



St. John's Episcopal Church

3507 Pine St. Pascagoula, MS 39567

April 2023

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We have now entered into a period of transition as we begin our search for our next Rector. This is naturally a time of anxiety for many; however, this is also a time rich with potential and possibility.

There is an orderly process for our transition. And, we will be assisted by a skilled consultant. Every congregation in this Diocese goes through this process - and some more frequently than we have. What we are entering is a period of discernment, as we seek to discern what God is calling our congregation to be and what God is calling us to do.

It is important for our future that we take these tasks seriously and intentionally. If we do not assess adequately our call from God and the current needs of the congregation, we may well make the next Rector an "unintentional Interim," and the congregation will have to begin again, often after much hurt and pain.

When the position of the Rector is vacant, the congregation enters a transition period, and a new set of responsibilities falls to the other congregational leaders, principally the Vestry.

It is important to understand the transition process is long. The typical time of a search process is 12 to 18 months. Bishop Seage confirmed this statistic during a recent meeting with your Vestry. Congregations generally do well during this process, and members who've been through recent transitions confirm that.

The transition period provides a parish with an opportunity to find out what is important to it and how it can best serve God as part of the body of Christ. The in-between times during a clergy transition can lead to a new sense of mission for a congregation. Your vestry is strong, focused, caring and concerned. You will find that your Vestry, along with other congregational leaders, are striving to ensure this process turns out well.

Precise procedures vary somewhat from congregation to congregation, but the basic process can be

divided into the following main tasks:

- Say goodbye to current Rector
- Secure Supply and Interim Clergy Leadership
- Communicate effectively with the Congregation
- Partner with a Search Consultant
- Establish the Search Committee
- Develop a Parish Profile (with Congregational Input)
- Search for a New Rector
- Final Candidate Recommendation(s) to the Vestry
- Approval by Bishop of Candidate
- Welcoming the new Rector

Those experienced in these transitions urge us not to rush to fill the Rector's position. A wise saying is, "Measure twice, cut once." A good search process, based on a clear understanding of the congregation's strengths and weaknesses, an effective job description and sound discernment, will go a long way toward selecting an appropriate leader. When a parish recognizes the importance of proceeding with care in choosing a new Rector, anxiety decreases. The Vestry and Wardens play a large role in making a good, healthy transition. The most important ways in which the Vestry can lead are to express their own trust in God and to share information and seek input. You have our commitment to do all the above.

Another rule of thumb for a healthy process is "Openness as to process, confidentiality as to specifics." As leaders of this congregation, the Wardens, Vestry, and the (future) Search Committee will strive to keep you informed of the status of the process. Such communication will help you know the stage of the search. However, as you can imagine, there will be portions of the search which will, by necessity, require confidentiality. I know you understand and appreciate that fact.

Please keep the Vestry and this congregation's mission and ministry in your prayers.

Providing relief to Mississippi tornado victims



Fr. Tom Fanning and Rev. Will Compton, Priest-in-Charge, both from Chapel of the Cross in Madison, MS, prepare to use the St. John's disaster relief trailer to help victims in Rolling Fork, MS.

Whether it's from desire to help or personal experience with disaster recovery (or likely a combination of both), St. John's church knows how to kick into fast gear to help others in need.

As soon as word spread that the city of Rolling Fork had received significant damage from a tornado, Hervey Purcell took the lead and coordinated with Fr. Tom Fanning to get our disaster relief trailer to the Chapel of the Cross in Madison to support on-site recovery efforts in Rolling Fork.

"Thanks to St. John's for loaning us the trailer and to Hervey and Gayden for delivering it to us," said Fr. Tom, adding "We plan to load it full of supplies for our work crew and relief items for those affected in Rolling Fork and work onsite to support recovery efforts."

In addition to the trailer, St. John's sent \$2,000 in Walmart gift cards (40 cards @ \$50 each) to be given to families directly affected. If you would like to donate, please put "Disaster Relief" in the note section of your check so that the funds will be allocated correctly.

Drawdown date set

St. John's Annual Drawdown will be held on August 5th at the Grand Magnolia in Pascagoula. More information will be coming out as plans take shape.

If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact the office.

Happy Easter!
- St. John's Staff



Young Couples enjoy Wild Game Night

Alice & Bobby Baker hosted a wild game night for St. John's young couples, and it was a night full of fellowship, fun and delicious food prepared by Andrew Battley.



REMAINING HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 8 - **Easter Vigil** - 7:30 p.m. with Easter Vigil Agape feast of tea, wine and cheese following the vigil.

April 9 - **Easter Day** - Services at 8 & 10:30 a.m.



Bring your flowers on Easter...

Flowering of the Cross

The Flowering of the Easter Cross is a tradition of transforming a symbol of death, darkness, and pain into something beautiful, new, and alive in celebration of the Resurrection of Christ.

On Easter Day, we will be Flowering the Cross prior to the start of the 10:30 am service. Please bring your lovely garden offerings and add them wherever there is a spot when you enter the church, the Cross will be at the front.

All are invited to participate. If you have a child that goes to the Nursery, they can participate and go to the Nursery following the Flowering. One of our Nursery attendants will be available to help with this.



Easter Egg Hunt

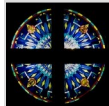
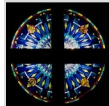
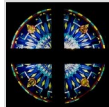
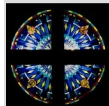
There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday and the children will participate in the 10:30 a.m. service. Following the service will be the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Refreshments will be served.

If you would like to donate plastic eggs, candy or small trinkets, please drop them off in the parish hall before Sunday.



UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS

- May 28th – Last day of Sunday school before summer break.
- July 16th – Blessing of the Backpacks



St. John's Parish Staff

The Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, *Bishop*
Vacant, *Rector*
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

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

2023

APRIL

[SUNDAY](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Amee McLendon Seth Waters	27 John Bailey	28 Kevin Williamson *Tina & Greg Hicks	29 *Beth & Kevin Williamson	30 Hart Banahan William Battley	31 Terral Baker	01 Sophia Shows
02 Kiel Green Bill Nelson Carpenter Stevens *Taylor & Trey Sublett	03 Frances Latady	04 Terry Guynn	05 *Kellie & Steve Crowder	06 Nathan Bosio	07 Kate Battley *Taylor & Johnny Banahan *Pashala & Jason Battley	08 Kelly Smith
09 Oliver Morris John Warren *Theresa & Karl Steinberger	10 Brunson Hilsabeck Carol Hutcherson *Kristin & Parker Pugh	11 Greg Kinsey	12 Porter Jordan Patrick Russell-Shira	13 Cole Branch Becky Ewing *Dane & Ryan Zelenka	14 Jane & Larry Pickel *Cayla & Joshua Switzer	15 Beth Pickel
16 Marielle Harkey Marjorie Irvine	17 Gayden Purcell Blair Stewart Kayla Waters	18 *Nichole & Archie Fitch	19 Addyson Switzer Melanie Tristani	20 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	21 Abigail Banahan	22 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury
23 Abigail Banahan Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	24 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	25 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	26 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	27 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	28 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	29 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury
30 Abigail Banahan Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	01 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	02 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	03 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	04 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	05 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury	06 Cordie Nelson Jarret Pettis Jane Pillsbury