

The Messenger...July, 2022

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in Covenant with the Anglican Communion*

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LOOKING UP

REACHING OUT

GATHERING IN

FROM THE PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Well, reality is finally taking place. Our new deacon and curate is getting into the swing of things after having had to serve a week at youth camp as a counselor for a bunch of middle school boys. Another lesson learned for our new young deacon; he still answers to the bishop and must say “yes” when called on. Hopefully, he won’t be called on again in the near future.

Our deacon has had the opportunity to preach here for the first time and both he and our congregation survived; and our deacon proved to be up to the task. He has now begun to lead the noon mass on Wednesdays and is planning to lead our next Wednesday study group when we begin a new study later this month. Beginning on the 3rd, he will preach every other Sunday in July as his role will increase with each following week.

Keep in mind that he and Kristiane are expecting their first baby (a boy) sometime around the middle of August so his schedule needs to be somewhat flexible during that time. Keep our young couple in your prayers in the coming days as they enter into another new phase in their lives. In a very short period of time the Webb’s have already experienced a number of changes in their lives; from graduating from seminary to relocating, to taking on a new job, to having a baby. It must be great to be young and energetic, however they will certainly need our prayer support in the coming days.

I have observed over the past few weeks that little by little our Sunday attendance is slowly creeping back up and this is a great blessing. Needless to say, we still have a few empty seats each week so there is still plenty of room for visitors and newcomers so feel free to bring along a friend or neighbor. Remember, several weeks ago, I challenged each of you to bring one new person to St. James during the coming year. The year is nearly half over....enough said. Let's continue to grow God's church as we reach out into our community in an effort to be a witness of God's love and mercy.

Remember that God loves you and so do I,

JDM+

FROM THE WEBB-SITE

Around the world, the month of July is a month of independence. More nations celebrate their founding in July than in any other month. There must be something about the heat that makes people more apt to fight. From Canada and Rwanda celebrating on July 1st, to Independence Day on the 4th, to the tiny islands of Vanuatu on July 30th, people around the world take a day to celebrate the places where they live.

These national days aren't the only celebrations in July. July is also the month that is dedicated to the Precious Blood of Jesus. It is a month where we celebrate, we contemplate, and we give thanks for the blood of Jesus that was shed for us on the Cross. This month, we take special care to think about the blood that was given for us as a full and perfect sacrifice for the redemption of our sins. As we think about those who gave their lives for our nation, we must also think of the one who gave his life for us. As we hear the thunderous boom of fireworks, we also hear the thunder and the earthquake of Good Friday. This thunder gives way to the clash of bells as the blood that was spilled on the cross comes to us in the sacraments.

The precious, gracious blood that flowed for our redemption on the cross continues to give us grace to this day. This blood that flowed through the heart of Jesus was given for us, and it continues to call us to the altar. The blood that poured from his pierced side beckons us all to the shared cup. We partake in this precious blood and the grace that it affords us. We do so, not on our own merit, but rather in the love of Christ. We rejoice, knowing that although his blood was shed for us, his

sacrifice does not end in the death of Christ, but in the resurrection. It is through this precious blood, that we too may partake in his resurrection.

"O God, Who by the Precious Blood of Thine Only Begotten Son hast redeemed the whole world, preserve in us the work of Thy mercy, so that, ever honoring the mystery of our salvation, we may merit to obtain its fruits. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."

Deacon Webb

MEET THE WEBB'S

Nathan and his wife Kristiane (Kristy-on-uh) are excited to become part of the St. James community. Nathan is a recent graduate of Wycliffe College, and was ordained as a deacon in the Diocese of Dallas just weeks ago. He doesn't really have a hometown, but grew up in towns all across Texas as his father, a Baptist minister, would relocate from time to time. A man of many talents, Nathan's claim to fame is, he once fell asleep on the floor of the U. S. House of Representatives.

One of his passions is helping foster community within the church. Nathan loves bringing people together. From big events, to small dinners, good things happen when the people of God get together. For several years, Nathan and Kristiane served an apartment complex in Ft. Worth by planning and hosting events for people to get to know their neighbors.

Kristiane is originally from Garland. She works as a mental health counselor, with clients throughout North Texas and across the globe. After graduating from the University of North Texas at Dallas with her Master of Science in 2016, she served as a counselor and advisor with Dallas Colleges. Her specialty is helping clients deal with burnout and career guidance. She was voted "Kindest Person in the World" by Nathan.

Both graduated from the University of North Texas, and they have been married since 2011. The greatest wedding present they received was watching the

Mavericks win the NBA Finals the day after their wedding. In 2019, they moved to Toronto, Ontario so that Nathan could attend seminary. After living in Toronto for two years, they are happy to be back in an area that appreciates good BBQ and Tex-Mex food. In their free time, they enjoy going to the movies, trying new restaurants, and drinking excessive amounts of coffee. Avid travelers, they are always on the lookout for the best cup of coffee in the world. (A futile search, because according to Nathan, Waffle House brews the best coffee shop in the world.)

They are expecting a child in late August. They are in completely over their heads and they are asking for lots of help and grace in this time of transition. It's already hot out, and Nathan is known to get fussy when it's too hot. Add a new baby on top of the August heat, and he's going to need a whole lot of support.

Because they love trying new restaurants and coffee shops, they need your help there as well. They need to know which places they should try and which places they need to steer clear from. Don't be afraid to give them a few recommendations. (Or a few warnings about some places to avoid.)

LIFE TOGETHER

Our Wednesday study group will begin a new study within the next few weeks. Deacon Webb will be leading a study based on a well-known book by Dietrich Bonhoeffer entitled *Life Together*. After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, Dietrich Bonhoeffer continued his witness in the hearts of Christians around the world. His letters and papers written while in prison became a prized testimony to Christian faith and courage, read by thousands. This story of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years reads like one of Paul's letters. It gives practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. The role of personal prayer, worship in common, everyday work, and Christian service is treated in simple, almost biblical, words. *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship. If you have never been a part of the Wednesday group, please consider joining us as we begin our new study next month at 11:00 each Wednesday morning.

DOK QUIET DAY RETREAT

By all indication, our recent DOK retreat was a wonderful success. All of the reports that I have heard have been positive and it was gratifying to see the turn out and support that the day received from a good group of our ladies.

I know that it is a while off, but mark your calendar now so that something doesn't get in the way of December 3rd. Again the DOK will be hosting another exciting event. We have a renowned speaker coming to do a program on Mary, the mother of Jesus. This is a program that will be open to everyone and I encourage you, when the time comes, to invite your friends and neighbors as this will be a wonderful experience and a blessing to everyone who is here that day.

HUNGRY BUNCH

The Hungry Bunch had to change it plans last month because of some turn over at the Country Club. Last month we made a quick change to Hector's and enjoyed a good turnout as is usually the case when we go to Hector's . This month we are going to the club on the 1st which is only days away so make sure that you have signed up although late sign ups won't be a problem at the club. Then mark your calendar for August 5th when we are planning to go to Wills Point for dinner at the Four Winds. Here we will need an accurate head count so mark your calendar and come be a part of another fun evening.

T.E.A.C.H.

We are continuing with our current study of the Practices and Beliefs of the Church. Upcoming sessions will include discussions on how the Church functions and its structure and governance. We'll talk a bit about the history of the Church from England to America. And, we'll look again at our spiritual gifts and how we are meant to discern and use them. Don't miss out on these opportunities to learn more about your church and to review those things that may have been forgotten. Our current study will probably end in mid or late July and we **may** take a brief two-week break before beginning our next teaching series.

HELPING HANDS OFFERING

While most of the offering jars from last January are still at the church, this is a reminder that we will again be gathering our Helping Hand jars throughout the month of July. We are each asked to place a dollar per week in a jar as an offering to help others in need within our community. Please place your offerings on the altar each week prior to the service.

CHANGES IN SUNDAY SERVICE

Please note, in addition to having our deacon read the Gospel and prepare the altar each week, he has begun to read the Prayers of the People from the congregation and offer our dismissal at the end of the service. We have also begun to sing **only one verse** of the hymn while the altar is being prepared.

EVENTS FOR THE MONTH

First two weeks in July are our days to volunteer for MAGS

- 1st Hungry Bunch...6:00 at the Cedar Creek Country Club
- 3rd Holy Eucharist...9:00 followed by T.E.A.C.H
- 4th Independence Day
- 6th Study Group at 11:00 followed by noon Mass
- 10th Holy Eucharist...9:00 followed by T.E.A.C.H
- 13th Study Group at 11:00 followed by noon Mass
- 17th Holy Eucharist...9:00 followed by Baby Shower for the Webb's**
- 20th Study Group at 11:00 followed by noon Mass
- 20th Vestry at 5:00 followed by Evening Prayer and F.E.A.S.T at 6:00
- 24th Holy Eucharist...9:00 followed by T.E.A.C.H... followed by DOK
- 25th St. James' Day
- 27th Study Group at 11:00 followed by noon Mass
- 30th Angel Food Day
- 31st Holy Eucharist...9:00 followed by T.E.A.C.H

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3 rd Sandy Scott | 13 th Carroll Morriss |
| 4 th Bruce Mayo | 17 th Shirley Green |
| 6 th Ann Cavan | 20 th Joan Lewis |
| 7 th Vicki Vieux | 26 th Dot Irwin |
| 9 th Mary Lynn Loomis | 27 th John Antoniesse |
| 19 th Bonnie Dill | 30 th Paul & Sunny Lasiter |
| 10 th Wally & Peggy Reder | 30 th Kristiane Webb |

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

| Date | DOK | Greeter | Altar | Acolyte | Vestry |
|------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 3 rd | Marian | Jeff & Kitty | DeLois & Claire | Sandy | Kelley |
| 10 th | Sunny | Bob & Annette | Susan & Kitty | Mike | Tina |
| 17 th | Willene | Tina & James | Deanna & Linda | Carol | Peggy |
| 24 th | Tina | Terry & Susan | Barbara & Sunny | Kelley | Paul |
| 31 st | Annette | Ray & Marian | Kelley & Carol | Sandy | Mike |

MINISTRIES, cont.

| Date | Lessons | Coffee | Chalice | Organ |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 3 rd | Annette | Annette & Sunny | Gail | Bonnie |
| 10 th | Marian | Carroll & Bonnie | Tina | Linda |
| 17 th | Ray | Susan & Kitty | Kelley | Bonnie |
| 24 th | Claire | Peggy & Ann | Paul | Linda |
| 31 st | Sunny | Barbara & Lorna | Mike | Bonnie |

Please remember that if you cannot serve on your scheduled date, you need to make sure you have a replacement.

REPORT FROM THE VESTRY

In addition to approving the minutes and financial reports and welcoming Deacon Webb to the vestry, various reports were made:

We now have a headset for the parish hall making it easier for everyone to hear. We reviewed (again) the need for people **not** to make changes to the thermostats except for members of the vestry when they open and close the church before and after various services. If you have an issue with the settings, speak to a vestry member. We encourage people to wear their name tags in coffee hour so that the Webb's and other newcomers can learn who we are. We are considering hosting a blood drive on September 3rd. We now have only one coffee maker but it seems to work twice as fast. And, finally, everyone needs to do their part in helping to keep the kitchen clean and tidy. The kitchen is used by several throughout the month and everyone needs to share in the responsibility of cleaning up.

SECURITY MATTERS:

For security purposes, those hosting coffee hour are asked to lock **both** doors leading into the parish hall area before coming to church each week. We will also have someone seated in the narthex during the service and the doors leading into the narthex will also be locked five minutes after the beginning of the service. While we do not want to over alarm our members, unfortunately we are living in times where certain precautions are warranted. We will review these actions and consider additional steps if necessary.