



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

Newsletter, September 2023

It's funny to me how September always seems to come as a surprise. Now that I've lived here several years, I am beginning to see that pattern: July and August come with scorching heat. September brings the smallest bit of sweet relief and the air patterns begin to change and cool. The plants notice, too; and in many places around the world September comes with the expectation of harvest and the first bit of outdoor activity in the afternoon for months.

In our own lectionary we can sense a change coming.

We have been following the story of the earliest disciples for weeks. Peter, James and John have been at the forefront. But just last week, at the peak of his discipleship, Peter confesses who Jesus is. And how could we expect anyone to stay the same after coming into contact with such a groundbreaking truth on *this* side of the veil?

Change seems to be everywhere and in times like that it is normal to feel unmoored or untethered. Thanks be to God for those moments when we feel God's presence in the midst of that chaos; and thank God for the ways in which chaos is transformed into new life in the ministry of Jesus.

Your Brother in Christ,
The Rev. Michael Peter Drinkwater

Gratitude's Journey **by Nancy Gregory, Senior Warden**

Gratitude showed up one day in the woman's heart. It made her happy and relaxed, with feelings of comfort and joy. She said her morning prayers and made special mention of Gratitude.

The woman went about her daily activities that day and she realized she was noticing things that she had not noticed before. Smiles on the faces of people she passed as she walked through the store. New flowers blooming in a next-door neighbor's yard. A child on her street offering to help her carry in her packages from her car. She thought those things must have happened to her before, but she hadn't really paid attention. Today, they seemed particularly special and important. She thanked Gratitude.

The next day Gratitude showed up again. The woman prayed about Gratitude. And, yet again, the woman experienced that feeling of noticing beauty and friendly actions throughout her day in a way that had previously passed her by. She ended her day feeling more relaxed, more comforted, and more joyful. She thanked Gratitude.

Days passed and the woman began to look forward to Gratitude showing up in her life. What might she do to keep Gratitude in her life? She prayed on that thought. No direct answer came. But Gratitude did keep showing up.

One day, a few weeks later, the woman heard about a group of people who gleaned the edges of local farmers' fields and then donated the produce to a local Food Bank. That sounded to her like a wonderful way to meet new people, get to enjoy the outdoors and at the very same time to help people who needed assistance. So, she found out how to join up and she started a new page in her life. Gratitude was particularly strong that day. It had turned into Generosity.

More time passed, and an idea came to her that represented a major change in her life. She offered to donate part of her property to the Food Bank so that it could be used as a Community Garden, where people wanting to grow their own food, could do just that. Lots of people showed up and she helped them get started. It was a joyful time in the woman's life. She felt useful and she made many new friends. She found joy in the work. Harvest time came and there was an Abundance of food to be shared and enjoyed.

Gratitude showed up one day in the woman's heart, and it stayed and grew into Generosity. And Generosity grew into Abundance.



Otero Arts First Friday Exhibitions

"The Two Anns" Ann Bagby & Ann Beacht



Reception

September 1, 2023
Opening 5 - 7 PM



Artspace

1118 Indiana Ave.
Alamogordo, NM

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

www.oteroarts.org Exhibit is supported by NM Arts & National
Endowment for the Arts



Schedule of Sunday Readings

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Sep-03	Jeremiah 15:15-21	Psalm 26:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
Sep-10	Ezekiel 33:7-11	Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	Matthew 18:15-20
Sep-17	Genesis 50:15-21	Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13	Romans 14:1-12	Matthew 18:21-35
Sep-24	Jonah 3:10-4:11	Psalm 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	Matthew 20:1-16

Rota

Date	Sunday	Reader 8am	EM 10:15am	Reader 10:15am
Sep-03	Proper 17	Randy	Nancy	Hannah
Sep-10	Proper 18	Joyce	Steve	Nancy
Sep-17	Proper 19	John	Nancy	Tony
Sep-24	Proper 20	Randy	Nancy	Hannah

Community Kitchen Schedule

Date	Team
Sep-05	St. Joseph's Mission
Sep-07	Sam + Crew
Sep-12	PPW
Sep-14	Sam + Crew
Sep-19	Christ Community Church
Sep-21	Sam + Crew
Sep-26	First Presbyterian Church
Sep-28	Sam + Crew

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Randy (9/3); Dottie (9/7); Norm (9/9); Gabe (9/14); Ann (9/20); Erica (9/21)

Anniversaries:

Harriet and Tom! (9/6) Happy Anniversary!

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: stjohnsalamo.com

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

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