



# St. John's Episcopal Church

3507 Pine St. Pascagoula, MS 39567

Dear Friends,

February/March 2023

I'm writing this letter to begin my communication with you regarding our time of transition. While many refer to this time of transition as "the search process," there is so much more involved than just the search. The entire process is expected to take 12-18 months and will involve all of you over time.

Many efforts are underway by your Vestry (and soon by other congregants) to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Once some important front-end items are complete, and we know that our Sunday Eucharist and Special Services are covered, we will move into the more formal Search Process.

Critical to a successful transition is properly saying goodbye to our current leaders, Fr. Tom and Mtr. Ede, who have led us, encouraged us and grown with us. We have hosted a farewell reception for Mtr. Ede and have the farewell service and luncheon planned for Fr. Tom and Marjie. I must admit, I feel a huge loss as they move on, but I wish them nothing but happiness as they follow their callings.

Your Vestry has been actively engaged in understanding the steps and stages of the transition and working to plan accordingly. We met with Bishop Seage in early February and know we have his full support as we work through the elements of our transition. He is in the process of calling an interim priest for St. John's and is providing experts to assist us with other steps.

The majority of the work to move through this transition will fall on the Vestry. Some Vestry efforts underway include:

- Scheduling priests for Sunday Services and Special Services (i.e. securing Supply Priests, etc.).
- Supporting Bishop Seage in process of securing an Interim Priest for St. John's.
- Working to identify our Search Consultant.
- Developing a Communication Strategy to support our transition.
- Beginning the process of identifying potential Search Committee Members.

Critical to our search process will be the development of a "church profile," which paints a picture of our vibrant congregation, our preferences, needs, future plans, etc. for potential priests to better understand St. John's.

In the next few months, each household will be asked to complete a survey to contribute directly to the church profile. As Mtr. Ede suggested in her sermon this week, we all need to be thinking about what we want to say on the survey now. We need to be prepared to describe what we want for the future for St. John's.

Mtr. Ede added, "At the start of Epiphany, I asked you 'why do you follow Jesus? Why do you come to this place on Sundays?' I ask each of you to spend time in prayer and discernment in asking God to show you where He is leading this parish. How does God want this parish to continue to flourish and most importantly be the transformation for those around you."

I agree with Mtr. Ede, and I encourage everyone to begin praying about the transition. I believe that our church is filled with wonderful, strong and faithful souls. I am choosing to see this time of change as something that will help with spiritual growth, not only for me as an individual, but for us as a Church Body.

Your Vestry members plan to keep you informed throughout this 12-18 month process. Please feel free to reach out to me or any Vestry member if you have questions.

May Christ's peace be with you,

Kelly Smith  
St. John's Sr. Warden

# 196th Annual Council held in Natchez



## Art Warms Blessing Bags



A heartfelt message and colorful drawing is now inside each of our Blessing Bags thanks to local school children from Lake Elementary and our own St. John's children.

Catherine Miller, member of St. John's and second grade teacher at Lake Elementary, took on this project as way for her students to demonstrate caring and concern for others. "My students identify an opportunity for a Random Act of Kindness each week throughout the school year. We plan to create art for the blessing bags for several of our weekly missions," said Catherine.

"The art truly warms the blessing bags and will bring a smile to those who receive them," said Liz Evans, coordinator of the Blessing Bag ministry. "Amy Baker and Catherine both report that the children loved coming up with inspiring messages and colorful art, especially knowing it was going to those who are homeless."

**Top Left:** The altar is set for Holy Eucharist on closing day of Annual Council.

**Bottom:** Bob McDonald (far left) represents St. John's in the parade of church flags at this year's Annual Council.

**Top Right:** St. John's delegates enjoy dinner and some evening fellowship after the council meetings ended for the day.

# St. John's Epiphany Service 2023



## Upcoming Activities

Stations of the Cross will begin at 5:15 p.m. on:

- February 24
- March 3
- March 10
- March 17
- March 24, and
- March 31

## Celebrating God's Love



## Plans for Lent

Our Ash Wednesday services will be held at 12:05 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. this Wednesday, February 22.

This year, we will hold Stations of the Cross at 5:30 each Friday beginning this Friday, Feb. 24, and ending March 31.

Rather than having dinner on Fridays, we will have Lenten Lunches following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sundays. Look for more details by email.

## Farewell to Fr. Tom & Marjie

Please join us this Sunday for a luncheon following the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist as we say goodbye to Fr. Tom and Marjie.

The church will provide fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, green beans, fried catfish, and potato salad. Please bring your favorite salad or dessert to share.

Please note that there will not be an 8 a.m. service this Sunday, Feb. 26.

## Items Needed for Toiletries Ministry

Many Food Pantry customers are getting toiletries, too, thanks to Jenn Johnson's idea and your contributions. If you have any size shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, etc. that you can contribute, please drop them off at the church. "It's been great to be able to meet their hygiene needs when clients come to us for food," said Jenn, adding "They truly appreciate the help."



### 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*  
Amy Baker, *Children's Ministry*  
Pam Eaves, *Nursery Attendant*  
Lily Burnsed, *Nursery Attendant*

### 2022 Vestry

Kelly Smith - *Senior Warden*  
Bob McDonald - *Junior Warden*  
Bobby Baker - *Treasurer*  
Donna Stewart - *Vestry Clerk*  
Amanda Johns - *Personnel*  
Liz Evans - *Outreach/Communications*  
Johnny Banahan - *Activities*  
Kristin Pugh - *Children's Ministry*  
Matt Jones - *Drawdown & Camera Ops*  
Kathy Khayat - *Member*

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

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# MARCH

## SUNDAY

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	01 Anna Laura Plovovich	02 David Minkler	03 Nell Norwood	04 Chandler Beasley Mollie McNeel Paula Tolleson
05 Tonya Latady Billy Miller	06 Tonya Latady Billy Miller	07 Murray Forsman Sonny Pickett	08 Rhonda Shook	09 Mary Bet Evans Christian Fontaine Rick Roberts	10 Tom Stevens Peggy Steward	11 *Kim & Billy Williamson
12	13 Susie Crenshaw Len Murray Jackie Switzer	14 Kristin Garriga	15 Barbie Harkey	16 Bill Card	17 Jason Battley Yvonne Lawarre Baillie Pettis	18
19	20	21 Tom Schaub	22 Hallie Waldrep	23 Ann Williams	24	25 Allison DuBose Alicia Fitch
26 Penny Ames	27	28 Ryan Zelenka	29 Mickie Baria Izabella Beasley	30	31 Cheryl Sullivan	01
*Brenda & Con Lancaster	*Susan & Terry Harris	*Karen & Bill Nelson	*Emily & Brent Higdon		*Susan & Bill Miles	

\*Anniversary

## *Lay Ministry Schedule March 2023*

	<b>March 5th</b>	<b>March 12th</b>	<b>March 19th</b>	<b>March 26th</b>
	Second Sunday in Lent	Third Sunday in Lent	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Fifth Sunday in Lent
<b>Verger</b>	Bill Nelson	Dale Harkey	Dale Harkey	Bill Nelson
<b>Lectors/ Chalice Bearer</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>
	Mary Maner	Teresa Williamson	Bob McDonald	Gina Bardwell
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
	Calen Wills	Kathy Khayat	John Banahan	Karl Steinberger
	Carol Hutcherson	Carol Hutcherson	Kathy Roberts	Anna Stewart
	Bruner Bosio	Monica Donald	Rick Roberts	Bruner Bosio
<b>Acolytes</b>	Gabby Kyzar, Parker Demouey, & Anderson Wills	Fin Battley, Emily Pugh, & Nelson Pugh	Landon Beasley, Parker Demouey, & Anderson Wills	Gabby Kyzar, Emily Pugh, & Nelson Pugh
<b>Ushers</b>	Calen Wills	David Minkler	John Banahan	Ted Battley
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Anna Stewart Connie Belk	Len Murray Laura Branch	Judy Williamson Priscilla Battley	JoAnne Fontaine Marilyn Boman