



# St. John's Episcopal Church

3507 Pine St. Pascagoula, MS 39567

September 2021

Dear Friends,

One thing we do on the anniversaries of major events in our lives is to remember them. If it is a good event like a birthday or a wedding anniversary, we tell stories and remember our feelings about what happened.

There are other major events in our lives that we would like to forget like Hurricane Katrina. On August 29, 2005, many of you didn't have a chance to forget Katrina as Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana as a Category 4 hurricane. We certainly have had rain, some storm surge and wind, but most didn't have any major problems from the storm. I am sure this stirred up some emotions in many of you about that terrible day in 2005. For this I am sorry, but at the same time I am sure we are all thankful that we were spared the brunt of this storm. I am thankful that we will not have stories to tell about Ida like I have been told about Katrina.

Some of the stories I have heard over the years about Katrina are wonderful stories about how you cared for each other and at times made light of a really bad situation. St. John's community was not able to meet in the worship space so you made room in the parish hall to worship on Sunday mornings. The Katrina crosses that were bought

by people from all over the United States and beyond were some of the good fruits that came from St. John's. It gave those of us who were not on the Mississippi Gulf Coast a connection to you as you suffered through the aftermath of the storm.

Connection is something that is so important to us as we continue as a community of faith. We have done everything we could to stay connected during the pandemic over the past year and a half. I have always thought of connection as a key element in a faith community. Our connection is both horizontal and vertical. The cross is a good image for us in that respect. Horizontally we are connected to each other in our faith journey and vertically we are connected to God in our faith.

It is through our faith that we continue to offer prayers for those who weren't as fortunate as us this time. There are many things that I am sure we would like to do for them that we can't, but holding them up in prayer is a way for us to meet them in the cross they currently bear which is a cross that many of you have borne as well.

Christ's Peace,

## Thoughts on stewardship

# Annual Pledge Drive to begin in October

There are many reasons why we might be motivated to give to the church. Some could feel they are paying a "membership fee" and in exchange are receiving something from the church. The "something" could be a deeply moving inspiration, a sense of ensuring the availability of the pastoral offices or to buy entrance into a beneficial moral environment. Some might just want to establish eligibility for other benefits of the church and to know there is a church family for help and support. There is nothing really wrong with wanting any of these things from the church.

Some want to give and see the results of their gifts, perhaps helping those who have a particular need. These people can be referred to as mission-oriented, or sometimes as outreach-motivated. Giving such as this to benefit others is in accordance with the second of Jesus' summary commandments: "Thou shalt love their neighbor as thyself."

The greatest reason to give, however, is for our thankfulness and love of God. In this way we are giving to God in gratitude for what we have received from God. In this idea, one is giving without attention to which of God's purposes the gift will be used for. The giver is turning over control of the gift, even indirect control. When the giver totally releases control, the transfer can really be called a gift. Maybe this type of giver never felt they owned what they are giving away anyway! Prayerfully reflect on this: "All things come of thee, O Lord: of Thine own have we given Thee."

St. John's Annual Pledge Drive will begin on October 3 and end on October 17. Each parishioner will receive a letter with a pledge card to either bring to Church or return by mail. Each of us will be challenged to live and give more generously as God has given to us. Please join us in this important endeavor.

## Christmas in September?

By Gabby Kyzar

Christmas in September? Not quite. Hi, I will be leading Operation Christmas Child for St. John's this year. Operation Christmas Child is an organization that teaches kids in Africa, and many other countries, about Christ. Essentially, people fill shoeboxes with small gifts and others deliver them, along with books about God to each child.



Now, September may seem really early to start Operation Christmas Child, but considering the steps it takes to get the shoeboxes across the world, it's really not that early. I plan to write

an article each month leading up to our shoebox collection here at St. John's. I'll share details about the program and tips on how to fill a box. I'll let you know once empty shoeboxes are ready to pick up and fill.

**TIP:** Since school started recently, lots of school supplies will be on sale, and they make great items to put in the boxes.

Email me at [elk18827@gmail.com](mailto:elk18827@gmail.com) with any questions or visit the [Samaritans Purse website](#) for more information about the program. I'm excited about how many children we can help.

# Staff Spotlight: St. John's Church Secretary

Visitors to the church office are guaranteed to be greeted with a smile from Church Secretary Jenn Johnson. A native of Ocean Springs, Jenn began in her position this January and finds it a perfect fit for her personality and skills. "I feel happiest when I'm serving others," said Jenn, adding "this job lets me do that in so many ways."

While the quarantine this year has kept her from meeting everyone in person, she feels virtually connected with church members through email and the phone. "I can't wait to meet more of the members of the church and to put faces with the names," she said.

When she's not working, Jenn loves to bake, play with her niece and nephews, and write in her journal. Her favorite movie is *Steel Magnolias*, and Fr. Tom says, "That's no surprise. Jenn is a true *Steel Magnolia*. She's kind and caring and, at the same time, can handle the toughest situation. We're blessed to have her running the office."



## Memorial Service for Marie Sweeney



There will be a memorial service for Marie Sweeney at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Pascagoula.

Marie's family wants to be sure all St. John's members are aware of the service and invited to attend.

The service will begin at **1 p.m. on Saturday, October 9**. Masks are required for those attending the service.



## *Back-to-School Supplies*

### St. John's helps CASA effort

For the 2021 back-to-school drive sponsored by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), St. John's provided support and a facility for distribution.



Community organizations donated backpacks and school supplies which were then given to children who have suffered abuse and neglect.

Above, Priscilla Battley (left), Brenda Lancaster (right) and CASA volunteers prepare backpacks and school supplies. Brenda serves as Senior Advocate Supervisor for CASA. "Because of the generosity of the community, we were able to provide backpacks and supplies to all our children and others, too," said Brenda. "We're grateful to St. John's for your support."

# What brought you to St. John's?



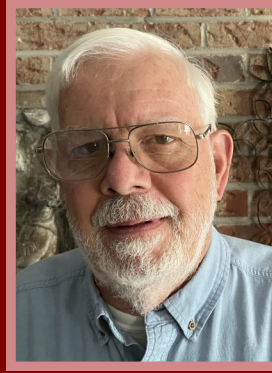
**Connie Belk**

Doug and I were both raised in the Southern Baptist Church, in fact we met at church. When we first visited St. John's, we were very impressed with the quiet prayerful time before the service, the fact that families sat together, and the welcoming atmosphere of the congregation. We grew to love the repetitiveness of the prayers and, yes, the ritual of the service. When Meagan went to college it was a comfort knowing we were reading the same scriptures and saying the same prayers.



**Kathy Roberts**

Moving here during COVID to care for Rick's mom was difficult, and one of the things we missed most was our Episcopal church in Oklahoma City. In addition to immediately liking Fr. Tom and Mother Ede, we found a warm, welcoming group of people who seemed genuinely excited we were there. Finding a new church home and new friends there has made us feel a part of the Pascagoula community. We look forward to getting better acquainted with everyone and finding ways to serve.



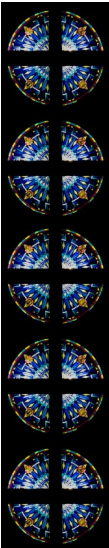
**Bob McDonald**

A January day in 1993, just retired from USAF, no home but roots in MS, and looking for a place to land. We exited at Hwy. 63 and went to McDonald's. An elderly man wearing a McDonald's shirt and cap greeted us and began a conversation. He asked if we went to church, and we said we were Episcopalian. He told us we'd like St. John's. Later we went back to that McDonald's to inquire about him. No one had ever seen or heard of him. I believe in divine intervention and also angels. St. John's is our home church.



**Kelly Smith**

After college, I lived in many different towns, and I visited many churches and different denominations. I developed an appreciation for the Episcopal faith. When I returned to Pascagoula, I began attending St. John's church. The parishioners were welcoming without being pushy or nosy .... and the rest is, as they say, history!



## 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**  
**Pam Eaves, Nursery Attendant**  
**Terry Willis, Sexton**  
**Jenn Johnson, Church Secretary**

Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 8 a.m. – noon  
Phone: 228-762-1705  
E-Mail: [office.sjecpm.org](mailto:office.sjecpm.org) Web: [www.sjecpm.org](http://www.sjecpm.org)

## 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**  
**Bruner Bosio - Assistant Treasurer**  
**Bobby Baker - Assistant Treasurer**  
**Linda Grimes - Accountant**

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

# 2021 SEPTEMBER

[SUNDAY](#)

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

\* Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01 Billy Williamson *Terry & Michael Donahue	02 Karen Nelson	03	04 Elizabeth Fontaine James Williams
05 Landon McCarty	06 Lori Warren	07	08	09 Ben Pickett Charles Shepard Taylor Sublett Teresa Williamson	10 Stratton Frederic *Priscilla & Ted Battley	11 Sharon Thames
12 Dale Harkey Marie Loper	13	14 Anna Parrish Ed Ranck	15 Sullivan Bosio Mary Thom Capley Holly Kallston Caitlyn Knippers Dane Zelenka	16 Blair Higdon Rowan Kinsey Wanda Lindsay	17 Janet Donald	18
19 Chet Dobrowski Beth Masters Kari Steinberger	20 Houston Horne	21 Vaughn Miller Edwin Roberts	22	23	24 John Cooley Lisa Estle Thomas Hicks Brittany McElhaney	25 Will Nelson
26 Kelci Miller Jacob Williamson	27 Marjie Fanning	28 Ede Plovovich	29 Sarah Busby Dustin Taylor	30 Hillary Armstrong Kalyrn Burnsed Jean Guentz Jeremy Jones Rachel Wilkinson	01	02

# Lay Ministry Schedule September 2021

	<b>September 5<sup>th</sup></b> The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>September 12<sup>th</sup></b> The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>September 19<sup>th</sup></b> The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>September 26<sup>th</sup></b> The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
<b>Verger</b>	Bill Nelson	Dustin Taylor	Bill Nelson	Dale Harkey
<b>Lectors</b>	<b>8:00 am</b> Bob McDonald  <b>10:30 am</b> Mary Margaret Bailey John Banahan	<b>8:00 am</b> Priscilla Battley  <b>10:30 am</b> Rick Roberts Bruner Bosio	<b>8:00 am</b> Gina Bardwell  <b>10:30 am</b> Calen Wills Carol Hutcherson	<b>8:00 am</b> Mary Maner  <b>10:30 am</b> Karl Steinberger Anna Stewart
<b>Acolytes</b>	Gabby Kyzar Fin Battley		Gabby Kyzar Fin Battley Jonathan Gates	
<b>Ushers</b>	John Banahan	Leonard Fuller	Calen Wills	Ted Battley
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Rhonda Shook Brenda Lancaster	Catherine Miller Mary Bet Evans	Amanda Johns JoAnne Fontaine	Laura Branch Anna Stewart
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Janet Donald	Sherry Boman	Jill Bosio	Judy Kinard
<b>Sunday School Teachers</b>	No Sunday School	Kelci Miller Abby Wills	Amy Baker Kristin Pugh	Dylan Demouey Taylor Banahan