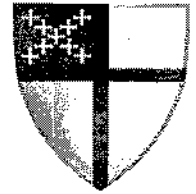


St. John's Episcopal Church and Day School



Our Mission is to proclaim the Good News of the Gospel
and to seek and serve Christ in all people

2023– August edition

Greetings from the middle of this hot summer!

The scorching heat is a symbol that comes to life in our scripture many times. It is the scorching wind from the East (the direction of the rising Sun) that kills the crops in Pharaoh's dream in the story of Joseph. It is the wind from the East that dries up the ground in the Red Sea for the Israelites to cross over. The scorching heat is also used as a symbol of God's absence from or presence with Jonah after he makes his prophetic pronouncement against Nineveh. Even in these few examples, we can begin to see the range of meaning as people interpret heat and fire as a symbol of God's pleasure or anger depending on its direction and effects.

In the Mediterranean, the growing season in many places goes through to August, when the weather takes a turn that makes it too hot to grow many staples. Some places even tie this phenomenon to different figures in the church year. At least some of Greece follows a growing season based on the Feasts associated with the Blessed Virgin Mary, beginning with the Annunciation on March 15 and ending with the Feast of the Blessed Virgin on August 15.

I grew up in hurricane alley in the era of superhurricanes in Florida and lived through Andrew, Opal, Ivan, and Katrina just to name a few. I know all too well the temptation to blame bad weather on the pleasure or displeasure of God; but the important thing to remember is that everyone loses when we start thinking that way. We see Jesus resist this type of thinking many times as he worked hard to consistently teach that God was merciful, forgiving, and loving in the face of things like natural disasters and lifelong afflictions. May we have the grace to meet the challenges of our time with love and gratitude, as we give thanks for the many ways God takes care of us through creation.

Blessings on each of you as we travel through Ordinary time together.

Your Brother in Christ,
The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Living Out Our Baptismal Covenant

by Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden

We are asked three important questions in the renewal of our baptismal covenant.

Celebrant Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People I will, with God's help.

Celebrant Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People I will, with God's help.

Recently I have been thinking a lot about these questions. What exactly do they mean for my life? Am I doing what I say I will do when I renew my commitment to Jesus Christ? I felt an urgency to let our community know that St. John's welcomes all for food, provision, and worship.

After praying on this matter, I decided there was more I could do. It coincided with an inquiry I received from one of the leaders in our community. She approached me and asked, could St. John's contribute financially toward our community's emergency housing needs? She knew one of our ministries was Community Kitchen and that it was partially funded by a FEMA grant. Immediately I wanted to say 'yes' but I didn't really know what I was saying 'yes' to. And since I wasn't just answering for me but also for St. John's congregation, I figured it was time to do some digging.

I discovered there is a group of people in our community, including some from Las Cruces, who meet at least once a month to discuss housing needs and take action if possible. They represent Crisis Response, Workforce Solutions, Counseling Center, and Public Health, to name a few. These representatives have been working with folks without shelter for a long time. They are caring and capable. I'm learning a lot about our community's needs through each of them. I am grateful.

Our first meeting turned out to be a tour of Runners Refuge, our local emergency shelter that now has temporary beds for men and also has a separate building for women and children. They have a garden that supplies some of their food needs. The tour was very helpful. That connection resulted in our Community Kitchen offering to supply 10 to go meals every Tuesday and Thursday! Ministry in action!

I'm looking forward to the time when the hoped for 2024 FEMA Grant applications open. I feel I will be well prepared to make a good recommendation to our Vestry to become more involved in living into our Baptismal Covenant through helping people receive shelter.

In the meantime, consider joining me and come help out at Community Kitchen, if you have some time and inclination. Doing ministry together, and living into our Baptismal Covenant, is fun!

Getting to Know You

Yvonne Perkins Interview with Michael Potvin-Frost

It's my pleasure to introduce you to Mike.

Mike was born in Potsdam, NY to Robert Frost and Mary Harris. He grew up in the neighboring village of Norwood, population 1,600. He is the eldest of 3 children. He has 2 sisters. He graduated from Norwood-Norfolk High School in 1977.

After high school he had a varied university experience. He attended St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY and majored in French. His second year he continued these studies in French culture and language in Rouen, France and enjoyed traveling to Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg and London, England. Upon returning from France, he decided to study for the Roman Catholic priesthood, first at Wadhams Hall Seminary-College in Ogdensburg, NY and then at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Michigan. He graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy and French from St. Mary's in 1982. Following graduation, he went on to work on a Bachelor of Theology degree at St. Paul University-Seminary in Ottawa, Canada. After 2 years at St. Paul's, he didn't feel this was the right path for him. After working varied jobs (waiter, prep cook, convenience store clerk, deliveries for an interior design firm) in Rochester, NY, he found his niche. Mike started working with adults with developmental disabilities in group homes and day habilitative centers. This became his calling as it continued for 30 years, first in Rochester, then in Plattsburg, NY.

But in 1991 his thirst for knowledge and thoughts of possible ordination led him to Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, NY where he studied for a Masters of Divinity degree for a year. That year cemented in his mind that his work with the developmentally disabled was his calling. He returned to Plattsburgh and resumed working in a group home. This kind man has a deep faith in the Lord and a wonderful compassion for people.

In 2003, he met his future spouse, Steven Potvin, a registered nurse, and they were married in 2011. In 2017, they bought a house in Mike's hometown of Norwood where Mike continued working with persons with developmental disabilities. Five years later, both Mike and Steven retired. They decided to move to Alamogordo, NM to escape the cold weather. They are working on refurbishing their home here but still own their home in Norwood. Mike's sister is now part owner of that home and lives in the main house, while the apartment above the garage is Mike and Steven's should they ever decide to move back or just visit.

Mike has been so helpful in projects at St. John's and is now serving as a member of the altar guild. We are so blessed to have both Mike and Steven here and to see Mike's smile on Sundays.



Otero Arts First Friday Exhibitions

Lynda Brugman & Gabe Mauger Photographers



Reception

August 4, 2023
Opening 5 - 7 PM

Artspace

1118 Indiana Ave.
Alamogordo NM

Exhibit open Thurs - Sun 1- 4 PM
Continuing Thru August 2023

www.oteroarts.org

Support the Arts

Schedule of Sunday Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
6-Aug	Exodus 34:29-35	99	2 Peter 1:13-21	Luke 9:28-36
13-Aug	1 Kings 19:9-18	85:8-13	Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
20-Aug	Isaiah 56:1,6-8	67	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15: 10-28
27-Aug	Isaiah 51:1-6	138	Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20

Rota

Date	Sunday	Reader - 8:00	Prayers - 800	Altar Guild	EM - 1015	Reader - 10:15
6-Aug	Transfiguration	John	Joyce	Michael	Nancy	Hannah
13-Aug	Proper 14	Randy	Joyce	Kathy Ann and Bill	Nancy	Tony
20-Aug	Proper 15	Joyce	Joyce	Louise	Nancy	Yvonne
27-Aug	Proper 16	John	Joyce	Nikki and Steve	Steve	Nancy

Community Kitchen Schedule	
1-Aug	St. Joseph's
8-Aug	PPW
15-Aug	Christ Community
22-Aug	Retired Teachers
29-Aug	Retired Teachers

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Harriet (8/1), Steve (8/2), Darlene (8/4), Nikki (8/6), Deanna (8/17), Sarah (8/18). Happy Birthday to all!

Anniversaries:

Alec and Makayla (8/6). Happy Anniversary to all!

Pet Prayer Chain

Many people in our congregation have pets. We all love our pets. They are part of our family. When they are sick, elderly or lost, it is a comfort to know that our church family is praying for them as well as us. If you have or know of a pet that could benefit from our ministry, please let Joyce or Nancy know.

Daily Office

Morning Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. Evening Prayer is offered Monday through Friday at 4:00 p.m.

Links to these services can be found on the website.

Formation Hour

Join us on Sundays at 9 for our Bible Study. Been to a lot of bible studies? None? All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet? Are you interested in doing it as part of an ongoing spiritual practice that gives back to the community? If you are and would like more information, like patterns or prayers, please contact Joyce at joycesummers@mac.com

St. John's Episcopal Church

1114 Indiana Avenue, Alamogordo

Sunday Services: 8:00am Rite I; 10:15am Rite II

Office Phone: 575.437.3891

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