

**THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WEST POINT**

Rev. Barbara Marques  
P.O. Box 629  
West Point, Virginia 23181  
Phone: 843-4594 (Office)  
Email: barbara.stjohnswp@gmail.com  
Email: secretary@stjohnswp.org

Office hours:  
Tuesday & Wednesday  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
or by appointment

Volume 22 Issue 5

May 2022



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WEST POINT

# Parish News

## From the Clergy

Spring is indeed here, hopefully to stay.

Our psalm for this Sunday declares that joy comes in the morning. I have sometimes taken this literally when making a difficult decision and resolved to 'sleep on it' assured that indeed I will find clarity in the morning as to how to proceed. I have also considered this line to remind me that whatever darkness I might face that ultimately God will get me through it. Overcoming obstacles in my life results in an experience of joy. Any time I feel like God is not with me I know in my head if not in my heart that God will empower me to make it to 'the morning.' It is in that knowledge that I find real joy, the joy that only God can offer. I have never been much of a journal keeper but it occurs to me as I consider this psalm that it would be a source of hope and support to actually journal those times when I experienced the joy that comes from knowing God and knowing that nothing is beyond God's capability.

Hmm a journal that would not only remind me of the times I have been especially close to God but also a source of self care. It is easy to remember the times when we were 'in the weeds' as a friend of mine says, and difficult to remember God's presence in that time AND how we, empowered by God made it through that tough time. I have pulled this line sort of out of context because it is one of those Biblical lines that is used to make people in dismay 'feel better.' Don't worry, be happy, this too shall pass, joy will come in the morning.

The entire psalm is a tribute to the faithfulness of God. That this faithfulness is ongoing. Whatever the circumstances in life God is there with us. When we get to the other side of our despair we are compelled to remember that it was God who: "turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,"

The entire psalm makes me smile and brings to me a sense of inner joy and hope. Like the psalmist I try to always trust in and acknowledge God's hand in my life. Expectedly I can hear you say even as I am saying this that it is sometimes difficult to believe or imagine. So I am going to challenge myself and you if you feel compelled to do so, to keep a joy journal that focuses specifically on times when you overcame something difficult in your life that affirmed you and your strength. Then take time and write about how God was with you (or how it seemed God was not with you) during that time of trial.

Look for and find the place where you found joy in discovering that God was indeed at your side. One way to discover this might be to read the words of Psalm 30 in the context that you are the one speaking to God. I hope that May will be filled with all kinds of wonderful stuff for each of you. The Ascension will mark the end of the Easter season and point us towards Pentecost. Speaking of journals you will be given a journal from Thy Kingdom Come written by Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Peace and love, Barbara

### May Birthdays

01	Anne Bland
02	Larry Price
05	Kristy Britt
08	Will Addison
10	Anglear Lipscomb
12	Waring Tribble
14	Lin Wilson
20	Pat George
21	Vincent Hodge
21	Morgan Tribble
23	Ellen Hudson
31	Joyce Clarkson



### Prayers and Intercessions:

We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop. For our bishops Susan, Jennifer and Porter. We pray for Barbara, our priest.

### For our fellow parishioners:

Dudley Olsson, Jim Hudson, Katharine Guerrant, Anne Joyner, Ruth Shaw and Virginia Addison.

We pray also for our friends and family members: Billie, Peter, Susan, Brian, Lolly, Dan, Angela, Lorraine, Jessica, Rocsha, Craig, and Kailyn.

"The perfection of learning is to know God in such a way that, though you realize he is knowable, yet you know him as indescribable."

*Thank you for your continued support.*

*The Good Neighbor Center is a source of food for families in our community having problems providing food for their children so remember to pick up a couple extra cans of food or peanut butter or cereal when they have sales or specials two for one.*



*Many Are In Need!*

## HOPE CHEST

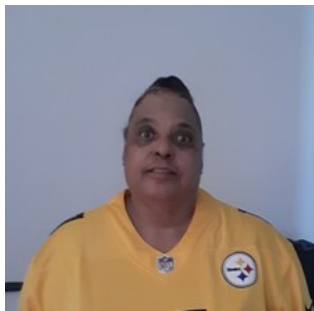


I am pleased to report that St. John's congregation has contributed over **\$300** to Episcopal Relief & Development through Hope Chests. THANK YOU!

I plan to send the money to ER&D next week so there is still time to turn in your Hope Chest or put a check in the offering plate on May 1 payable to St. John's, marked "Hope Chest."

J.P. Causey Jr., Treasurer

## VESTRY MEMBERS



Anglear Lipscomb



Ashley Murphy



Ashton Bell



Jamie Hudson



Betty Jenkins



Sibby Wilson



Elis Olsson



J.P. Causey—Treasurer

## Prayer

Picture directory is officially in the works



We have received some lovely 'selfies' If you would like to have your picture taken in or outside the church we will offer that opportunity after worship on Sunday mornings. This obviously will be a very informal document but it will be fun. When we 'pray the pages' we will be able to see the face of the person we are praying for. Once you have your picture please send it to Yvonne:

[secretary@stjohnswp.org](mailto:secretary@stjohnswp.org)

Participation is 100% optional. The information will never be posted on line or on any social media.

Remember to **PRAY THE PAGES.**

*Each day pray for a page of members in the directory.*



*"He conquered death, broke the gates of hell, won for Himself a people to be His co-heirs, lifted fleshed from corruption up to the glory of eternity."*

## BISHOP UPDATE

### UPDATE: SEARCH FOR THE 14<sup>TH</sup> BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA.

All the current information is available on the website. <https://www.thediocese.net/>

The meet and greet events begin on Friday May 20. Watch for info if you want to participate on line. Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of these events. If you have questions please submit them on line. There will be no questions taken from the floor.

[bishoptransitionva@gmail.com](mailto:bishoptransitionva@gmail.com) using the subject line "Meet and Greet Questions." Please provide your name, church name and location in case someone needs to contact you for clarity.

The electing convention is on Saturday June 4 in Alexandria. It is only open to clergy and lay people authorized to vote due to space constraints. It will be live streamed. Teresa Hodge is our vestry designated lay delegate to the convention. During the month of May either she or I or both of us will be available on Sundays during coffee hour to answer any questions you might have.

The consecration will be December 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Paul's Baptist church in Richmond. The plan is to allow everyone, that wants to, attend this event.



Remember that the season of Easter is 50 days. There is a great devotional on line from Forward Movement (they sponsor the fun Lent Madness) at [news@forwardmovement.org](mailto:news@forwardmovement.org) And speaking of Lent Madness, out of all the saints the 'golden halo went to Dr. José Gregorio Hernández.



*José was dedicated to his work, but it cost him other dreams. As a young man, and really throughout his life, he dreamed of becoming a priest. But that would mean turning his back on the rare education and opportunities he had been blessed with. In his heart, he knew his community needed a doctor more than they needed another priest. When people called him a miracle-worker, José insisted that it was God's grace. His strong faith helped people to know God, and to believe that God cared about them.*

## JO ANNA'S MUSIC CORNER

### WE'VE COME THIS FAR

April may best be described as a month filled with expectation. Winter's back is being broken, and we anticipate (and experience) the warmth of summer. We revel in the signs of new birth of flowers, trees, and blossoms in unexpected places. We ask, with an edge of hope, "How will things go this year?"

Out of necessity we have bowed to living in a virtual world. We are now tasting moments of mask-less liberation; we have seen how what seemed so promising could turn on a dime. What will be next? How will the pattern of living be resolved?

In truth, the whole experience seems to be something of a musical moment. We have been listening to the performance of a composition in a minor key. We ask, "Will this music be resolved in a major key?" Like entering April, we wait, unsure of how things will end.

We are currently experiencing living between the minor and the major keys. A similar moment is found near the end of Luke's gospel, where two disciples are met by a strange traveler along the road to Emmaus. They tell this stranger, "We had hoped to see Jesus again." And then this stranger opens their eyes to all that had been prophesied in the biblical story - that in spite of their pain, loss, and death of the Messiah, Jesus was not about to leave them alone forever. He was leaving them the Holy Spirit. But they had to act on faith; they needed to step out on the promises of the Word of God.

And so do we, in these days of some uncertainty, need to act. After wandering in the halls of uncertainty and experiencing the lows that we have known, we come to a turning point. The point when we begin to experience hope again - when we realize that the ground is firm beneath the surface. When we have faith, hope springs up to meet us in life renewed.

Spring brings with it a lighter musical mood. Jesus has risen, yet He is indeed present with us. We look for hymns that sing hope, new service music, lighter melodies that bring a spring to our step and renew our faith in eternal (and present) life renewed. Let us look for enlightening, encouraging hymns of faith and joy, as we continue our journey as fellow travelers and

companions in the faith. Let us sing praises to our risen Lord, and let us find joy and hope in the music of life as we travel the road with others on this faith journey.

Jo Anna

# GIGGLE GOSPEL



# EASTER PICTURES



# EASTER PICTURES

