see both Lent and Easter as seasons having their own discipline: one of penitence and one of Joy; but they both happen whether we are ready for them or not. That has, at different times in my faith journey, felt like more of a curse than a gift depending on what I was dealing with at the time; but it was always good practice for putting into action Jesus' call to shed tears with those who mourn and laugh with the joyful.

As we continue in our celebration with our faces turned toward the descending tongues of fire, the Holy Spirit reminds us that our celebration is not an excuse to neglect our own needs or those of our community. Though we are celebrating, the world still mourns and each of us still encounter the difficulties of day to day life.

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we live joyfully into the resurrection, while also ministering to the needs of others.

Your Brother in Christ,

The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

An article for the May Newsletter,
by Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

I am pleased to report that we are making great progress on settling the very generous gift from our former parishioner, Lloyd Fink. And it feels very, very good to be nearing the end of the process.

All along the way, I was confronted with new things to deal with, new subjects to learn, new people to become acquainted with. What a journey. Faith brought me many folks to lean on, folks who helped me find the answers I was seeking, helped me solve difficult issues. People who invested hours and hours of physical effort to get the job done! I remembered I was not alone. God was there, in all these wonderful people.

A feeling of Joy came along to see that all of us remembered our Love of God in all that we did.

The part that was the weightiest was the Estate Sale. But then, Faith connected me to members of our congregation who saw a need (maybe I didn't even see) and volunteered to fill that need. Even up to the very last hours before the sale was to begin, people were stepping up with ideas to help. I lifted up many Prayers of Thanksgiving!

On the day of the sale, I started asking those who came to look at the Estate Goods, did you know Lloyd? Many of them did, and they told me wonderful stories about how they remembered him. Even his UPS Driver!

As the visitors searched among his things, something special would occasionally catch their eye. They'd call my attention to it and give me an interesting bit of history and connection to Lloyd to go along with it. I began to see more clearly what a great diversity of interests and knowledge our Lloyd had. I started to stick closer as folks looked through his things, hoping to learn more about Lloyd.

So, in death, through his most generous gift, we all have begun to learn a great deal more about Lloyd. May we all take a moment to be grateful for him, grateful for his gift to St. John's and thankful for his intriguing life. I'm thinking we each have some fascinating stories to tell of our own lives, and when someone is ready to listen, we are ready to share and to learn.

Getting to Know You

A new column idea inspired by Yvonne Perkins. This article was written by Faye Sinclair.

Every Sunday you will see a person with a briefcase taking a seat at St. John's. Her name is **Faye Sinclair**.

She was born in Tyler, Texas, about six weeks after the 1929 crash that began the well-known depression. She was the youngest of six children. Although Faye's father was not a farmer but always worked as a railroad trainman, the family lived on a small farm, which fostered an adventurous spirit in her.

Faye graduated from high school in Tyler and earned a degree in chemistry from a Presbyterian college in Memphis, Tennessee. She then went to Duke University in North Carolina for a doctorate in chemistry in preparation for teaching college chemistry. However, a weekend retreat held by Intervarsity Christian Fellowship changed all that. During the closing prayer of the retreat Faye clearly heard the voice of God say, "You are to be a medical missionary."

Her mother later confirmed the validity of that commission when she said that the reason she had so many children was so one would be a missionary and the others would support him or her.

When her mother told their pastor about Faye's plans he responded that such a remote place as central Africa was not a suitable place for "a delicately raised girl." Her mother laughed inwardly, knowing that her girl had not been "delicately raised" but lived her early years with no electricity, having running water only when water had been hand-pumped into an overhead barrel, heating and cooking with a wood stove, lighting by kerosene lamps.

After medical school, Faye specialized in laboratory medicine and pathology. She worked several years in the United States to get experience for the challenges of serving thirteen years in a remote hospital in central Africa, the former Belgian Congo, now the D.R. Congo. She had some great experiences with other missionaries and the native Africans there.

In 1981, Faye went on the first of many tours to Israel. This tour was led by a scholar who emphasized archeology and the Hebrew roots of our faith and was a life-changing experience resulting in a deep commitment to Israel and love for the Jewish people.

Years ago, a medical colleague described Faye as "never broken to harness". She admits that this description is still true.

Schedule of Sunday Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
7-May	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
14-May	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:7-18	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
21-May	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
28-May	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23

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Date	Sunday	Reader - 8:00	Prayers - 800	Altar Guild	EM - 1015	Reader - 10:15
7-May	Easter 5	John	Joyce	Louise	Nancy	Tony
14-May	Easter 6	Randy	Joyce	Nikki and Steve	Steve	Nancy
21-May	Easter 7	Joyce	Joyce	Joyce	Nancy	Sharon
28-May	Pentecost	Geoff	Joyce	Joyce	Steve	Hannah

Community Kitchen Schedule	
2-May	St. Joseph's
9-May	PPW
16-May	Christ Community
23-May	First Presbyterian
30-May	Retired Teachers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important March Meetings

Our March Vestry meeting is set for May 24th at 5 pm. A zoom link will be sent out prior to the meeting.

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.

Saturday Morning Bible Study

We currently have a Bible Study that meets 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. 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

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