



# St. John's Episcopal Church

3507 Pine St. Pascagoula, MS 39567

December 2023

Dear St. John's Family,

I hope all of you are doing well as we begin the new church year.

Advent, the name which is derived from the Latin word for "coming," is a time of preparation and expectations for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ in power and glory. Thus, this Church season, we anticipate the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. This past Sunday we celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, with a special service performed by our choir in conjunction with our youth. The first advent candle was lit and an advent reading was shared. I am happy to say that all Sundays in Advent will have a similar joyful, youth-infused service.

This year, we will have two services on Christmas Eve. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, the schedule will be somewhat different from years past. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent service will be held at 10:30 AM and The Nativity of our Lord will be held at 5:30 PM. There will be a children's program during the 5:30 PM service.

Regarding the business-side of things: Our annual parish meeting will be held on December 10. During this meeting, several reports and updates will be shared. In addition to the traditional reports, there will be a Rector Search Committee update. As part of this meeting, you will elect new Vestry member(s). Also, if you would like to be nominated as a delegate or alternate delegate

for the 2025 Annual Council, please let me know. Optionally, you may send an eMail to the church office to express your interest. The Vestry will vote during the January vestry meeting to elect the 2025 delegates and alternates.

Lastly, we are in the process of hiring an Interim Rector. I, like many of you, am sad that Mother Elizabeth is unable to continue as our Interim. I am, however, happy for her and her new role. This new position has allowed her and her husband to purchase a home in Jackson County. Now that they are Coast residents, we will continue to see her from time to time. And, for now, she is scheduled to serve us on December 24 and 31.

Finally, I believe our Lord has a bigger plan than I can possibly know. If you are like me, you don't care much for change. But, I firmly believe our Lord has a plan for us as we change our Interim Rector Leadership; A new Interim Rector will bring new perspectives and new God-provided guidance. I look forward to seeing where we go from here.

In closing, I look forward to serving God through serving you this Advent, Christmas, and through all Church seasons of 2024.

May God bless you all,

## Thanksgiving hams provided to 60 area families



Men's club members deliver hams after many hours smoking them.

The Pascagoula Men's Club delivered to our Outreach team sixty piping hot smoked hams just before Thanksgiving. "We saw some happy clients that day. They were quite verbal with their gratitude and appreciation to both the men's club and to St. John's," said Connie Belk.

"In the weeks since Thanksgiving, our clients have reported back on how delicious those hams were. Some made hambone soup and other recipes to make the most of the ham," Connie added. "We also were able to provide specialty breads and fresh fruit just in time for Thanksgiving."



Outreach Team ready to help local families at the holidays.



Men's Club members headed out to deliver more hams.

At A Glance . . .

## Christmas Eve Services

**Sunday December 24th**

**10:30 a.m.**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**5:30 p.m.**

*The Nativity of our  
Lord Jesus Christ*

NOTE: We will have nursery available for the 5:30 p.m. service.

## Annual Meeting on 12/10

The St. John's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday December 10th at the 10:30 a.m. service. Please make plans to attend, as we will need at least 50 eligible parishioners in attendance to vote. There will not be an 8:00 a.m. service on this day.

At the meeting, you'll hear updates on programs of the church as well as the latest on our Rector Search. You'll be voting on our new Vestry members, as well.

We look forward to everyone participating!

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!*

St. John's Staff

# End-of-year giving reminders

Contributions to St. John's Episcopal Church and the St. John's Permanent Endowment Fund are tax deductible as allowed by law. Maximum tax benefits depend on timing. Please consider these important guidelines and reminders regarding end-of-year giving to St. John's in 2023.

- IRS rules recognize a contribution on the day of delivery. For contributions to be deductible for 2023, they must meet one of the following criteria:

**By Mail:** Postmarked on or before December 31, 2023.

**By Hand-Delivery:** Received in the church office by noon, December 28, 2023. Any gifts dropped off after the office is closed will be treated as 2024 gifts.

- Online Giving: Use our secure online giving option. Please visit [www.sjecpm.org](http://www.sjecpm.org) and follow the link for Online Giving. Once there, you can choose to make a one-time gift or a recurring gift. Please note that any gifts given via an online payment

service are dated on the actual date your bank transmits or otherwise removes the funds from your account, NOT on the date that you schedule or submit the transaction.

- Tax situations vary. There have been changes in the tax law. We encourage you to consult with your tax or financial advisor regarding any charitable donations or gifts.

- The address for mailing, shipping, or hand-delivery of your check:

St. John's Episcopal Church  
3507 Pine St.  
Pascagoula, MS 39567

- Please note on the memo line which account you are supporting: St. John's Endowment Fund, Christmas Gift, 2023 Pledge, prepaid 2024 Pledge, etc.

Thank you for your continued generous support of St. John's Episcopal Church.

## Children's Activities

**December 6th 5:30 pm** - Feast of St. Nicholas Service. Happy Birthday Jesus Party & Dinner will follow in the Parish Hall.

**December 17th 5:30 pm** - Junior EYC Christmas Party at the Will's home. More info to come.

**December 24th** - No Sunday school

## Christmas Poinsettias



The church office is accepting names until Dec. 20th for the Christmas Poinsettias "In Memory of a Loved One" or "In Celebration of a Loved One." The suggested donation amount is \$50 and can include more than one name. If you are unable to donate \$50, any amount will be welcomed.

Checks may be left in the offering plate, put in the office drop box or mailed to the office. Please put "Christmas Flowers" in the note section of the check.

### 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*

### St. John's 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 - *Member*

Kathy Khayat - *Member*

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)

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

# DECEMBER

## SUNDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
Marelyn Doucette Billy Dungan Paul Tristani  *Felicia & Charles Busby	Kelly Green	Bobby Baker	Joann Williamson		Dr. Bruner Bosio Kim Williamson	Garrett Busby Matt Jones
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Blair Ewing	Ellen Berry Nita Fuller	Philip Doucette	Charlie Latady	Will Baumhauer Dustin Demouey	Scott Taylor
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Kyle Miller Chris Switzer  *Abby & Calen Wills		Catherine Miller Gracie Tillman	Mitchell Cecatiello Jennifer Eaves-Latch Jordyn Oatis Anderson Wills	Dianne Waters	Hunter Warren	*Kelci & Kyle Miller
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Carol Neal Charlie Williamson  *Allison & Toben DuBose		Mimm Bilbo		Joe Dempster	Brandon Lee	*Alice & John Stoudenmire

\*Anniversary

## *Lay Ministry Schedule December 2023*

	<b>December 3rd</b>	<b>December 10th</b>	<b>December 17th</b>	<b>December 24th</b>	<b>December 31st</b>
	First Sunday of Advent	Second Sunday of Advent	Third Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent/The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ	First Sunday after Christmas
<b>Verger</b>	Dale Harkey	Dustin Taylor	Dale Harkey	Dustin-10:30 am Dale-5:30 pm	Dale Harkey
<b>Lectors/ Chalice Bearer</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>8:00am</b>
	Teresa Williamson	Mary Maner	Priscilla Battley	Terry Guynn	Gina Bardwell
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
	Charles Shook Anna Stewart	Calen Wills Kathy Roberts	John Banahan Bruner Bosio	Gina Bardwell Anna Stewart	Stan Flint Carol Hutcherson
<b>Acolytes</b>	Fin Battley, Bennett Switzer, & Ann Banahan	Landon Beasley, Izabella Beasley, Emily Pugh, & Nelson Pugh	Fin Battley, Bennett Switzer, & Ann Banahan	Gabby Kyzar	Landon Beasley, Izabella Beasley, Emily Pugh, & Nelson Pugh
<b>Ushers</b>	Ted Battley	Calen Wills	John Banahan	Ted Battley	Terry Harris
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Tonya Latady Marilyn Boman	JoAnne Fontaine Anna Stewart	Len Murray Rhonda Shook		
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Barbie Harkey	Kathy Roberts	Deborah Banahan	All	Taylor Sublett