



St. John's Episcopal Church

3507 Pine St. Pascagoula, MS 39567

October 2021

Dear Friends,

Years ago I spent some time studying the life of The Most Reverend William Temple. He was the Archbishop of Canterbury during most of World War II. As we all know from history those were tough and difficult times in England. One of the things I remember the most about what he said about the Church is, "The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members." Another way I have heard this stated is that the church exists for those who aren't in it yet. In other words, you and I stand on the shoulders of those who have made offerings to St. John's over the years and through their offerings this part of the greater church we call St. John's exists today.

For some this is a different way to think about stewardship. When we purchase something it is for the here and now, and we want to see the results of it. It is like an investment in our world today with no thoughts about tomorrow. Perhaps this is what those before us here at St. John's thought but that isn't what happened. We are beneficiaries of those who have gone before us who gave to God to keep this place alive and active. This is an example of how giving to God through giving to the church today is giving to something larger than what we can see now or imagine.

However, through our gifts now, we can see a glimpse of the future in all the children who are with us on Sunday mornings. As a community of faith, we have tried many ways to attract families with children. We have a Sunday school program now that attracts children. We

have some really good things happening now that will be here in the future when those after us will stand on our shoulders.

One of the things that our finance commission is asking us to do is to increase our pledge by 5% over what we have given in the past. On a personal note, one that Marjie and I have done over the years is to increase our pledge to the parish each year. This has been a growth process for us. We didn't start out big or make some major jump in one year. We have just increased our amount of giving each year. It is amazing how these funds have added up over the years and we don't miss the money. It is a freeing thing when we think about it. So increasing our pledge is in line with what we have been doing over the years.

Growing in our giving to God is something that I believe God calls us to do. I don't think God wants us to be without the necessities of this life. Giving our resources to God is freeing because we are giving to God what is already God's. As St. Francis said, "For it is in giving that we receive."

So as we continue this journey together in our time let us remember that we will receive from the gifts we give and part of what we receive is the gift we will give others. There are those who will come after us and become beneficiaries of our gifts as they stand on our shoulders as you and I continue to experience the presence of God in this wonderful and holy community of St. John's.

Christ's Peace,

Thank you to St. John's
Relief for Ida Victims



In appreciation for your contributions to members of her church and throughout the community, Mother Holly Burris of St. John's Episcopal in Thibodaux, LA, sent us this verse from Hebrews and the following letter:

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
I write on behalf of all the faithful here at St. John's Episcopal Church in Thibodaux to thank you for your generosity in efforts to supply items and gift cards to meet the needs of those who lost so much during Hurricane Ida.*

You are truly a blessing as we work together to make God's love manifest by being the hands and feet of Christ alive.

*In deepest Gratitude, yours in Christ,
Mother Holly Burris*

*Let
mutual love
continue...*

*Do not neglect
to do good
and to share
what you have,*

*for such
sacrifices
are pleasing
to God.*

Hebrews 13:1,16

Operation Christmas Child Update #2

What should I pack in an OCC shoebox?

By Gabby Kyzar

That's a great question! Include any personal care items, art supplies, school supplies, and small toys; Anything that the receiving child could use would be great items to pack.

On the flip side, what should not be packed in an OCC shoebox? No liquid or food items are allowed (no liquid soap, no toothpaste and no food). Also no weapons or war-related items.

We plan to have empty OCC boxes set up in the Narthex later this month. Please take a box and complete the sign-up sheet. If you don't fill the box, we would appreciate your returning the

empty box as these boxes are purchased. And, feel free to use a shoebox from your closet, if you prefer.

Pro-tip #1: It's very helpful to take the gift items out of any unnecessary packaging. This leaves more room in the box and minimizes the waste (many places don't have ways to deal with trash).

Pro-tip #2: A lot of summer stuff is on sale right now, including flip-flops and summer toys. Grab these items now ... you don't have to wait until you get your box!

Children's ministry brings growth opportunities

By Amy Baker

What a wonderful gift we have been given! The gift of living our Baptismal Call to share and build on God's promises. Each time someone is baptized, we renew our own covenant by promising to do everything in our power in our answer, "We will with God's help." Sharing the promises of God with children through Bible stories and scripture is a blessing indeed.

At St. John's we have renewed our commitment to children and young families with a children's ministry starting with a new Sunday School curriculum, Service Projects and children's events and activities.

Sunday School

Growing in God's Promises is an Episcopal, liturgy-based curriculum filled to overflowing with prayer, scriptures, Bible stories and FUN! It even includes a family involvement page each week that can be shared over an evening meal. When asked about their thoughts on the new Sunday School lessons and format, the children gave it a huge vote of approval. "I love learning about Jesus," said Kate Martin Battley. "I like it because it isn't boring and we have fun," said Abigail Banahan. Eliza Wills added, "I love making the arts and crafts like the baby Moses we made out of Rice Krispies."

We are also blessed with committed parents and grandparents here at St. John's. Their desire, talents and commitment have insured a fresh and successful new start!

Service Projects

The children's ministry is full steam ahead with monthly service projects to create opportunities for the children to identify needs in the community that they can support. So far, to be Christ's hands, the children have sent care packages to local COVID frontline workers and are collecting dog and cat food for the local animal shelter. In the coming months, they will be providing meals to needy families for Thanksgiving.

Children's Events and Activities

We have celebrated the return to Sunday School and have plans for the Feast of St. Francis, Operation Christmas Child, and a Halloween carnival! Plans are also underway for a children's thanksgiving feast, Christmas caroling and program, and the Feast of St. Nicholas.

Thank you, as always, for your support of our children and families! Please join us any Sunday to assist, pray or share with us in anyway!

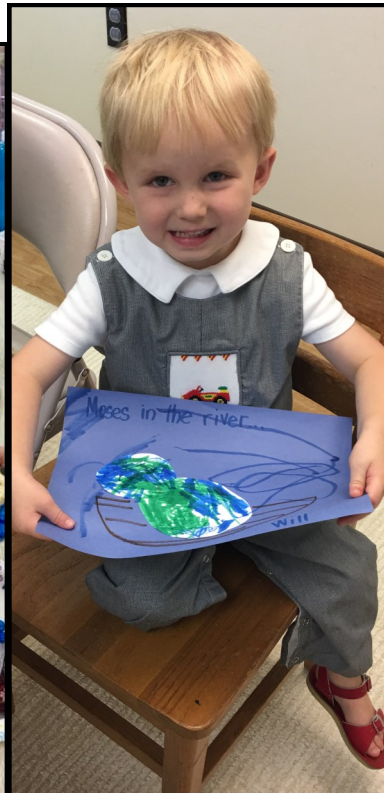
LEARNING



DEVELOPING



CREATING



GROWING



St. John's Blessing of the Animals



We celebrated Mass on the Grass and the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 3.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Backpack Buddies BBQ Fundraiser

Thursday, Oct. 14th
\$8 plate

Includes sandwich, chips & dessert

Order at 228-617-9467 or by email at
[backpackbuddiesofpas-
cagoula@gmail.com](mailto:backpackbuddiesofpas-cagoula@gmail.com)

Cash, Check or Venmo @BackpackBuddies
-ofPascagoula

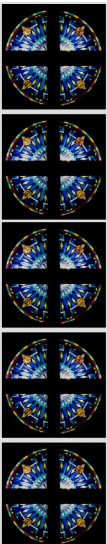
Can pay at delivery or pick up.

First Presbyterian Church, Pascagoula
(corner of Pascagoula St. and Ingalls Ave.)

**ORDERS OF 10 OR MORE
WILL DELIVER!**

All proceeds used to buy food for
Backpack Buddies program kids.

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS: Oct. 8th



St. John's Parish Staff

The Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, *Bishop*
The Rev. Tom Fanning, *Rector*
The Rev. Ede Plovanich, *Part Time Associate Priest*
Hope Shotts Steiner, *Organist-Choir Director*
Terry Willis, *Sexton*
Jenn Johnson, *Church Secretary*
Pam Eaves, *Nursery Attendant*
Alix Thrower, *Nursery Attendant*
Tristin Tillman, *Nursery Attendant*

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. – noon
Phone: 228-762-1705

2021 Vestry

Charlie Latady - *Senior Warden*
Kelly Smith - *Junior Warden*
Deborah Banahan - *Parish Activities*
Mary Maner - *Inreach*
Rhonda Shook - *Outreach*
Con Lancaster - *Treasurer*
Kathy Khayat - *Vestry Clerk*
Bobby Baker - *Assistant Treasurer*

E-Mail: office.sjecpm.org
Web: www.sjecpm.org

2021

OCTOBER

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

If we missed your Birthday
or Anniversary please email
or call Jenn with the date.
Thank you!

[SUNDAY](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
Kendall Bailey John Vaughan	Shannon Williamson	Kay McBroom *Terry & Fred Guynn	Waylon Martin Annie Laura Vaughan	Connie Belk	Adeline Busby	Charlie Beasley Addilyn Martin
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			Carl Rensink		Barbara McDonald	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Jane Pickel		Dylan Demouey *Tonya & Tom Stevens	Andy Chenoweth Con Lancaster Alice Stoudenmire	Samantha Switzer Billy Williamson	Troy Baker Marie Jones Abigail Jones Sarah Taylor
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Stephen Burnsed John Lindsay	Bill Baumhauer Richard Murray Caylie Waters	Kellie Crowder *Tonya & Charlie Latady	Taylor Banahan		Tom Browning *Taylor & Will Battley	Donnie Murray
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
Joshua Diaz						

*Anniversary

Lay Ministry Schedule October 2021

	October 3rd The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi	October 10th The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	October 17th The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost	October 24th The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost	October 31st The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Verger	Dustin Taylor	Dale Harkey	Dale Harkey	Dustin Taylor	Bill Nelson
Lectors	<p>8:00 am Mary Maner</p> <p>10:30 am Charles Shook Monica Donald</p>	<p>8:00 am Priscilla Battley</p> <p>10:30 am Kathy Khayat John Banahan</p>	<p>8:00 am Gina Bardwell</p> <p>10:30 am Mary Margaret Bailey Carol Hutcherson</p>	<p>8:00 am Mary Maner</p> <p>10:30 am Calen Wills Bruner Bosio</p>	<p>8:00 am Bob McDonald</p> <p>10:30 am Rick Roberts Anna Stewart</p>
Acolytes	Gabby Kyzar Fin Battley Jonathan Gates		Gabby Kyzar Fin Battley Jonathan Gates		Gabby Kyzar Fin Battley Jonathan Gates
Ushers	Gary Boman	John Banahan	David Minkler	Calen Wills	Ted Battley
Altar Guild	Judy Williamson Priscilla Battley	Marilyn Boman Nell Norwood	Tonya Latady Amanda Johns	Connie Belk Len Murray	Rhonda Shook Mary Bet Evans
Flower Guild	Barbie Harkey	Ann Pickett	Theresa Steinberger	Sherry Boman	Stacey Baumhauer
Sunday School Teachers	Amy Baker, Dylan Demouey, Taylor Banahan, Kristin Pugh, Kelci Miller, Abby Wills, Deborah Banahan, Deanna Battley, Cayla Switzer	Abby Wills Deborah Banahan	Kelci Miller Cayla Switzer	Kristin Pugh, Deanna Battley, & Deborah Banahan	Amy Baker Taylor Banahan